



Marine Planning Partnership for the Pacific North Coast (MaPP)
**North Vancouver Island Marine Plan Advisory
Committee (MPAC)**
Final Meeting Summary

Advisory Group Meeting #5
March 6-7, 2013
Maritime Heritage Centre, 621 Island Highway
Campbell River, B.C.

Objectives:

1. Review of process updates and past meeting
2. Review and feedback on preliminary zoning approach and designation
3. Review and feedback on datasets
4. Conduct spatial data overlay exercise

Attendance:

MPAC Members and Alternates:

Jacob Etzkorn - *Conservation*
Alan Thomson – *Public Recreation*
Rick Snowdon, Andrew Jones [Day 1] –
Commercial Recreation
Bill Johnson – *Renewable Energy*
Dave Minato - *Finfish Aquaculture*
Brian Kingzette, Michele Patterson – *Shellfish
Aquaculture*
Heidi Soltau – *Local Government (MWRD)*
Jim Abram – *Local Government (SRD)*
Bruce Storry - *Coastal Forestry*
Dwayne Mustard – *Recreational Fishing Services*

MaPP:

John Bones – *Nanwakolas Council (Co-Chair)*
Matthew Justice – *Ministry of Forests, Lands,
and Natural Resource Operations (Co-Chair)*
Scott Harris - *Nanwakolas staff*
Greg Johnson - *Nanwakolas staff (GIS)*
Jo Smith – *MaPP science coordinator*
Jillian Tamblyn – *MaPP contractor*
Josie Byington – *MaPP administrator*

Facilitator: Colin Rankin

Observers:

Mairi Edgar [part of Day 1] – *MaPP contractor*

Regrets: Tim Campbell, *Marine Transportation (observer)*

Day 1

Welcome and Opening:

- John Bones and Matthew Justice, MPAC Co-Chairs, welcomed the group on behalf of the North Vancouver Island Technical Team and the Marine Working Group Committee.
- Introductions were made around the table (including alternates, staff and observers).
- John reviewed agenda and purpose of the meeting.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Federal jurisdiction will be taken into account in determination of recommended uses and activities in zones and units.
2. The Commercial Fishing Caucus has withdrawn from the MaPP process. MaPP will continue to offer fisheries sector opportunities to comment on planning products, and seek local representation.

Planning Updates and Advice Review:

- Matthew reviewed the MPAC membership list.
- Matthew reported on the meeting summary for MPAC#4.
- John/Matthew reported on the second meeting of the RMAC and the roll-out of the Regional Monitoring, Compliance and Enforcement Framework.
- Jo provided an update on MaPP outputs and contracts underway (presentation: *Update for NVI MPAC_ScienceCoordinator_20130305_JLS.pdf*): marine infrastructure, marine pollution, decision support tool (SeaSketch, Marine InVEST), human wellbeing and governance indicators workshop.
- MPAC members reported on activities in their sectors, activities and challenges related to information sharing with their sectors, and other relevant issues.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Clarification that the province has not suspended decision on tenure application affecting the marine environment during the MaPP process.
2. Clarification that MaPP sub-regional plans will provide recommendations as opposed to direction on tenure applications.
3. Clarification that MaPP will use decision support tools to look at impacts of potential development.
4. Clarification that the assessment of vulnerability of ecosystems is being done at the Regional scale.
5. **Jo to follow up with Michele Patterson on social components of vulnerability assessment.**
6. **MaPP personnel to follow-up on Stakeholder Support Funding issues with Michele Patterson.**
7. **Jo to follow up with Bill on tidal and wind potential datasets.**
8. *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments.*

Review & Discussion of New Draft Material:

Zoning Approach: Draft Zone Descriptions, and Overview of Existing Plans (including units)

- Jillian presented a refresher on the regional zoning framework and some recommended clarification of the zone definitions. Comments were received from stakeholders.
- John presented an overview of existing provincial coastal plans and the Nanwakolas draft marine plan as the basis of the preliminary zoning work, and comments were received from stakeholders.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Comments on the zone definitions presentation included: need for a definition of “food, social, ceremonial purposes”; need to reference the EBM approach in definition of GMZ.
2. Comments on the overview of existing plans included: future process for acceptance of tenure applications and the use of the MaPP plan; the importance of periodic review and updates of plans; consideration of Species at Risk areas (federal) in MaPP zoning; the approach for zoning decisions where conflicting uses; assessment of impacts on the marine environment by land-based development; stakeholder involvement and process in previous plan development; relevancy of data and models used in previous planning; extent of consideration of adjacent land use.
3. Clarification provided that planning units are intended to be used within the Special Management Zone instead of sub-zones; clarification that the new Provincial cumulative effects framework will address both land and marine effects.
4. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding zoning and existing plans documents.*

