

MARINE PLAN PARTNERSHIP FOR
THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST

NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND PLAN AREA ANNUAL REPORT

2017



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MESSAGE FROM THE NVI MARINE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

On behalf of the Nānwakolas Council and the Province of British Columbia, the North Vancouver Island (NVI) Implementation Technical Team is pleased to present the 2016 – 2017 NVI Annual Report. This report describes implementation activities during the period from April 1, 2016 – to March 31, 2017.

We are pleased to report significant progress in most topic areas identified in the plan, and look forward to continuing momentum in the implementation of objectives and strategies of the plan and hope you enjoy learning about what we have managed to accomplish so far.

Sincerely,

John Bones, (Co-lead, Nānwakolas Council)

Andy Witt, (Co-lead, Province of B.C.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all the individuals who participated in activities contributing towards the implementation of the North Vancouver Island Marine Plan in 2016-2017. Thanks go to the member First Nations of the Nanwakolas Council: Mamalilikulla, Tlowitsis, Da'naxda'xw Awaetlatla, Wei Wai Kum, Kwiakah and K'omoks, and to the Province of B.C. The valued input and advice of members of the Marine Plan Advisory Committee is gratefully acknowledged. These volunteers from various marine sectors and interests, as well as local governments, continue to provide expert advice, time, enthusiasm and humour to the development, review and completion of implementation projects. We would also like to thank the independent consultants, MaPP contractors and other collaborators in helping us to achieve recommended strategies outlined in the NVI Marine Plan.

Lastly, none of this would be possible without the ongoing financial support of Tides Canada on behalf of MaPP implementation funding organizations.



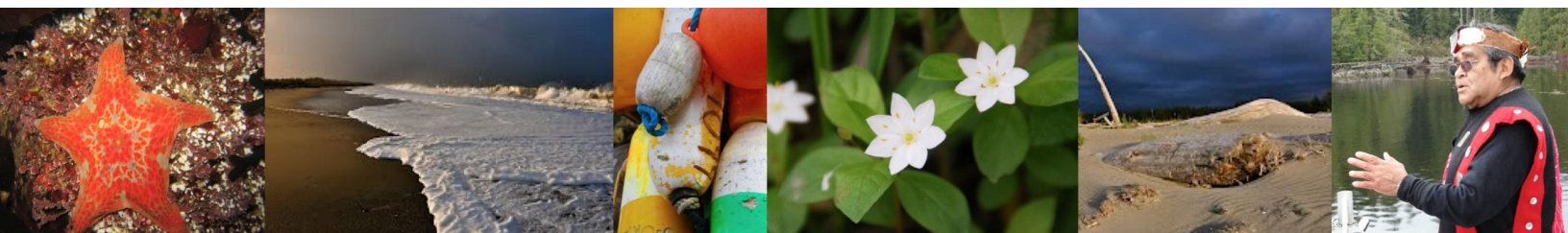
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report outlines key achievements, progress and challenges related to implementation of the NVI Marine Plan in the April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 fiscal year. The NVI MaPP partner priorities during the fiscal year of implementation were cultural protection, economic stability and development, conservation, and governance.

Implementation activities occurred in all five MaPP outcome areas: governance and collaboration; marine zoning; stewardship, monitoring and enforcement; sustainable economic development and healthy communities; and climate change and adaptive management. One significant achievement during this reporting year is the establishment of the NVI Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) for implementation. Two meetings of the MPAC were held on implementation activities and priorities, plan performance measure reporting, regional and sub-regional ecosystem-based management (EBM) indicator selection, plan zones and uses, and federal initiatives. Another key accomplishment was the completion of the first phase of draft protection management zone (PMZ) plans. In addition, significant progress was made in cultural and archaeological site inventory, predictive modelling and assessment of vulnerability and sensitivity. For economic stability and growth, a shellfish aquaculture pilot project was begun, with the intent of testing the commercial viability for blue mussels and scallop culture.

Some of the key challenges faced in the reporting year were delays in implementation agreements, necessitating delay in initiating some of the work plan activities. The Technical Team also decided to shift some sub-regional work plan priorities to better align with scheduled regional work plan activities and to enhance synergies with federal initiatives.

