



Haida Nation &
Province of British Columbia

AN OVERVIEW

HAIDA GWAI MARINE PLAN

2015

Cite as: Marine Planning Partnership Initiative. 2015. An Overview: Haida Gwaii Marine Plan
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HAIDA NATION



WHY was this plan developed?

HAIDA GWAI 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 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 or 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 Marine Plan will provide an integrated ecosystem-based approach to management of the ocean resources on the Pacific north coast.



Photo - Marlene Liddle



WHO developed this plan?

THE MAPP PROCESS for Haida Gwaii is co-led by the Council of the Haida Nation (“CHN”) and the Province of British Columbia. The Marine Plan has been jointly developed by both parties based on the input of the Haida community and other residents of the islands, stakeholders, local government and the broader public. Considerable input was also provided by the Haida Marine Work Group and Haida Gwaii Marine Advisory Committee. The Haida Marine Work Group has representatives of the CHN, Hereditary Chiefs Council, 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 BC on the development of the Marine Plan. For more information, see [SECTION 2](#) of the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan.

The Haida Gwaii Marine Plan is part of the broader First Nations–BC Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP) initiative. The content of the plan is relevant for matters within the constitutional authority of the Government of British Columbia and Council of Haida Nation, pursuant to Canada’s Constitution and the Constitution of the Haida Nation, respectively. Launched in November 2011, MaPP is a collaborative planning process enabled through a government-to-government arrangement between the Province of BC, 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.



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 overview.



Members of the Haida Marine Work Group and Haida Oceans Technical Team (HOTT) (August 2014) – from left to right: (Front) Russ Jones (HOTT), Allan Wilson, Harold Yeltatzie (alternate), Robert Davis (Back) Lonnie Young, Catherine Rigg (HOTT), Melinda Pick, Shawn Cowpar, Molly Clarkson (HOTT), Judson Brown

Present members (not shown): Jason Alsop (alternate), Robert Bennett, James Cowpar (alternate), Captain Gold, Guujaaw (alternate), Brandon Kallio, Michelle McDonald, Richard Smith Jr. (alternate)

Past Members: Barney Edgars, Ed Russ, the late Dempsey Collinson, the late John Williams, the late Ron Williams, the late Godfrey Williams, the late Reynold Russ



Members of the Haida Gwaii Marine Advisory Committee (December 2012) – from left to right: Lynn Lee, Lindsey Doerkson, Bill White, Doug Dugert, LaVerne Davies, Mike McGuire, Sabine Jessen, Jim McIsaac, Tony Pitcher, Barb Rowsell, John McCulloch, Allan Wilson

Present members (not shown): 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 following 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 Marine Plan:

Yahguudang or Yakguudang Respect

‘Laa guu ga kanhlins 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.



Photo - Heather Ramsay

HAIDA GWAII'S MARINE FUTURE

A Conservation & Local Economy Pathway

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.”

20 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 island's 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.

YOUR VISION, MY VISION, OUR VISION



WHAT is the purpose of the Marine Plan?

HAIDA GWAII'S Marine Plan is a guide for making the vision for the islands' marine future a reality. This is what it does:

Provides a framework for joint or shared management of marine and coastal areas in and around Haida Gwaii through an ecosystem-based approach to management and marine resource decision-making;

Provides policy, detailed planning, and management direction regarding marine uses, activities and values throughout the plan area that are within the jurisdictional authority of BC and/or the CHN;

Identifies acceptable marine uses that support sustainable communities while protecting and, where necessary, restoring marine ecosystems;

Supports marine economic development and provides direction for encouraging and managing future growth;

Provides guidance for tenuring and marine resource use decisions by BC and CHN in Haida Gwaii waters;

Provides valuable information that will make important contributions to future processes between CHN, BC and/or Canada, such as identifying areas for consideration in the development of a marine protected area network; and

Identifies changes to existing CHN-BC protected areas including zoning, allowable uses and enhancements to marine protection.

HOW it works

Along with introductory chapters that include the plan vision, goals, jurisdictional context, description of the plan area and key issues and opportunities, the Marine Plan has four main sections that provide future management direction and implementable actions on Haida Gwaii:

1. 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.