Lunch

Review & Discussion of New Draft Material (continued):

Zoning Approach: Uses and Activities Table, and Definitions of Uses and Activities

- Scott presented the proposed uses and activities table.
- Jillian presented the associated uses and activities definitions and comments were received from stakeholders.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Comments on the uses and activities definitions included: gaps; increased clarity on float homes vs floating structures associated with other uses; concern over level of detail in groupings of tenure

types; uses and activities by usage (e.g., docks) instead of by tenure type; location for wave energy infrastructure in definitions; more clarity on Telecommunications or Utilities infrastructure; upland activities.

2. Clarification that Commercial Recreational Floating Lodges category does not apply to industrial float camps; clarification that use of the term “cultural” in the Conservation, Education and Research category should have included “historical”; clarification that in the Renewable Energy category, “other marine resources” refers to new technology.
3. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding zoning uses and activities, and definitions of uses and activities documents.*

Zoning Preparation: Recommendation Table for Uses and Activities

- Scott presented a recommended table format for identifying recommended uses and activities with zones; and comments were received from stakeholders.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Comments on the table of uses and activities included: approach of simultaneous development of the zoning framework designation definitions and the recommendations for the zones/units; use of the word “acceptance”.
2. Clarification provided on the use of the term “recommended” to accept applications not to approve a use vs. “acceptable” or “appropriate”; clarification on the timing of the incorporation of advice received into planning materials; clarification that zoning recommendations will consider temporal factors.
3. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding the recommendation table for uses and activity document.*

Zoning Preparation: Application of Recommendations to Uses by Zone

- Scott presented a table showing preliminary recommendations for uses in each zone; and comments were received from stakeholders.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Comments on the preliminary use recommendations included: application of Cohen Report and the Discovery Islands; definition of float homes; questions regarding process and criteria to designate an SMZ; need for more explanation of the Conditional category.
2. Clarification that if a use is recommended to take place in a GMZ it would have to comply with General Management Direction strategies, or potential new management conditions if use is “conditional”; clarification of process for designating preliminary zoning through comparison of existing FN and Provincial plans; clarification about difference in zoning process between North Coast and North Vancouver Island sub-regions.
3. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding the preliminary recommended use table by zone.*

Zoning Preliminary Analysis: Primary Datasets for Zoning Purposes

- Greg presented the primary datasets document and displayed data layers on the screen.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Comments on the primary datasets document included: caution that tenures up for renewal can be “lost” from provincial licensing datasets; inclusion of demographic data and data about educational

level, health and wellness; use of local knowledge for cetaceans; sources of data; limitations of data and data gaps.

2. Confirmation that federal datasets are included; clarification that existing protected areas have been included; confirmation that data from the PNCIMA and BCMCA atlases has been included; confirmation that marine infrastructure data from consultant will be included; clarification that FN traditional use information will not be shared, and neither will sensitive historical information.
3. Homework for MPAC members was to identify datasets of particular importance for their sectors, note any that can be updated, and list new data they are able to contribute.
4. **MaPP personnel to add the spreadsheet of all datasets to the MPAC Dropbox.**
5. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding the primary datasets for zoning purposes document.*

Day 1 wrap and look ahead to Day 2:

- John summarized the main items discussed on Day 1.
- Adjourned at 4 pm

Day 2

Day 2 welcome and agenda outline:

- Matthew reviewed the Day 2 agenda.

Review & Discussion of New Draft Material:

Zoning Preliminary Analysis: Approach to Developing the Preliminary Zoning Map

- John presented the approach to developing the preliminary zoning map (based on steps associated with integrating the existing provincial coastal plans and the Nanwakolas Marine Plan, as a first “data layer”).