Looking ahead to 2017-2018, the focus will be building on work performed during the 2016-2017 fiscal year as well as supporting the Regional and Sub-regional Ecosystem Based Management Indicator Strategies, public outreach and education on the value of our marine environment, pollution vulnerability, infrastructure analysis and recreation and tourism economic development opportunities.



IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS DETAILS



The initial focus for the NVI Technical Team was to address plan objectives and strategies that lay the foundation for achieving key partner priorities. The priorities were identified based on significance of issue, sequencing required, and alignment with other sub-regional and/or regional work. The partner priorities during the 2016-2017 fiscal year of implementation were cultural site protection, economic stability and development, conservation, and governance. Key achievements during the fiscal

year of implementation are described below in accordance with MaPP strategic outcomes, and scored by status of relevant plan strategy. Although all the strategies within this report are organized within the five key outcome areas, some strategies span multiple outcome areas.

The Strategy Status scoring approach is as follows:

Complete/ functioning	Of the <u>discrete</u> activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, all are completed. Of the <u>continuous</u> activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, all are fully operational and ongoing
On track	All <u>discrete</u> activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in the relevant budget year (i.e., Year 2, Year 3 or Year 4) are completed. All <u>continuous</u> activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in the relevant budget year are fully operational
In development/some activities initiated	Of the activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, some have been initiated or are in development, but not all are yet complete/ functioning
Not started	No activities for this strategy have been initiated or planned for the time period or geography (region/ sub-region)
At risk/ significantly behind schedule	Activities for this strategy are not progressing as planned, are behind schedule, or are projected to be behind schedule based on foreseeable risks

Outcome 1: Governance and Collaboration – *Strengthening the model of collaborative oceans governance.*

Highlights of achievements for the 2016-2017 fiscal year are as follows:

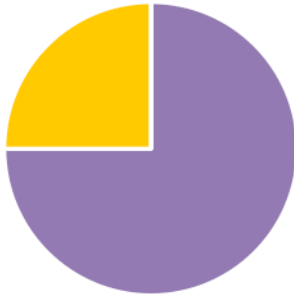
- The Nanwakolas Council and the Province of B.C. signed an implementation agreement in August 2016. The agreement outlines structures and processes for how the partners will collaborate to implement the MaPP North Vancouver Island Marine Plan.
- A stakeholder engagement strategy template and terms of reference for MaPP Implementation were drafted and used to invite stakeholders and local government to participate in an NVI Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) for plan implementation.
- MPAC membership was expanded to include the two largest municipalities as well as the two main regional districts, and a local harbour authority.
- Two MPAC meetings were held (Oct. 17-18, 2016 and Feb. 8-9, 2017) to discuss implementation activities, plan performance measure reporting, plan zones and uses, and federal initiatives.
- A contract was issued and completed for a log-handling strategic network for NVI that included assessing all existing sites for long-term need and alternative uses, as well as accompanying management provisions for resolving user conflicts and recommendations addressing liability concerns for multiple uses of tenured sites.
- A contract was issued and completed for the development of Recommendations towards a cultural heritage action plan. The report outlines suggestions for cultural heritage protection at three scales to better protect the most vulnerable sites, areas and landscapes of the NVI Marine Plan area. Appropriate provincial agencies are being engaged to use this report to develop an action plan for the NVI partners.
- The B.C. partner is engaging provincial staff on the inclusion of MaPP plan direction in tenure decision-making and related business processes.
- Preliminary discussions have been held on development of restoration activities and potential governance tools that could be applied to achieve objectives.
- The B.C. partner has committed to undertake a review of all potential provincial legislative tools that could be applied to zone areas within the plan.
- A full list of strategies related to this MaPP outcome is in Table 1.



Table 1. List of collaboration and governance strategies in the approved 2016-2017 work plan.

