



*North Vancouver Island
Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) Meeting # 1*

MEETING SUMMARY

October 17 and 18, 2016

Location - Comfort Inn & Suites, 1351 Shoppers Row, Campbell River, BC

Objectives:

1. To provide a general update since NVI plan approval.
2. To provide a year two implementation update for NVI Plan.
3. To discuss implementation next steps and priorities.

Attendance:

MPAC Members and Alternates:

Jim Abram – *Local Government (Strathcona Regional District)*
Nick Heath, Peter Stockdill – *Public Recreation*
Jim McIsaac, Dan Edwards – *Commercial Fishing*
Rick Snowdon – *Commercial Tourism*
Heidi Soltau – *Local Government (Mount Waddington Regional District)*
Bruce Storry - *Coastal Forestry*
Don Tillapaugh – *Shellfish Aquaculture*
Kim Wright – *Marine Conservation*

MaPP:

John Bones – *Nanwakolas Council (Technical Team Co-Chair)*
Andy Witt – *Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (Technical Team Co-Chair) [Day 1]*
Scott Harris – *Nanwakolas Council staff*
Barb Dinning – *MaPP Technical Planner*
Josie Byington – *MaPP Communications Assistant*

Regrets:

Richard Opala – *Finfish Aquaculture*
Bill Wareham, Alexandra Barron – *Marine Conservation*

Day 1

Welcome and Opening

- John Bones and Andy Witt welcomed the group on behalf of the NVI Technical Team.
- Introductions were made around the table.
- John reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting.

Stakeholder Roundtable

- All stakeholders provided updates related to the NVI Plan implementation and other initiatives.
- John, Scott and Andy shared relevant changes in Nanwakolas and BC related to MaPP implementation.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

- Inclusion of upland area in plan recommendations; MaPP support for designation of Whale Heritage Site; a planning legislation initiative from West Coast Environmental Law; Regional District involvement in the MaPP tracking of tenure approvals; possible representation from Front Counter BC sit at the stakeholder advisory table; inclusion of all governments with authority over the region, includes federal government; Central Coast Guardians and interactions with crab fishermen; groups and interests represented by the public recreation stakeholders; lack of Nanwakolas fisheries mandate and absence of role of NVI Guardians in fisheries management.
- *See advice log for specific advice provided and NVI Team response.*
- **ACTION: NVI team to follow up with Dan Edwards for information from the Commercial Fisheries Research Network.**
- **ACTION: NVI team to follow up with Jim McIsaac for information about “Last In First Out” policy for Atlantic fisheries.**

Implementation Commitments

- John reviewed the NVI Implementation Agreement contents.
- John reviewed the MPAC Terms of Reference and requested feedback.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

- Clarification that DFO’s MPAT staff was invited to the MPAC meeting.
- Contents of Terms of Reference, and suggested changes.
- *See advice log for specific advice provided and NVI Team response.*
- **ACTION: NVI team to follow up with Heidi Soltau for contact information for Local Harbour Authority representative.**
- **ACTION: NVI team to revise the Terms of Reference as agreed.**
- **ACTION: NVI team to set up a Dropbox for stakeholders.**

YEAR 1 Implementation Projects

- Barb provided an overview of NVI Plan Year 1 Implementation projects.
- Barb presented the EBM Indicator Workshop Summary. Discussion followed.
- Andy presented Economic Development Opportunities and Constraints Study. Discussion about the report and the Whale Heritage Site proposal was held. Discussion followed.

- Scott presented the report on Guardian Program Opportunities in the NVI Marine Plan Area. Discussion followed.
- John presented Shellfish Aquaculture Assessment for Cultural/Economic Zones of NVI Marine Plan and Don added details about his work on the report. Discussion followed.
- Barb presented North Vancouver Island Marine Plan – Protection Management Zone Cultural and Heritage Assessment Overview. Discussion followed.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

- **EBM Indicators Summary** –feedback received on governance indicators, sources for data, inclusion of a community service satisfaction data, suggestion to include an indicator measuring decision making and impacts on communities, clarification of the difference between EBM indicators and Plan Performance Measures, feedback regarding the timing of EBM Indicator annual reports.
- **Economic Development Opportunities and Constraints Study** – feedback on recreation seeming to be stated in isolation to other activities, the importance of having background information before economic development is considered, consultation regarding seafood processing, priorities addressed in the report, uncertainty about ownership of the land, intended audience for the reports.
- **Whale Heritage Site** – clarification of the proposed boundaries and lack of restriction of marine activities; clarification of process to date and proposed next steps.
- **Guardian Program Opportunities in the NVI Marine Plan Area** – feedback on marine response training for Guardians as a priority, number of Guardians to be employed, need for method to resolve conflict and communicate about conflicts in the Guardian program, need for a Guardian focus on enhancing a positive visitor experience, collaboration to manage data, funding to monitor EBM indicators for marine work, not terrestrial.
- **Shellfish Aquaculture Assessment for Cultural/Economic Zones of NVI Marine Plan** – feedback provided on proposed pilot sites, clarification that kelp farming was addressed but not geoduck farming.
- **North Vancouver Island Marine Plan – Protection Management Zone Cultural and Heritage Assessment Overview** – clarification of the upland boundary that was assessed and types of features that were considered.
- *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments*
- **ACTION: NVI team to pursue and secure MaPP financial support for appropriate components of the Whale Heritage Site designation project.**
- **ACTION: NVI team to follow up with Kim Wright regarding Seascape Governance toolkit.**
- **ACTION: NVI team to follow up with Jim McIsaac on the list of indicators from Canadian Fisheries Research Network (CFRN).**
- **ACTION: Stakeholders to forward feedback on the reports to Barb.**
- **ACTION: NVI team to follow up with Rick Snowden on the audit prepared for the Whale Heritage Site application.**