2. Economic Development Direction describes objectives and strategies aimed at promoting sustainable growth and managing marine economic development opportunities with good potential in Haida Gwaii.

3. 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 Zones are identified for about 20% of the planning area. 0.5% 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.

4. Plan Implementation, Monitoring and Amendment describes how we will move forward with the Marine Plan and how changes can be made now that the plan has been approved.

EACH of these sections
is described in the
following pages.

1. GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

THE MARINE 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. The eight management components are shown below. Refer to [SECTION 6](#) of the plan for details.

Governance and Integrated Management – maintaining and establishing governance relationships that support effective implementation of the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan

Cultural Values and Archaeological Sites and Areas – documenting, protecting and monitoring of known cultural, archeological and natural history sites and areas

Ecological Values and Significant Features – protecting species at risk and addressing invasive species to increase ecosystem resilience and build knowledge of Haida Gwaii biodiversity

Ecological Issues Related to the Fisheries Economy – utilizing an ecosystem based management framework that considers interactions between species and marine activities

Human Wellbeing – increasing local cultural, social and economic values and benefits, and supporting Haida Gwaii marine infrastructure

Marine Pollution and Spills – minimizing pollution and increasing capacity to respond to marine emergencies

Logging-related Marine Activities – applying best practices and restoring habitat

Climate Change – adapting to change and mitigating potential impacts on Haida Gwaii communities



2. 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 below.

Marine tourism – positioning Haida Gwaii as a premier tourism destination and increasing local economic benefits from the marine tourism industry

Shellfish aquaculture – producing and marketing sustainable aquaculture products

Community-based fisheries economy – increasing local participation and opportunities based on sustainable wild fisheries

Marine research and monitoring – documenting baseline data and monitoring changing conditions

Marine renewable energy – supporting development such as wind or tidal energy projects that benefit local communities



Photo: Jaga

3. SPATIAL ZONING

AS PART OF THE marine planning process, partner First Nations, including the CHN, and the Province of BC developed and applied three overarching zone types with recommended uses and activities:

The **General Management Zone (GMZ)** comprises the majority of the plan area (72.4%) 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

