



Marine Planning Partnership for the Pacific North Coast (MaPP)

North Coast Marine Planning and Advisory Committee (MPAC)

General Meeting Summary - Final

Advisory Group Meeting #3

November 28-29, 2012

Crest Hotel (BC Room) 222 West First Ave. Prince Rupert, B.C.

Objectives:

1. Share updates on MaPP, MPAC member and other related activities since last MPAC meeting.
2. Build understanding of desired future state for the North Coast planning area using: (a) Current Conditions and Trends information; and (b) MPAC member information.
3. Review draft objectives and strategies for key marine issues for the North Coast planning area for: (a) climate change; (b) marine protection; (c) traditional and cultural uses; and (d) recreation and tourism.
4. Confirm actions for next NC MPAC meeting (January 2013)

Attendance:

<u>MPAC Members:</u> Mike Ambach – Conservation Dan Edwards – Commercial Fisheries Tracey Hittel – Com'l Rec'l Fisheries Bill Johnson – Renewable Energy Hermann Meuter – Academia Dave Nicholson – Coastal Forestry Vittorio Venturini – Aquaculture	<u>MaPP:</u> Craig Outhet – Co-lead (NCSFNSS) Steve Kachanoski – BC Government (MFLNRO) Megan Dickinson – MaPP Technical Support Marjan Bagheri – BC Government (MFLNRO) Erin Mutrie – Marine Planner (NCSFNSS) Colin Rankin – MaPP Technical Support Steve Diggon – Marine Coordination Team (MaPP)
<u>Observers and Alternates:</u> James Casey – Conservation (alternate) Barb Faggetter – Observer Des Nobles – Observer Kennard Hall – Observer	<u>Regrets:</u> Jeff Beckwith – Public Recreational Fisheries Andrew Webber – Local Government Michael Uehara – Tourism

Day 1

Welcome and Updates:

- Clarence Nelson Sr. provided a welcome on behalf of First Nations, Colin Rankin reviewed agenda, introductions of all the participants.
- First Nations, Province and MPAC member updates.
- Summary of Regional Marine Advisory Committee (RMAC) role and process provided.
- Review of MPAC Meeting #2, advice log and post-meeting materials.

Updates

- Bill Johnson replaces Jessica McIlroy as representative member for renewable energy.
- Megan Dickinson introduced as MaPP marine planner for the North Coast. Colin Rankin will be supporting North Coast MPAC as facilitator. Erin Mutrie is a new marine planner for North Coast Skeena Fisheries Stewardship Society (NCSFSS) and will also be supporting the process.

Building Understanding - Desired Future State

- Roundtable opportunity for MPAC members to build a shared understanding of individual sector's vision for the future.
- Discussion focused on 6 key questions:
 - Does the information presented in circulated background documents accurately reflect your sector's current use of the North Coast region?
 - Is the activity of your sector in the North Coast going to increase, decrease, or stay the same over the next 20 years?
 - Please describe how you envision your sector changing over the next 20 years.
 - Are there any barriers, drivers, or limiting factors that may impact how your sector's future desired state is achieved in the north coast?
 - Are there any human uses that are in conflict with your sector?
 - Does your sector have development plans that could be useful in informing what the desired future state is for your sector or industry?
- Common themes included but were not limited to:
 - Revenue sources, especially for local governments, are becoming more challenging to secure.
 - An increase in partnerships between industry and First Nations is expected.
 - The challenge of having access to a qualified workforce is growing.
 - In general, marine activity is temporally confined to summer months (including late spring and early fall).
 - Technology is enhancing monitoring efforts.
 - Public policy and funding is key to conservation and research efforts.
 - Local and global economies, as well as an aging demographic, are having an impact on tourism based operations.
 - Public and political will is key to renewable energy development.

Issues, Objectives and Strategies – *Climate Change*

- Background was provided regarding the development of draft objectives and strategies.
- Draft objectives and strategies around climate change were presented.
- For each objective, participants were asked:
 - Does this strategy work (is it relevant, right scale, clear, doable)?
 - What's missing?
- A number of comments were received during group discussion. Key pieces are summarized below, and all comments will be used in refining plan components for climate change.

