



HAIDA GWAII DRAFT MARINE PLAN: SUMMARY

MESSAGE FROM THE HAIDA GWAII CO-LEADS

We are excited to share the draft Haida Gwaii Marine Plan with you. The development of this Plan has been a cooperative process with input from many knowledgeable people. Now we want to hear from you. Thank you for caring about Haida Gwaii and for helping us to plan for a healthy and prosperous future.

Russ Jones and Berry Wijdeven

Why was this plan developed?

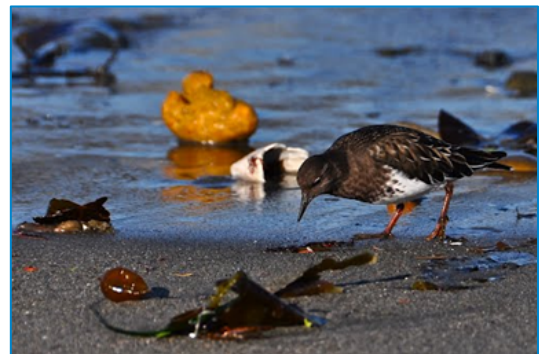
Haida Gwaii is defined by the waters that surround it. The ocean sustains the island community and the Haida culture that has existed here for countless generations, providing food, transportation, economic opportunities, recreation, employment and spiritual nourishment. It has made us who we are.

The purpose of the Haida Gwaii draft Marine Plan is to identify acceptable marine uses that support sustainable communities on Haida Gwaii while protecting and, where necessary, restoring marine ecosystems.

Maintaining and strengthening the island connection to the ocean is a key goal for the plan. There is a desire to increase the benefits we can derive from ocean resources in a responsible and respectful manner. In part, this can be achieved through new opportunities arising in shellfish aquaculture, tourism and alternative energy.

This plan outlines steps that we can take now to protect and restore what is important to us. We can reduce the impact of global changes on Haida Gwaii and contribute to positive change by taking local action here and working together with our neighbours.

The Haida Gwaii plan is one of four marine plans developed as part of the MaPP initiative. In concert with plans for the North Coast, Central Coast and northern Vancouver Island, the Haida Gwaii draft Marine Plan will provide an integrated ecosystem-based approach to management of the ocean resources on the Pacific north coast.





Who developed this plan?

The Haida Gwaii draft Marine Plan has been developed jointly by the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) and the Province of B.C. The plan has been developed with considerable input by the Haida Marine Work Group and Haida Gwaii Marine Advisory Committee. The Haida Marine Work Group has representatives of the CHN, Hereditary Chiefs, Old Massett Village Council, Skidegate Band Council, and members of the Haida public. The Haida Gwaii Marine Advisory Committee, which is made up of members with a range of marine backgrounds and expertise, was established to provide advice to the CHN and Province of British Columbia on the development of the plan.



The Haida Gwaii draft Marine Plan is part of the broader First Nations–B.C. Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP) initiative. Launched in November 2011, MaPP is a collaborative planning process enabled through a government-to-government arrangement between the Province of British Columbia, the Coastal First Nations–Great Bear Initiative (of which CHN is a member), the North Coast–Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society, and the Nanwakolas Council.



Members of the Haida Marine Work Group and Haida Oceans Technical Team (HOTT) (March 2009) – from left to right:

(Front) Robert Davis, the late Ron Williams, Lynn Lee (formerly HOTT), Melinda Pick
 (Back) Barney Edgars, Captain Gold, Chris McDougall (HOTT), Lonnie Young, Catherine Rigg (HOTT), David Smith, Judson Brown, Allan Wilson, Russ Jones (HOTT)
 Past Members: the late Dempsey Collinson, the late John Williams, Harold Yeltatzie, Ed Russ
 Present members (not shown): Shawn Cowpar, Godfrey Williams, Brendan Kallio, Jason Thompson (HOTT)



Members of the Haida Gwaii Marine Advisory Committee (December 2012) – from left to right:

Lynn Lee, Lindsey Doerksen, Bill White, Doug Daugert, LaVerne Davies, Mike McGuire, Sabine Jessen, Jim Mclsaac, Tony Pitcher, Barb Rowsell, John McCulloch, Allan Wilson
 Absent: Leandre Vigneault, Judson Brown



The plan is guided by a vision which states:

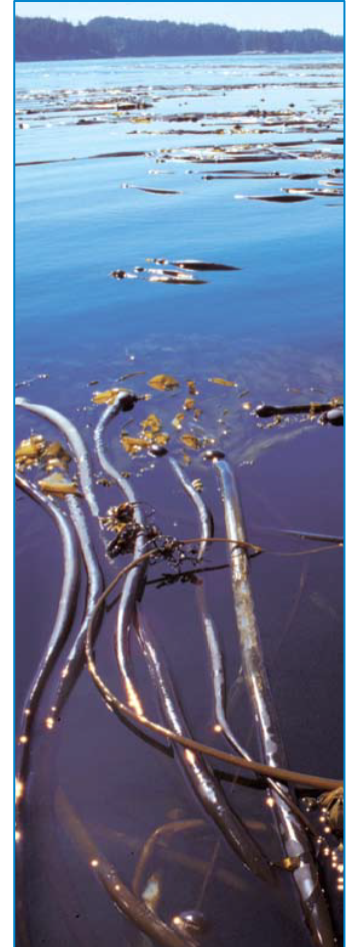
We see a future for Haida Gwaii that has healthy, intact ecosystems that continue to sustain Haida culture, all communities, and an abundant diversity of life, for generations to come. We will respect the sea around us and restore a balance between marine resource use and the well-being of life of the ocean.

To guide this vision a “**future scenario**” was developed that describes how Haida Gwaii could be twenty years from now. More detail is found on the next page.

Development of the plan was guided by Haida **ethics and values** which are fundamental to Haida culture and society and define the Haida world view. Six principles underlie the approach to marine planning on Haida Gwaii and are considered the foundation of the Haida Gwaii draft Marine Plan:

- **Yahguudang** or **Yakguudang**. Respect
- **‘Laa guu ga kanhllns**. Responsibility
- **Gina waadluxan gud ad kwaagiida**. Interconnectedness; everything depends on everything else
- **Giid tll’juus**. Balance; the world is as sharp as the edge of a knife
- **Gina k’aadang.nga gii uu tl’ k’anguudang**. Seeking Wise Counsel
- **Isda ad diigii isda**. Reciprocity

The plan is founded on an **ecosystem-based management framework** that focuses on human well-being, ecological integrity and governance.



Aboriginal Rights and Title:

This plan is without prejudice to Aboriginal Rights and Title and does not limit or prejudice the positions British Columbia or the Haida Nation may take in any negotiations or legal or administrative proceedings. A disclaimer is provided in the plan that also applies to this summary.



20 Years From Now:

The plan describes our hopes for the future in four key areas – environment, economy, community and governance – and describes a path to get there. The summary below is from the “future scenario” (Section 3.3 in the plan):

HAIDA GWAII’S MARINE FUTURE: A CONSERVATION AND LOCAL ECONOMY PATH

Twenty years from now, Haida Gwaii has followed a path that prioritizes culture, healthy intact ecosystems, and sustainable communities. Marine use and development is balanced with high environmental protection standards and a comprehensive network of marine protected areas. Marine industries that are supported around Haida Gwaii generally have low environmental impacts and are consistent with the distinct islands lifestyle. Community growth is based on a diversity of activities that tap into a growing global demand for sustainable seafood and a unique visitor experience. Substantial progress in this direction has been made as follows:

Environment – Haida Gwaii has embraced new conservation efforts through establishment of a network of marine protected areas. High environmental standards are required for all developments and activities. The result is a resilient and productive marine environment that supports sustainable marine industries.

Economy - Economic development in the marine sector is focused on managed growth of tourism and shellfish aquaculture, slow but steady development of new community fisheries initiatives, and support for new sustainable technology initiatives and research. Haida Gwaii has become known as a premier tourism destination and source of sustainable wild fish and aquaculture products through concerted efforts in marketing and branding. Overall the marine sector provides a greater proportion of local benefits and the number of jobs grows at a modest rate which keeps the islands population relatively stable.

Community – The Haida’s strong cultural attachment to the ocean flourishes while supporting economic opportunities that are a good match to their growing, youthful population. Island residents maintain a high quality of life resulting from access to healthy food, fresh air, and the expansive and generally uncrowded inlets and shores. Community cohesion is strong and there is pride in living on Haida Gwaii, particularly in the innovative and progressive management of waters around Haida Gwaii.

Governance – The CHN, provincial and federal governments are working together along with industry sectors to meet the Marine Plan objectives, resulting in stronger co-management relationships over time. This includes collaborative efforts to manage marine protected areas throughout Haida Gwaii.



What does this plan do?