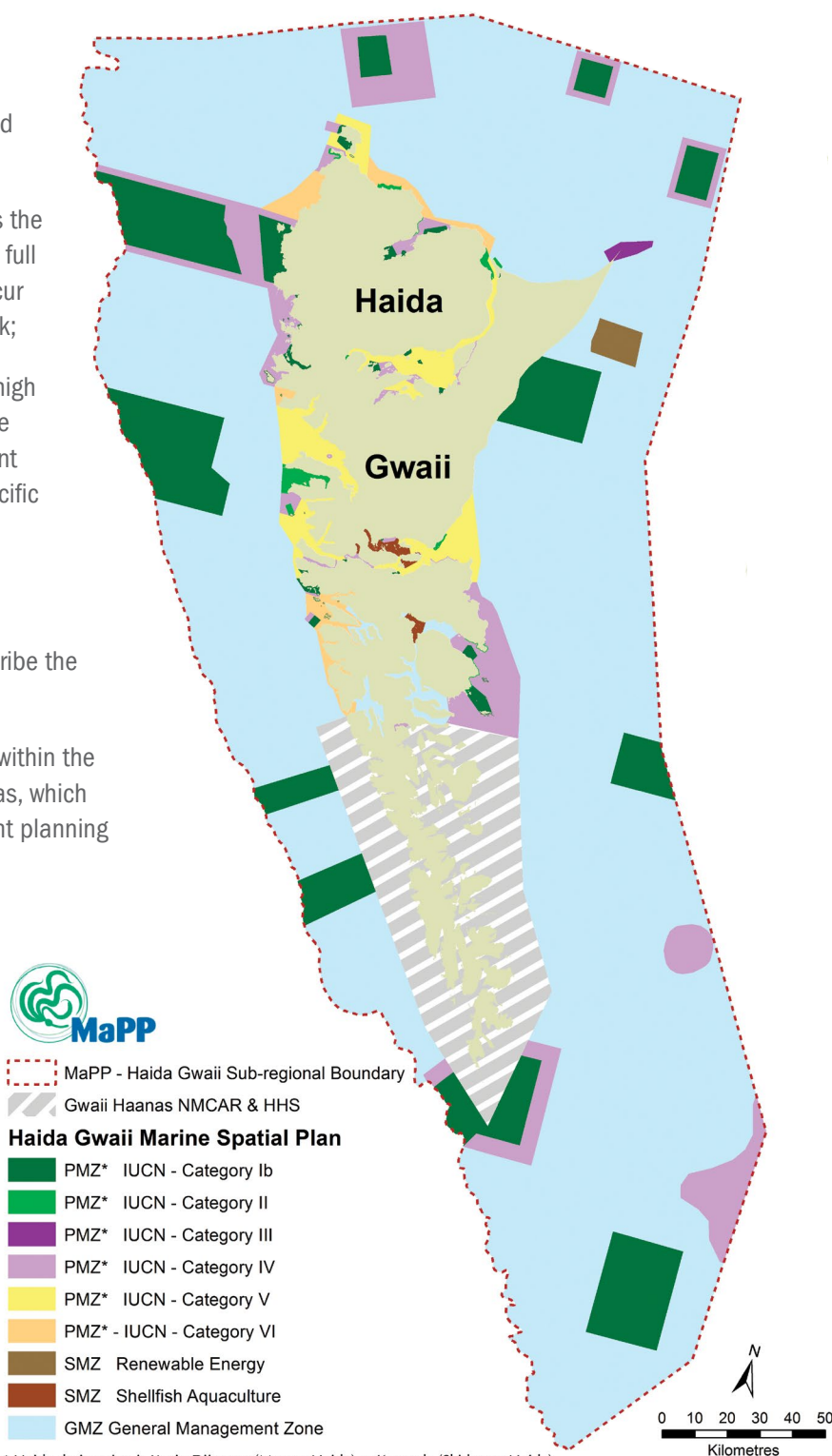
Protection Management Zones (PMZ) are areas identified primarily for conservation purposes or objectives. PMZs include several categories to describe the recommended levels of protection.

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.

SMZs 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.

Haida names for PMZs have been identified and incorporated into the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan and supporting background documents.

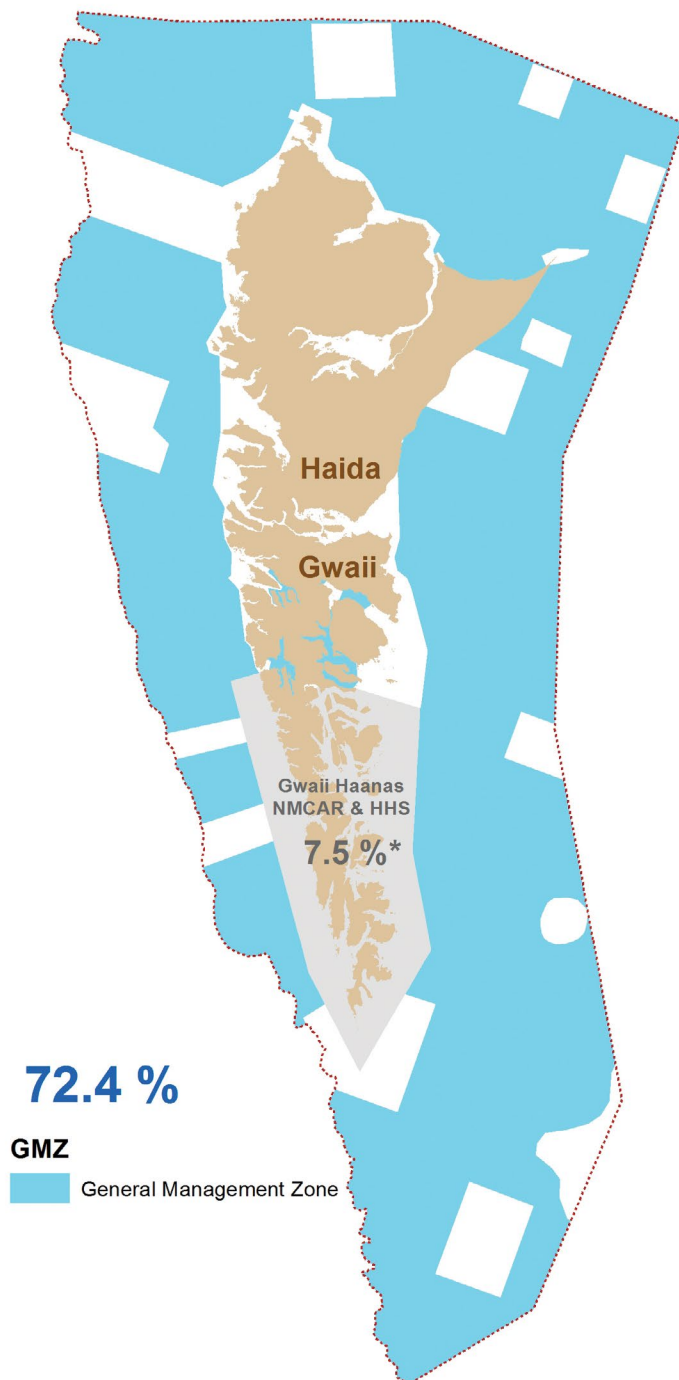
For details, please refer to [SECTION 8](#) of the Marine Plan.