Strategy	Status of Strategy
FO.1.1.2 Develop a strategic network of log-handling and storage sites that accommodates future industry requirements.	On track
FO.1.1.4 Consult with First Nations, local governments and key marine sectors to ensure that the strategic network of log-handling and storage sites is established with consideration for areas of First Nations importance and value, such as loxiwe and areas of key marine sector importance.	On track
FO.3.1.3 Build on existing agreements to develop management provisions for resolving temporal conflicts between log handling and storage and other marine uses and activities, including recreation and tourism, and First Nations seasonal uses and activities.	On track
CHR.3.1.2 Develop a joint action plan based on the vulnerability assessment of human impacts (Strategy 3.1.1) that includes a description of legislative tools and how they apply, restrictions on access and/or visitation guidelines, an efficient process for managing development where cultural or heritage resources may be or are being impacted, and appropriate communications tools.	In development/some activities initiated
Stakeholder Engagement Meetings: In addition to an annual meeting, PIMC (a.k.a. MPAC) will meet as required to provide advice on important implementation activities. These will generally reflect the implementation priorities in the plan area and are also expected to include discussions on PMZ and other zoned areas. Conflict resolution mechanisms will be established, based on existing best practices and guidelines, and used where appropriate to guide stakeholder discussions on priority implementation activities. Where necessary, PIMC sub-committees may be struck to assist in development of advice.	On track

Collaboration and Governance Strategies



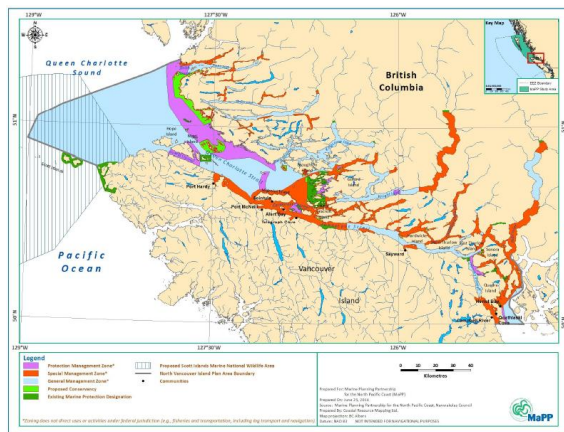
- Complete/ functioning
- On track
- In development
- At risk/ sig behind
- Not started

Of the above strategies initiated in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, all but one are on track. The cultural and heritage joint action plan for protection of vulnerable sites was started but needs further refinement. The consultant report provided considerations for an action plan, which now require a more thorough evaluation for their inclusion in a final action plan for partner endorsement. This includes the need for further discussions and collaborations with the Heritage Branch. More work on this is planned for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.



Outcome 2: Marine Zoning - Achieving a healthy marine environment, robust economy and strong communities through zoning.

Highlights of achievements for the 2016-2017 fiscal year are as follows:



A contract was issued and completed to develop the first phase of draft protection management zone (PMZ) plans. This included a short description, and accumulated information on: ecological/cultural/environmental significance; existing uses and activities; current management provisions; known tenured uses and activities; adjacent activities; and potential additional provisions or conditions.

Both partners continue to be engaged in the Marine Protected Areas Network development process to ensure that the MaPP plan recommendations are considered in network design strategies and that NVI stakeholders are effectively engaged.

A full list of strategies related to this MaPP outcome is in Table 2.

Table 2. List of marine zoning strategies in the approved year 2016-2017 work plan.

Strategy	Status of Strategy
CP.1.1.1 Through applicable processes, identify and propose new conservation and protection areas for ecosystem and species representation and resilience, special or unique marine areas or features, and protection of First Nations cultural resources.	In development/some activities initiated
CP.1.1.3 Undertake protection management planning for protection management zone areas approved as part of this plan.	On track

Marine Zoning Strategies



- Complete/ functioning
- On track
- In development
- At risk/ sig behind
- Not started

Identification of new conservation and protection areas is a process which will take significant effort by both partners to complete. A site visit to the Salmon River Estuary with K'omoks First Nation guardian staff took place in June 2016 and planning is underway by the Province for meetings with the K'omoks First Nation on improving the protection status for the ecologically important areas of the Salmon River Estuary. This may range from designating parts of the area as a Section 16 land reserve (an initial area is currently under application) to considering future formal designation as a wildlife management area (WMA). More work on this is planned for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.