The plan has four main sections:

General Management Direction provides policy guidance through objectives and strategies. This provides a blueprint for achieving positive change and reinforces our approach to conservation, stewardship and sustainable communities.

Economic Development Direction describes objectives and strategies aimed at managed growth and economic development opportunities with good potential in Haida Gwaii.

Spatial Zoning describes our approach to managing marine uses through boundaries on the water. This section of the plan contains maps and designates areas for protection, general use and special use. About 72% of the planning area occurs in the General Management Zone. Protection Management Zone candidates are identified for about 19% of the planning area. A little over 1% of the planning area is proposed as Special Management Zones. The remainder (about 8%) consists of Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site (“Gwaii Haanas”), which is being zoned through a separate process.

Plan Implementation, Monitoring and Amendment describes how we will move forward with the plan and how changes can be made once the plan is approved.

Each of these sections of the plan is described in the pages that follow. Note that the plan is draft and is being provided for the purpose of public review and discussion. As such, the draft is subject to change and final review and approval by the Council of the Haida Nation and Province of British Columbia.



Haida Gwaii Marine Advisory Committee at work



HAIDA GWAII GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

The draft plan consists of eight management components for which general management direction is provided. For each component, objectives and strategies are identified to address specific issues. These objectives and strategies establish guidelines for sustainable marine activities occurring in all Haida Gwaii waters and are linked to the overarching vision and goals. Refer to Section 6 of the draft plan for details.

Management Component	Summary
Governance and Integrated Management	Cooperative governance relationships will be essential for effective implementation of the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan, including marine management, compliance and enforcement and marine safety and response.
Cultural Values and Archaeological Sites and Areas	It is imperative to protect known cultural, archaeological and natural history sites, including locations featured in Haida oral traditions and spiritual places. Resources are needed to document, protect and monitor sites and areas.
Ecological Values and Significant Features	The expanding diversity and intensity of marine uses is impacting species and ecosystems, resulting in many species being listed as ‘at risk’, invasive species becoming an increasing concern and a need for greater knowledge of biodiversity and ecology of Haida Gwaii. Marine planning contributes to ecosystem resilience within and outside of areas zoned for marine protection.
Ecological Issues Related to the Fisheries Economy	A strong fisheries economy is dependent on a healthy marine environment. An ecosystem-based management framework that considers interactions between species and marine activities is important to achieving this.
Human Wellbeing	Objectives and strategies for human wellbeing seek to promote local participation and economic benefits from all sectors, support traditional and local access to foods, increase marine-focused education and communication, and emphasise the importance of marine infrastructure to day-to-day life on Haida Gwaii.
Marine Pollution and Spills	Marine pollution can result from terrestrial run-off, local vessels or facilities, and passing ships, or be carried from afar by ocean currents or winds. Objectives and strategies focus on minimizing pollution and creating needed capacity to respond effectively to large-scale oil spills or marine emergencies.
Logging-related Marine Activities	Forestry remains an important part of the Islands’ economy, and objectives and strategies focus on applying best practices and habitat restoration.
Climate Change	Communities must find ways to adapt to climate change and mitigate potential impacts, including changes to the ocean and fisheries, sea-level rise and changing weather patterns.



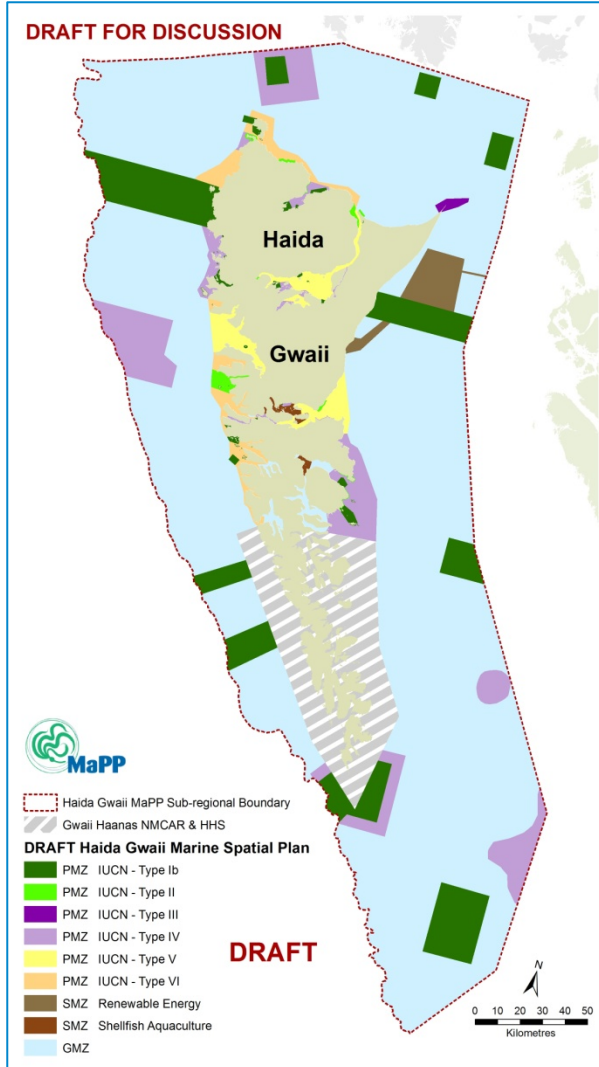
HAIDA GWAII MARINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTION

In recent decades, the marine economy on Haida Gwaii has declined in part due to regional and global market changes. A healthy marine economy would balance traditional and emerging sectors and be guided by a clear vision of the future. Section 7 of the plan provides direction on economic development for five activities in Haida Gwaii that have potential for future growth, summarized in the table below.

Management Component	Opportunities
Marine tourism positioning Haida Gwaii as a premier tourism destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying new tourism opportunities Improving the quality of visitor experiences Promoting Haida Gwaii as a destination Increasing local economic benefits from marine tourism Building local support for the marine tourism industry
Shellfish aquaculture producing and marketing sustainable aquaculture products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting new shellfish aquaculture opportunities Capturing local economic benefits from shellfish aquaculture
Community-based fisheries economy based on sustainable wild fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing community participation in the fisheries economy such as processing and marketing Increasing opportunities for local value-added products Increasing skills and capacity and capturing local economic benefits from fisheries
Marine research and monitoring, including documenting baseline data and monitoring changing conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing opportunities for research and monitoring Increasing local capacity for environmental and activity monitoring
Marine renewable energy such as new wind or tidal energy projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing opportunities for marine alternative energy and encouraging development in suitable locations Ensuring opportunities and benefits from marine energy development for local communities Ensuring a coordinated and integrated approach for future marine-based energy development



HAIDA GWAII SPATIAL ZONING



Overview of proposed Marine Spatial Zoning. Details can be found in the Draft Haida Gwaii Marine Plan and supporting documentation.

Once approved, SMZ candidates for shellfish aquaculture and marine renewable energy will be established as policy and will guide resource use decision-makers when making tenure and other marine use decisions. For details, please refer to Section 8 of the draft plan.