* Haida designation is Kagin Diiyagan (Masset Haida) or Kuuyada (Skidegate Haida). Zoning does not direct uses or activities outside of provincial regulatory authority.

IUCN categories are based on the *Guidelines for Applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas*.

3. SPATIAL ZONING



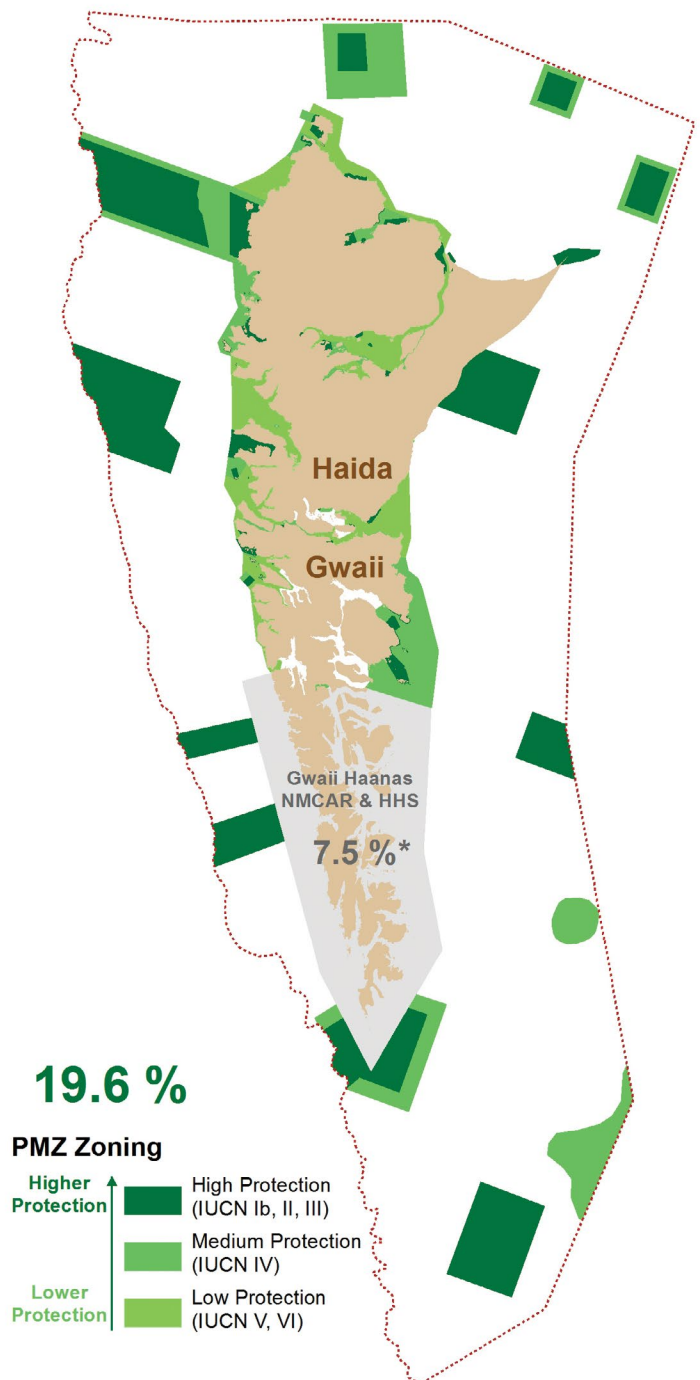
General Management Zone (GMZ):