Outcome 3: Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement – *Enhancing stewardship of ecological and cultural values, and archaeological sites and areas through monitoring and enforcement.*

Highlights of achievements for the 2016-2017 fiscal year are as follows:

- A 1.5 day EBM workshop took place in April 2016 where members of the NVI MPAC and EBM specialists gathered to discuss a draft regional suite of EBM indicators and to develop a draft list of NVI sub-regional indicators.
- A contract was issued and completed to conduct a cultural heritage inventory and vulnerability assessment of sites within the NVI plan area. A field program was conducted that documented known and unknown sites and assessed vulnerability of these sites. A vulnerability classification system was applied to the NVI plan area and an assessment was completed identifying 78 very highly vulnerable, 562 highly vulnerable, 1,786 of medium vulnerable and 200 low vulnerable sites.
- A contract was issued and a report completed that outlined all potential funding sources for First Nation Guardian Watchmen programs.



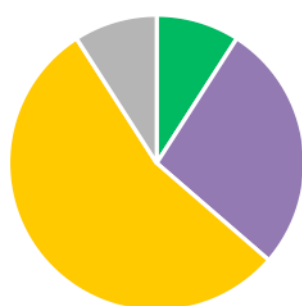
A full list of strategies related to this MaPP outcome is in Table 3.

Table 3. List of stewardship, monitoring and enforcement strategies in the approved 2016-2017 work plan.

Strategy	Status of Strategy
RET.1.1.2 Work with organizations, institutions, industry and governments to develop robust and objective baseline research and monitoring programs.	On track
CHR.1.1.2 Undertake additional cultural and archaeological surveys field verification for culture and heritage resources.	On track
CHR.3.1.1 Prepare a joint provincial government/Nanwakolas member First Nations vulnerability assessment to identify marine cultural and heritage resources that have been or could be impacted by human disturbance.	On track
P.4.1.2 Identify opportunities and funding for local and First Nations community participation in the restoration of priority sites, including sites with degraded habitat from past tenured activities.	In development/some activities initiated

P.4.1.3 Identify and confirm funding sources for local participation in restoration/adaptation programs for species and habitat.	In development/some activities initiated
RCE.2.1.2 Increase the use of Guardian Watchmen programs to assist with monitoring and facilitating compliance with tenure provisions, marine plans and existing regulations. This could include, but is not limited to, ecological conditions, conservancies and protected areas, marine oil spill response, cultural and heritage resources, and related early warning systems.	Not started/ not applicable to certain sub-regions
RCE.2.1.4 Identify funding and resource opportunities for enabling First Nations involvement in the Guardian Watchmen program.	Complete/ functioning
P.3.1.1 Assess spill preparedness and response management capacity from appropriate government agencies, industry and community perspectives.	In development/some activities initiated
P.3.1.3 Work with appropriate government agencies, industry and local communities to establish locally specific geographic response plans and response centres, including training, preparation and equipment for effective response to both local and regional marine spills.	In development/some activities initiated
P.3.1.4 Establish a working group that includes appropriate government agencies and First Nations to address marine spill challenges, including financing, industry response times and capacity, spill management techniques, cleanup levels and standards, improved training and preparedness and response mapping systems.	In development/some activities initiated

Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement Strategies



- Complete/ functioning
- On track
- In development
- At risk/ sig behind
- Not started

Of the above strategies initiated in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, a significant number weren't advanced as much as projected. The pollution restoration work planned to start in early 2016, was delayed due to the federal government announcement of its Oceans Protection Plan. That announcement made commitments to collaborations with local pollution restoration initiatives. The NVI team recognized this collaboration would take time to develop, so decided to initiate the work in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. MaPP has begun a regional strategy around geographic response planning for all sub-regions of MaPP, which caused a delay in the start of related work for North Vancouver Island. Look for this work to begin in early fiscal 2017-2018. Lastly, increasing the use of Guardian Watchmen is still a top priority for our sub-region. More work needs to take place to explore opportunities for the Guardian Watchmen to assist with monitoring and facilitating compliance with tenure provisions, marine plans and existing regulations. Further work will take place on this strategy in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Outcome 4: Sustainable Economic Development Healthy Communities – *Fostering a new ecosystem-based marine economy for improved community and human well-being.*

Highlights of achievements for the 2016-2017 fiscal year are as follows:

- A two-year shellfish aquaculture pilot project was begun, through contracting a project manager to work in association with the Tlowitsis First Nation. This project is testing the growth rates of blue mussels and scallops in one location, and conducting associated environmental monitoring and data collection in two nearby locations [as was identified in the Shellfish Aquaculture Assessment for Cultural/Economic Zones of NVI Marine Plan (Kingzett et al, 2016).]
- The NVI Technical Team committed \$10,000 towards development of a whale heritage site designation in the MaPP area, and participates in the Vancouver Island North Whale Heritage Site Advisory Team Executive Council meetings.
- Work has begun on selected recreation and tourism economic development strategies within the NVI Marine Plan, using contracted support. Included in this work is a study of cultural and heritage tourism opportunities.



