

# WildSafeBC Annual Report 2020

## Pacific Rim Region

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**Emergency  
Community  
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## Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Pacific Rim Program activities between April 15 and November 30, 2020. The Program is situated on the unceded traditional lands of the Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ First Nations. It includes the communities of the Ahousaht First Nation – Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation – Opitsaht – Esowista – Ty-histanis, District of Ucluelet, and District of Tofino (Figure 1).

There was considerable wildlife activity in all communities of the region throughout the season from January 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020. Reports to the Conservation Officer Service's 24/7 Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line showed:

- Bear reports down from 143 in 2019 to 40 in 2020
- Cougar reports up from 9 in 2019 to 12 in 2020
- Wolf reports down from 19 in 2019 to 14 in 2020

Black bear activity was reported throughout the season within and near each community. A difference from 2019 was that only 2 food-conditioned bears were destroyed in 2020 versus 13 in 2019. Collisions with vehicles resulted in the death of 9 bears. There was one incident where a dog chased a bear and was injured when the bear reacted defensively. The dog required stitches but survived. Wolf activity was recorded throughout the season across the region. Tofino experienced almost daily activity of one wolf and sometimes two wolves within the community for a two-week period in May. There were two incidents where dogs at large had encounters with wolves. One dog had significant injuries but survived. The other in Tofino was uninjured. A cat was killed by a wolf in Ucluelet. Cougar activity was recorded several times in Ucluelet, Tofino and in Hitacu. A cougar exhibiting habituated behaviour was observed almost daily over a 10-day period in May in Tofino. No conflicts were reported.

The past season was unprecedented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This resulted in few visitors at the beginning of the season and then record numbers when restrictions were eased. The coordinator worked closely with his partners, various agencies and community members to meet challenges collectively with innovative and effective approaches. Despite the challenges, WildSafeBC Pacific Rim had a successful season and often partnered with the new WildSafeBC Hitacu-Macoah Program to provide education outreach and to support local communities in reducing human-wildlife conflict. Some key program initiatives and outcomes included:

- A WildSafe Ranger session was delivered to 10 youth and two leaders for the Tofino Parks and Recreation Adventure Camp.
- Presentations were given to community groups and local government involving 97 participants.
- There were 8 bin tagging surveys and 23 addresses received education stickers
- Display booths were set up over 4 days and 130 people reached,
- The WildSafeBC Pacific Rim Facebook page increased its followers from 653 to 930; a 42% increase.
- The program supported nine electric fencing installations.
- There were multiple interviews for the local newspaper, blog posts, research projects, educational videos, TV and the radio.
- A bear spray workshop was held for 12 District of Tofino staff.

There were many diverse highlights for the 2020 program.

Building food sustainability capacity is a high priority goal in the region. The coordinator participated in several initiatives to promote growing food while co-existing with wildlife. Input was provided for the development of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Food Policy for Coastal Communities.

Adaptations to program delivery were made to comply with Covid-19 safety requirements. An innovation included the 1<sup>st</sup> annual BC Goes Wild Virtual Scavenger Hunt with local partners. The Zoom app became a key engagement tool as the season progressed. This platform enabled the delivery of presentations and participation in regional forums such as the Lisaak Sin Hay Tiic?mis Co-existence Network and discussions on regional waste management initiatives.

The ACRD provided an envelope of funds for delivery of the second annual Community Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Supplies Subsidy Program. The coordinator worked with individuals and businesses to subsidize 9 electric fencing projects. The number of enquiries showed strong interest in this effective conflict prevention tool.

There was collaboration with both Districts around Official Community Planning and the review of bylaws for the prevention of human-wildlife conflicts. Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (PRNPR) supported an initiative to facilitate adoption of the WSBC Bare Campsite Program throughout BC.

The 2020 season was very productive to the generous financial and in-kind support from all levels of government, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and the business community. Thank you for funding to the BC Conservation Foundation, Ocean Outfitters – Ocean Simone Shine, General Manager, the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Jenny Brunn, Operations Manager, the District of Tofino - Mayor Josie Osborne and Council, the Clayoquot Regional Trust – Rebecca Hurwitz, Executive Director and Laura Loucks, Research Director, the Wickaninnish Inn – Charles McDiarmid, Managing Director and Hotel Zed – Britt Chalmers, Manager.

Thank you for crucial in-kind support from Pacific Rim National Park Reserve - Arlene Armstrong, Ecologist Team Leader, Todd Windle – Wild about Wolves Research Coordinator, the District of Ucluelet - Mayor Mayco Noel and Council and staff.

The working relationships have grown year to year over the past three seasons. This year's list of working contacts has grown to 70 plus. This resourceful network bodes well for maintaining the strong efforts to "keep wildlife wild and our community safe."

