

Kelp Forest Restoration on Denman

ADIMS launched a kelp restoration project in January 2026, starting with a well-attended presentation at the Activity Centre featuring speakers from the Kelp Rescue Initiative (KRI). Kelp is truly a remarkable type of marine algae (aka seaweed). Easily mistaken for a plant, it is actually part of a brown algae grouping called Phaeophyta. Bull kelp is the fastest growing being alive, sequestering huge amounts of carbon while providing food and habitat for thousands of ocean creatures. Kelp forests help keep oceans cool by providing shade. They also slow down raging winter storms, and they are delicious to eat!

In the 1900s, there was a 5.5 square kilometre kelp forest around Denman. There was so much kelp! Unfortunately, the kelp forest disappeared due to the cumulative effects of increasing ocean temperatures and too many kelp-grazing urchins. ADIMS is trying to remedy this by teaming up with KRI and North Island College (NIC) Seaweed Resource Lab. Currently, there are two active restoration sites managed by KRI - one north of Eagle Rock and one in Ford Cove.

Thanks to funding from Denman WORKS, Sadie Gibbs and her seal puppet Kelpie brought kelp education to the summer Farmer's Market. And this fall, ADIMS will receive sugar kelp seedlings from NIC to plant and monitor. We also plan to host an educational workshop on cooking urchins. The idea here is to use overpopulated urchins from kelp planting sites for food, while also utilizing the scraps as garden fertilizer. We believe this shows how informed and deliberate food choices can support increased biodiversity and environmental sustainability. If you would like to be part of our kelp project, email us at adimsinfo@gmail.com. We can add you to the ADIMS email list to learn about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.



Sea Star Wasting Monitoring

ADIMS completed its third year of Sea Star Wasting (SSW) monitoring in August and will resume in May 2027. While most observations were of healthy-looking sea stars, SSW remains present on part of the island's east side and diseased sea stars were observed near Hinton Road for the first time since our monitoring began. On a broader scale, current scientific research is focused on how rising water temperatures drive the growth of *Vibrio pectenicida* (the bacterial culprit behind SSW) and whether specialized phages can be used to slow or stop the disease. A big thank you to everyone who participated this season! We always welcome new members, so if you are interested in joining our monitoring team, please email us at adimsinfo@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting 2026 Dec 1st 4-6pm

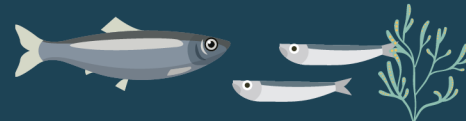
We will post the Zoom link on our website, Facebook page, and will send it out over our email list.

adims.ca/notice-of-agm

adimsinfo@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/AssociationforDenmanIslandMarineStewards/>

Current ADIMS Board of Directors:
Dorrie Woodward, Linda Sheehan,
Liz Johnston, Melanie Hewson,
Barb Mills & Ryan Salter



Predator Netting Campaign

Our campaign against netting is gaining momentum. Thanks to Denman WORKS and the CVRD, we now have three terrific videos for reaching the public and we are planning next steps. DFO's new condition of licence for shellfish growers, requiring netting removal near salmon creeks, provides us with powerful leverage we can use to approach organizations that assess and make recommendations about sustainable types of seafood for consumers, restaurants, and grocery stores. Removing the nets implies they were harming sensitive fish habitat, which would disqualify the clams from receiving a green (sustainable) designation. Yellow or red designations would lower the value of the clams. In an ideal world, this could mean that there are economic reasons for complying with DFO requirements and making Baynes Sound a better place for fish and birds. Stay tuned for updates on the clam netting saga, and be sure to go to adims.ca/netting to view our new videos and learn more.

