



Marine Planning Partnership for the Pacific North Coast (MaPP)

## ***North Coast Marine Planning and Advisory Committee (MPAC)***

### ***General Meeting Summary- Final***

#### ***Advisory Group Meeting #2***

**September 19-20, 2012**

**North Coast Meeting and Convention Centre  
240 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West, Prince Rupert, BC**

---

#### **Objectives:**

1. Update MPAC members on MaPP and related activities since initial MPAC meeting.
2. Review North Coast Marine Plan – work to date on draft outline and contents.
3. Review draft Base Case – contents and use.
4. Review key marine issues for the North Coast planning area – related MaPP activities and outputs.
5. Confirm actions for next NC MPAC meeting

#### **Attendance:**

<u>MPAC Members:</u> Mike Ambach - Conservation Hermann Meuter – Academia Laura Morehouse - Tourism Dave Nicholson - Coastal Forestry Dan Edwards – Commercial Fisheries Andrew Webber – Local Government	<u>MaPP:</u> Craig Outhet – North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society Steve Kachanoski – Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Colin Rankin – MaPP Technical Support Josie Byington – MaPP Administrator
<u>Observers and Alternates:</u> Robert Hauknes – Commercial Fisheries alternate MPAC member Des Nobles	<u>Regrets:</u> Jeff Beckwith – Public Recreational Fisheries Jessica McIlroy – Renewable Energy Vittorio Venturini – Aquaculture Tracey Hittel – Commercial Recreational Fisheries

## Day 1

### Welcome and Opening:

- Craig Outhet provided a welcome on behalf of First Nations, Steve Kachanoski provided a welcome on behalf of the Province, Colin Rankin reviewed agenda, introductions of all the participants.

### Updates and Advice Review

- First Nations, Province, and Stakeholder staffing and participation updates.
- Brief re-introduction to the MaPP planning process.
- North Coast Open Houses in Prince Rupert and Kitimat.
- Review of MPAC Meeting #1 and what was heard.

### Key Discussion Items

- Minor changes to First Nations and Provincial MaPP teams, however no changes in the North Coast co-lead roles.
- Robert Hauknes is confirmed as the alternate for Commercial Fisheries.
- James Casey was put forward as the alternate for Conservation.
- Role of the federal government in the MaPP process was clarified. Provincial staff continue to participate in federal-provincial marine planning tables. First Nations noted that PNCIMA EBM principles, goals and objectives have been adopted by MaPP.
- Open houses were held in Prince Rupert and Kitimat in June 2012, with light attendance at both.
- Advice log was reviewed

### Advice Given

- Hold winter meetings in Prince Rupert and re-evaluate in the spring as to meeting locations.

### Base Case

- Advice received to date speaks to the structure of the document with the advice to prepare two clearly distinct documents:
  - 1) current conditions and trends – to inform planning process and;
  - 2) base case report – with analysis measures.
- It was expressed that work on a base case document as presented was premature, and that there are other related background pieces (present snapshot, future state) that should be the focus.
- Recognized that advice on relevancy and usefulness of the content of this information is still required.
- Current conditions and trends information is currently being refined and will be available for review shortly.
- Base case report will be developed as an ongoing product as strategies and indicators are developed.

### Key Discussion Items

- Criteria that were used that led to selection of base case features revolve around applicability to the sub-region and is within the planning scope and outputs of MaPP. Reminder to members that the exercise is to help identify pieces that are missing and their value to the conversation.
- General support provided for splitting the base case into two documents as described.
- Comments regarding presented demographic data and the distinction in reporting of non-Native and First Nations populations.
- Clarification that MaPP plans to identify candidate areas for MPAs with the establishment of them through other processes.

### Advice Given

- Provide more documentation around criteria for inclusion of certain features.
- Prepare documents that can provide members with a basic understanding of the feature in a couple of minutes.
- If features are dropped provide explanation for decision. Don't just eliminate them from the document.

