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Sent: November 29, 2018 12:27 PM
Cc: Mar, Amy
Subject: Update on Howe Sound Glass Sponge Reefs

Hello everyone,

I'd like to update you on the Howe Sound Glass Sponge Reef Conservation Initiative. Since our meeting on July 26th, DFO has been in discussions with our First Nation partners regarding the proposed protection measures for the reefs. And although these conversations are still ongoing with some, we hope to have them wrapped up by the end of December, with the continued goal of having protection measures in place by spring of the new year.

On a personal note, I will be moving off the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound Glass Sponge Reef file at the end of December to focus my efforts on files in the Northern Shelf Bioregion. It saddens me to be moving off this file as I have enjoyed working on it with all of you! I have found the collaborative nature and willingness of everyone to listen to each other for the protection of these important habitat forming features inspiring – so thank you for that!

A new person will be joining our team in January to work on this file and Amy Mar will be sending out an introductory email at that time. A teleconference call will be set up in the new calendar year to touch base on next steps in this process. In the meantime, I have attached the minutes from the July workshop for discussion / comments on the teleconference call in the new year. My apologies for not sending them out sooner but figured we'd be in discussions earlier than we have.

Thanks everyone – I look forward to hearing how this file progresses!

Aleria Ladwig

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