Setting up clam netting study plots



Counting clams to establish a baseline for the netting study



Clam Netting Study

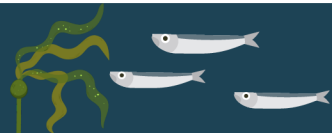
ADIMS is working on practical ways to grow clams without netting. We see a great opportunity for this because shellfish growers are facing a new condition of licence from DFO, which requires them to remove netting from large areas of clam beds in Baynes Sound. We're collaborating with Baynes Sound Oyster Co. Ltd. (BSO) to find methods that are bird-friendly and work for the growers as well. Folks from BSO and ADIMS teamed up this spring to plant two separate clam research plots in Henry Bay using two different sizes of clam seed. We then covered half of each plot with netting, leaving the other half net free. We will compare how the covered and exposed clams survive predation and also see if the size of clam seed makes a difference. Most clam seed is planted in the fall, so another aspect of this experiment is to learn whether clams can be grown successfully starting in spring. The intention is to avoid seeding clams during the months when clam-eating sea ducks are overwintering in Baynes Sound (Oct-May). Tiny clams are like candy to a Surf Scoter! It's hoped that clams seeded in May and June will be large enough and deep enough come October to avoid intense predation when the sea ducks return. We will be birdwatching at the site over the winter to document sea duck activity in the area. Thank you to the birdwatchers willing to come out in the chilly weather!

Herring Legal Challenge

ADIMS continues its work with the Herring Conservation and Restoration Society (HCRS). In support of the WSÁNEĆ Hereditary Chiefs, HCRS funded a formal legal letter to DFO, outlining the WSÁNEĆ First Nation's case for a herring fishery moratorium. The legal case has been launched! Interviews with six elders were completed to document the experiences that underpin their argument. Scientists at the University of Victoria brought together data and research demonstrating how DFO management practices harmed the herring fishery and collapsed the spawns in the lower Strait of Georgia, where the WSÁNEĆ fished traditionally. DFO and the WSÁNEĆ began discussions in September. Fundraising for the legal campaign continues, with events planned for the fall, including a public screening of a Pacific Wild video. ADIMS will fundraise and share updates to support this cause. For more information visit: adims.ca/herring

Community Concerns & Complaints

We saw fewer complaints this year, but still some important ones. In 2025 we added a new section to our website, which describes how to file complaints with the appropriate government agencies. If you decide to file a complaint, please copy adimsinfo@gmail.com on it, or send us the file number afterwards so we can help you with follow-up. When filing a complaint, including photographic evidence with GPS coordinates is very helpful for enforcement teams. We met three times with DFO enforcement officers this year to provide details about the most concerning marine issues. They responded with an increased presence on Denman. They have over 250 open files that include investigations, warnings, tickets, and follow-ups. We want to thank Denmanites for their vigilance on behalf of our marine inhabitants, and for being willing to step forward. To learn more about filing complaints go to: adims.ca/complaints and remember, we're here to help!



Association for Denman Island Marine Stewards

2026 Newsletter

22nd Annual ADIMS Beach Cleanup

We were very fortunate to receive a 2026 CVRD Rural Community Grant to hire our Beach Cleanup Coordinator, Lisa Pierce, who did an amazing job! We also received funding from Hornby Island's Wild Island Foundation for hiring Hornby Island Diving (HID). HID does incredible work every year extracting marine debris from boat-access-only areas.

We also worked with BC Shellfish Growers Association, Comox Valley Regional District, Comox Strathcona Waste Management, Denman Island Recycling Centre, the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, and Ocean Legacy Foundation. And for the first time, the event was registered for EarthDay.org's "Great Global Cleanup."

The cleanup was held in spring instead of fall to coincide with Earth Week, which worked well and helped attract new volunteers. A special focus this year was to check aquaculture gear identification tags (now required as a condition of licence for shellfish farmers). Our team counted ID tags and found that a very low percentage of the collected shellfish farming gear was tagged (less than 20%). We also identified who owned some of the larger gear. Lisa contacted shellfish companies and asked them to collect their gear and make a donation to cover beach cleanup costs normally shouldered by generous community donations. In the end, we recovered \$2500 from the shellfish industry.