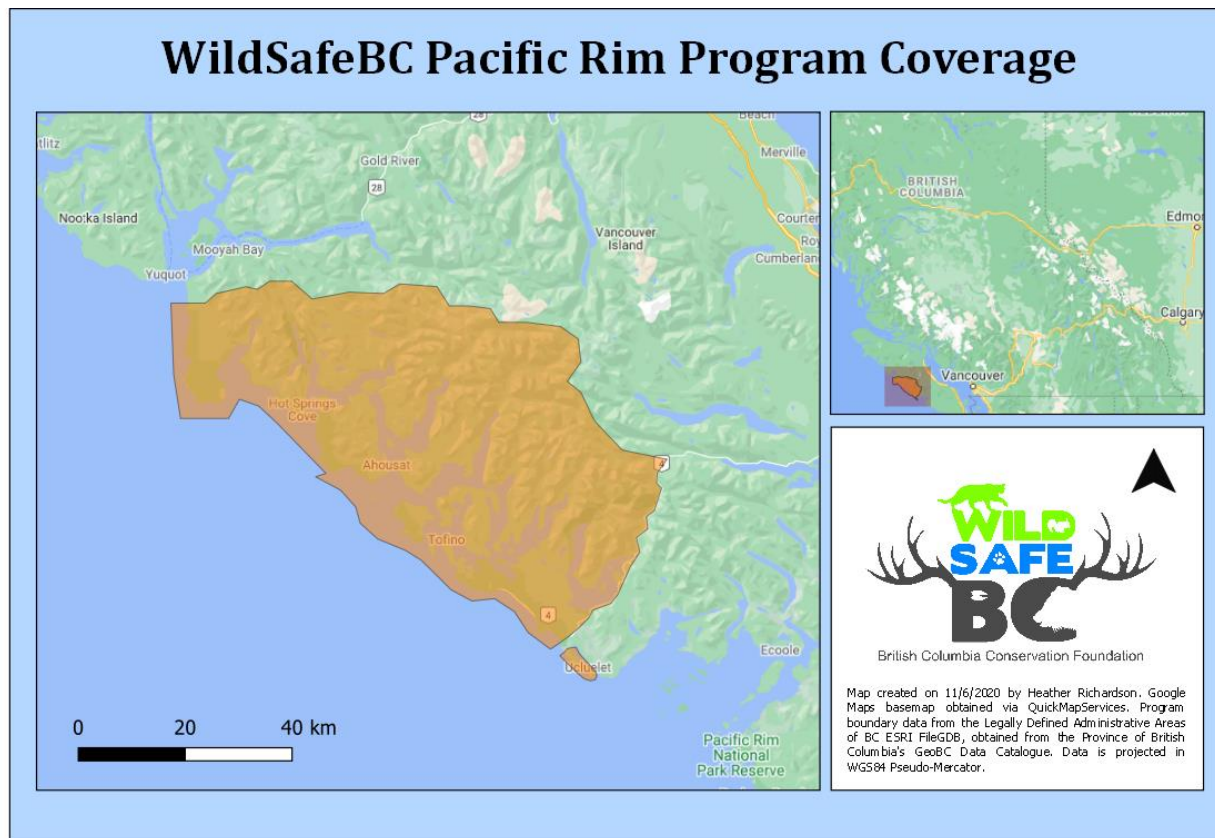


Figure 1. Coverage area for the WildSafeBC Pacific Rim program.

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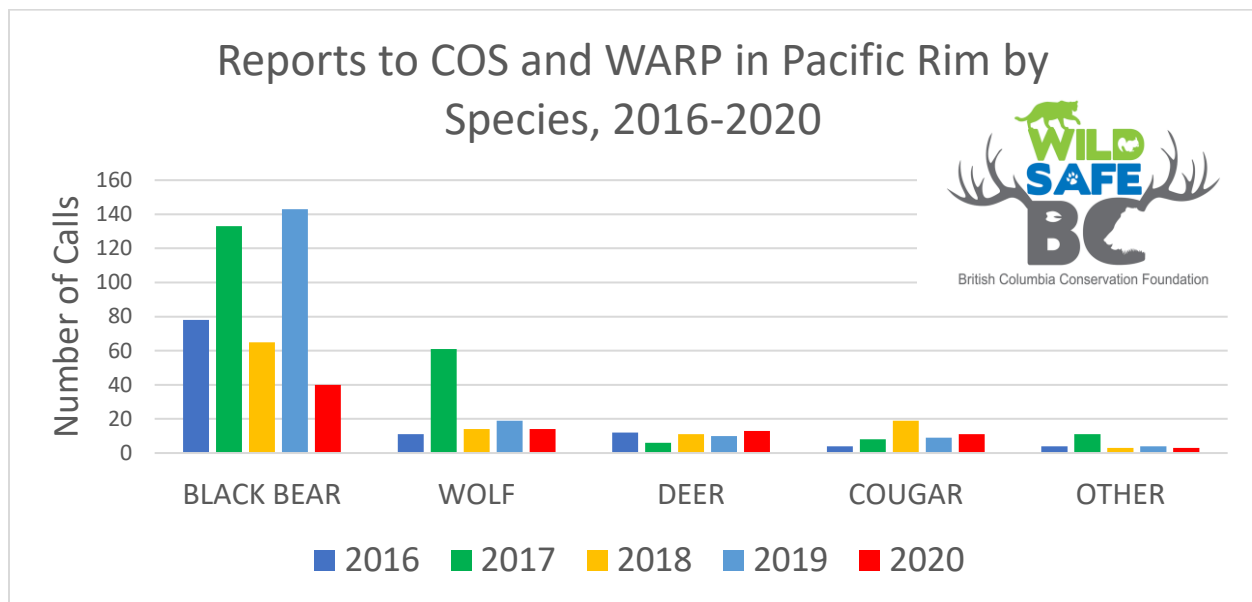
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Cover Photo: Ucluelet Campground Manager, Marie Gentes, has implemented the WildSafeBC Bare Campsite approach with support from Pacific Rim WCC, Bob Hansen. Photograph by Marianne Paquette.

## Highlights from the 2020 Season

### Wildlife Activity

Reports made to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) through the RAPP line (1-877-952-7277) and online form (<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>) are available to the public through WildSafeBC Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) on WildSafeBC's website. This data is updated daily and this report for the Pacific Rim Region includes data from January 1, 2016 to October 31, 2020 (Figure 2).



