



DRAFT NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND MARINE PLAN: SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

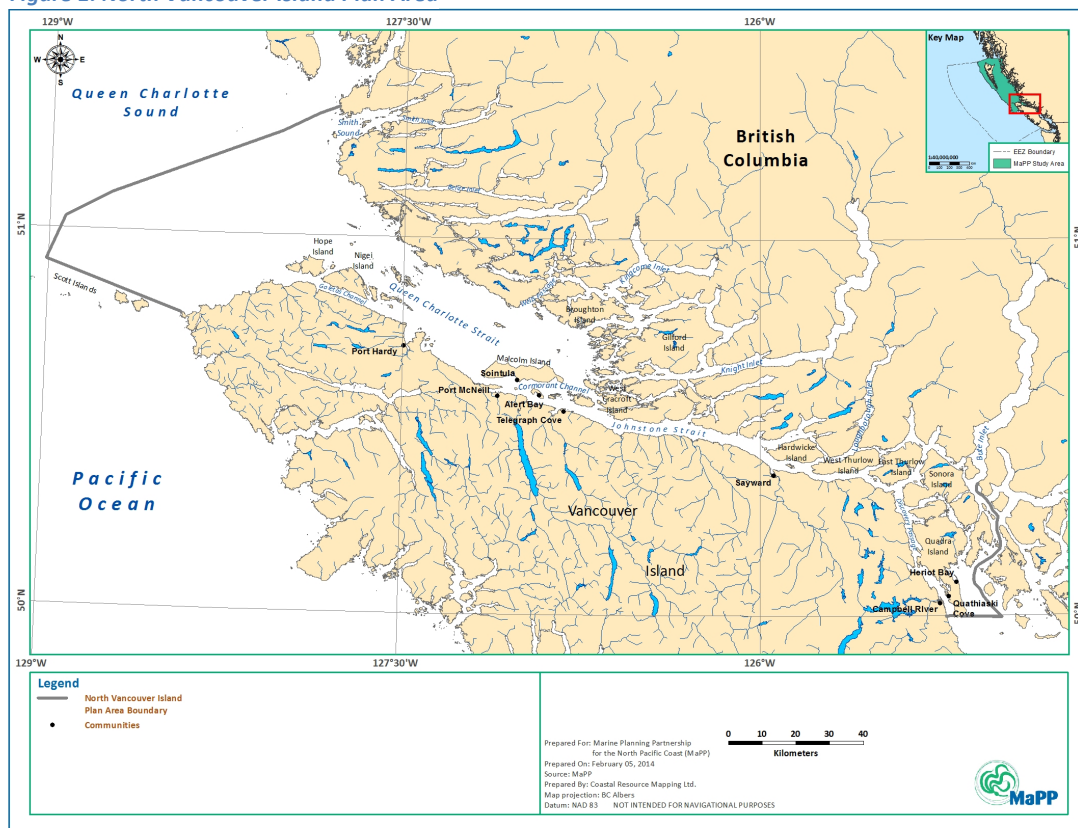
Purpose

The purpose of the North Vancouver Island (NVI) Marine Plan (the plan) is to provide recommendations for achieving ecosystem-based marine management that maintains social and cultural well-being, and economic development based on healthy ecosystems over the long term. It includes recommendations for developing and maintaining resilient marine ecosystems and sustainable economies for NVI communities, and provides direction for managing marine areas, uses and activities within provincial government jurisdiction.

It is part of the broader First Nations–BC Marine Planning Partnership (MaPP) initiative, and is one of four marine plans being developed for the north coast of British Columbia.

The MaPP initiative is a **partnership** between **18 First Nations** and the **Province of British Columbia** that is planning for **marine uses** and the **long-term health of BC’s North Pacific Coast**.

Figure 1: North Vancouver Island Plan Area





Partners

The NVI draft plan was prepared by the Province, as represented by the **Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations**, and the **Nanwakolas Council**, representing the Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em, Tlowitsis, Da'naxda'xw Awaetlatla, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, Wei Wai Kum, Kwiakah, and K'omoks Nations.

Plan Area

The NVI plan covers approximately 8,000 km² of **marine and foreshore areas** between Vancouver Island and the B.C. mainland coast. The plan area is primarily based on the marine territories and areas of interest of the seven participating Nanwakolas member First Nations, and consequently excludes an area on the northwest side of Vancouver Island that is part of the broader MaPP Study Area. The largest communities in the NVI plan area are on northeastern Vancouver Island, from Port Hardy in the north to Campbell River in the south.