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Comments included: missing conservation areas in datasets; clarification on use of Undetermined vs. General Management designation; Bute Inlet conservation zoning differences between existing plans; use of planning units to address finer level local zoning; need to include a macro scale analysis when zoning; capability vs. acceptability; status of oil and gas tenures and inclusion of non-renewable energy.
2. Clarification that there is no conflict between the Ha-ma-yas Plan and existing Provincial MPAs; clarification that the preliminary GMDs and MPA zones may change when additional overlays are done; clarification that Rockfish Conservation Areas are not shown on the preliminary map as protection areas, and that RCAs appear in another data layer; clarification that wildlife areas designated by Canadian Wildlife Service will be included; clarification on Scott Islands MWA; clarification on approach to designating sub-zones within MPZs; confirmation that local government zoning will be included; clarification about approach to designating SMZs and assigning IUCN categories to MPZs; confirmation that if additional conditions apply to all units of an SMZ, they will be written into General Management Directions or included in the zone or planning unit descriptions; confirmation that some SMZ could be designated in areas currently shown as

Undetermined; clarification that access to beta version of decision support tool will be restricted to RMAC and MPAC members who can demonstrate it to their constituents.

3. **MaPP personnel to add the CWS report on the Scott Islands to the MPAC Dropbox.**
4. **Greg to send preliminary MPZ area (hectares) to Bruce.**
5. **Greg to research data on park permits.**
6. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding the approach to preliminary zoning.*

Zoning Preliminary Analysis: Marxan

- Jo presented the BCMCA Marxan presentation (filename: *BCMCA Marxan for MaPP 6 Mar 2013.pdf*), and comments were received from stakeholders.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Comments included: caution in applying conservation targets to the sub-region; use of 1km x 1km grids could cause anxiety for some sectors; setting of conservation goals for certain species for Marxan analysis; display of output – clumping; addition of cost layer for human uses; how cumulative effects analysis fits; importance of revisiting plan zoning in the future; challenge of presenting data for marine mammals.
2. Clarification that the Marxan analysis is one dataset, aggregating many data sources; clarification that the “targets” referenced were not targets for MPA zone but targets for Marxan scenarios; confirmation that the Marxan analysis presented is an ecological result, and cost is not included; confirmation that Marxan is one of the best tools available for identifying high priority conservation areas; clarification that the cost calculation is underway with BCMCA; confirmation that recommendations for periodic plan review will be included
3. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding the Marxan presentation.*

Zoning Preliminary Analysis: Data Overlay

- Greg overlaid individual data layers on the preliminary map, and comments were received from stakeholders.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Comments included: noting differences between Marxan scenarios and preliminary MPA zoning; noting that datasets are a snapshot in time and questions about new technology, transient species, climate change; noting that human use hasn't been discussed yet.
2. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding the data overlay exercise.*

Lunch

Review & Discussion of New Draft Material (continued):

Zoning Preliminary Analysis: Data Overlay, continued

- Greg overlaid individual data layers on the preliminary map, and comments were received from stakeholders.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Comments included: SRD zoning boundary anomalies related to mid-channel RD boundaries; differences in zoning for aquaculture in plans; killer whale critical habitat designation; importance of

local knowledge and new information for species locations; incorporation of recreational scenic areas and visual landscape inventory (upland data); importance of consultation with user groups such as Marine Trails groups; limitations of data and models used for shellfish aquaculture siting; method to collect intensity of use information from commercial recreation.

2. Confirmation that Ha-may-as Plan considers shellfish aquaculture in its economic development emphasis units; clarification that planning units are not a fixed size; confirmation of approach to addressing upland uses; confirmation that the decision support tool will allow for new polygons to be drawn
3. **Greg to check on killer whale critical habitat boundary.**
4. **MaPP Team is available for individual presentations of maps and data layers to MPAC members.**
5. **Jacob to contribute data on cetaceans, seabirds, coral, and sponges.**
6. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding the data overlay exercise.*

Meeting wrap up & Take-aways:

- John summarized the topics covered on Day 2.
- MPAC members are encouraged to contact the MaPP Team for individual mapping sessions.
- The meeting summary will be distributed within 2 weeks.
- Stakeholder feedback deadline extended beyond 2 weeks. The initial focus should be on feedback on the zoning approach, then further feedback following launch of the decision support tool and/or individual meetings with the MaPP Team.
- **Input on documents presented at past meetings needed by March 23, 2013.**
- **MaPP to present a training webinar when the decision support tool is ready.**

CLOSURE:

- Meeting adjourned 1:15 pm.
- Next meeting to be held June 5-6, 2013 in Campbell River, at Painter's Lodge (TBC).