We are excited to announce that Hornby Island's Wild Island Foundation has generously offered ADIMS further funding to support future cleanups, installation of marine debris collection stations, and social media strategy expertise.

Many thanks to all the volunteers and funders who continue to protect our shorelines, and a special acknowledgement goes out to John Johnston. John is always a major player working quietly in the background, so quietly in fact, that we overlooked adding his name to the list of 80 volunteers published earlier this year. Lisa sends her apologies and a very big thank you to John!



Erin, Liz & Leya in marine debris costumes at the Free Store Fashion Show



Out of the Blue event on World Ocean Day

Over 80 Denmanites volunteered during the 2026 beach cleanup!



Nearly 10 metric tons collected this year!



Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much. ~ Helen Keller

Association for Denman Island Marine Stewards

Annual Membership & Donation Drive

We are always updating our email and volunteer lists, and your contact preferences, so please fill out the membership form below and send it in with your donation. Thank you so much for your continued support!



Since we are now a CRA registered charity, we no longer have a fixed membership fee. Instead, just send in a donation of any amount and we will add you to our member list and you will receive a tax-deductible receipt for the full amount of your donation.

Name(s) and Surname(s) for membership list: _____

Legal Name and Surname that should appear on the tax-receipt: _____

Mailing address for tax-receipt: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____ Payment type: _____ Payment date: _____

Would you like to be on our email list? YES ___ NO ___ Email: _____

Would you like to be on our volunteer list? YES ___ NO ___ Email: _____



You can make a donation online through our website or send an e-transfer to adimsinfo@gmail.com

Go to www.adims.ca/donate and click on the "Donate via Canada Helps" button. If you donate via e-transfer, please fill out a membership form so we can send you a tax receipt: www.adims.ca/membership-form



If you prefer to pay by cash or cheque, make the donation payable to: ADIMS

Membership forms & cash/cheques can be sent to: PO Box 7, Denman Island, BC V0R 1T0 (or drop off at Abraxas)



For more info:

Web: www.adims.ca | Email: adimsinfo@gmail.com

Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AssociationforDenmanIslandMarineStewards/>

Our greatest appreciation goes to the Denman community for their support:



- The 80+ hard-working beach cleanup volunteers
- The committed volunteers on our Board of Directors
- The members and anonymous donors who contribute financially to our donation drive every year
- Sussan Thomson, Kathy Rapati, and the "Out of the Blue" team
- All the community members who support us, send info, lend time or equipment, bake cookies, sign petitions, and write advocacy letters. We couldn't do it without you!

We want to recognize the officials who have heard our concerns:

- Sam Borthwick & David Graham, IT Trustees
- Daniel Arbour, Area A Director, CVRD
- Gord Johns, MP Courtenay - Alberni
- Josie Osborne, MLA Mid Island - Pacific Rim
- Chris Marrie, Senior Biologist, Aquaculture Management, DFO
- Brian Xhignesse, Aquatic Science Technician, DFO
- Brooke Davis & Shyla Hamel, Fishery Officers, DFO



We are very grateful to the organizations we collaborated with:

- K'ómoks First Nation & Qualicum First Nation
- Tla'amin Nation & WSÁNEĆ Hereditary Chiefs
- Herring Conservation & Restoration Society
- Conservancy Hornby Island
- Denman Island Readers & Writers Festival
- Concerned Citizens of Baynes Sound
- BC Shellfish Growers Association
- Baynes Sound Oyster Co. Ltd.
- Ocean Legacy Foundation
- North Island College
- Kelp Rescue Initiative



A heartfelt thank you to the groups that supported our work financially:

- Comox Strathcona Waste Management
- Comox Valley Regional District
- Denman Island Recycling Centre
- Wild Island Foundation
- Denman WORKS!