Scope and Jurisdiction

The draft plan focuses on the crown marine areas and uses in the foreshore (intertidal zone), coastal “inland waters”, and the lands covered by these waters. It considers the uses, plans, zones, tenures, and legal designations that are in place on the land adjacent to marine areas and the seabed, but does not propose specific management objectives for private lands or uplands. Where there is significant overlap or shared jurisdiction with the federal government related to EBM and marine spatial planning, these topics are discussed.

This plan has no impact on Aboriginal Rights and Title. It does not create, recognize, define, deny, limit, abrogate or derogate from, or amend aboriginal rights and title, and does not define or limit the jurisdiction of the Nanwakolas member First Nations. The Plan does not limit the scope or nature of treaty negotiations or existing treaties.

The Plan is not legally binding and does not create legally enforceable rights between Nanwakolas member First Nations and the provincial government. This Plan does not relieve the Crown of any legal obligation to consult under Section 35 (1) of the Constitution Act, 1982 with respect to the grant of specific authorization under federal or provincial legislation, to any resource development proponents to use or dispose of land or resources.

However, the intent of the Plan is to advance reconciliation and relationships between Nanwakolas member First Nations and the provincial government, and to advance collaborative relationships with stakeholders.



PLANNING PROCESS, APPROACH AND INFORMATION SOURCES

The draft NVI Marine Plan brings together science, technical information, traditional knowledge and input from the technical team, the sub-regional Marine Plan Advisory Committee, Nanwakolas Council and public and stakeholder engagement. Its foundation is a marine **ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach**, which is consistent with First Nations' traditional resource management approaches and with provincial government direction in resource management. EBM is built on principles of ecological integrity, human well-being, and governance and collaborative management. It recognizes the magnitude of interactions in an **ecosystem** and places **human** activities and impacts into the ecosystem management framework.

The draft NVI Marine Plan is based on **multiple ecological, cultural, social and economic data sources**, with key information and direction provided by First Nation's community-based marine use plans (aggregated into the Ha-ma-yas Marine Plan) and provincial and local government land use planning and policy documents. Relevant background scientific reports and technical documents from the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) process were used, along with the BC Marine Conservation Analysis, and additional information on forestry operation, diving areas, and high value commercial recreation and tourism areas.

NVI VISION AND MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

The **NVI Marine Vision** describes healthy, diverse and resilient marine ecosystems that support social and cultural opportunities and a thriving economy. More detail is found in Section 4.1 of the draft plan.

The draft plan provides **plan area management direction** for 13 topics. For each topic, issues are identified and proposed objectives and strategies establish guidelines for marine activities occurring in all NVI waters (see Section 4.3 of the draft plan).

Community members, including First Nations, are actively engaged in the stewardship, monitoring, and management of the resources upon which their livelihoods depend....

[from NVI Vision]



Management Direction	Summary of Objectives
Community and Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support, integrate and create more stable and sustainable local marine-based economies • Increase local participation, capital assets and capacity for marine related economic opportunities • Increase First Nations' participation in the marine economy • Improve sector strategy integration and relationships, reduce conflict • Anticipate and respond to potential climate-induced changes in viability of marine industries
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the infrastructure required for public, community and economic uses and activities in the marine environment • Increase First Nations' involvement in coastal infrastructure selection, development and operation • Minimize potential climate change threats to community coastal infrastructure
Marine Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize the impacts of point and non-point pollution on marine ecosystems • Reduce impacts associated with ocean disposal sites, derelict vessels and vessel movements • Improve marine spill prevention, preparedness and response • Improve and enhance the restoration of deteriorated coastal areas • Mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on habitats and species
Conservation and Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify marine conservation and protection areas for further planning • Improve tools available for marine conservation and protection • Address impacts and benefits of marine conservation and protection designations on marine uses and activities; increase economic benefits to First Nation and local communities • Enhance First Nations and local involvement in existing/new conservation and protection areas • Enhance surveillance of activities within marine conservation and protection areas • Incorporate climate change considerations in the establishment of new conservation and protection areas
Cultural and Heritage Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve inventories and site knowledge for cultural and heritage resources • Increase cultural and heritage resource based tourism opportunities • Prevent human disturbance and loss of cultural and heritage resources • Increase First Nations' role in cultural resources management • Address potential climate change impacts on cultural and heritage resources, and on food sources
Recreation and Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and increase economic opportunities and benefits from recreation and tourism for local communities • Increase local and First Nations' participation in marine recreation and tourism • Minimize the adverse impacts of recreation and tourism on marine species, ecosystems, cultural and heritage resources • Increase the adaptability of recreation and tourism uses and activities to climate change
Forestry Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain key log handling and storage sites while providing opportunities for other users • Reduce impacts of forestry operations on ecosystems and cultural and heritage resources • Identify log handling and storage sites for alternative uses and activities and restoration • Identify a strategic network of log handling sites critical to industry • Increase the adaptability of forestry operations and infrastructure to climate change



