

**From:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 6:22 PM  
**To:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media Request - Bear

No worries I'll call them tomorrow  
Cheers Mike

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 8, 2017, at 5:49 PM, Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX <[Danielle.Bell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danielle.Bell@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Mike,

If you had a chance to give the Campbell River Mirror a shout today or tomorrow, that'd be great!  
Re: Bear at Discovery Marina  
If not, perhaps I could send some info via email.

Thanks

Alistair Taylor  
Editor, Campbell River Mirror  
[250-202-6777](tel:250-202-6777)

Sent from my iPhone

[Edit](#)[Close](#)**Human Wildlife Conflict Report #17-17367****Outcome Report**

**Area:** CAMPBELL RIVER - **CAMPBELL RIVER - WEST COAST REGION**  
**Status:** **Reviewed**

**Call Received:** 2017-09-08 09:38  
**Received By:** DONNA (Admin ECC)

## COM Details

[ - ]

**Caller Name (COM):** JIM SPOWART  
**Street Address:** BC PARKS AREA SUPERVISOR  
 CAMPBELL RIVER, BC

**Contact Number(s):**  
**Cellular** 250-218-3893

## Occurrence Information

[ - ]

**Incident Date/Time:** 2017-09-08 09:38  
**Species Involved:** BLACK BEAR  
**Nature of Complaint:** SIGHTINGS  
**Attractants Noted:** NOT APPLICABLE  
**Action Taken:** NO ACTION TAKEN

**Occurrence Location**  
 SAME ADDRESS

**Details:**

BB is cruising around the breakwater at the Discovery Harbour Marina in Campbell River. Just doing bear things, caller already phoned CO Paquin to give COS a heads up.

## Outcome Report

**Action Required:** Yes  
**Sergeant Reviewed:** Yes

**Ref. Report #:**  
**Concluded On:** 2017-09-08

		<b>Officer(s) Assigned</b>	<b>Time Spent</b>	
<b>Attended:</b>	Yes	1. Newton	.25	Hours
<b>Complainant Contacted:</b>	Yes	2.		Hours
		3.		Hours
		<b>Total Time Spent (hours):</b>	0.25	Hours

**Narrative:**

2017-09-08 Sgt. Newton called Jim Spowart back. (Spowart works at Miracle Beach Prov. Park w/ BC COS) Sgt. Newton advised Spowart that COS is aware of the bear. Thanked for call. Cross ref. HWCR 17-17378

**Coordinates of occurrence location, if known:**

Zone Easting Northing

**Equipment:**

Equipment Used Date Set Date Removed

## Actions Taken by C.O.

**Complaint Outcome:** Advice Provided

**Date:** \* 2017-09-08

**Species Involved:** BLACK BEAR

**Inspection #:** Compulsory Inspection Number

**How Many Involved:** 1

**Sex:** -- select sex --

**Age:** -- select age --

**Drug Used:** -- select drug --

**Weight:**

**Amount Used:**

**Vial Number:**

**Method:** -- select method --

**Drug Induction:**

Provide details (i.e., number of darts used, location of induction, length of recovery, etc.)

**Relocation Location**

Tag Numbers:

LEFT

RIGHT

UTM

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

Provide relocation location details.

**Complaint Outcome:** -- select outcome --

**Complaint Outcome:** -- select outcome --

**Complaint Outcome:** -- select outcome --

**Complaint Outcome:** -- select outcome --

**Complaint Outcome:** -- select outcome --

Workflow History

2017-09-18 13:37 · **s.15**

New Document: Status: Reviewed

[Edit](#)[Close](#)**Human Wildlife Conflict Report #17-17378****Outcome Report**

**Area:** CAMPBELL RIVER - CAMPBELL RIVER - WEST COAST REGION  
**Status:** **Reviewed** [ Concluded on: 2017-Sep-08 ]

**Call Received:** 2017-09-08 10:43  
**Received By:** ISABELLE (Operations 6 ECC)

## COM Details

[ - ]