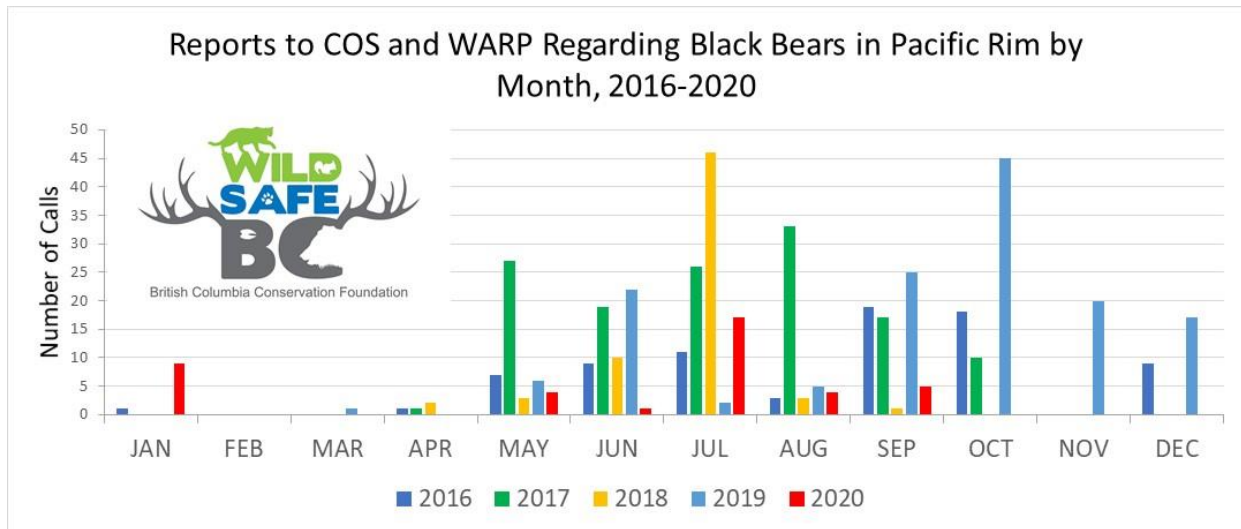
**Figure 2. Reports to the COS and WARP regarding several species from January 1, 2016 to October 31, 2020.**

In 2020, black bear and wolf reports were significantly lower than the four-year average from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2020. This year, cougar reports were close to the four-year average (Table 1).

**Table 1. Wildlife reports to the COS and WARP in comparison to 2019 and 2016-2019 four-year average**

Species	2020	2019	2016 to 2019 Average
<b>Black bear</b>	40	143	105
<b>Cougar</b>	11	9	10
<b>Wolf</b>	14	19	26

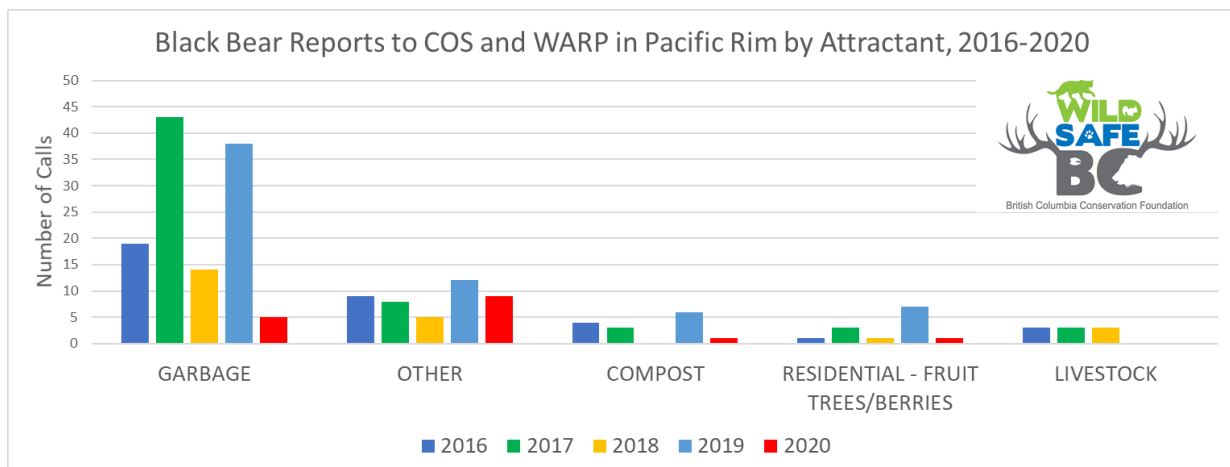
Black bear activity was reported throughout the season, starting in May, both within and near each community. A difference from 2019 was that only 2 food-conditioned bears were destroyed in 2020 versus 13 in 2019 (Figure 3).



**Figure 3. Reports to the COS and WARP regarding black bear by month from January 1, 2016 to October 31, 2020.**

Note the 2020 activity in January was a continuation of bear activity from December 2019. One food-conditioned bear was destroyed in Ucluelet in January. Collisions with vehicles resulted in the death of nine bears. There was one incident where a dog chased a bear and was injured when the bear reacted defensively. The dog required stitches but survived.

Overall, there was a decrease in the numbers of reports to the COS that were associated with attractants (Figure 4). Of note was the decrease in garbage-related reports.



**Figure 4. Black bear reports to COS and WARP in Pacific Rim region by attractant from January 1, 2016 to October 31, 2020.**

For a second year there was an absence of livestock-related reports. The COS was able to provide some insights into the numbers for the 'Other' category. These reports related mostly to bears accessing outdoor freezers or coolers and breaking into sheds and car ports (Figure 5). On one occasion a bear entered the kitchen of a house through an open door and accessed a freezer. On another occasion, a bear accessed unsecured recycling at a resort. In another case, a bear broke into a shed twice to access bird seed stored inside.





**Figure 5. Bear broke through garbage shed door and pulled off hasp and lock.**

Natural foods were plentiful in 2020 from grasses/sedges/horsetail in the early spring through to various berry crops in the summer and right into the fall. The high abundance of various berry crops was particularly noticeable. There were abundant salmonberries early in the season followed by thimbleberry, blackberry, red huckleberry, salal and evergreen huckleberry. There was considerable overlap in the onset of the various berry crops. The abundance of salal and evergreen huckleberry should continue to be a resource for bears through the fall and into early winter.

This availability of natural foods in 2020 differed from 2019. In 2019 there were gaps between the onset of various berry crops. There was low availability of red and evergreen huckleberries. While the natural berry crops were patchy, there was a dramatic abundance of fruit on trees in all communities which attracted bears and led to conflicts.

Reports of wolf and cougar activity in and near communities represented a considerable proportion of reports to the COS and WARP

Wolf activity was recorded throughout the season across the region. In May, Tofino experienced almost daily activity either one or two wolves within the community for a period of 10 days in May (Figure 6). There were two incidents where dogs at large had encounters with wolves. One dog had significant injuries but survived. The other was uninjured. A cat was also killed by a wolf.

Cougar activity was recorded in Ucluelet, Tofino and in Hitacu. A cougar exhibiting habituated behaviour was observed almost daily over a 10-day period in May in Tofino (Figure 7). No conflicts were reported.



**Figure 7. Wolf on sidewalk by the community garden at the school in Tofino (Lindsay Whitefield photo).**



**Figure 6. Cougar on house deck in Tofino (Tanya Dowdall photo).**

## WildSafeBC COVID-19 Mitigation

All the activities performed this season followed safety guidelines provided by the Province, WorkSafeBC and/or the BC Conservation Foundation's Safety Coordinator. The WildSafeBC Community Coordinators (WCC) were required to provide safety plans if they were organizing events where people would congregate. Wherever possible, in person activities were replaced with video conferencing. WildSafeBC adapted and modified requirements as the Province moved from Phase 1 to Phase 3. The WCCs worked closely with their local communities to ensure that all local requirements and restrictions were respected.

## WildSafe Ranger Program

The WildSafe Ranger Program introduces youth to the concept of human-wildlife conflict. The Hitacu-Macoah and Pacific Rim WCCs collaborated with Tofino Parks and Recreation to deliver a two-hour WildSafe Ranger session as part of their weeklong Adventure Camp (Figure 8). There were 10 children between the ages of 7 and 12 as well as 2 camp leaders. The students received a take home assignment on attractant management.



**Figure 8. Hitacu-Macoah Coordinator Marianne Paquette prepares booth and leads an activity for the WildSafe Ranger session**

## Presentations to Community Groups

There were nine presentations through webinars, in person meetings and outdoor presentations to over 97 participants (Table 2, Figure 9).

Table 2. Presentations to Community Groups by month with numbers of participants.

Group	Month	Meetings - Delegations	Wildlife Awareness & Safety	Bear Spray Training	Electric Fencing Applications
Indigenous Stewardship Corridor Initiative	May	6			
ACRD Coastal Food Policy Forum	June				20
Ucluelet Mayor & Council Delegation	June-Dec.	13			
Tofino Mayor & Council Delegation	June-Dec.	12			
Majestic Kayaking Owners/Guides	June		10		
Iisaak Sin Hay Tiic?mis Network	August	16			
District of Tofino Staff – Bylaw Officers, Public Works (Figure 10)	November			12	



Figure 9. District of Tofino Staff person “builds a wall” during bear spray training.

## Display Booths

Community booth sessions were not feasible for a considerable portion of the season due to restrictions and concerns around COVID-19. Booths were held over two days after COVID-19 restrictions were eased in Phase 3 (Figure 10). Both were part of the BC Goes Wild weekend of events (next section).





**Figure 10. Day One of BCGW with booth at the Ucluelet Community Center.**

## BC Goes Wild

BC Goes Wild (BCGW) is a campaign to celebrate wildlife in BC and it occurs in September which is typically the month when human-bear conflicts are at their highest in BC. The Hitacu-Macoah WCC and the Pacific Rim WCC teamed up to develop a weekend of activities that would be consistent with health and safety requirements for COVID-19. Thanks to the support of the staff of the Districts of Ucluelet and Tofino, there were booth sessions over two days with a combined 130 participants (Figure 11).



**Figure 11. Hitacu-Macoah Coordinator Marianne Paquette engages with visitors on Day Two in Tofino while maintaining social distancing.**

A COVID-19 innovation for the 2020 BCGW weekend was a virtual scavenger hunt. This great idea came from event partner Tanya Nestoruk, an interpreter with the Wild Pacific Trail Society. Posters were put up at 10 different locations around Ucluelet and Tofino. Each poster described a different BCGW theme and featured a QR code that linked to a short educational video created by one of our eight local partner organizations (Figure 12; Appendix 1).

Scavenger hunt participants were encouraged to take pictures of themselves at each of the 10 stops in one of the communities to qualify for a prize package. Prize packs contained WildSafeBC swag and items generously donated by Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. There were three prize packages awarded.

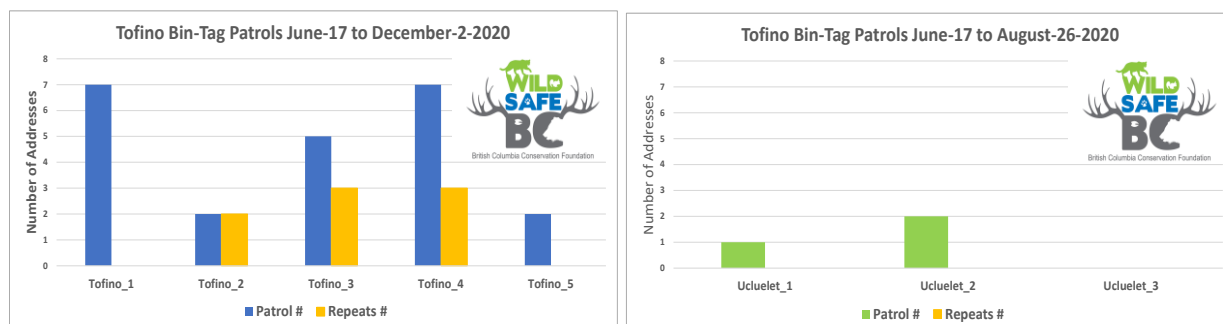


**Figure 12. Ucluelet Scavenger Hunt stop with BCGW Poster and QR code link to the video by the Association of Wetlands Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds**

## Door-to-Door Education and Bin Tagging

Garbage bin tagging consists of placing a highly visible and removable warning sticker on top of containers set curbside the day before collection (Figure 13). Over 8 evenings of bin tagging surveys, a total of 23 bins received education stickers. Ucluelet carried on their good record from 2019 with an average of one bin found left out over 2 seasons of surveys and no repeat offenders.

Survey results were shared with District Bylaw Services in each community and the COS. In Tofino there were 6 repeat offenders. After the fourth Tofino survey, the COS, in a separate patrol, found bins out and issued five violation tickets for non-compliance.



**Figure 13. Results of three Ucluelet and five Tofino bin tag surveys.**

There was a continuation of the campaign to install chains and carabiners on commercial bins in partnership with the local waste management contractors.

## Social Media and Press

The WCC provided regular wildlife activity updates and educational information to residents and visitors through the WildSafeBC Pacific Rim Facebook page. WARP maps were often posted to provide a visual overview of wildlife activity reports (Figure 14). Facebook metrics included:

- Over 44 posts by the Pacific Rim WCC
- Over 90 posts by the WildSafeBC Provincial page that were shared to local pages for Wild Wednesdays, Saturday Spotlights and others
- Page followers rose from 653 up to 930 in 2020, a 42% increase



**Figure 14. WARP map of Tofino Wildlife Reports for May 20th to June 1st, 2020.**

WildSafeBC appreciates the opportunity to provide information to local media and partners for sharing across their networks. Highlights of the season included:

- Four Westerly News articles – wolves and dogs, bin tagging surveys, new Hitacu-Macoah program, avoiding vehicle-wildlife collisions
- CTV interview – coexisting with wolves
- Tuff City Radio interviews – two one-hour interviews – growing food while coexisting with wildlife - coexisting with wolves and cougar and local research
- Tourism Tofino post – to fan out release of new fillable education posters for guest in nightly accommodation and people living in staff housing
- Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Facebook post - shout-out of support for work of WSBC Pacific Rim program
- Mayor of Tofino Facebook post – shout-out of support for work of WSBC Pacific Rim program



## Wildlife in Area Signs

The WCC distributed wildlife-in-area signage to Bylaw Services, First Nations and several campgrounds. Each recipient agreed to be responsible for employing signs to create awareness at appropriate times. Wildlife-in-area signs (bear, wolf and cougar) were provided to the Districts of Tofino and Ucluelet.

The Provincial WSBC Coordinator and the Pacific Rim WCC worked with the Central West Coast Forest Society (CWCFS) to develop both small and large format aluminum bear education and safety signage (Figure 15). Together they purchased and installed the signs along Highway 4 construction stoppage areas.



Figure 15. Signs made in collaboration with CWCFS.

WildSafeBC developed new raccoon education safety signage on request of the Pacific Rim WCC for the Tofino Marine Adventure Resort and the Coastal Animal Rescue and Education Society (Figure 16).



Figure 16. Raccoon education safety sign developed in 2020 on request.

## Collaborations and Special Initiatives

Collaboration occurred with many such as First Nations, various levels of government, other non-profits, businesses, and organizations. These collaborations are essential for addressing human-wildlife conflicts in the region and WildSafeBC is appreciative of the support it receives both in time and resources. An overview of several initiatives is provided in the table (Table 3).

**Table 3. WildSafeBC collaborations with multiple groups, businesses, governments and agencies.**

Collaborators	Issues / Initiatives
Tla-O-Qui-Aht First Nation (TFN)	Facilitated discussions with the TFN and the ACRD (Sponsor) around waste management operations, infrastructure and strategy, community education
Pacific Rim National Park Reserve	In-kind sponsor. Wildlife Activity, research and monitoring information sharing, Wild about Wolves, in-kind WSBC operations support, support for development of WSBC Bare Campsite Program development.
Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve	Sponsor. Indigenous Stewardship Coastal Corridor Initiative, Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area, Tofino Official Community Plan, Vital Signs, First Nations engagement.
District of Ucluelet	In-kind sponsor. Waste management operations, infrastructure and strategy, Bear Smart Community Program, Bylaws review, COVID-19 Love the Coast initiative and inclusion of wildlife coexistence messaging, Official Community Planning.
District of Tofino	Sponsor. Waste management operations, infrastructure and strategy, Bear Smart Community Program, Bylaws review, COVID-19 Love the Coast initiative and inclusion of wildlife coexistence messaging, Official Community Planning. Forum on environmental and social-economic impacts of tourism.
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD)	Sponsor. Waste management operations, infrastructure and strategy for west coast communities, and First Nations. ACRD Communities Subsidy for supplies for the prevention of human-wildlife conflicts, Coastal Food Policy development.
Ocean Outfitters	Sponsor. Prevention of wolf-dog conflicts, presentation for eco-tourism guides, electric fencing for fruit trees.
Wickaninnish Inn	Sponsor. Promotion of human-wildlife safety and coexistence.
Hotel Zed	Sponsor. Development of dog-owner education for hotel guests.
Iisaak Sin Hay Tiic?mis - Regional Coexistence Network	17 members representing First Nations, other levels of government, tourism and business, NGOs and other organizations
Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce	Content on wildlife co-existence education and safety for Ambassadors Training Program for tourism frontline staff.
Conservation Officer Service	Regular communication to remain up to date on wildlife activity, human-wildlife conflict situations and to develop and implement action plans.
Both District Bylaw Services	Regular communication to remain up to date on wildlife activity, human-wildlife conflict situations and to develop and implement action plans. Review bylaws and develop potential improvements relating to attractants management.

## **Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Funded Community Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Supplies Subsidy Program**

The WildSafeBC Pacific Rim Program received ACRD funding to initiate a second year of subsidies for area residents and businesses. Residents and businesses took advantage of the program that covered 50% of the cost of a variety of human-wildlife conflict prevention supplies. The primary focus of the subsidy programs for 2020 was electric fencing. Installations included:

- Seven fencing projects for chicken coops, livestock and fruit trees (Figure 17),
- Assisting two resorts; one garbage shed project, and one to protect recycling facilities (Figure 18).



**Figure 17. Ucluelet resident used ACRD subsidy funding to install electric fencing around their chicken coop.**



**Figure 18. Canadian Princess Resort Manager, Julie Se, and staff person with WCC on completion of electric fencing of their garbage shed.**



## Collaboration with the Tofino Community Food Initiative

The 2019 season saw a much higher than usual yield of fruit production across the region. For several weeks in 2019 bears spent time gorging on fruit in every west coast community. Higher incidents of human-bear conflicts followed. The need for an organized regional fruit gleanng program became evident. The WCC collaborated with the Tofino Community Food Initiative (TCFI) in 2019 and again in 2020 to foster education. The focus was around the need to harvest fruit before it was accessed by bears, how to process and preserve fruit, and how to manage fruit trees. People were encouraged to protect their fruit trees with electric fencing. The goal of TCFI is to pursue funding to establish a regional fruit gleanng program in 2021.

## Education for Vacation Rental / Airbnb Guests and Residents in Staff Housing

It was identified that many visitors to the region were unaware of their impacts on local wildlife when their attractants were not effectively managed. In response, a WildSafeBC infographic was created for these two target audiences. The design was well received and distributed widely throughout the region by the municipalities, tourism societies, chambers of commerce and the Districts (Figure 19).



Figure 19. WildSafeBC infographic created for nightly accommodation guest and residents in staff housing.

## WildSafeBC Bare Campsite Program

The expansion of the WildSafeBC Bare Campsite Program (WBCP) is a new initiative in 2020. The original Bare Campsite Program was created and implemented by Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (PRNPR) in 1999. The program has proven its effectiveness in preventing human-bear conflicts in campgrounds and WildSafeBC has been promoting, with its bare campsite brochure and infographics, this approach to camping.

The new WBCP initiative, with support from PRNPR and the Pacific Rim WCC, has developed a toolkit to support campground operators and their staff in implementing the program. The training webinars and materials were co-developed by the Pacific Rim WCC and the WildSafeBC Provincial Coordinator. Community coordinators across the province have received training and will be ready to collaborate in 2021 with campground operators in maintaining a safe campsite for both people and wildlife.

The WBCP was successfully implemented by the Ucluelet Campground. They were provided with signage, infographics and support from the WCC. Their implementation was featured in a short educational video created by the Hitacu-Macoah WCC and in a WildSafeBC Saturday Spotlight.

## Challenges and Opportunities

This Pacific Rim Region was tested this past season with unusual visitor patterns and unsecured waste. With over one million visitors per year coming to the area, it takes a concerted effort to prevent negative interactions between people and wildlife. The WCC has identified several opportunities for 2021 (Table 4):

**Table 4. Some priority challenges and opportunities for 2021.**

Challenges	Opportunities
The need for increased Indigenous awareness and engagement	Build on program with engagement with Tla-o-qui-aht and Ahousaht First Nations.
Business community engagement and challenges around waste management.	Register participants from businesses in both Districts, the ACRD and First Nations in the WildSafe Business Pledge Program.
High potential for bears to access unsecured food at campgrounds.	Register campground businesses in the WBCP in both Districts, the ACRD and First Nations.
Prepare for a potential spike in demands on the waste management infrastructure and operations in 2021 with easing of COVID-19 travel restrictions.	Collaborate with First Nations, Districts, the ACRD, the PRNPR and business/tourism organizations.
Improvements to bylaws relating to the prevention of human-wildlife conflicts required to support education and messaging.	Continue to collaborate with First Nations, the Districts and the ACRD in consistent bylaws across jurisdictions.
The need for consistent policies across regions to help prevent human-wildlife conflicts.	Continue collaborations initiated in 2020 with planning sections of both Districts to incorporate Bear Smart language in Official Community Plans.

## Acknowledgements

The 2020 program capacity and reach were significantly expanded due to the excellent support of the BCCF team, strong support from colleague Marianne Paquette, the Hitacu-Macoah WSBC Coordinator, local funding partners and many collaborators across the region. Thank you all for making this program possible!

There are so many to thank. Apologies to anyone I miss. Know that your assistance and support was and is greatly appreciated!

### Program Funders:

- BC Conservation Foundation
- Ocean Outfitters – Ocean Simone Shine, General Manager
- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Jenny Brunn, Operations Manager
- Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government – Ucluelet First Nation - Jonquil Crosby, Fisheries and Wildlife Manager
- Toquaht First Nation - Marina Rayner, Lands and Resources Manager
- District of Tofino - Mayor Josie Osborne and Council
- Clayoquot Regional Trust – Rebecca Hurwitz, Executive Director and Laura Loucks, Research Director
- Wickaninnish Inn – Charles McDiarmid, Managing Director
- Hotel Zed – Britt Chalmers, Manager

### In-Kind Support:

#### Pacific Rim National Park Reserve:

- Arlene Armstrong – Ecologist Team Leader
- Todd Windle – Wild about Wolves Research Coordinator
- Jason McIndoe – Acting Human-Wildlife Co-existence Specialist
- Jeffery David – Resource Officer - Wildlife
- Carl Sieber, Interpretation Officer

#### District of Ucluelet:

- Mayor Mayco Noel and Council
- Mark Boysen, Chief Administration Officer
- Bruce Greig, Towner Planner
- Brent Ashton – Bylaw Services
- Manager of Parks and Recreation – Abby Fortune and staff

#### District of Tofino:

- Bylaw Services – Brent Baker and Kiera Tak
- Aaron Rodgers – Town Planner
- Peter Thicke – Assistant Town Planner

Conservation Officer Service: Sgt. Stuart Bates, CO Andrew Riddell, CO Daniel Eichstaedter

BC Provincial Parks Service: Michael Grandbois, Area Manager and other Ranger Staff



## Ongoing Collaborations:

- Jonathan Cross, CEO of the Ucluelet First Nation Group of Companies
- Iisaak Sin Hay Tiic?mis Regional Co-existence Network Membership
- Leah Austin and H       Descoteaux – Tofino Community Food Initiative
- James Rodgers – Coastal Animal Rescue and Education Network
- Wild Pacific Trail Society:
  -   Barbara Schramm, Director
  -   Tanya Nestoruk, Program Coordinator
- Thornton Creek Hatchery:
  -   Dave Hurwitz, Manager
- Ranicoast Education Society:
  -   Mark Maft  , Executive Director
- Association of Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds
  -   Barb Beasley, Director
- Tourism Tofino – Nancy Cameron and staff
- Tofino Chamber of Commerce – Jen Dart and Laura Macdonald
- Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce – Dian McCreary
- Tourism Ucluelet – Denise Norman

## Appendix 1

### BC Goes Wild Virtual Scavenger Hunt partners and video links.

1	Ucluelet Campground – “BARE” Campground video	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/wildsafebc-hitacumacoah/videos/694141697888244">https://www.facebook.com/wildsafebc-hitacumacoah/videos/694141697888244</a>
2	PRNPR – Wild About Wolves	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLGvWTV0SXs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLGvWTV0SXs</a>
3	Tofino Community Food Initiative	Intro: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daimf_nETpY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daimf_nETpY</a>  Backyard chickens: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30cnU-xGnzQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30cnU-xGnzQ</a>
4	WildSafeBC Wild Wednesdays video	Bear-resistant bins: <a href="https://vimeo.com/364858730">https://vimeo.com/364858730</a>
5	Ucluelet Aquarium	Intro: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meyVZjYRZvw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meyVZjYRZvw</a>  Intertidal exploration: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhHujQPRAOE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhHujQPRAOE</a>
6	WildSafeBC Wild Wednesdays video	Fall is here: <a href="https://vimeo.com/361837776">https://vimeo.com/361837776</a>
7	Association of Wetlands Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds	Amphibians in the region: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wetland.stewards/videos/232651101517944">https://www.facebook.com/wetland.stewards/videos/232651101517944</a>
8	Wild Pacific Trail Society	West Coast Weather: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGszcxTGcM4&amp;t=11s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGszcxTGcM4&amp;t=11s</a>
9	Nuu-Chah-Nulth language video – Wild Pacific Trail Society	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzS7wj3IS0w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzS7wj3IS0w</a>
10	Surfrider Pacific Rim	No video, just links to the Marine Debris Tracker app: <a href="https://debristracker.org/">https://debristracker.org/</a>

## Addendum: Additional Work Dec 2020- Feb 2021

This report describes the activities of the WildSafeBC Pacific Rim Program activities between January 3<sup>rd</sup> and February 27, 2021. This was the first winter delivery of the Pacific Rim Program. The winter season was made possible by funding contributed by Ocean Outfitters, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust and the Federal Emergency Community Support Fund.

### Wildlife Activity

There was considerable activity by a food-conditioned bear throughout this winter program period. There were also brief periods of both wolf and cougar activity in Ucluelet and Tofino areas.

The reporting to the Conservation Officer Service's 24/7 Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line (Figure A1) represented an under-reporting of actual activity.