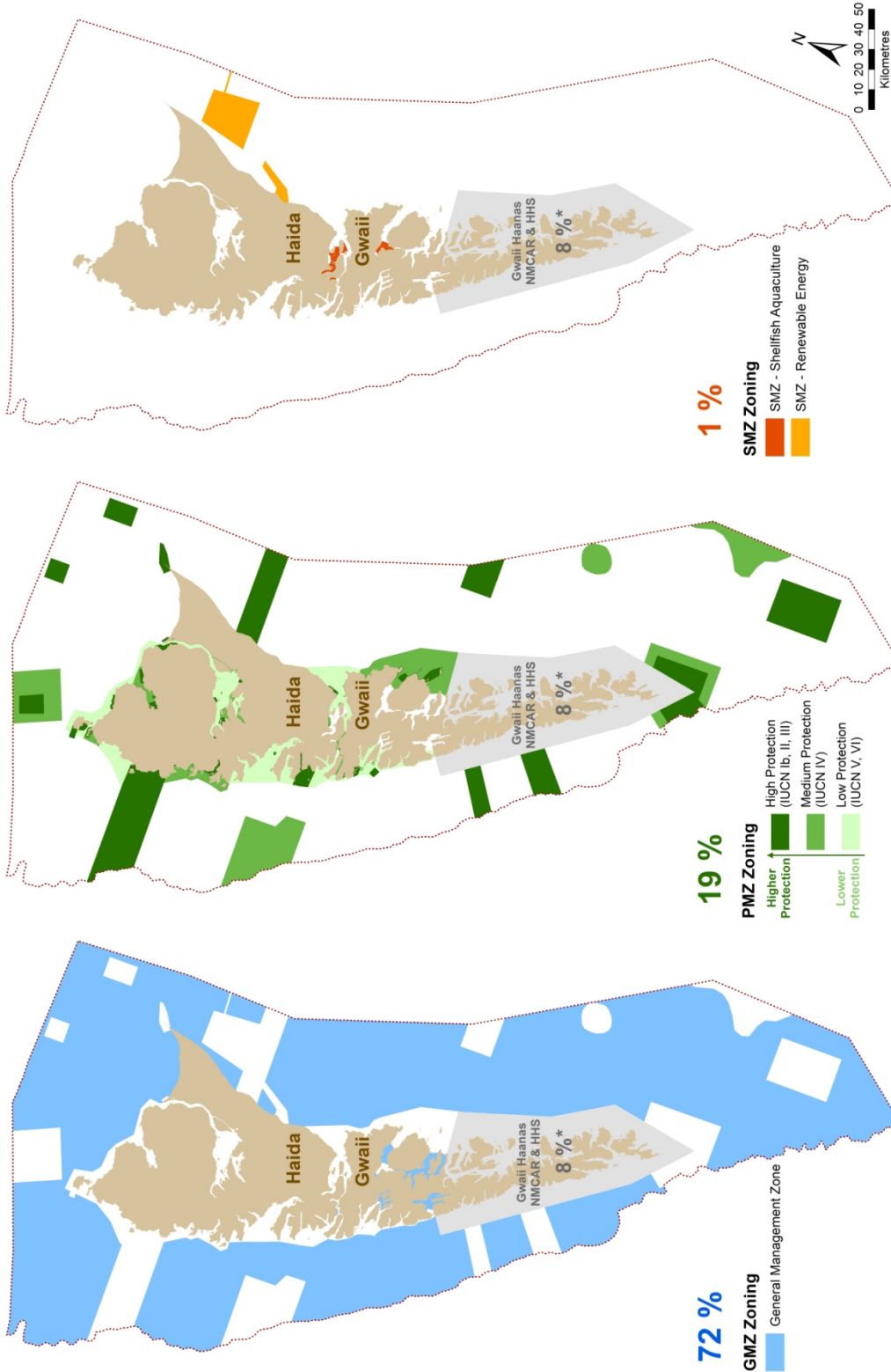
Haida place names for proposed Marine Zones are currently being reviewed and will be incorporated into the final Haida Gwaii Marine Plan and supporting background documents.

As part of the Haida Gwaii marine planning process, and consistent with the MaPP process, the CHN and Province of B.C. have developed three overarching zone types with recommended uses and activities:

- The **General Management Zone (GMZ)** comprises the majority of the plan area (72%) and is where the full range of sustainable marine uses and activities occur within an ecosystem-based management framework;
- **Special Management Zones (SMZ)** are areas of high priority and/or high potential for sustainable marine uses and activities, including economic development and/or cultural uses and activities that require specific environmental conditions or locations; and
- **Protection Management Zones (PMZ)** are areas identified primarily for conservation purposes or objectives. PMZs include several categories, consistent with the *Guidelines for Applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas*.

All areas outside of proposed SMZs and PMZs are within the General Management Zone aside from Gwaii Haanas, which is being addressed through a separate management planning process.

The CHN and Province of B.C. have recommended candidate areas as SMZs and PMZs. PMZ candidates will be important considerations in the Canada–BC–First Nations Marine Protected Areas Network Strategy process.



General Management Zone (GMZ):

Areas where the full range of sustainable marine uses and activities may occur, subject to existing legislation and policy.

Protection Management Zones (PMZ):

Areas managed to conserve natural values. There are three levels of conservation focus for these zones: High (strong emphasis on natural values), Medium (focus primarily on specific species and ecosystems), and Low (mix of conservation and sustainable human uses).

Special Management Zones (SMZ):