**Caller Name (COM):** s.22  
**Street Address:**

**Contact Number(s):**  
 Cellular s.22

## Occurrence Information

[ - ]

**Incident Date/Time:** 2017-09-08 10:43  
**Species Involved:** BLACK BEAR  
**Nature of Complaint:** INJURED/DISTRESSED - MOBILE/NOT PRESENT  
**Attractants Noted:** NOT APPLICABLE  
**Action Taken:** EMAILED CO

**Occurrence Location**  
 SEE BELOW DESCRIPTION  
 Discovery Harbour Marina jetty right by the entrance sign

**Details:**

Caller advises that there is a black bear at the location above. Caller said the bear was sleeping and appeared to be very tired but is now up and moving around. Caller thinks the bear may have been swept by the current as it appears to be extremely exhausted.

\*Emailing as FYI

## Outcome Report

**Action Required:** Yes  
**Sergeant Reviewed:** Yes

**Ref. Report #:** 17-17378-1  
**Concluded On:** 2017-09-08

		<b>Officer(s) Assigned</b>	<b>Time Spent</b>	
<b>Attended:</b>	Yes	1. NEWTON	4.0	Hours
<b>Complainant Contacted:</b>	Yes	2.		Hours
		3.		Hours
		<b>Total Time Spent (hours):</b>	4	Hours

**Narrative:**

2017-09-08 @ 11:00  
 Sgt Newton attended and spoke with marina staff  
 Primary contact s.22

Marina staff doing good job keeping boaters from getting too close to bear. They are monitoring and will update COS if bear leaves the breakwater. The bear in safe spot right now. COS won't push bear into high traffic people conflict area. No capture option due to risk bear will drown. Will monitor until dark and allow bear to leave on his own.

Sgt. NEWTON also attended the Discovery marina boat ramp and advised them of bears location. Bear likely to come over to north breakwater and head for the river when he decides to leave Ramp staff will update RAPP if they see the bear head this way.

Some time later, the bear got up from the breakwater and swam to the dock at Discovery Harbour Marina. The bear began running up and down the quays and became increasingly agitated. There were lots of people, both marina staff and members of the public on the docks at this time. The bear was exhibiting extremely nervous behavior. It was confined to the docks, and began looking for escape options. The bear attempted to get into the marina office. It pushed on the sliding glass door. Sgt. Newton tried to herd/push the bear towards a safer area, however the bear began to become more annoyed with Sgt. Newton's close proximity and presence. At this point, the bear entered an occupied business located on the dock, whose patrons were aware of the situation and had been watching the events unfold. Sgt. NEWTON was able to coax the bear from the building and attempted to herd it toward a less populated area, away from the large crowd which had continued to gather. The bear was getting increasingly annoyed with Sgt. NEWTON following him, and became very aggressive to the Conservation Officer. In the interest of public safety, Sgt. NEWTON elected to put the bear down as the bear was aggressive

towards people (the officer) and posed a direct threat to public safety. There was no safe location to confine the bear, and no alternative capture methods available due to the location, number of public present, and due to how quickly the situation was escalating.

CTV Gord KURBIS asked Sgt. NEWTON what the public can do in such situations to assist. In this case, was the public a help or a hindrance? Sgt. NEWTON responded that it is important to stay well back from wildlife. Although human nature is to get a closer look and photograph wildlife, doing so can often add to the animal's stress level. It is possible that in this case with the large crowds forming and watching, the bear may have felt forced to leave the breakwater in search of an escape route.

Sgt. NEWTON added that the Discovery Marina staff were an excellent help in keeping the crowds back and helping to educate people on the dangers of human-wildlife interactions.

Sgt. NEWTON also reminded the public via Mr. KURBIS that wildlife can be unpredictable and that such situations are high risk to the public. In this particular case, the risk to the public was just too great, and the Officer was forced to respond as described as public safety is the highest priority.

