



## Pender Harbour Archaeological Survey Summary

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Archaeological sites are locations with material remains produced by human activities in the past, and sites older than 1846 are protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) (Government of BC 1996). Archaeological sites are highly sensitive in nature and the precise location and details of these sites are not widely publicized in order to prevent vandalism or theft of valuable artifacts.

In August 2015, the Province contracted Penner Pacific Advisory Services to undertake an independent review of a Dock Management Plan for the Pender Harbour area of British Columbia. This review resulted in a document entitled *The Penner Report*, which advised the Province to increase public awareness of Pender Harbour archaeological sites by completing an archaeological survey for Pender Harbour. The recommended Preliminary Field Reconnaissance surface survey was restricted to the foreshore and was conducted in October 2017 by the Archaeology Unit of Inlailawatash Limited Partnership (Inlailawatash) on behalf of the Province of British Columbia, as represented by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operation and Rural Development.

The archaeological survey shows that no portion of the project area can be considered low potential for archaeological materials. Any development in the project area has the potential to destructively impact archaeological materials; with many impacts having already occurred.

In total, 66 previously recorded archaeological sites were assessed. 41 were observed to have docks, marinas or other built structures such as retaining walls on the adjacent foreshore, most with the potential to negatively impact archaeological materials. 29 of the 41 sites observed may be negatively impacting an archaeological site but require further study to verify any potential impacts. However, 12 of the 41 sites are known to have been negatively impacted. In addition, ongoing use of existing infrastructure may also be impacting existing recorded and unrecorded archaeological materials.

The study concludes with these recommendations:

1. That all future study and assessments of the archaeology of Pender Harbour and the offshore islands involve the shíshálh Nation.
2. That an Archaeological Impact Assessment be conducted to determine the spatial size and complexity of the recorded and newly identified sites.
3. That the Archaeological Impact Assessment consist of comprehensive shovel-testing to update site boundaries of recorded and unrecorded sites.
4. That the Site Inventory Database at the Archaeology Branch of previously recorded archaeological sites be updated with the new information recorded from this survey.

5. That all new sites identified during this survey be registered in the Archaeology Branch Site Inventory Database.
6. That subsurface testing be conducted in the intertidal zones adjacent to shoreline archaeological sites and features to identify sites that were not visible surficially.
7. That stratigraphic profiles be recorded for all foreshore site exposures.
8. That soil, charcoal, artifactual, and faunal samples be taken at all site exposures along the shoreline, and possibly within the inland portions of the sites, for analysis of base-line chronological culture history information, and as a mitigation measure for impacts that have already occurred.
9. That any ground-disturbing activities conducted within the boundaries of a registered archaeological site require a Section 12 Site Alteration Permit.
10. That a public education initiative be conducted by the Province in partnership with the shíshálh Nation and a professional archaeologist(s) to inform the public about the nature, value, and protection of archaeological sites in their community.