

Schenk, S*., Department of Botany at the University of British Columbia, sschenk@mail.ubc.ca; Supratya, VP*., Department of Botany at the University of British Columbia, varoonp@student.ubc.ca; Martone, P., Department of Botany at the University of British Columbia, patrick.martone@botany.ubc.ca; Parfrey, LW., The University of British Columbia, Department of Botany and Department of Zoology, lwparfrey@botany.ubc.ca

*Co-presenters

LONG-TERM MONITORING OF MACROALGAL BIODIVERSITY IN STANLEY PARK, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Macroalgae are marine foundation species in rocky intertidal ecosystems. Although they are critical to the health of our aquatic ecosystems, we lack data regarding their historical abundance in many regions, including British Columbia. This lack of data prevents researchers from convincingly making claims regarding the impacts of severe weather events (e.g., 2021 heat dome), invasive species, and other disturbances on algal diversity in the region. To fill this data gap, we started a collaborative effort in September 2021 to collect monthly macroalgal biodiversity data at a highly biodiverse site in Stanley Park, Girl in a Wetsuit, to categorize the macroalgae present throughout the year. We identify all the macroalgal species present in a 1 m x 1 m quadrat, which we place every 5 m along three consistent transect lines, once a month, at low tide. This sampling scheme allows us to capture the seasonal changes in algal abundance within the same 1 m x 1 m area throughout the year. Our goal is to make these data freely available to the public and work with other researchers to coordinate monitoring efforts to increase the utility and richness of the collected dataset.