



*North Vancouver Island
Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) Meeting #2*

MEETING SUMMARY

February 8-9, 2017

Location - Anchor Inn & Suites, 261 Island Hwy, Campbell River, BC

Objectives:

1. To provide a general MaPP update since our October 17-18, 2016 meeting.
2. To discuss year 2 implementation progress for NVI.
3. To discuss anticipated projects for year 3 (April 2017-March 2018).
4. To provide updates on related initiatives: Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network development, Oceans Protection Plan.

Attendance:

MPAC Members and Alternates:

Jim Abram – *Local Government (Strathcona Regional District)*
Alexandra Barron – *Marine Conservation*
Hank Bood – *Local Government (District of Port Hardy)*
Dan Edwards – *Commercial Fishing*
Richard Opala - *Finfish Aquaculture*
Leah Robinson – *Harbour Authority (Port Hardy)*
Larry Samson – *Local Government (City of Campbell River) [Day 1]*
Rick Snowdon – *Commercial Tourism*
Peter Stockdill – *Public Recreation*
Bruce Storry - *Coastal Forestry*
Don Tillapaugh – *Shellfish Aquaculture [Day 1]*
Mike Kelly – *Recreational Fishing Service Providers*

MaPP:

John Bones – *Nanwakolas Council (Technical Team Co-Chair)*
Andy Witt – *Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (Technical Team Co-Chair)*
Scott Harris - *Nanwakolas staff*
Barb Dinning – *MaPP Technical Planner*
Josie Byington – *MaPP Communications Assistant*
Tony Wong – *MaPP Recreation and Tourism Economic Development Consultant*

Observers:

Cailyn Siider – *Commercial Fishing [Day 1]*

Regrets:

Heidi Soltau – *Local Government (Mount Waddington Regional District)*

Jim McIsaac – *Commercial Fishing*

Kim Wright – *Marine Conservation*

Chuck Ashcroft – *Public Recreational Fishing*

Day 1

Welcome and Opening

John Bones and Andy Witt welcomed the group on behalf of the NVI Technical Team and introductions were made around the table. The agenda and purpose of the meeting was reviewed and changes to the MPAC composition were discussed. A summary of the last Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting was presented along with a few selected advice topics received.

ACTIONS:

- **NVI team to update the MPAC Terms of Reference and send it to members ahead of the next MPAC meeting.**

MaPP Overview

The MaPP Planning Process was reviewed for the benefit of new members and general Implementation approach was discussed with the individual sub-regional marine plans as well as the Regional Action Framework.

Discussion included:

B.C. obligation to consult with non-participating First Nations on implementation of the marine plan, and that consultants' reports include input from non-participating First Nations; the marine plan consistency with local government zoning and bylaws; the basis for Regional implementation activities such as common priorities of sub-regions (bottom-up), funding agreements and funder requirements and interests.

Advice was received on this topic, and can be found in a separate advice log.

ACTIONS:

- **No actions identified**

Year 2 Implementation Activities

Projects Completed, Near Completion and In Progress were presented and discussed.

Discussion included:

Guardian Watchmen Funding Opportunities – data collection by Guardian Watchmen is standardized across the Nations through training provided by the Stewardship Network and Vancouver Island University (VIU); coordination with the commercial fishing industry is recommended; the NVI Guardian Watchman program is focused on cultural sites and Ecosystem-Based Monitoring (EBM) monitoring this year.

Strategic Network of Log Handling – the project was conducted to rationalize the sites and that stakeholder groups and non-participating First Nations were consulted.

Protection Management Zone (PMZ) Planning – stakeholder feedback will be taken during the review phase of the PMZ management plans.

Cultural and Heritage Field Verification and Vulnerability Assessment – data collected about the sites is intended to be used to further protection management (e.g., Guardian Watchmen sanctioned to monitor areas and report violations) and potentially promote economic purposes.

Cultural and Heritage Action Plan for Protection of Vulnerable Sites – definitions of cultural and heritage sites need clarification; action plans will communicate the degree of the desired awareness about and the preferred activities for each site; agreements with tour operators will be worked out.

Shellfish Aquaculture Pilot Project – local government zoning for the Port Neville site needs to be addressed.

Advice was received on this topic, and can be found in a separate advice log.

ACTIONS:

- **NVI team to forward to the NC and CC tables the advice regarding coordination between Guardian Watchmen and the commercial fishing industry.**
- **NVI team to provide the definitions of cultural sites and heritage sites to members.**
- **Barb to place the draft strategic network of log handling sites map on the MPAC Dropbox once complete.**
- **Barb to place the GW Funding Reports in MPAC Dropbox.**
- **Don to investigate acquiring a temporary industrial use permit for the shellfish aquaculture pilot project.**

Plan Zones and Uses Tenure Referral Update

Plan Zones and Uses Tenure Referral Update was presented and discussed.

Discussion included:

The status of provincial agencies and FN Referral systems with respect to adherence to the plan when reviewing tenure applications. B.C. workshops are taking place to work with FrontCounter BC staff, and Nanwakolas Council Referral office is also reviewing its current processes. Local government is starting to see references made to the NVI Marine Plan when reviewing tenure applications. B.C. is updating iMapBC to include MaPP zoning to inform proponents; Implementation Agreements to follow plan recommended use tables within context of the plan as policy advice to decision makers.

Advice was received on this topic, and can be found in a separate advice log.

ACTIONS:

- **John – come back to MPAC with a progress report on B.C. and Nanwakolas tenuring referral systems tracking for measuring implementation.**

Year 2 Implementation Activities

Upcoming Projects were presented and discussed.

Discussion included:

Whale Heritage Site Designation Strategic Plan – the designation is an accreditation that will be used to promote tourism, not a level of protection for whales.

Pollution Restoration – after sites are identified, funding will be sought for restoration and remediation by First Nation and non-First Nation communities.

No advice was received on this topic.

ACTIONS:

- **No actions identified**

Day 2

Welcome and Opening Co-chair Wrap-up of Day 1

Year 2 Implementation Activities, cont'd.

Upcoming Projects were presented and discussed.

Discussion included:

Marine Spill Response –NVI is identifying priority areas and collecting information about the federal initiative regarding building local capability; factoring in staffed light stations; federal focus on First Nations training; the MaPP pilot project is across the entire region; contacting NUKA Resources; use of existing capacity to assist with spill response; the need for research on how bitumen behaves in saltwater; both spill prevention and spill clean up need to be addressed; local government should be included in the Marine Response workshop, Feb. 28; timing to access funding for marine response.

Advice was received on this topic, and can be found in a separate advice log.

ACTIONS:

- **NVI to seek stakeholder input on draft Geographic Response Plans when developed.**
- **NVI team to recommend to organizers of the Marine Response Workshop that local government representatives be invited.**
- **Barb to send Jim Abram all references to staffed light stations in the NVI Marine Plan.**

Overview of Implementation Progress from Years 1 through 5

Discussion included:

Climate change issues are a high priority for the sub-region and work should be accelerated; need to consider policies related to informing the development and maintenance of infrastructure (e.g., seafood processing); how other provincial agencies are included in MaPP (e.g., engagement with Ministry of Agriculture).

Advice was received on this topic, and can be found in a separate advice log.

ACTIONS:

- **No actions identified**

Year 3 Implementation Projects

Year 3 implementation projects were presented and discussed.

Discussion included:

Infrastructure Inventory and Gap Analysis, draft network – impact of policies related to infrastructure development; incentives for new business development.

EBM Data Collection and Compilation – sources of data; Coastal Oceans Research Institute (CORI) is working with MaPP on Regional indicator data collection and reporting, could be a similar format to CORI's Howe Sound Report; confirmation that sub-regions collect additional indicators to the Regional suite.

NVI Recreation and Tourism Economic Development Projects

- Pocket cruise ship strategy – pocket cruise ship traffic may be appropriate for some areas and not others; feedback related to connotation of the term “cruise ship” and the suggestion to consider another term; when destinations are selected, the impact on the area needs to be considered; transportation to town from the dock needs to be in place.
- Marine rec and tourism expansion and development opportunities – a community waterfront and vibrant downtown area are important when expanding tourism and development opportunities; permission is needed to share First Nations stories; First Nations opportunities for cultural tourism; strategies to extend the tourist season; tourists enjoy traveling on working boats and airlines delivering mail; expectations that European tourists have to see First Nations culture, nature and wildlife; consideration of the impact of support services (e.g., hotels, meals); the development of trail systems.
- Infrastructure and transportation barriers and opportunities for recreation and tourism activities – insufficient public transportation between communities, limited marine access points for recreation, rough forestry roads, communication challenges; distance to drive to the North Island are barriers; feedback that circle routes combining ferry and driving/flying are attractive to tourists.

Advice was received on this topic, and can be found in a separate advice log.

ACTIONS:

- **Tony will follow up with members to find out what tourism and recreation studies have been done in cities and RDs and collect baseline data.**
- **NVI team to share the Recreation and Tourism Economic Developments Project outline for feedback from members.**

Annual Reporting

Progress related to the annual report template and the updated table of contents for an annual report to stakeholders was presented and discussed. Plan performance measures will be included in the report and they include tenure decision compliance with the plan.

No advice was received on this topic.

ACTIONS:

- **No actions identified**

Relationship with Federal Initiatives

Federal initiatives involving Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA), Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network and the Oceans Protection Plan were presented and discussed.

Discussion included:

MPA Network development – principles related to interconnectedness of areas designated to protect habitat and species and the integration of governance are critical when planning the MPA Network; the quality of science considered in decision making; the importance of considering the needs of people who live in the area.

Oceans Protection Plan –the implications of federal decisions need to be considered when implementing sub-regional strategies.

Advice was received on this topic, and can be found in a separate advice log.

ACTIONS:

- **NVI team to pass the advice received about federal initiatives to federal staff.**

Co-chair wrap up; Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be in early May.

ACTIONS:

- **Barb to send a Doodle poll to set the date for the next MPAC meeting.**
- **Stakeholders to forward any feedback about the presentations.**