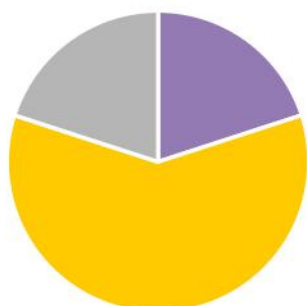
A full list of strategies related to this MaPP outcome is in Table 4.

Table 4. List of sustainable economic development and healthy communities strategies in the approved 2016-2017 work plan.

Strategy	Status of Strategy
A.2.1.1 Work with industry and key marine sectors to identify areas with high capability for the aquaculture of shellfish and other invertebrates and plants for potential establishment of provincial government notations of interest.	On track
A.3.1.1 Identify appropriate sites with high shellfish aquaculture capability for First Nations tenure opportunities. Priority areas are the North Shore/Boswell Inlet (SMZ 1), Port Neville (SMZ 25), Booker Lagoon (SMZ 11) and Kalogwis (SMZ 22) – see Chapter 5.	In development/some activities initiated
CHR.2.1.1 Review existing cultural and heritage tourism studies and develop an action plan for increasing tourism opportunities.	In development/ some activities initiated

RT.2.1.5 Facilitate the establishment of new, viable and sustainable First Nations-owned marine recreation and tourism businesses. Priority areas include Knight Inlet North (SMZ 21), Viner Sound/Shoal Bay (SMZ 17), Kalogwis (SMZ 22), Knight Inlet South (SMZ 20), Tribune/Bond (SMZ 18), Thompson Sound (SMZ 19) and Broughton (PMZ 7) – see Chapter 5.	In development/some activities initiated
RCE.2.1.1 Work with relevant government agencies to identify opportunities where Guardian Watchmen could participate in the surveillance of marine activities and the enforcement of marine regulations.	Not started/ not applicable to certain sub-regions

Sustainable Economic Development, Healthy Communities Strategies



A 2016 MaPP-commissioned shellfish aquaculture assessment study entailed a biophysical capability and site suitability assessment of the NVI plan area. The conclusions of the study were that the area has the coldest waters normally encountered on the B.C. coast year-round and are of low salinity. This results in the waters being unsuitable for Pacific oysters and Manila clams, but potentially suitable for blue mussels or Japanese scallops. The NVI team decided to embark on a pilot project to test the grow-out potential before further development in commercial aquaculture investigation took place.

Exploring opportunities for Guardian Watchmen to participate in surveillance of marine activities and enforcement of marine regulations cannot begin before more discussion takes place between partners on how this might work. Further work will take place on this strategy in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