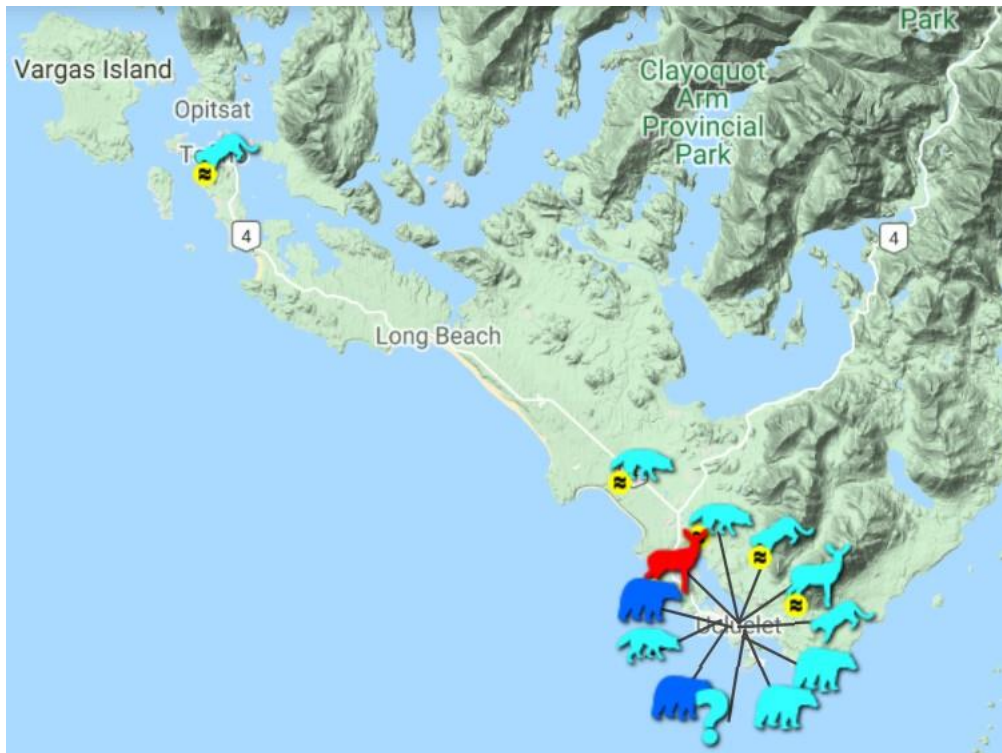


Figure A 1. RAPP Line reports - Pacific Rim Region - January 1 - February 27, 2021

One food-conditioned bear was still active at the time of the writing of this report at the end of February. The bear activity followed a bit of a pattern with 2-3 days of accessing unsecured garbage often followed by up to a week or more with no bear reports. The COS set a trap in mid-February but removed it after a week of no bear reports.

The WCC conducted door-to-door door hanger campaigns in 3 Ucluelet neighbourhoods immediately following bear in garbage reports. Information on bear, wolf and cougar and

conflict prevention was left at 70 residences. The WCC also communicated with residents encountered.

One evening bin-tagging survey was conducted in Ucluelet and only one container put out the night before pickup was found. The WCC posted updates and educational information frequently. There were no reports of the bear accessing garbage after February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

There were reports of wolves and cougar both in Tofino and Ucluelet. All reports were of presence only. There were no conflict reports. The WCC posted conflict prevention and safety information on Facebook.

## WildSafeBC Pacific Rim Winter Program Activities Overview

The 2020 unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic conditions continue in 2021. Despite the challenges, the WildSafeBC Pacific Rim program was busy and productive in its winter iteration.

A major focus of the winter program was to work on proactive, strategic initiatives and partnerships that would be difficult to pursue during the operationally busy part of the year. There was also attention to public education as required.

Some key winter program initiatives and outcomes included:

- A WildSafe Ranger session was delivered by the WCC and the Hitacu-Macoah WCC to 46 youth and 4 teachers at the Wickaninnish Community School.
- There were 14 posts on the WildSafeBC Pacific Rim Facebook page. Followers increased from 930 to 1002 over 2 months.
- There were 2 interviews for local newspapers (yet to be published-Feb-27-2021) and one presentation for Vancouver Island University.
- The WCC participated as a local stakeholder organization in the Tourism Tofino planning forum for developing the organization's 5-year strategic plan.
- Tourism Tofino and a local photographer posted a video of a close encounter with a wolf on Vargas Island. Following good discussions, the video posts were removed from social media feeds and all parties agreed to work together on messaging to promote keeping wolves wild and wary. This situation sparked a resumption of discussions between the Provincial Coordinator, Parks Canada and the WCC on collaborating around the broader issue of wildlife photography that leads to wildlife habituation and/or food-conditioning. There was agreement on exploring collaboration on an online educational zoom forum with experts as well as other outreach/education approaches. The WCC, the local Provincial Park Ranger Service and Pacific Rim National Park discussed and planned for collectively engaging in April 2021 with Vargas Island residents to enlist their assistance with keeping wolves wild and wary.

- The WCC participated in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Solid Waste Management Advisory Group and planning for roll-out of curbside pickup for garbage, recycling and compost.
- The Hitacu-Macoah CC and the WCC presented to ACRD Advisory Group proposing a new regional outreach/education initiative (Care for the Coast) with partners. The goal would be to prevent overwhelming of garbage/recycling systems and other negative environmental issues experienced in 2020.
- Partnered with ACRD to host a zoom forum on Care for the Coast initiative. There was strong positive support for the concept. Work on the initiative will be resumed in April 2021.
- The Provincial Coordinator and the WCC collaborated on a proposal to provide wildlife safety and bear spray training for coastal cleanup crews in 2021. The Provincial Coordinator is exploring options for creation of e-learning tools that might be employed for this project and others.
- Local businesses were approached about participating in the WSBC Business Pledge Program. Five businesses have committed to taking the next steps to participate and will be engaged in April 2021. The canvassing of more business will continue in the spring.
- Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and the WCC discussed and have committed to jointly promoting and hosting a Bare Campsite Program workshop for campground operators in April, 2021.
- The WCC submitted a number of recommendations for updates to facilitate future prevention/reduction in human-wildlife conflicts the Tofino Official Community Plan and many were adopted in the final draft.
- Bylaw Services and the WCC agreed to resume a detailed review of bylaws relating to management of wildlife attractants in April 2021. There is interest in harmonizing bylaws between Districts and First Nations in the region.
- The WCC continued to work on supporting the implementation of electric fencing to support wildsafe local food production and resort operations.