Sgt. NEWTON offered the bear to the local band - spoke with **s.22** They appreciated the offer but declined citing the hot weather. Sgt. NEWTON will dispose of the carcass, as natural carrion. Bear carcass was disposed of behind Timberwest locked gate, Elk M/L near the Quinsam River.

Follow up media inquiries requested reasons why this bear could not be tranquilized on the dock. Sgt. Newton provided his assessment of this file to Danielle BELL, GCPE who relayed to media. Sgt. Newton could not push or herd the bear into a safe, confined location to tranquilize. The bear was free ranging, not confined and there were lots of people present that posed a high safety risk. The bear would not leave the marina docks and this was a very unsafe location. There were people everywhere, and a crowd was gathering up on the board walk so even if the bear had left the dock, risk to public safety would have remained very high. The bear had entered an occupied building and had attempted to enter a second building, the marina office. There was no safe location to tranquilize. A half drugged bear is potentially even more unpredictable, and the risk of injury to the public was just too high.

File concluded. (MN)

#### Coordinates of occurrence location, if known:

Zone Easting Northing

#### Equipment:

Equipment Used Date Set Date Removed

#### Actions Taken by C.O.

<b>Complaint Outcome:</b>	Destroyed by COS	<b>Date:</b>	* 2017-09-08
<b>Species Involved:</b>	BLACK BEAR	<b>Inspection #:</b>	Compulsory Inspection Number
<b>How Many Involved:</b>	1		
<b>Sex:</b>	Male		
<b>Age:</b>	Adult		
<b>Drug Used:</b>	-- select drug --	<b>Relocation Location</b>	
<b>Weight:</b>		Tag Numbers:	
<b>Amount Used:</b>			LEFT RIGHT
<b>Vial Number:</b>		UTM	
<b>Method:</b>	-- select method --		
<b>Drug Induction:</b>		ZONE	EASTING NORTHING

Provide details (i.e., number of darts used, location of induction, length of recovery, etc.) Provide relocation location details.

**Complaint Outcome:** -- select outcome --

**Complaint Outcome:** -- select outcome --

**Complaint Outcome:** -- select outcome --

**Complaint Outcome:** -- select outcome --

---

**Complaint Outcome:** -- select outcome --

#### Workflow History

2017-09-08 13:16 - s.15	New Document: Status: Concluded (Date concluded 2017-09-08 00:00)
2017-09-12 15:04 -	Status: Reviewed

**From:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 11:08 AM  
**To:** Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Follow up interview

Not keen to keep the social media fan club alive  
Do I have to go on tv and spell out the obvious or can I decline?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Kurbis, Gord" <[Gord.Kurbis@bellmedia.ca](mailto:Gord.Kurbis@bellmedia.ca)>  
**Date:** September 11, 2017 at 9:28:00 AM PDT  
**To:** "[Mike.C.Newton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mike.C.Newton@gov.bc.ca)" <[Mike.C.Newton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mike.C.Newton@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Follow up interview

Hi Mike,

I will try your cell phone as well.

Newsroom is hoping we can do a follow up story to Friday's bear incident. As you are probably aware there are a ton of postings on social media about it, both for and against the bear being destroyed.

We'd like to do a follow up again talking about why it wasn't possible to tranquilize and relocate the bear.

I can come and meet you wherever.

Thanks,

Gord

---

**Gord Kurbis** | North Island Videographer

CTV Vancouver Island | c 250-702-3274 | f 250-334-3930 | [gord.kurbis@bellmedia.ca](mailto:gord.kurbis@bellmedia.ca)  
c/o 1420 Broad Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1  
Canada

[www.vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca](http://www.vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca)  
twitter: [@ctvnewsgord](https://twitter.com/ctvnewsgord)



**From:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 11:20 AM  
**To:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX; Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX; Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX; GCPE Communications - Environment & Climate Change Strategy; Standen, Jim ENV:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Media Request - Bear @ Discovery Marina

Hello,

Gord Kurbis at CTV is following up on this story (did interview with Mike on Friday).  
He is en route to Campbell River, seeking reax from the community on the shooting of the bear.  
Apparently there have been lots of public comments/social media that are divided on the outcome –ie why couldn't we tranquilize it? Etc

Gord is seeking an on-camera interview to explain why lethal actions are sometimes necessary.  
If anyone is available today, his number is 250-702-3274.