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

*NOTE: The additional 7.5% of the MaPP Haida Gwaii sub-region falls within Gwaii Haanas through a separate planning process.

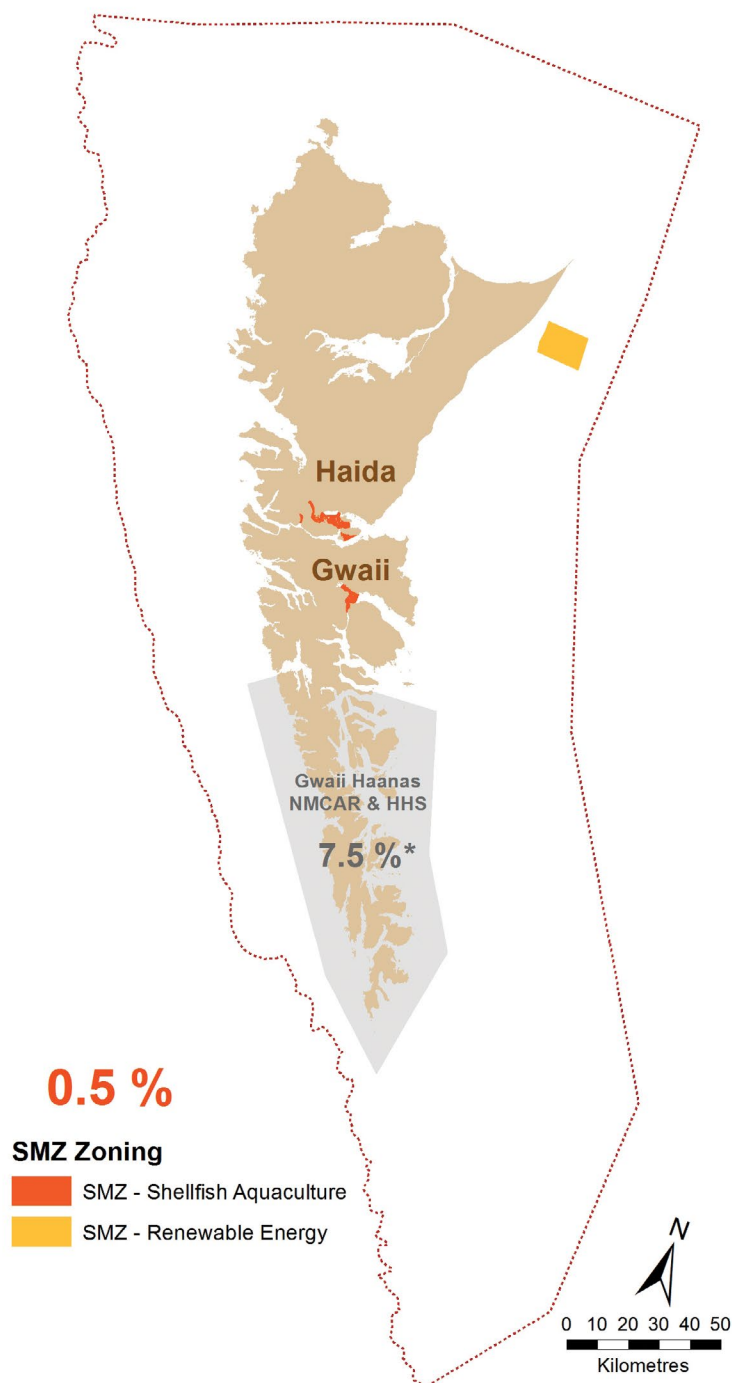
Zoning does not direct uses or activities outside of provincial regulatory authority.