Year 2 Implementation Projects

- Barb presented the Cultural and Heritage Field Verification and Vulnerability Assessment. Discussion followed.
- Andy presented the work on Strategic Network of Log Handling Sites. Discussion followed.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

- **Cultural and Heritage Field Verification and Vulnerability Assessment** - clarification that information may strengthen protection by identifying areas for management under the Cultural and Heritage Act, clarification of activities at different stages of a site assessment.
- **Strategic Network of Log Handling Sites** – clarification about the number of sites, the intent for public access to maps and report, clarification that FLNRO is not obliged to hold issuing of tenures while the report is being done.
- *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments*

Day 2

Welcome and Opening

- John welcomed participants back to the meeting.
- John reviewed the agenda.

Co-chair Wrap-up of Day 1

- John provided a summary of Day 1 activities and noted action items.

Year 2 Implementation Projects

- Scott described the **Guardian Watchmen Funding Opportunities** project. Discussion followed.
- John described the **Protection Management Zone (PMZ) Management Planning** project. Discussion followed.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

- **Guardian Watchmen Funding Opportunities** – clarification that the report lists potential funders.
- **PMZ Planning** – feedback regarding rezoning, discussion about challenges describing culturally sensitive areas, the timing of the study related to the Cultural and Heritage Field Verification and Vulnerability Assessment, buffers, clarification that boundaries will not be adjusted, stakeholder consultation and review of report recommendations, the project as part of a larger assessment required for the MPA Network planning process, need for inclusion of fisheries data from commercial fisheries sector.
- *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments.*
- **ACTION: Stakeholders to forward feedback on Year 2 Implementation projects to Barb.**
- **ACTION: NVI team to revise the statement of work for the project to defer consultation with stakeholders to a later stage in the work.**

Relationship with Federal Initiatives

- John described Provincial and Nanwakolas involvement in the technical aspects of MPA Network planning process. Discussion followed.
- John updated members on the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) process. Discussion followed.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) uncertainty regarding Sub-regional engagement capacity, need to include DFO in MaPP stakeholder advisory meetings and the PMZ planning stakeholder consultation meetings.

- *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments.*
- **ACTION: NVI team to invite DFO to future NVI MPAC meetings.**
- **ACTION: NVI team to invite DFO to relevant stakeholder consultation meetings on PMZ planning.**

Annual Reporting

- John and Barb presented the proposed table of contents for an annual report to stakeholders. Discussion followed.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

- Format and content of the annual report, inclusion of impediments to plan implementation, inclusion of rationale for adjustments to plan priorities
- Provision in future contracts for consultants to present their reports to the MPAC.
- Discussion of next steps with EBM indicators.
- Discussion on how to include DFO in stakeholder meetings
- *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments.*
- **ACTION: Stakeholders to forward feedback on the Annual Report table of contents and plan performance measures to Barb.**
- **ACTION: NVI team to include a provision for presentations in future contracts let to consultants.**
- **ACTION: John to send a letter to DFO inviting them to future MPAC meetings.**

Year 2 Implementation Projects

- Barb presented a description of planned projects in Year 2. Discussion followed.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

- PMZ planning focus on uses not boundaries,
- Geographic Response Planning (GRP) project as the highest priority,
- Need to include fishing industry in GRP process,
- Opportunity to incorporate the Whale Heritage Site proposal into the NVI economic development work related to cultural education opportunities,
- Expanding of potential contract bidders by forwarding requests for proposals to MPAC members for distribution.
- *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments.*
- **ACTION: MaPP team to obtain the summary of the Haida Gwaii workshop on Geographic Response Planning.**
- **ACTION: MaPP team to include Whale Heritage Site into the proposed tourism opportunity project.**

Implementation Projects for Years 3 thru 5

- John presented the list of Implementation projects for Years 3 through 5. Discussion followed.

Items Discussed and Clarified:

- Need to prioritize the actions related to improving First Nations and stakeholder involvement in decision making.
- Need to prioritize infrastructure actions
- Support for increasing staffing for NVI team to address themed projects.,
- *See advice log regarding additional and more specific comments.*

- **ACTION: NVI team to send out further information on Implementation projects years 2-5 to the stakeholders.**
- **ACTION: Stakeholders to forward feedback on Implementation projects to Barb.**

Next Steps

- John reviewed action items.
- John discussed potential meetings.
- **ACTION: The first “annual meeting” will be scheduled for mid-April 2017, to receive the annual report. A “mid-term” meeting will be scheduled for early February 2017.**
- These meetings will be in-person in Campbell River.

Co-chair wrap up

- On behalf of the co-chairs, John closed the meeting and thanked MPAC members for their participation.
- MPAC members offered closing comments.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm.