



PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION



Jerlyn Brutas is 4th year Applied Animal Biology student at the University of British Columbia. As a co-op student with a passion for the environment and a background in conservation-based education and outreach, Jerlyn became interested in working for the Pacific Salmon Foundation as a way to learn more about climate action for marine and coastal ecosystems.

“When I entered the Co-op program at UBC, my goal was to try out as many positions as I could within conservation fields. I was really intrigued by this position with PSF because, despite my love for nature and the environment, I didn’t know much about coastal biodiversity and habitats. I was also excited to expand my skills in writing educational materials for more professional audiences, as most of my work in education and outreach has been intended for children and youth.

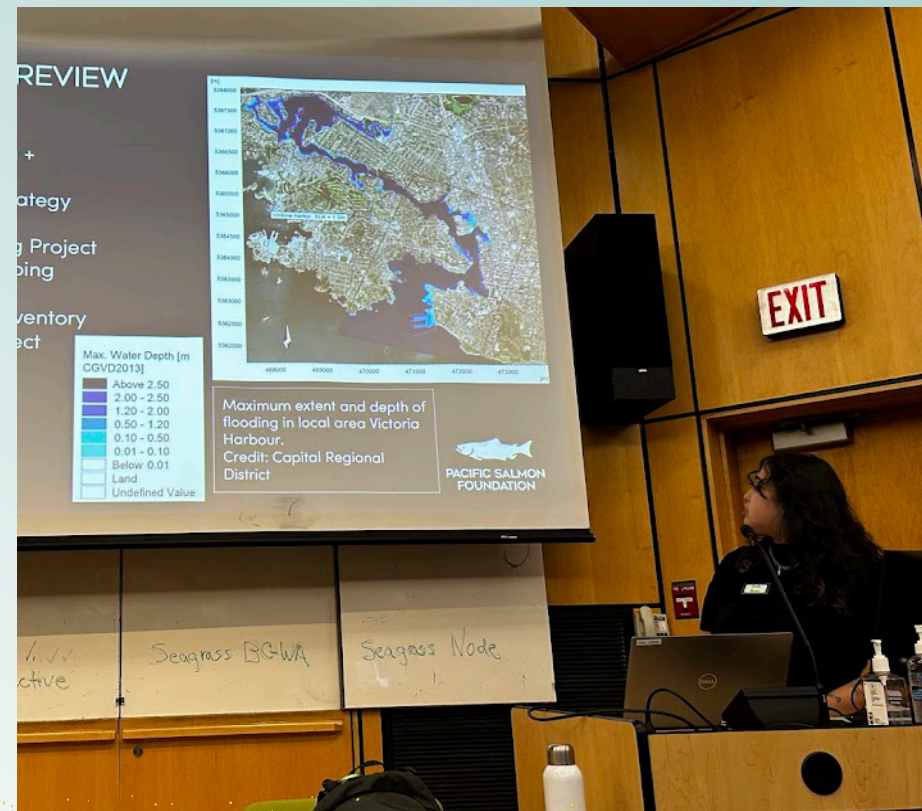
THANK YOU

MICHAEL W MARTINDALE AND
SANDRA P MARTINDALE FUND!

As the Research Assistant for the Resilient Coasts for Salmon project, Jerlyn's primary focus was to research and write reports on the various coastal climate change adaptation strategies used by local governments on the East Coast of Vancouver Island. Throughout the process, Jerlyn also interviewed local government staff to learn about any barriers to further climate adaptations and the implementation of Nature-based Solutions.

Jerlyn wrote two comprehensive reports during her 8-month term: one focused on the Capital Regional District (CRD) and its municipalities, and one on the Islands Trust Region. These reports highlight shoreline protection projects and policies implemented by local governments and also includes a summary of guidance documents on the implementation of Nature-based Solutions for shoreline protection – an important element of the Resilient Coasts for Salmon project. One of the main goals of these reports is to identify knowledge gaps and barriers to effective climate adaptations, and to determine what information or tools are needed to move past these barriers so that PSF may provide their help and resources wherever possible. By providing this information in a communicable piece, The Resilient Coasts for Salmon team also hopes these reports will support cross-governmental conversations on how to best protect our shorelines.

A highlight of the work was when Jerlyn presented her findings on the CRD report at the Pacific Estuarine Research Society Conference in April 2024.



"It was an amazing opportunity to attend the PERS conference. Prior to the experience, I had never even been to a conference, let alone presented at one. It felt like a huge leap in my career and made me feel very proud of myself and the work I had done with PSF. It was especially gratifying when people showed interest in my project and asked me questions about it."

"Through my research, I feel like I have also come to understand methods of conservation and climate action from the perspectives of local governments and their staff, which I believe is very crucial insight that supports an intersectional view of conservation"

"Since I started working here, I have learned so much about ways to care for BC's coasts, as well as the profound connections between salmon and coastal communities. Caring for our shorelines not only helps preserve the environment and the biodiversity that exists within it, but it helps protect the legacy of the communities that have relied on and continue to rely on BC waters for millennia."

Aside from her research and report-writing, Jerlyn has also supported with outreach at the Brant Wildlife Children's Festival in Qualicum Beach, and has co-led a webinar with the Real Estate Institute of BC on Nature-based Solutions for shoreline property protection, alongside her supervisor, Kyla Sheehan.

Jerlyn notes "I am very grateful to have been given the chance to work with the Pacific Salmon Foundation and everyone in the Marine Science Program. I have gained a plethora of knowledge on coastal climate change and ecological restoration and have greatly improved my skills in technical report writing and research. I will absolutely carry this experience and the skills I have acquired with me into the future"

Jerlyn spent her final few weeks with PSF editing and adding final touches to the reports she has written so that they can be posted to their website and printed as educational documents, and accompany the Resilient Coast for Salmon's shoreline mapping reports.





Michael Martindale's motto in life was "look in the direction you want to go." In honour of his passing in 2020, his wife Sandra (Sandy) Martindale has established the Michael W Martindale and Sandra P Martindale Fund at the Pacific Salmon Foundation.



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