Please let me know, thanks!

#### Background:

2017-09-08 report of black bear stuck at the breakwater of Discovery Harbour Marina in Cambell River (HWCR #17-17378). Sgt. Mike NEWTON attended and examined the bear. Based on the bear's behavior and its location, Sgt. NEWTON decided it would be best to keep the public well away and leave the bear to recover. Then as darkness fell, the bear could leave and access a nearby green space.  
Sometime later, the bear got up and swam to the dock at the Discovery Harbour Marina. The bear began running up and down the quays and became increasingly agitated. The bear was exhibiting extremely nervous behavior. At this point, the bear entered an occupied business located on the dock, whose patrons were aware of the situation and had been watching the events unfold. Sgt. NEWTON was able to coax the bear from the building and attempted to herd it toward a less populated area, away from the large crowd which had continued to gather. The bear was getting increasingly annoyed with Sgt. NEWTON following him, and became very aggressive to the Conservation Officer. In the interest of public safety, Sgt. NEWTON elected to put the bear down.  
CTV Gord KURBIS asked Sgt. NEWTON what the public can do in such situations to assist. In this case, was the public a help or a hinderance? Sgt. NEWTON responded that it is important to stay well back from wildlife. Although human nature is to get a closer look and photograph wildlife, doing so can often add to the animal's stress level. It is possible that in this case with the large crowds forming and watching, the bear may have felt forced to leave the breakwater in search of an escape route.  
Sgt. NEWTON added that the Discovery Marina staff were an excellent help in keeping the crowds back and helping to educate people on the dangers of human-wildlife interactions.  
Sgt. NEWTON also reminded the public via Mr. KURBIS that wildlife can be unpredictable and that such situations are high risk to the public. In this particular case, the risk to the public was just too great, and the Officer was forced to respond as described.

**From:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 5:50 PM  
**To:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX; Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX; GCPE Communications - Environment & Climate Change Strategy; Standen, Jim ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Media Request - Bear

Hi Mike,

If you had a chance to give the Campbell River Mirror a shout today or tomorrow, that'd be great!  
Re: Bear at Discovery Marina  
If not, perhaps I could send some info via email.

Thanks

Alistair Taylor  
Editor, Campbell River Mirror  
[250-202-6777](tel:250-202-6777)

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 11:34 AM  
**To:** Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Follow up interview

Ok

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2017, at 11:23 AM, Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX <[Gord.Hitchcock@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Gord.Hitchcock@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Decline

Other than repeat message by print

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2017, at 11:07 AM, Newton, Mike C ENV:EX <[Mike.C.Newton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mike.C.Newton@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Not keen to keep the social media fan club alive  
Do I have to go on tv and spell out the obvious or can I decline?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Kurbis, Gord" <[Gord.Kurbis@bellmedia.ca](mailto:Gord.Kurbis@bellmedia.ca)>  
**Date:** September 11, 2017 at 9:28:00 AM PDT  
**To:** "[Mike.C.Newton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mike.C.Newton@gov.bc.ca)" <[Mike.C.Newton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mike.C.Newton@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Follow up interview

Hi Mike,

I will try your cell phone as well.

Newsroom is hoping we can do a follow up story to Friday's bear incident. As you are probably aware there are a ton of postings on social media about it, both for and against the bear being destroyed.

We'd like to do a follow up again talking about why it wasn't possible to tranquilize and relocate the bear.

I can come and meet you wherever.