Key Discussion Items

- Climate change vulnerability assessments are challenging, but generally viewed as 'doable'.
- State of knowledge and situation around climate change is rapidly evolving. Any assessment needs to be "fluid" and be reviewed and updated regularly (every 5 years or less – IPCC standard for assessment reports is moving to every 3-4 years).
- Primary productivity is a key component of vulnerability assessment. For example, kelp or eelgrass beds are high productivity features and a fundamental structural component of the ecosystem.
- Other jurisdictions have done some good work around this topic. For example, Washington State's Blue Ribbon Panel Report on Ocean Acidification for information and recommendations (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/water/marine/oceanacidification.html>).
- Best to undertake vulnerability assessment at a landscape scale then look at how specific areas, activities or actions (e.g., infrastructure, aquaculture, marine protected area network) fit on that picture.
- Regarding tracking of greenhouse gas emissions. This is part of current provincial policy direction. Communities have to track greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reduce or offset emissions. Reduction of emissions is a good intention but difficult for communities (particularly in the north coast with reliance on fossil fuels for power generation in many situations) to achieve.
- LNG development will have a major impact on GHG emissions in this area.
- Need to ensure that climate change is not used as a cover or excuse for poor management or overfishing. Good science is needed to look at factors involved in changes in abundance of different species. May be climate change, fishing pressure or other factors. If we don't have good data we won't be making good decisions.
- Economic costs are an important driver. Vulnerability assessment, preparation and adaptation can reduce costs to government, businesses and individuals. Insurance, replacement of infrastructure and emergency response measures all can involve high costs. A case could be made that adaptation measures could reduce costs.

Day 2

Tsunami Debris Management Plan – presentation

Guest speakers:

- John Braman, Ministry of Environment
- Laura Feyrer, Ministry of Environment

- Presentation of a provincial draft management plan for tsunami debris management was given by the provincial Ministry of Environment. Request by presenters for comments by December 21st, 2012. Members were asked to contact john.braman@gov.bc.ca for comments and/or feedback.

Issues, Objectives and Strategies – *Traditional and Cultural Uses*

- Draft objectives and strategies around traditional and cultural uses were presented.
- For each objective, participants were asked:
 - Does this strategy work (is it relevant, right scale, clear, doable)?
 - What's missing?
- A number of comments were received during group discussion. Key pieces are summarized below, and all comments will be used in refining plan components for climate change.

Key Discussion Items

- Protocols to protect sensitive information are important and it would be helpful to know if there are areas that are off limits. Essentially identifying where effort to explore or initiate activities in conflict with site values would not be acceptable. There may be room to improve on current traditional use study mapping that maps values in a non-specific manner.
- Communications and good relationships between users and First Nations help to reduce misunderstanding and conflict.
- Data sharing protocols and inconsistencies that currently exist.
- Non First Nations' historical sites and their importance to local communities.
- Clear definitions of what constitutes cultural, archeological or historical sites and cultural or historical resources will help to clarify contents of the plan.
- There is value in looking at some sites as a whole rather than individual components. For example an historic district or settlement (like Port Townsend in Washington State).
- Concern that identification or protection of areas with cultural or historic values does not lead to diminished consideration of ecological values in development of a Marine Protected Areas (MPA) network.
- Importance and understanding of cultural values and sensitivities in tourism based activities.
- Impact of policies and a lack of local knowledge on the inappropriate application of guidelines that may be contrary to the interests of First Nations involved.
- Benefits of local knowledge in research activities.

Issues, Objectives and Strategies – *Marine Protection*

- Draft objectives and strategies around marine protection were presented.
- For each objective, participants were asked:
 - Does this strategy work (is it relevant, right scale, clear, doable)?
 - What's missing?
- A number of comments were received during group discussion. Key pieces are summarized below, and all comments will be used in refining plan components for climate change.

Key Discussion Items

- Importance of explicitly considering all uses when developing candidate marine protected areas.
- Where Canada stands in MPAs development in relation to other jurisdictions and existing MPA international commitments.
- Role of fisheries management and the inter-relationship between an MPA network and management measures inside and outside the network.
- Need for a balanced, transparent, and inclusive MPA design process.
- Difficulties and risks with applying the concept of carrying capacity in relation to human activities.
- IUCN protected area categories and their application to MPA design.