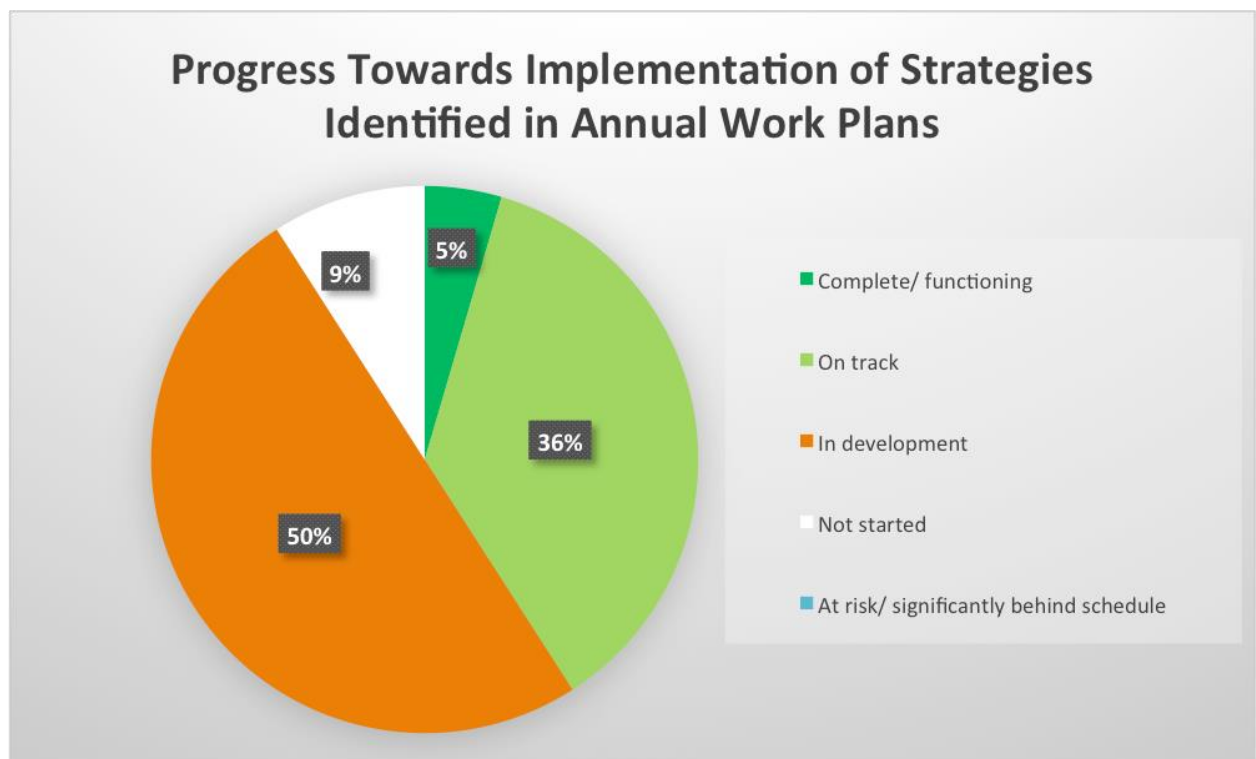
Cultural and heritage tourism opportunity-related strategies will see advancement in the 2017-2018

fiscal year as the NVI Team has contracted a consultant to work on recreation and tourism economic development strategies including a study of cultural and heritage tourism opportunities.

Outcome 5: Climate Change and Adaptive Management – *Undertaking studies and plans to better address the effects of climate change in the MaPP region.*

Significant progress made in development of regional activities through the support of the sub-regional technical team.

Although the NVI sub-region didn't have any approved strategies in our 2016-2017 fiscal year work plan, the team is participating in the development of a regional climate change assessment study. Once this study is underway, more focused work will take place in the plan area for more specific climate change studies.



PLAN PERFORMANCE MEASURES

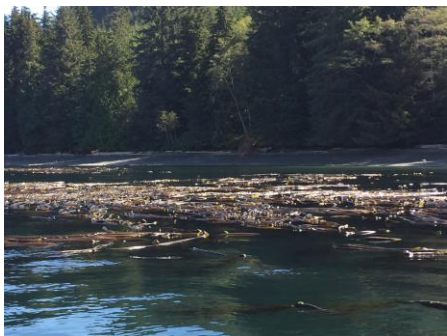
The NVI Marine Plan commits to providing an annual report of plan implementation using a set of performance measures that will outline the degree to which plan strategies and zoning recommendations are being implemented by governments (including First Nations) and participating stakeholders. The MaPP partner-approved plan performance measures to be tracked sub-regionally are listed in Table 5; additional measures are still under discussion. The partners have begun the analysis for these and other potential plan performance measures for future reporting purposes. Both partners are committed to analyzing how well the plan's recommended uses and conditions are being applied to tenure applications received by the provincial government, as well as how the recommended uses and conditions are being reflected when First Nations provide responses back to the provincial government on those applications. Nānwaḱolas has initiated an internal response tracking system that is being refined, and the provincial government has similarly begun work on tracking of applications.