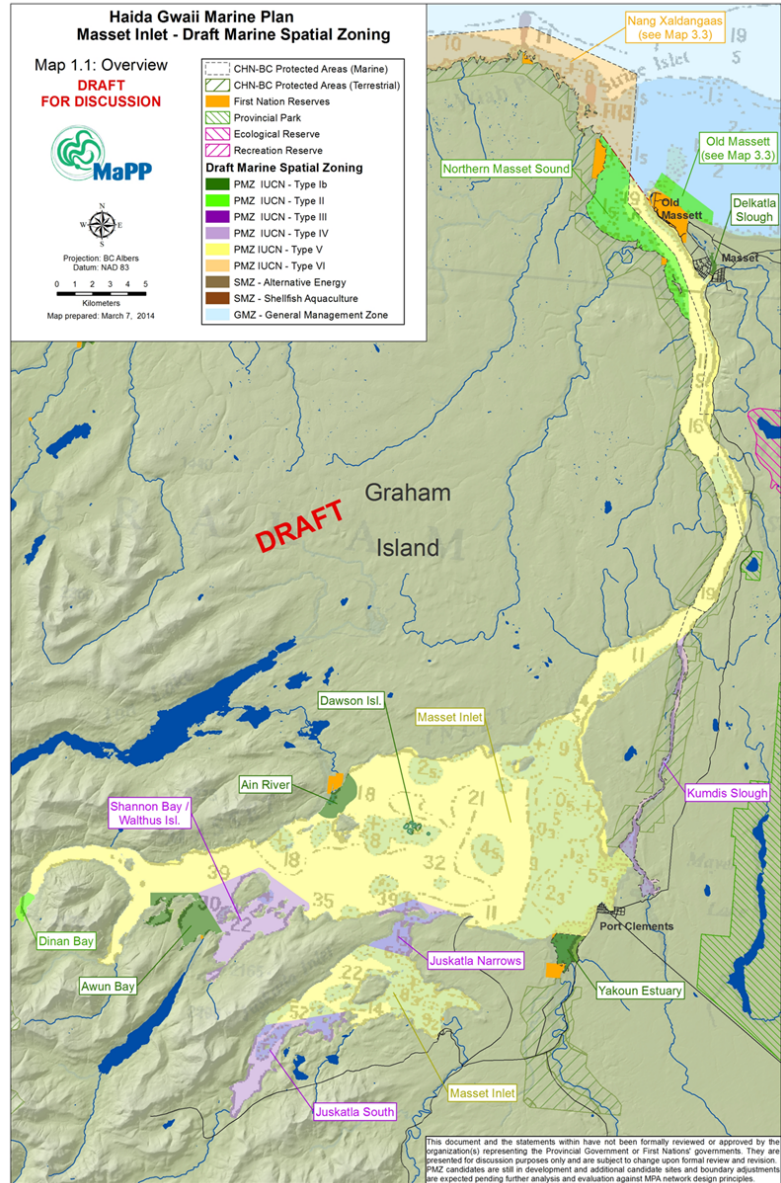
Areas particularly well-suited to specific sustainable marine uses and activities. The Haida Gwaii Marine Plan recognizes areas with high capability for shellfish aquaculture and marine-based renewable energy.

* NOTE: The additional 8% of the MaPP Haida Gwaii sub-region falls within Gwaii Haanas, which is addressed through a separate planning process.



The planning team has identified Protection Management Zone candidates based on important ecological, economic, cultural and social values around Haida Gwaii. For example 9% of the plan area has been proposed for higher levels of protection. These PMZ candidates have a high concentration of ecological values such as eelgrass, kelp forests, rockfish habitat, seabird colonies, estuaries, herring spawn and salmon rearing. Areas with a mix of human uses and ecological values are generally candidate zones for lower levels of protection (9.8% of the plan area). Special Management Zone candidates have been identified for areas having high capability for shellfish aquaculture (0.1% of the area) and marine-based alternative energy (1.3% of the area).

Each of the SMZ and PMZ candidates has an accompanying table that identifies marine uses and activities that are considered acceptable, conditionally acceptable, or not acceptable within the area. For every identified activity that is considered conditionally acceptable, condition statements are provided. Haida traditional uses continue for all areas in accordance with legal obligations, including practices for food, social and ceremonial purposes.



Example of proposed Marine Spatial Zoning for Masset Inlet. Maps of other seascapes and recommended uses and activities can be found in Section 8 of the draft plan.



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND AMENDMENT

Implementation of the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan will likely involve the creation of a Marine Plan Monitoring and Implementation Committee (MPMIC) to guide and oversee the implementation process.

Objectives and strategies will be implemented on a priority basis, as set out in a Marine Plan Implementation Agreement and overseen by the MPMIC. The goal is to implement all strategies over the longer term, as funding and other resources permit.

A monitoring framework is currently being developed, including identification of appropriate indicators.

Where appropriate, the plan will be revised to reflect changing circumstances and conditions as they arise. This adaptive approach will allow for improved management and responsible stewardship by the Haida Nation and the Province of B.C. over both the short and long term.



Photo: Swan Bay Rediscovery Program

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Let us know what you think about the Haida Gwaii draft Marine Plan.
Public comments will be accepted until **May 7, 2014**.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON-LINE

MaPP and CHN websites: mappocean.org or haidanation.ca