Thanks,

Gord

---

**Gord Kurbis** | North Island Videographer

CTV Vancouver Island | c 250-702-3274 | f 250-334-3930 | [gord.kurbis@bellmedia.ca](mailto:gord.kurbis@bellmedia.ca)  
c/o 1420 Broad Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 2B1  
Canada

[www.vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca](http://www.vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca)  
twitter: [@ctvnewsgord](https://twitter.com/ctvnewsgord)

**From:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 11:43 AM  
**To:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media Request - Bear @ Discovery Marina

I'm off today Danielle

No tranq option on this one as I could not confine the bear in a safe location on the dock. There were people everywhere and no safe options.

Once bear was on the dock the risk to public safety was extreme

The bears behaviour was elevating rapidly and was becoming more aggressive towards me

I would never consider tranquilizing a bear in this situation

A half drugged bear running through people and into occupied building is potentially even more unpredictable and dangerous than a bear that isn't drugged

Tranquilizers don't work instantly

They take time and results are unpredictable especially when the animal is excited or elevated

I could not risk tranquilizing the bear earlier in the day on the breakwater as the bear likely would have taken to the water and drowned. At that time I had hoped to just keep people back and let the bear leave after dark, but when it swam to the dock I was forced to protect public safety and act immediately

Thx Mike

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2017, at 11:20 AM, Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX <[Danielle.Bell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danielle.Bell@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hello,

Gord Kurbis at CTV is following up on this story (did interview with Mike on Friday).

He is en route to Campbell River, seeking reax from the community on the shooting of the bear.

Apparently there have been lots of public comments/social media that are divided on the outcome –ie why couldn't we tranquilize it? Etc

Gord is seeking an on-camera interview to explain why lethal actions are sometimes necessary.

If anyone is available today, his number is 250-702-3274.

Please let me know, thanks!

#### Background:

2017-09-08 report of black bear stuck at the breakwater of Discovery Harbour Marina in Cambell River (HWCR #17-17378). Sgt. Mike NEWTON attended and examined the bear. Based on the bear's behavior and its location, Sgt. NEWTON decided it would be best to keep the public well away and leave the bear to recover. Then as darkness fell, the bear could leave and access a nearby green space.

Sometime later, the bear got up and swam to the dock at the Discovery Harbour Marina. The bear began running up and down the quays and became increasingly agitated. The bear was exhibiting extremely nervous behavior. At this point, the bear entered an occupied business located on the dock, whose patrons were aware of the situation and had been watching the events unfold. Sgt. NEWTON was able to coax the bear from the building and attempted to herd it toward a less populated area, away from the large crowd which had continued to gather. The bear was getting increasingly annoyed with Sgt. NEWTON following him, and became very aggressive to the Conservation Officer. In the interest of public safety, Sgt. NEWTON elected to put the bear down.

CTV Gord KURBIS asked Sgt. NEWTON what the public can do in such situations to assist. In this case, was the public a help or a hinderance? Sgt. NEWTON responded that it is important to stay well back from wildlife. Although human nature is to get a closer look and photograph wildlife, doing so can often add to the animal's stress level. It is possible that in this case with the large crowds forming and watching, the bear may have felt forced to leave the breakwater in search of an escape route.

Sgt. NEWTON added that the Discovery Marina staff were an excellent help in keeping the crowds back and helping to educate people on the dangers of human-wildlife interactions.

Sgt. NEWTON also reminded the public via Mr. KURBIS that wildlife can be unpredictable and that such situations are high risk to the public. In this particular case, the risk to the public was just too great, and the Officer was forced to respond as described.

**From:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 5:50 PM

**To:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX

**Cc:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX; Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX; GCPE Communications - Environment & Climate Change Strategy; Standen, Jim ENV:EX

**Subject:** Media Request - Bear

Hi Mike,

If you had a chance to give the Campbell River Mirror a shout today or tomorrow, that'd be great!

Re: Bear at Discovery Marina

If not, perhaps I could send some info via email.

Thanks

Alistair Taylor

Editor, Campbell River Mirror

[250-202-6777](tel:250-202-6777)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX  
**Cc:** Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Media Request - Bear @ Discovery Marina

Thanks Mike.