Management Direction	Summary of Objectives
Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase support for ecosystem-based aquaculture activities • Maintain local aquaculture opportunities • Increase First Nations' participation in new aquaculture industries; minimize its impacts on First Nations' traditional uses and activities • Improve economic efficiencies and effectiveness among aquaculture producers • Improve branding and marketing of Plan Area aquaculture products • Reduce potential impacts of aquaculture on marine ecosystem health • Anticipate and respond to effects of climate changes on aquaculture
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage new and maintain opportunities for renewable energy generation • Improve understanding of renewable energy technology • Increase benefits and reduce adverse impacts from renewable energy generation projects • Minimize climate change impacts on energy generation and infrastructure
Fishery Economy and Associated Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain support for the fisheries economy as a mainstay of adjacent coastal communities • Coordinate processing and marketing for BC fisheries products and experiences • Utilize available and new tools to reinforce the importance of the First Nations' Food, Social Ceremonial (FSC) fishery • Maintain and enhance species and habitat for sustainable fisheries • Ensure that fisheries infrastructure and processing facilities are capable of responding to climate change implications
Governance and Collaborative Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve understanding of marine governance processes • Increase the participation of First Nations, local residents, local government and stakeholders in marine resource management • Improve relationships and communications between First Nations and local governments • Remove legislative, regulatory and policy constraints to climate change adaptation
Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve capacity for on-the-water surveillance, compliance and enforcement activities • Identify funding and resource opportunities for enabling First Nations involvement in the guardian/watchman program
Research, Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase support for a robust marine research program strategy • Increase participation of First Nations' in marine research • Improve marine training and education programs • Create a shared understanding of marine ecosystems



NVI SPATIAL ZONES

Area specific management direction is provided through spatial zones and associated recommendations for marine uses and activities. The zoning direction helps determine areas that may contribute to NVI and regional marine protection networks, as well identifies areas where special management provisions and conditions are to be applied. The designation of marine space into discrete zones is consistent with both coastal and marine planning and with land use planning in B.C. Zoning is a key tool for **alleviating competition and conflict** and **identifies priority uses and values**.

The following process was used for identifying zoning for the NVI Marine Plan:

- **Confirm approach** for zone and emphasis categories and recommended uses/activities
- **Compare and reconcile planning unit recommendations from previous provincial government coastal plans and the Nanwakolas Ha-ma-yas plan**
- **Analyze data** for resulting new zones and boundaries
- Determine **uses and activities** in preliminary zones
- **Assess, review and adjust** zones and boundaries and uses and activities