Table 5. MaPP Plan Implementation Performance Measures for 2016-2017

PM #	Performance Measure
PM 1.4	Progress towards implementing strategies/ actions identified in annual work plans, total and by outcome area
PM 1.5	Progress towards the development of sub-regional and regional EBM monitoring strategies
PM 2.1	Progress towards the development of stakeholder engagement strategies by the sub-regions and region
PM 2.5	Progress towards the implementation of strategies for vulnerable cultural, heritage and/or archeological sites, by sub-region
PM 2.8	Percentage of identified protected management zones and special management zones (i.e., identified as requiring the development of a management plan) where management plans have been developed
PM 2.9	Progress towards the implementation of work plan activities related to aquaculture, by sub-region
PM 2.10	Progress towards the implementation of work plan activities related to tourism, by sub-region
PM 2.11	Progress towards the implementation of work plan activities to increase access to local training and capacity development, by sub-region
PM 2.3	Progress towards the development of geographic response plans
PM 2.4	Progress towards the implementation of compliance monitoring strategies, by sub-region
PM 5.1	Progress towards implementing strategies/ actions identified in five-year work plans (total and by outcome area)

PM #	Performance Measure
PM 5.2	Progress towards the identification and implementation of mechanisms for applying ecological limits/ thresholds, by sub-region
PM 5.3	Progress towards addressing infrastructure gaps, by sub-region
PM 5.4	Progress towards protection/ restoration of sites identified as most vulnerable to climate change, by sub-region

ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT INDICATOR MONITORING



Refer to Outcome 3: Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement of this report.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the next fiscal year of implementation (2017-2018), the NVI Team will continue to focus on projects that were started in the 2016-2017 fiscal year that require additional activities in all MaPP outcomes and engage MPAC members on all aspects of implementation.

New projects will include:

- Aquaculture market analysis
- Recreation and tourism economic development studies
- Infrastructure upgrades and gap study
- Training and education needs assessment
- Pollution restoration and vulnerability assessments
- Training and education workshops
- EBM monitoring
- Geographic response planning
- Protection management zone management plan development
- Educational programs

Efforts will continue by both partners in establishing agreements for enabling the Guardian Watchmen to assist with monitoring and facilitating compliance with tenure provisions, marine plans and existing regulations.



APPENDIX A – COMPLETED NVI IMPLEMENTATION STUDIES

Topic	Author	Title	Date completed
Economic Development	Fletcher FitzGibbon	North Vancouver Island Economic Development Opportunities and Constraints Study	30/Apr/16
Guardian Program Opportunities	ESSA	Guardian Program Opportunities in the NVI Marine Plan Area	29/Mar/16
Shellfish Aquaculture	Kingzett, B., D. Tillapaugh, D. Cake and M. Patterson	Shellfish Aquaculture Assessment for Cultural/Economic Zones of NVI Marine Plan	13/Jun/16
Guardian Funding Opportunities	Kathy Chopik, Integrated Governance Solutions Inc.	Guardian Watchmen Funding Opportunities for the North Vancouver Island Ha-ma-yas Stewardship Network & Member First Nations	8/Dec/16



APPENDIX B – NVI MARINE PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Name	Sector
Bruce Storry	Coastal Forestry
Richard Snowdon	Commercial Tourism
Jim McIsaac	Commercial Fishery
Dan Edwards	Commercial Fishery
Kim Wright	Marine Conservation
Alexandra Barron	Marine Conservation
Richard Opala	Finfish Aquaculture
Jim Abram	Local Government – Strathcona Regional District
Larry Samson	Local Government – City of Campbell River
Charlie Cornfield	Local Government – City of Campbell River
Heidi Soltau	Local Government – Regional District of Mt Waddington
Michael Berry	Local Government – Regional District of Mt Waddington
Jeff Long	Local Government – Regional District of Mt Waddington
Mayor Hank Bood	Local Government – District of Port Hardy
Fred Robertson	Local Government – District of Port Hardy
Leah Robinson	Harbour Authorities
Nick Heath	Public Recreation
Peter Stockdill	Public Recreation
Mike Kelly	Recreational Fishing Services Providers
Chuck Ashcroft	Public Recreational Fishing
Don Tillapaugh	Shellfish Aquaculture
Todd Russell	Shellfish Aquaculture
T.B.A.	Renewable Energy

APPENDIX C – NVI TECHNICAL TEAM

Name	Title
John Bones	Co-Lead, Nanwakolas Council of First Nations
Andy Witt	Co-Lead, Province of B.C.
Scott Harris	Marine Planner, Nanwakolas Council of First Nations
Barb Dinning	Technical Planner, NVI MaPP



WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast | MaPP is a partnership between the Government of B.C. and First Nations.

