



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

Advisory Group Meeting #8
November 21-22, 2013
Maritime Heritage Centre, 621 North Island Highway
Campbell River, B.C.

Objectives:

1. To review process updates and past meeting notes
2. To review changes made to the draft Plan since the last meetings on the aspatial and spatial components, primarily Chapters 5, 6, 7 and appendices
3. Opportunity for MPAC members to provide context on the advice submitted

Attendance:

MPAC Members and Alternates:

Jim Abram – *Local Government (SRD)*

Ellen Bird – *Renewable Energy*

Gord Curry, Kat Middleton – *Marine Conservation*

Dan Edwards – *Commercial Fishing*

Dwayne Mustard – *Recreational Fishing Services*

Richard Opala – *Finfish Aquaculture*

Michele Patterson – *Shellfish Aquaculture [Day One only]*

Heidi Soltau – *Local Government (MWRD)*

Bruce Storry, Jonathan Armstrong - *Coastal Forestry [Bruce until 11am on Day One]*

Alan Thomson, Nick Heath – *Public Recreation*

MaPP:

John Bones – *Nanwakolas Council (Technical Team Co-Chair)*

Matthew Justice – *Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (Technical Team Co-Chair)*

Scott Harris - *Nanwakolas staff*

Greg Johnson - *Nanwakolas staff*

Jillian Tamblyn – *MaPP Technical Planner contractor*

Josie Byington – *MaPP administrator*

Regrets:

Brian Kingzette – *Shellfish Aquaculture*

Paul Kariya, Bill Johnson – *Renewable Energy*

Dave Minato – *Finfish Aquaculture*

Rick Snowdon – *Commercial Recreation*

Observer:

Mairi Edgar, *Commercial Recreation*

Day 1

Welcome and Opening:

- John Bones and Matthew Justice welcomed the group on behalf of the NVI Technical Team.
- Introductions were made around the table (including alternates, staff and observers). The Commercial Fishing sector was welcomed back and Dan Edwards provided details leading to the sector's decision to rejoin the process.
- John reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting. The agenda items were re-ordered to accommodate schedules of two of the members.

Updates:

- Jillian reviewed the Advice Log and John reminded members of the process being used by the NVI Team to document verbal and written advice, and to make it available for review. The Advice Log is

now up-to-date in terms of addressing all input received, with the exception of the most recent input from the Conservation Sector.

- Matthew summarized the last two MPAC meetings: the aspatial Plan component review held on September 9, 2013 and a special Chapter 5 (zoning) meeting held on October 10, 2013.
- John presented the schematic of generalized “Next Steps” and timelines leading to plan sign-off in June 2014.
- Matthew provided an update on Regional Plan products under development and provided the date of the next RMAC meeting (January 28-29, 2014).
- Jillian provided an update on the Mapping Portal (Seasketch) and described the method to be used by members to contribute comments on data layers, including the preliminary zones.
- MPAC members provided updates of their sector planning activities.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Discussion of request for provision of names of Provincial employees reviewing the Plan. Clarification made that participating Provincial departments and branches will be provided to the MPAC, but not names of employees. MPAC members may provide the Provincial co-chair with names of provincial employees who they believe will have the best understanding of sector interests and planning knowledge.
2. Discussion on documentation of changes to Plan that will be made as a result of internal reviews. Clarification made that co-leads will “track” important changes resulting from internal reviews for presentation at next MPAC, along with changes resulting from MPAC Advice on the current Draft 3. Rationale will also be documented where appropriate.
3. Discussion over the timing of federal government review of the Plan. Clarification made that federal review opportunities are expected to be provided after completion of internal review and presentation to MPAC.
4. Discussion of letter being formulated to regional district chairs, requesting reappointment of current MaPP representatives. Clarification made that NVI Team will provide current representatives with opportunity for letter review prior to sending to Board chairs.
5. Discussion about coordination of sectors across sub-regions. Clarification that all sectors have access to minutes of other MPACs through shared Dropbox, and sectors have always been encouraged to organize across entire MaPP region.
6. Discussion of request for MPACs to see Regional reports. Clarification that these reports will be made available.
7. Discussion about how sectors address emerging issues with Draft Plan content. Clarification made that NVI Team members are available and will be pleased to schedule meetings with sectors RD Boards to address emerging issues.
8. *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments.*

Review & Discussion: Chapter 1-3 Revisions

- Jillian provided an overview of updates to the Plan front sections and Chapters 1, 2 and 3.
- Detailed comments were provided.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Discussion held on status of Current Conditions & Trends report and timing of its release. Clarification made that **NVI Team will provide CC&T table of contents to the Dropbox for review.**
2. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding chapter text.*