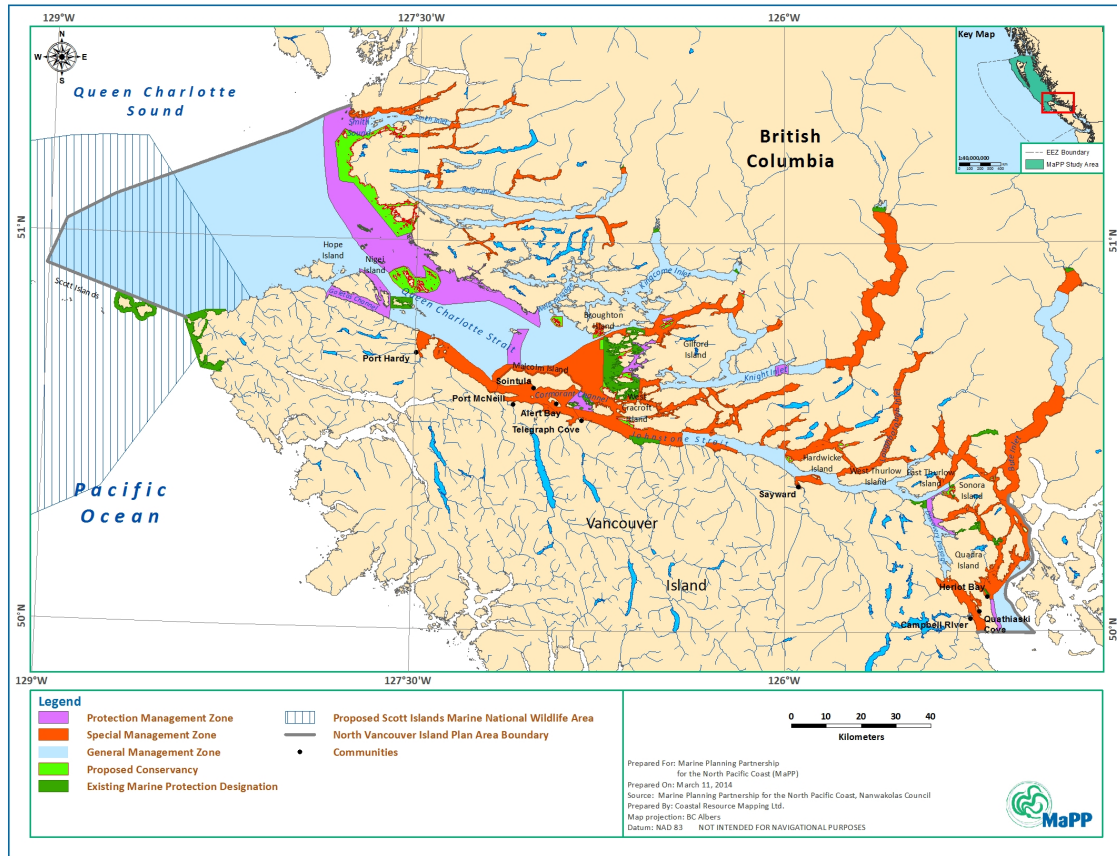
The NVI Marine Plan has three overarching zone types with recommended use and activities:

- **General Management Zone (GMZ)** (*45% of the overall plan area*) – supports a wide range of co-existing sustainable marine uses and activities associated with public, private and community uses
- **Special Management Zone (SMZ)** (*22% of the overall plan area*) – areas of multiple uses and multiple high values/ high potential, and each of the 38 SMZs are assigned a management emphasis of community, recreation/tourism, shellfish aquaculture or cultural/economic
- **Protection Management Zone (PMZ)** (*10 areas which cover 10% of the overall plan area, in addition to 23% of the plan area currently under existing / proposed provincial government marine protection and proposed federal protection*) – allocates space primarily for conservation purposes or objectives. The International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category descriptions are used to generally align the types of protection identified in the plan

Further details on **management provisions and conditions** for each zone may be found in Section 5.4 – 5.6 of the plan.



Figure 2: Spatial Zones in the North Vancouver Island Planning Area



As part of the MaPP zoning framework, associated **Recommended Use and Activities Tables** identify activities that are considered acceptable, not acceptable or conditionally acceptable for each zone. For activities that are conditionally acceptable, area-based conditions are provided. The Nanwakolas Council and Province address the following marine uses and activities in the plan:

- Bottom and off bottom aquaculture sites – shellfish, other invertebrates and plants
- Off bottom aquaculture sites – finfish
- Renewable energy generation
- Forestry and mining operations
- Commercial and recreational anchorage
- Docks, wharves and facilities
- Float homes and floating lodges
- Commercial and public recreation and tourism
- Research
- Linear and point source utilities



Emphasis areas within the SMZ zone are as follows (see draft plan for a map of SMZ areas):

