

Haida Gwaii Marine Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Haida Gwaii Marine Advisory Committee (MAC) is to provide advice to the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) and the Province of British Columbia (BC) on the Haida Gwaii marine use planning process underway for Haida Gwaii waters.

CONTEXT

CHN and BC are jointly preparing a marine plan for the Haida Gwaii subregion of the North Pacific Coast. This work is being done pursuant to a November 2011 *Letter of Intent* among the Nanwakolas Council, Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative, the North Coast-Skeena First Nations' Stewardship Society, and BC (represented by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations). A Marine Planning Partnership (MaPP) has been established based on this *Letter of Intent* and related funding agreements. MaPP provides for collaborative development of four sub-regional marine plans, and a regional planning document using an ecosystem-based management approach. MaPP may also serve to inform the concurrent Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) planning process.

Five marine planning processes are currently underway for Haida Gwaii. In April 2011 CHN, BC and the Government of Canada (including Parks Canada and DFO) agreed in principle to the value of a coordinated approach to planning as described in the document *Coordinating Marine Planning Processes Around Haida Gwaii*. These processes include:

- Haida Gwaii marine use planning,
- Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site,
- SGaan K'inghlas- Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area,
- BC-CHN Protected Areas (marine component), and
- Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) planning.

The framework is aimed at achieving well aligned and complementary planning for all Haida Gwaii marine initiatives. CHN, BC and Canada (Parks Canada and DFO) are participating in a Haida Gwaii Marine Steering Committee and Marine Coordinating Committee that are responsible for identifying linkages between the individual plans and exploring opportunities for collaboration. The framework also outlines options for collaborative stakeholder engagement, including establishing a shared advisory process that would meet the needs of many of the marine planning processes.

The MAC is a first step at developing a coordinated advisory process by the CHN and BC and the initial focus of MAC will be on the Haida Gwaii marine use plan. The role of MAC may be expanded in future by mutual agreement of CHN and BC.

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

Objectives for the MAC are to:

- identify and prioritize key issues, opportunities and common interests;
- provide opportunities for community and stakeholders to be involved in Haida Gwaii marine use planning;
- ensure multiple perspectives are represented in planning outputs and that advice is based on the best available expertise, science and traditional knowledge;
- propose strategies for reconciling differing interests or objectives;
- consider synergies and linkages with plans being developed at multiple scales; and
- provide advice on broader public engagement.

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO DEVELOPING ADVICE

The MAC will work together in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. During the process of developing advice the participants agree to:

- seek to understand one another's views, concerns and solutions;
- improve and strengthen communications;
- seek to accommodate each other's schedules; and
- strive to reach consensus on advice.

Members of the MAC are encouraged to work together in a collaborative and problem-solving manner to provide advice to Council of Haida Nation (CHN) and the Province of BC (BC) on the Haida Gwaii marine use plan. The MAC may also be requested to provide advice to the Haida Gwaii Marine Coordinating Committee (MCC) on other Haida Gwaii marine planning processes.

MAC advice may take the form of consensus statements, minority or majority viewpoints, or questions for further investigation and exploration. Technical staff will strive to summarize advice and commentary in the form of succinct written meeting notes.

MAC advice will be shared with the Haida Gwaii Marine Steering Committee (MSC), the MCC, and other relevant government representatives for consideration. The outcomes of planning decisions will be shared with the MAC.

MEMBERSHIP AND TERM OF APPOINTMENT

MAC will be comprised of a maximum of 15 members that are jointly appointed by the CHN and BC. Members will be selected to provide a balanced perspective on marine uses in Haida Gwaii based on their experience, expertise, local knowledge, interpersonal skills and personal suitability.

The term of appointment will be two years unless otherwise specified. CHN and BC may review appointments as required by planning or member needs.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair(s)

The CHN and BC will appoint a chair or co-chairs who will:

- Call and conduct meetings;

- Develop an agenda in consultation with the MCC and distribute it in advance of meetings in order to help structure and focus discussion;
- Encourage the active participation of all members;
- Monitor progress on action items between meetings;
- Review meeting records prior to circulation to the MAC for approval; and
- Work with the MCC to coordinate and forward advice provided by the MAC to the MSC and other relevant government representatives as appropriate.

Members

MAC members are asked to work collaboratively to:

- Provide constructive input on planning documents;
- Identify data and information gaps critical to plan development, and assist with addressing gaps as appropriate;
- Identify partnerships and sources of funding for increased research, monitoring, and public education;
- Provide advice on MAC and MCC work plans;
- Provide advice on communication and engagement activities to sectors and the public;
- Prioritize key issues and participate in smaller working groups as necessary to discuss issues and inform the planning process;
- Identify information and science requirements; and
- Review proposed management measures and/or identify management issues (including feedback on potential effects and feasibility).

MEETINGS

The MAC is anticipated to meet approximately every two months, but actual meeting frequency will vary depending on process needs. There is no quorum for MAC meetings; however the Chair(s) will seek to schedule meetings so that at least two-thirds of MAC members are able to attend.

MAC meetings are open to the public and may also take the form of forums or workshops depending on process needs and priorities.

FUNDING AND COSTS

CHN and the Marine Planning Partnership (MaPP) will provide funding to cover administration and logistical costs such as document distribution, conference calls, meeting-rooms and travel expenses. Travel expense reimbursement for participation in MAC meetings will be provided to members where requested. Expenses to be covered include costs of transportation directly associated with travel to and from meetings, and accommodation costs directly associated with attendance at the meeting. Travel will

include air travel for off- island participants and a mileage rate for on-island participants travelling by car. A meeting honorarium will be provided to MAC members at rates determined by CHN.

COMMUNICATIONS

The MAC will operate through a combination of in-person meetings, email correspondence, and telephone conversations. Electronic correspondence, with mail delivery as needed, will be the primary means of document delivery and information exchange.

The Haida Oceans Technical Team (HOTT) will provide technical and administrative support to the MAC including logistical support to organize meetings and prepare minutes. Meeting notes will be prepared by HOTT containing a summary of the issues discussed, action items, and an update on actions taken in response to the advice provided by the MAC.

MEETING PROCEDURES

The Marine Advisory Committee will work with the CHN to develop meeting procedures that allow the Committee to achieve its purpose and objectives.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Communications shall be addressed to the following addresses:

Haida Oceans Technical Team
Haida Fisheries Program
PO Box 87
Masset, Haida Gwaii
V0T 1M0
Tel: 250 626-3302

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource
Operations
Haida Gwaii Natural Resource District
PO Box 39
Queen Charlotte, BC V0T 1S0
Tel: 250 559-6200