Review & Discussion: Chapter 5 Revisions

- John presented an overview of changes to Chapter 5 and the zoning designation map.
- Scott provided details on updates to GMZ, SMZ sub-zones and PMZ, and addressed questions about specific locations.
- Greg presented the changes made to the preliminary zoning map.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Discussion about language relating to aquaculture activity jurisdiction. Clarification that attempts will be made to reflect the provincial jurisdiction over site tenures.
2. Discussion about IUCN categories. Clarification made that the Protection Management Zones have been associated with the appropriate IUCN category for inventory purposes, but is not the primary rationale for proposed PMZ areas.
3. Discussion about the difference between areas covered in the NVI Plan Area and the MaPP Study Area on the northwest side of Vancouver Island. Clarification that the discrepancy exists as a result of First Nations' territories and other factors, and these will be described in the Plan.
4. Discussion about the method for dealing with existing tenures that are considered Not Acceptable in a PMZ. Clarification made that proposed PMZ areas will eventually have individual management plans developed for them, which will clarify how to deal with such tenures.
5. Discussion about PMZ in the Broughton Archipelago and existing finfish aquaculture sites and retreats, PMZ for Kanish Bay, colours on the map, and percentages for different zones. Clarification made that advice will be welcomed in terms of making adjustments to reflect existing tenures, and that colour schemes will likely be altered, and that percent figures will be checked.
6. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding chapter text and the zoning map.*

Lunch

Detailed Review & Discussion (continued): Chapter 5

- Feedback received from stakeholders on Chapter 5 and the zoning map.
- Scott presented changes to the SMZ subzones.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Discussion held on SMZ sub-zones and their rationale, concern about priority statements for the sub-zones, and optics of sub-zones. Clarification made that the NVI Team will review the language and rationale for the sub-zones, with the potential for reducing these to one SMZ with differing levels of emphasis to avoid impression that each sub-zone is being set aside for a specific interest.
2. Discussion about zone conditions and their consistency between sub-regional plans. Clarification made that provincial review of all plans is likely to ensure consistency in approach to zone conditions, but that different sub-regions have different circumstances.
3. Discussion about incorporation of commercial fishing sector interests. Clarification that NVI Team will attempt to incorporate sector advice now that it has returned to the process, and that consideration will be made to removing fishery management statements in PMZs since they are out of scope for the Plan.

4. Discussion about adequacy of the amount of protection management zone allocated, and its level of representation of critical habitat types. Clarification made that Conservation Sector maps will be reviewed and PMZ zone adjustments will be considered.
5. Discussion about need for consistency with local government zoning and bylaws. Clarification made that this point will be incorporated as part of the Plan's development.
6. Discussion about consideration of upland tenures in development of zone recommendations in some areas (Port Neville, East Quadra Island), and local input. Clarification that upland tenures will be assessed to ensure zoning is feasible.
7. Discussion about need to ensure the Plan zones reflect the stated future vision for NVI. Clarification made that the zones will be reviewed to ensure consistency, especially as related to provision of opportunity for continued economic activities.
8. Discussion on specific zones and zone boundaries in certain areas, including such areas as Rock Bay PMZ, Mid-Bute GMZ, and Malcolm Island sponge reef PMZ area. Clarification that the advice received will be considered and adjustments made where appropriate. Gord will provide Greg with the coordinates of the glass sponge reef near Malcolm Island.
9. *See advice log for specific advice given regarding chapter text.*

Wrap-up and Look ahead to Day 2

- John and Matthew closed the meeting and provided the topics for discussion on Day 2.

Day 2

Welcome and Opening:

- John and Matthew welcomed participants to the meeting.

Review and Discussion: Chapter 4 Revisions

- Jillian presented revisions to the Community and Economy section.
- Scott presented revisions to the Conservation and Protection and the Cultural and Heritage Resources sections.
- John presented revisions to the Forestry Operations, Aquaculture, Renewable Energy, and Fisheries sections.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Discussion about need to clarify meanings in text and tables, addressing fisheries interests, documentation of non-participating First Nations, inclusion of local government in strategies, need to clarify which agencies have jurisdiction over marine activities. Clarification made that these points will be incorporated into Plan review.
2. *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments.*

Review and Discussion: Chapter 6 Revisions

- John presented highlights of Chapter 6.
- Matthew presented revisions to the appendices.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

1. Discussion about plan appeal/variance process, continued involvement of stakeholders in plan development. Clarifications made.
2. Discussion about appendices. Clarifications made.
3. *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments.*

CLOSURE:

- John and Matthew summarized the meeting, thanked everyone for their participation, and wished the MPAC a Merry Christmas.
- Meeting adjourned 12 pm.
- Feedback on the Plan is due by January 3, 2014 to nvi-feedback@mappocean.org in order for the feedback to be incorporated into the Advice Log and reflected in a final draft plan to be presented at next MPAC meeting.
- Next MPAC meeting to be held in February 19-20, 2014 in Campbell River to discuss changes resulting from Provincial and First Nations internal review and from any MPAC advice received by January 3.