- **Community** – intended to reinforce their value for seasonal and year-round uses and activities associated with nearby communities; uses and activities are compatible with this intent
- **Recreation/tourism** – intended to reinforce their high value to existing commercial tourism operations (particularly during late May to early October). Other uses and activities should minimize interference with access to launch, landing, camping, mooring and diving sites
- **Shellfish aquaculture** – intended to reinforce interest by First Nations in investigation and (if feasible) the development of bottom and off-bottom shellfish aquaculture operations. Other uses and activities should minimize loss of areas with high aquaculture capability, and minimize potential adverse impacts on shellfish operations and ecological requirements
- **Cultural/economic** – intended to reinforce their high value to First Nations, on a seasonal and year-round basis, for cultural value protection, Aboriginal economic development opportunities, and food security. Uses and activities should minimize interference with, or loss of cultural values and activities and aboriginal economic opportunities

Uses and activities associated with each emphasis area are shown in the table below. The corresponding figure of SMZ zones and emphasis areas can be found in the draft plan, along with area-based conditions for conditional uses and activities within the SMZ (Table 15).

Marine Use/Activity	Community Emphasis	Recreation / Tourism Emphasis	Shellfish Aquaculture Emphasis	Cultural / Economic Emphasis
Bottom Aquaculture Sites- Shellfish, Other Invertebrates, Marine Plants	C	A	A	A
Off Bottom Aquaculture Sites- Shellfish, Other Invertebrates, Marine Plants	C	C	A	C
Off Bottom Aquaculture Sites- Finfish	C	C	C	C
Renewable Energy Generation	C	C	C	C
Forestry Operations	C	C	C	C
Mining Operations	N	N	N	N
Commercial & Recreational Anchorage	C	A	C	C
Level 1 Docks, Wharves & Facilities	A	A	C	C
Level 2 Docks, Wharves & Facilities	C	C	N	N
Float Homes	C	N	N	N
Floating Lodges	C	A	C	C
Commercial Recreation & Tourism	C	C	A	C
Public Recreation & Tourism	A	A	A	C
Research	A	A	A	C
Linear & Point-Source Utilities	A	A	C	C
A	The use/activity is acceptable subject to all existing legislation, policy and relevant agreements. Acceptability of any use/activity does not guarantee that the use/activity it will be approved by the appropriate management body(ies).			
C	The use/activity is acceptable subject to all existing legislation, policy and relevant agreements and adherence to the Plan conditions. Conditional acceptability does not guarantee that the use/activity will be approved by the appropriate management body(ies).			
N	The use/activity is not acceptable and should not be approved by the appropriate management body(ies).			
<i>Where a use/activity is outside provincial regulatory authority, the approval of that use/activity is subject to the decision-making process (es) of the responsible authorities. Absence of a use/activity in this table does not imply that the use/activity was not considered or evaluated in the above recommendations or is of no interest or is acceptable.</i>				



The PMZ includes ten unique –areas (see draft plan for a map of PMZ areas, descriptions, provisions, recommended uses and activities, and conditions). Formal designation of PMZ areas in the future may include a variety of different governance tools and would not occur without full consideration and analysis of social, economic and cultural impacts.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The plan is intended to remain relevant to changing issues, priorities and conditions. This will be accomplished through Marine Plan Monitoring and Implementation Committee (MPMIC), a joint Technical Team and a Senior Management Committee. An **Implementation Agreement** will be negotiated between the Nānwakōlas Council and the Province.

While all the strategies identified in the plan are important elements of an integrated EBM approach for North Vancouver Island waters, objectives and strategies will be implemented on a **priority basis**, as set out in the Implementation Agreement and overseen by the two parties with advice from a stakeholder committee. The goal is to implement all strategies over the longer term, as funding and other resources permit. Continued collaboration and integration will be essential as work is conducted on all plan strategies.

Implementation performance measures will be used to assess the degree to which plan strategies and zoning recommendations are being followed. **EBM implementation indicators** will be selected to measure the long-term changes to marine ecosystems, including community and human health changes. An annual review will include an assessment of whether the implemented plan strategies are performing as intended and achieving the intent of the objectives.

A use or activity identified in the plan as “Conditionally Acceptable” or “Not Acceptable” may be challenged by a proponent. The plan variation process involves referring the proposal to the stakeholder advisory committee for their recommendations prior to a decision by the provincial government.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Marine Planning Partnership: <http://mappocean.org/>

Draft NVI Marine Plan: <http://mappocean.org/north-vancouver-island/draft-plan-for-input/>

Frequently asked questions: <http://mappocean.org/about-mapp/faqs/>

We want to hear your thoughts on the draft plan. For information on the public meetings and ways to provide feedback please see <http://mappocean.org/>