IUCN categories are based on the *Guidelines for Applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas*.



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):

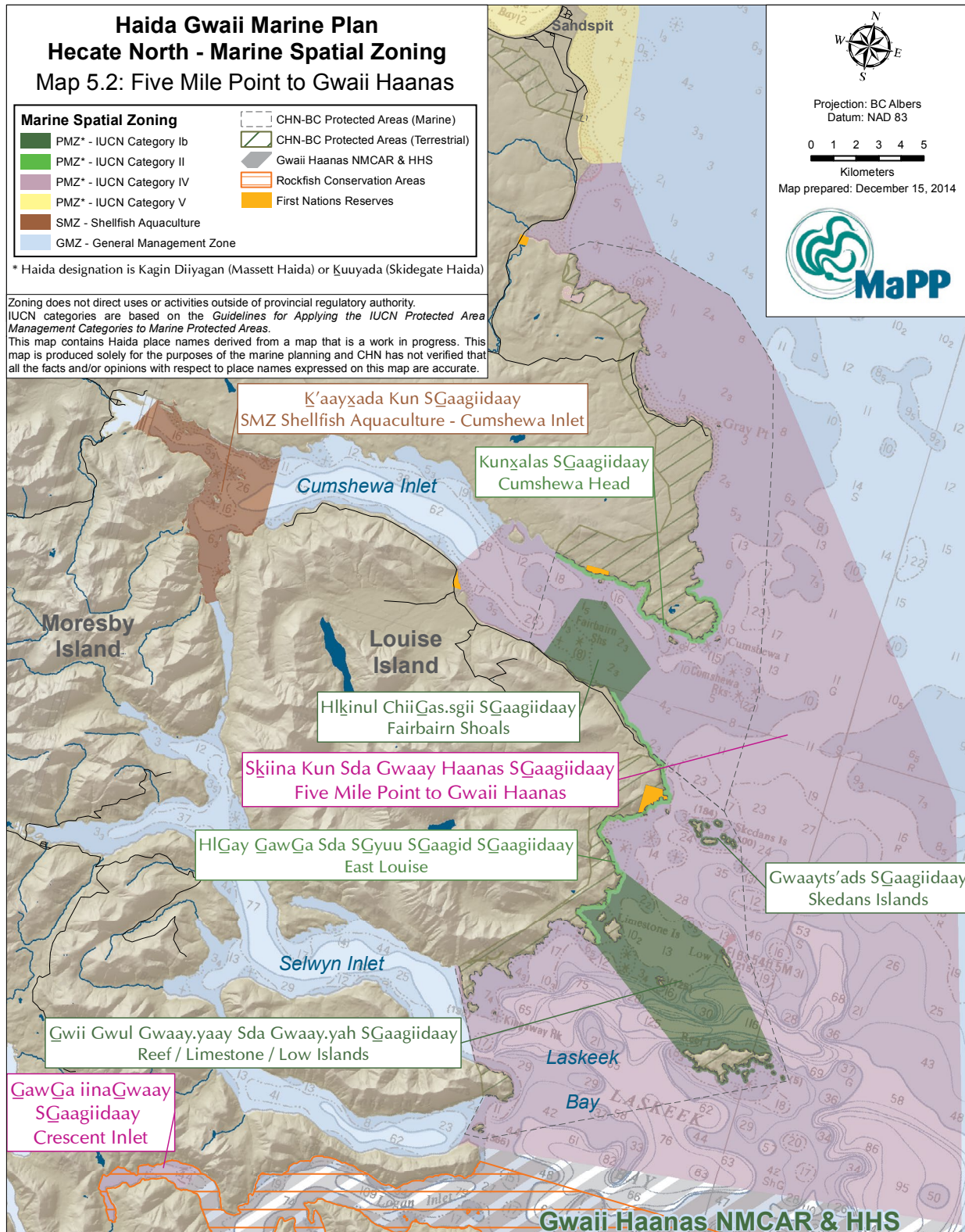
Areas particularly well-suited to specific sustainable marine uses and activities. The Haida Gwaii Marine Plan recognizes areas with high capability for shellfish aquaculture and marine-based renewable energy.