## **Marine Plan vision statement – building understanding**

- Small group and plenary discussion using marine vision statements from around the world as a resource.
- Participants were asked:
  - What are key elements of a vision statement from your perspective – what's important?
  - Can you see your sector's interests reflected in these draft vision statements?
- Co-leads will use input to help craft a vision statement for the North Coast planning areas.

### Key Discussion Items

- Participants identified words or phrases from vision statement examples that resonated with them.
- Other general comments included:
  - Provide a vision that describes the North Coast in words that people can understand and relate to (i.e., not “planner-speak”).
  - A vision statement should reflect why this area is so important – focus on what is unique about the North Coast, and remember who your audience is.
  - Be wary of using words whose meaning may have been altered or devalued (e.g., “sustainable”); write in the present tense; use plain language; and be brief (short and punchy).
  - Focus on what makes the North Coast unique or special.

## Day 2

### Marine Spatial Planning

- Overview presentation of marine spatial planning highlighting examples and best practices from around the world.

#### Key Discussion Items

- Education of spatial zoning is important. It can be difficult to convey to the public when there are no lines on the water.
- Political support at all levels is important for collaborative processes.
- Marine environment is distinct from the terrestrial one – can't just transfer practices and experience from land use planning to marine use planning – for example, the temporal element is more important in the marine context.

### Key Marine Issues

- Key marine issues were presented in relation to their history of development and associated ties to MaPP outputs.
- Participants were asked to comment on what should be considered in the development of MaPP outputs taking into account the issues identified. These comments will be utilized in the development of objectives and strategies to fulfill MaPP outputs.
- Participants were asked:
  - What do we need to pay attention to when we are developing these outputs?
  - Is there anything that needs clarification?
- Four topics were addressed:
  - Climate change
  - Cultural and historic resources
  - Log handling and storage
  - Other provincial tenures
- A large number of comments were received from small group discussions. Key pieces are summarized below, and all comments will be used in drafting plan components for each of these areas.

### Climate change

#### Key Discussion Items

- Public understanding of climate change is something that MaPP can help with and is not solely a MaPP responsibility.
- Look beyond MaPP region for information and for things about climate change or adaptation that may be of wider importance.
- An important consideration is preparedness to impacts of climate change – particularly catastrophic events –including infrastructure at risk, evacuation plans and emergency response capacity.

- Vulnerability assessment and mapping is important to identify risks to keystone or important species or other infrastructure.
- Consideration of climate change risks could be a part of Geographic Response Plans. Key question is funding and resources.

### Cultural and historic resources

#### Key Discussion Items

- Pay attention to the full range of values associated with an area, thing or site – existence value, opportunity for use (e.g., tourism), subsistence value (important for survival) – consider if some resources are more important than others, why and what to do about it.
- Definitions are important – groups will have specific interpretations (cultural and/or historical).
- Key questions is how detailed to get – sites (e.g., shipwrecks) are different than landscapes (i.e., the linkages between the sites).
- Cultural use may vary spatially over time with changes in the distribution of the things being used.
- How is “sensitive/values-based” info shared to build understanding and use in MaPP process? Value in bringing non-FN cultural and historic values to the discussion.
- Develop criteria for important historic streams – e.g., canneries as part of recent industrial history.
- RDKS has an online registry of historic sites it maintains.

### Log handling and storage

#### Key Discussion Items

- Site and tenuring regulations and approval processes have been recently updated.
- Trends with this industry are periodic rather than continuous use of existing sites.
- Upcoming needs or issues that have potential for MaPP to consider:
  - Cumulative impacts of log handling and other activities – what info would be needed to do the analysis (e.g., tidal effects)?
  - Consistency (in review and approval process) – across the coast, not just a sub-regional concern.
  - Increase efficiency of the process – zoning, consultation – MaPP could help with this.
  - Preparation for storm or catastrophic events – e.g., potential storm/transport impacts
  - Potential to use “area of interest” notation on maps to inform other tenure applications
- May be useful to scan historic sites with highest value/potential for restoration efforts.