If it's cool with you, I can just tighten up the info below and provide it to CTV, similar to how I did with the CR Mirror.

**From:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 11:43 AM  
**To:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media Request - Bear @ Discovery Marina

I'm off today Danielle

No tranq option on this one as I could not confine the bear in a safe location on the dock. There were people everywhere and no safe options.

Once bear was on the dock the risk to public safety was extreme

The bears behaviour was elevating rapidly and was becoming more aggressive towards me

I would never consider tranquilizing a bear in this situation

A half drugged bear running through people and into occupied building is potentially even more unpredictable and dangerous than a bear that isn't drugged

Tranquilizers don't work instantly

They take time and results are unpredictable especially when the animal is excited or elevated

I could not risk tranquilizing the bear earlier in the day on the breakwater as the bear likely would have taken to the water and drowned. At that time I had hoped to just keep people back and let the bear leave after dark, but when it swam to the dock I was forced to protect public safety and act immediately

Thx Mike

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2017, at 11:20 AM, Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX <[Danielle.Bell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danielle.Bell@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hello,

Gord Kurbis at CTV is following up on this story (did interview with Mike on Friday).

He is en route to Campbell River, seeking reax from the community on the shooting of the bear.

Apparently there have been lots of public comments/social media that are divided on the outcome –ie why couldn't we tranquilize it? Etc

Gord is seeking an on-camera interview to explain why lethal actions are sometimes necessary.

If anyone is available today, his number is 250-702-3274.

Please let me know, thanks!

#### Background:

2017-09-08 report of black bear stuck at the breakwater of Discovery Harbour Marina in Cambell River (HWCR #17-17378). Sgt. Mike NEWTON attended and examined the bear. Based on the bear's behavior and its location, Sgt. NEWTON decided it would be best to keep the public well away and leave the bear to recover. Then as darkness fell, the bear could leave and access a nearby green space. Sometime later, the bear got up and swam to the dock at the Discovery Harbour Marina. The bear began running up and down the quays and became increasingly agitated. The bear was exhibiting extremely nervous behavior. At this point, the bear entered an occupied business located on the dock, whose patrons were aware of the situation and had been watching the events unfold. Sgt. NEWTON was able to coax the bear from the building and attempted to herd it toward a less populated area, away from the large crowd which had continued to gather. The bear was getting increasingly annoyed with Sgt. NEWTON following him, and became very aggressive to the Conservation Officer. In the interest of public safety, Sgt. NEWTON



elected to put the bear down.

CTV Gord KURBIS asked Sgt. NEWTON what the public can do in such situations to assist. In this case, was the public a help or a hinderance? Sgt. NEWTON responded that it is important to stay well back from wildlife. Although human nature is to get a closer look and photograph wildlife, doing so can often add to the animal's stress level. It is possible that in this case with the large crowds forming and watching, the bear may have felt forced to leave the breakwater in search of an escape route. Sgt. NEWTON added that the Discovery Marina staff were an excellent help in keeping the crowds back and helping to educate people on the dangers of human-wildlife interactions. Sgt. NEWTON also reminded the public via Mr. KURBIS that wildlife can be unpredictable and that such situations are high risk to the public. In this particular case, the risk to the public was just too great, and the Officer was forced to respond as described.

**From:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 5:50 PM

**To:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX

**Cc:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX; Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX; GCPE Communications - Environment & Climate Change Strategy; Standen, Jim ENV:EX

**Subject:** Media Request - Bear

Hi Mike,

If you had a chance to give the Campbell River Mirror a shout today or tomorrow, that'd be great!

Re: Bear at Discovery Marina

If not, perhaps I could send some info via email.

Thanks

Alistair Taylor

Editor, Campbell River Mirror

[250-202-6777](tel:250-202-6777)

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 11:58 AM  
**To:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media Request - Bear @ Discovery Marina

Perfect thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2017, at 11:53 AM, Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX <[Danielle.Bell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danielle.Bell@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Thanks Mike.