THE PLANNING TEAM has identified Protection Management Zones based on important ecological, economic, cultural and social values around Haida Gwaii. For example, 10.3% of the plan area has been zoned for higher levels of protection. These PMZs 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 zoned for lower levels of protection (9.3% of the plan area). Special Management Zones have been identified for areas having high capability for shellfish aquaculture (0.1% of the area) and marine-based alternative energy (0.3% of the area).

Each of the SMZs and PMZs 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.

Haida Gwaii Spatial Zoning: Five Mile Point to Gwaii Haanas Profile

The Haida Gwaii plan area was divided into multiple geographic areas to better display the management zones. The spatial recommendations for Five Mile Point to Gwaii Haanas are profiled for illustrative purposes below. The recommended uses and activities for each zone in the Five Mile Point to Gwaii Haanas area are shown in the facing table. Maps of other areas and associated recommended uses and activities can be found in [SECTION 8](#) of the plan.



Five Mile Point to Gwaii Haanas Recommended Uses and Activities Table.

Category	Site Name	Zone Type									
		Marine Uses and Activities	GMZ	SMZ	PMZ*			PMZ*			PMZ*
Aquaculture	Bottom Culture Aquaculture Siting – Plants, Shellfish, Other Invertebrates		✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Off Bottom Aquaculture Siting – Plants, Shellfish, Other Invertebrates		✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Off-Bottom Aquaculture Siting – Finfish		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Energy	Renewable Energy Generation		✓	O ⁷	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Industry	Forestry Operations		✓	O ¹¹	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Mining Operations		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Commercial and Recreational Anchorages		✓	O ⁷	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}
Infrastructure	Float Homes		✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Floating Lodges		✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	O ^{2,4}	X
	Level 1 Docks, Wharves & Facilities		✓	O ⁷	X	O ^{2,4,8}	O ^{2,3,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}
Recreation/ Tourism	Level 2 Docks, Wharves & Facilities		✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Commercial Recreation and Tourism		✓	✓	O ²	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	✓	✓
	Public Recreation and Tourism		✓	✓	O ²	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	O ^{2,4}	✓	✓
Research	Research		✓	✓	O ¹	O ¹	O ¹	O ^{1,4}	O ^{1,4}	✓	✓
Utilities	Linear Utilities		✓	O ⁷	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Point Source Utilities		✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
* Haida designation is Kagin Diiyagan (Massett Haida) or Nuu'yada (Skidegate Haida)											
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 does not imply that the use/activity was not considered or evaluated or is of no interest. The reader should contact the appropriate management authority(ies) for direction on uses/activities in such circumstances. Zoning does not direct uses or activities outside of provincial regulatory authority.											
Key:											
Haida traditional uses, including practices for food, social, ceremonial and stewardship purposes, continue in accordance with legal obligations.											
Acceptable: Uses and activities are considered to be 'acceptable' subject to applicable laws, policy and relevant agreements between the Parties. Acceptability of any use/activity does not guarantee that a use/activity will be approved.											
Conditionally Acceptable: Uses and activities are considered to be 'conditionally acceptable' subject to applicable laws, policy and relevant agreements between the Parties, and provided they are consistent with (adhere to) the plan conditions. Conditional acceptability of any use/activity does not guarantee that a use/activity will be approved.											
Not Acceptable: Uses and activities are considered to be 'not acceptable' and should not be approved.											
Not Applicable: The use or activity could not or would not occur in this zone due to the physical environment or other limitations (e.g. forestry operations in offshore PMZs).											
Note: This table does not alter the Council of Haida Nation and Province of BC referral obligations under existing agreements. Please see Chapter 8 of the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan 2015 for more details on the associated recommended uses and activities including conditional statements and additional considerations.											

4. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & AMENDMENT

THE MARINE PLAN is implemented through the application of plan direction to the evaluation and management of marine uses and activities. Implementation of the Marine Plan will be guided and overseen through the development of a Haida Gwaii Marine Plan Implementation Agreement.

Objectives and strategies in this Marine Plan will be implemented on a priority basis, as set out in the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan Implementation Agreement (see below for a list of key outcomes and priority actions). The goal is to implement all strategies in the Marine Plan over the longer term, as funding and other resources permit.

Monitoring will occur to track plan performance and plan effectiveness. The status of performance indicators will be reported each year in an annual report and a comprehensive monitoring report on the status of ecological and human well-being indicators will be published every 5 years.

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

KEY OUTCOMES

PRIORITY ACTIONS

A. INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Government-to-Government Frameworks

1. Build on existing relationships and structures to establish a Haida Gwaii Governance Framework to implement the Marine Plan and address marine issues.
2. Establish a Regional Governance Framework to oversee implementation of all marine plans at a regional scale and MPA network planning.

Ongoing stakeholder engagement

3. Prepare an engagement plan and establish a stakeholder advisory process to provide input into Marine Plan implementation.

B. MARINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Successful Haida Gwaii marine economy

4. Work with others to promote Haida Gwaii as a tourism destination and encourage development of sustainable tourism products that support the local economy.
5. Continue to encourage appropriate business development related to shellfish aquaculture.
6. Support Haida Gwaii opportunities for community-based fisheries, including local fish processing and marketing and development of local brands.
7. Support opportunities for research and monitoring to meet conservation and EBM mandates.
8. Continue to assess opportunities for marine-based renewable energy and encourage development in suitable locations.
9. Undertake a needs assessment for marine infrastructure and encourage transportation services to support economic development.
10. Promote Haida Gwaii training and business programs, including for youth.
11. Develop strategic partnerships to support Marine Plan implementation.

KEY OUTCOMES	PRIORITY ACTIONS
Sustainable recreational fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Prepare a Haida Gwaii Recreational Fishing Code of Conduct. 13. Prepare a Haida Gwaii Recreational Fishery Management Plan, including a recreational fishing capacity study, to guide decision-making by CHN and BC related to tenuring.
Sustainable shellfish aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Prepare a Shellfish Aquaculture Management Plan, including a study of shellfish aquaculture capacity limits, to guide decision-making by CHN and BC related to tenuring.
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C. EBM MONITORING and RESEARCH	
Increased monitoring and restoration of marine resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Identify Haida Gwaii performance and plan effectiveness indicators and implement an EBM monitoring plan. 16. Support baseline research and monitoring activities (e.g., in PMZs). 17. Assess the feasibility of establishing a Haida Gwaii research institute.
Enhanced management and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Update management plans for existing CHN/BC protected areas to be consistent with the Marine Plan. 19. Initiate pilot projects for integrated management e.g., develop and implement management plans for Masset Inlet and/or Skidegate Inlet. 20. Undertake restoration and mitigation activities, such as initiatives related to management of sewage discharge, habitat impacts of log booming, and management of invasive species (e.g., tunicates in Masset Slough and Sandspit).
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D. COMPLIANCE and ENFORCEMENT	
Coordinated terrestrial and marine compliance and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Prepare a Haida Gwaii Compliance and Enforcement Framework that integrates marine and terrestrial management and addresses capacity development and funding.
<hr/>	
E. MPA Network Planning	
Designation of candidate marine protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22. Continued development and establishment of a marine protected area network, including working with other First Nations and the federal government (e.g., the Canada-BC MPA Network Strategy and any revised governance process).
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F. COMMUNICATIONS and EDUCATION	
Increased awareness and understanding of the marine plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Undertake coordinated CHN/BC outreach and education regarding the Marine Plan.
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G. GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE PLANNING	
Preparedness for marine emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24. Prepare and implement a Haida Gwaii Geographic Response Plan for priority areas.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

Council of the Haida Nation
haidanation.ca

MaPP mappocean.org

Province of BC
www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/SLRP/



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