### Other provincial tenures

#### Key Discussion Items

- Review and recommend principles around active use of tenure rights, including the “use it or lose it” principle.

- Consider ability to set criteria and/or conditions on tenures. Analysis is required. Provincial policies and inter-provincial, bilateral or international agreements may limit tenure provisions.
- Potential to use existing local networks in monitoring, compliance and enforcement efforts.
- Consider general public use of features in tenuring decisions.

### Issues, Objectives and Strategies – *Marine Pollution*

- Background was provided regarding the development of draft objectives and strategies.
- Draft objectives and strategies around marine pollution were presented.
- Participants were asked for their general comments as well as:
  - What 2 things do you like about these objectives and strategies?
  - What 2 things do you think can be improved?
  - Is there a key message for the North Coast team from this discussion?
- Participants were asked to review and provide comment to North Coast MaPP co-leads, which includes the time to share amongst sector colleagues to provide comments.
- A number of comments were received during group discussions and from written worksheets. Key pieces are summarized below, and all comments will be used in refining plan components for marine pollution.

#### Key Discussion Items

- Missing an analysis of pollution sources from beyond the region. Specifically and most seriously, the impacts of carbon loading (global source) on ocean acidification.
- Although the North Coast may be relatively unpolluted, there is still significant risk of major pollution in the event of a marine incident or other spill.
- North Coast could be considered as a stronghold for marine resources that we derive benefits from. Need to be able to address chronic and incremental pollution – beware of incremental changes/degradation over time (shifting baseline).
- Proactive actions are possible (not just response/enforcement) – e.g., data collection, use of alternative fuels.
- Set more specific timeframes to objective and strategy statements and provide more specific measures.
- Marine invasive species are a concern. They could be considered pollution and if not under pollution then elsewhere in the plan.
- Noise pollution is a significant concern but is not addressed in this set of objectives and strategies.
- The term “where appropriate” leaves room for interpretation; would like it to be more precise.
- Prioritization of sites for habitat improvement or geographic response is important.
- Log handling is currently the only marine activity with a specific objective. Consider rolling into other marine uses objectives.

What 2 things do you like about these objectives and strategies? – *from individual worksheet responses.*

- Cover most aspects of marine pollution
- Multiple strategies for each objective

- Promoting establishment of waste disposal infrastructure
- Recognizes interconnected nature of impacts to marine areas

What 2 things do you think could be improved? – from individual worksheet responses.

- Eliminate vagueness (ie. “where appropriate”, “work with others”).
- (not) singling out log handling as an individual culprit.
- Minimum standards should be “world leading”.

Key messages. – from individual worksheet responses.

- Collaboration with federal agencies to maximize effectiveness of strategies.
- Monitoring and how we do it.
- Concern that spill response ability is inadequate.

### Issues, Objectives and Strategies – Upcoming topics

- General agreement that the agenda pieces used today were useful in the review of Issues and Outputs, and specific objectives and strategies.
- North Coast team will structure future meetings in a similar manner to review and receive comments on upcoming plan components.

### Desired Future State – Building Understanding

- A background to considering desired future states as part of the planning process was presented.
- Initial draft questions were presented and will be distributed as part of a “homework assignment” for participants. The package will include directions and current condition and trend documentation for review and comment, and as information to support input.
- The intent is to build deeper understanding of sector’s opportunities and challenges to allow for more meaningful conversations when discussing plan components. Added to this is the identification of key areas sectors feel are important to their current and future activities.

### What’s on tap and wrap up

- Next meeting date (late November) and venue will be confirmed and sent with post-meeting package. On advice of MPAC, November and January meeting location will be Prince Rupert, with meetings in Kitimat planned for months when road travel is more dependable (i.e., spring).
- Meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.