If it's cool with you, I can just tighten up the info below and provide it to CTV, similar to how I did with the CR Mirror.

**From:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2017 11:43 AM  
**To:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Hitchcock, Gord ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media Request - Bear @ Discovery Marina

I'm off today Danielle

No tranq option on this one as I could not confine the bear in a safe location on the dock. There were people everywhere and no safe options.

Once bear was on the dock the risk to public safety was extreme

The bears behaviour was elevating rapidly and was becoming more aggressive towards me

I would never consider tranquilizing a bear in this situation

A half drugged bear running through people and into occupied building is potentially even more unpredictable and dangerous than a bear that isn't drugged

Tranquilizers don't work instantly

They take time and results are unpredictable especially when the animal is excited or elevated

I could not risk tranquilizing the bear earlier in the day on the breakwater as the bear likely would have taken to the water and drowned. At that time I had hoped to just keep people back and let the bear leave after dark, but when it swam to the dock I was forced to protect public safety and act immediately

Thx Mike

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 11, 2017, at 11:20 AM, Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX <[Danielle.Bell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Danielle.Bell@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hello,

Gord Kurbis at CTV is following up on this story (did interview with Mike on Friday).

He is en route to Campbell River, seeking reax from the community on the shooting of the bear.

Apparently there have been lots of public comments/social media that are divided on the outcome – ie why couldn't we tranquilize it? Etc

Gord is seeking an on-camera interview to explain why lethal actions are sometimes necessary.

If anyone is available today, his number is 250-702-3274.

Please let me know, thanks!

Background:

2017-09-08 report of black bear stuck at the breakwater of Discovery Harbour Marina in Cambell River (HWCR #17-17378). Sgt. Mike NEWTON attended and examined the bear. Based on the bear's behavior and its location, Sgt. NEWTON decided it would be best to keep the public well away and leave the bear to recover. Then as darkness fell, the bear could leave and access a nearby green space.

Sometime later, the bear got up and swam to the dock at the Discovery Harbour Marina. The bear began running up and down the quays and became increasingly agitated. The bear was exhibiting extremely nervous behavior. At this point, the bear entered an occupied business located on the dock, whose patrons were aware of the situation and had been watching the events unfold. Sgt. NEWTON was able to coax the bear from the building and attempted to herd it toward a less populated area, away from the large crowd which had continued to gather. The bear was getting increasingly annoyed with Sgt. NEWTON following him, and became very aggressive to the Conservation Officer. In the interest of public safety, Sgt. NEWTON elected to put the bear down.

CTV Gord KURBIS asked Sgt. NEWTON what the public can do in such situations to assist. In this case, was the public a help or a hinderance? Sgt. NEWTON responded that it is important to stay well back from wildlife. Although human nature is to get a closer look and photograph wildlife, doing so can often add to the animal's stress level. It is possible that in this case with the large crowds forming and watching, the bear may have felt forced to leave the breakwater in search of an escape route.

Sgt. NEWTON added that the Discovery Marina staff were an excellent help in keeping the crowds back and helping to educate people on the dangers of human-wildlife interactions.

Sgt. NEWTON also reminded the public via Mr. KURBIS that wildlife can be unpredictable and that such situations are high risk to the public. In this particular case, the risk to the public was just too great, and the Officer was forced to respond as described.

**From:** Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 5:50 PM

**To:** Newton, Mike C ENV:EX

**Cc:** Forsdick, Doug O ENV:EX; Doyle, Chris J ENV:EX; GCPE Communications - Environment & Climate Change Strategy; Standen, Jim ENV:EX

**Subject:** Media Request - Bear

Hi Mike,

If you had a chance to give the Campbell River Mirror a shout today or tomorrow, that'd be great!

Re: Bear at Discovery Marina

If not, perhaps I could send some info via email.

Thanks

Alistair Taylor

Editor, Campbell River Mirror

[250-202-6777](tel:250-202-6777)

Sent from my iPhone