Issues, Objectives and Strategies – *Recreation and Tourism*

- Draft objectives and strategies around recreation and tourism were presented.
- For each objective, participants were asked:
 - Does this strategy work (is it relevant, right scale, clear, doable)?
 - What's missing?
- A number of comments were received during group discussion. Key pieces are summarized below, and all comments will be used in refining plan components for climate change.

Key Discussion Items

- Marine wildlife viewing guidelines including enhanced effort required to communicate and educate users.
- Level of understanding around access rights to the foreshore and intertidal areas
- Displacement of activities if a balance between uses is not achieved.
- Intermittent use is part of the equation. For example, with log handling facilities, tourism or recreation users may not be aware of use until a site is reactivated, which can lead to misunderstandings and conflicts.
- Important to identify high value areas for potentially conflicting users and consider in spatial planning.
- Ability of local operators to market to the global community.

Issues, Objectives and Strategies – *Upcoming topics*

- Small group and plenary discussion of upcoming topics based on the sub-regional issues and associated MaPP outputs identified for the North Coast Marine Plan.
- 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. Draft objectives and strategies developed by the North Coast Technical Team will be discussed at upcoming MPAC meetings.
- Four topics were addressed:
 - Aquaculture
 - Renewable energy
 - Recreational, commercial and First Nations fishing
 - Stewardship, monitoring and enforcement
- Participants were asked:
 - What do we need to pay attention to when we are developing these outputs?
- Comments made in small group discussions were noted with key discussion items summarized below.

Aquaculture

Key Discussion Items

- Creating criteria for identifying where sites can go is important, and is a first step in spatial planning.
- Saves industry a step if more assurance about where siting may or may not be possible.
- Opportunities for small scale operations are important. Many barriers exist for smaller operators.
- Application and review process should be transparent.
- Provincial responsibilities are involved in siting. Links with DFO policies which are interim in nature. Lack of policies or unclear policies lead to uncertainty in the industry.
- Consider tracking programs (farm to plate) as a means to brand high value/quality species and address species at risk concerns (e.g., abalone). Look at existing “My Fish” program.
- Opportunities exist for collaboration in marketing.
- Regulatory issues and confusion are a significant issue.

Renewable Energy

Key Discussion Items

- Siting criteria for areas of highest value/opportunity are important and would help with spatial planning.
- Political will and supportive policies are key barriers at present.
- Identification and support for demonstration projects would be useful. Worth specifying and addressing key barriers and means of addressing them.
- Many positive things are happening in other jurisdictions. May be worth drawing on to build understanding of opportunities with key audiences in B.C.
- There appears to be a strong public appetite for renewable energy alternatives in B.C. Need to find ways to meet the appetite.

- Reducing the need of remote communities to rely on fossil fuels for power is linked to impacts of climate change and ocean acidification. There is an opportunity for renewable energy options here.

Commercial, Recreational and First Nations Fishing

Key Discussion Items

- Issues are linked to human wellbeing and ecosystem health. It is important to consider what can be done through MaPP and links to other jurisdictions and agencies.
- Consider opportunities for addressing community health as it links with marine planning. There are many overlaps in issues and possibilities to explore.
- Could consider marine infrastructure, including inventories, maintenance and safety. For example the extent and state of docking and haul out facilities.
- Conflict resolution mechanisms. There have been conflicts between fisheries for as long as they have existed. Opportunity to identify what conflicts are present and look what frameworks there are to deal with them.

Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement

Key Discussion Items

- There are many complex legal issues associated with this.
- Look at grassroots opportunities that are out there. Opportunities to use local folks. How to draw on community expertise (and scientists) and qualified professionals.
- Develop opportunities to use commercial fisheries monitoring systems for additional purposes (beyond fisheries management).
- Funding is a big issue. Identify opportunities and potential partnerships.
- Consider and draw from other examples.
- Make a clear distinction between compliance monitoring and ecological impact monitoring.
- Monitoring ocean characteristics for effects of climate change is important. Can use local boats on the water for monitoring programs. Technology can be put to use (e.g., GPS, camera systems).
- Opportunity to draw on coastal light keepers. Current policies are limiting their involvement in monitoring programs.

What's on tap and wrap up

- Next meeting date is set for January 29th and 30th in Prince Rupert.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.