

MARINE PLAN PARTNERSHIP FOR
THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST

REGIONAL ACTION FRAMEWORK ANNUAL REPORT

2017



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAPP SECRETARIAT

Completed in March 2016, the Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) Regional Action Framework (RAF) established actions that MaPP identified as being most appropriately implemented at the scale of the entire MaPP region. Actions outlined in the RAF are consistent with, and support, sub-regional marine plan recommendations from the four sub-regions: Haida Gwaii, North Coast, Central Coast, and North Vancouver Island. The RAF, along with the four sub-regional marine plans, serves to reinforce an ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach to marine resources.

The Province of B.C., the Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance (CCIRA), the Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative (CFN-GBI), the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN), the N̓anwakolas Council, and the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society (NCSFNSS) (collectively the “MaPP partners”) are working through a government-to-government approach to implement the actions in the RAF, with input from collaborators, federal government agencies, stakeholders, local governments, and the general public. The MaPP Secretariat, with input from the Marine Implementation Technical Team (MITT) and direction from the Marine Working Group (MWG), is leading the regional implementation process.

On behalf of the MaPP partners, the MaPP Secretariat is pleased to present the April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017 (2016-17) MaPP Regional Action Framework Annual Report. Significant progress has been made on a number of priority RAF actions, as outlined in this report. Looking ahead to the next year of implementation, we anticipate greater momentum through stronger collaborations and engagement, and are excited to continue our progress towards full implementation of the RAF.

We hope you enjoy reading of our progress to date.

Sincerely,

John Bones, Nanwakolas Council

Karen Topelko, Province of B.C.

Steve Diggon, Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative

Kristin Worsley, Province of B.C.

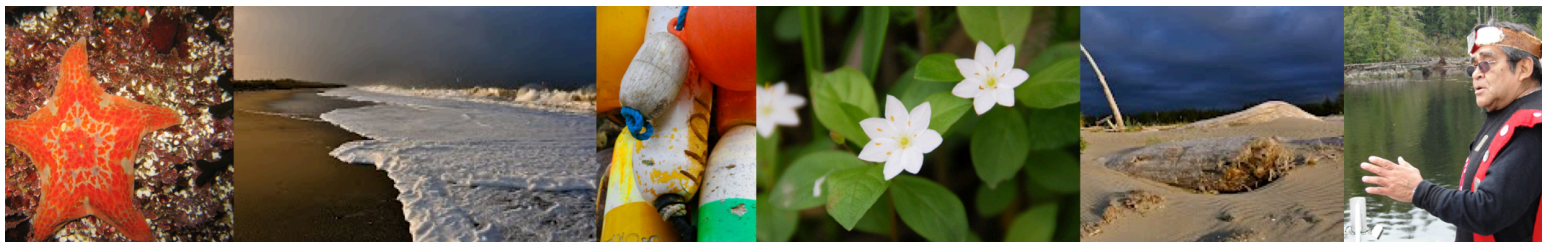
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

During this past year of implementation, substantial contributions of time, energy and knowledge were made towards the implementation of regional actions. The Secretariat would like to extend a sincere thank you to members of the Marine Implementation Technical Team (MITT), subject experts from within MaPP partner organizations, and First Nations and coastal community members, who provided valuable guidance on regional activities. We also acknowledge the contribution of the regional projects coordinator for moving a multitude of projects forward during this period.

Collaborators, such as the Coastal Ocean Research Institute (CORI), as well as some federal government department representatives, also made considerable contributions towards the implementation of RAF actions.

In addition, the Secretariat would like to acknowledge representatives of various marine sector interests and local governments who continue to dedicate time and energy to the MaPP process as Regional Marine Advisory Committee (RMAC) members. Along with re-engaged members, new RMAC members will continue to bring enthusiasm and expertise as we move further into this important implementation phase.

We are very grateful for the ongoing financial support of funders to the Great Bear Sea Fund at Tides Canada Foundation.



IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

A five-year *MaPP Implementation Strategy* (2015-2020) completed in August 2016 outlines key elements of the MaPP partners' approach to implementing priorities identified in the approved MaPP sub-regional marine plans and the Regional Action Framework. Five strategic outcomes for achievement are identified in the *Implementation Strategy*, and along with individual RAF actions, form that basis for assessing annual progress in this Regional Annual Report:

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

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

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

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

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

A more detailed description of each of these outcomes is provided in the *Implementation Strategy*, available on the MaPP website (www.mappocean.org).

RAF actions for priority implementation under each outcome were identified early in 2016-17 by the MITT, and were further scoped during regional implementation work planning and budgeting. Priority implementation activities at a regional level focussed on: strengthening the model of collaborative ocean governance; increasing awareness, understanding, and adherence to management direction for spatial zones in the sub-regional marine plans; and advancing stewardship and monitoring in the MaPP region through the collaborative development of regional strategies and frameworks.

In 2016-17, significant achievements towards implementing a number of priority RAF actions were:

- The Secretariat and MaPP regional staff successfully coordinated the efforts of all four MaPP sub-regional teams towards the achievement of regional objectives, applying a consistent yet flexible approach to regional implementation (**Implementation Action 6.2a**). A number of internal sub-committees comprised of select MITT members, subject matter experts, and collaborators (where appropriate) were formed to facilitate the implementation of regional activities. Work planning and budgeting processes were established, as were tools and processes for internal and external progress tracking reporting (**Implementation Action 6.2c**).
- Collaborative governance arrangements for marine management were advanced (**Governance Action 2.2a**) through a number of activities, including discussions with

federal government representatives (**Implementation Action 6.2b**). Ongoing governance discussions will encourage concerted and efficient implementation of MaPP actions related to, for example, the development of a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) for the Northern Shelf Bioregion (**Zoning Action 5.2c**) and the advancement of marine response planning and preparedness on the North Pacific Coast (**Marine Pollution Action 3.4b**). These actions, while advanced in 2016-17, will see more progress in subsequent implementation years when tripartite frameworks are fully established.

- Valuable collaborations were also established and strengthened with internal partner programs (such as CFN-GBI RMS) and external organizations (such as the Coastal Ocean Research Institute, CORI), to advance the implementation of regional actions such as those related to EBM indicators monitoring and reporting (**EBM Actions 3.5a, 3.5b and Climate Change Action 3.1a**). MaPP developed a list of regional 'pilot' EBM indicators, and drafted an *EBM Indicators Monitoring and Reporting Strategy* and accompanying indicator 'briefs' (describing each indicator in more detail), in collaboration with CORI and the RMS.
- British Columbia (B.C.)'s MaPP team continued to engage with provincial authorization staff to identify opportunities and approaches for formally incorporating MaPP management direction, including spatial zones, into existing provincial decision-making processes (**Zoning Action 5.2b**). Training meetings with provincial authorization staff were held across the MaPP region, with further training of authorization staff and local governments planned for 2017-18.
- A number of regional projects related to numerous RAF actions (e.g., **Cumulative Effects Action 3.2a, Zoning Action 5.2a**) were scoped by newly-formed MaPP sub-committees and issued to external contractors. While scoping these regional projects took longer than anticipated, the work done up-front to align regional-level projects with sub-regional plan priorities will ensure greater applicability of the deliverables to the sub-regions.
- MaPP established an implementation phase Regional Marine Advisory Committee (**Implementation Action 6.2b**) comprised of representatives from various marine sector interests and local governments, and held the first in-person implementation RMAC meeting. Five stakeholder sectors and two local governments were represented at the first meeting by ten RMAC attendees, and valuable advice was obtained on regional level activities both underway and planned.
- MaPP communicated widely to external audiences in 2016-17 to showcase the valuable work done by MaPP during the planning phase, and to receive information and advice to help with implementation (**Governance Action 2.2a, Implementation Actions 6.2a and 6.2b**). Conferences and speaking engagements held locally to internationally were attended by B.C. and First Nations signatories. Written communications materials and

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processes for both external and internal audiences also saw significant advancement in 2016-17.

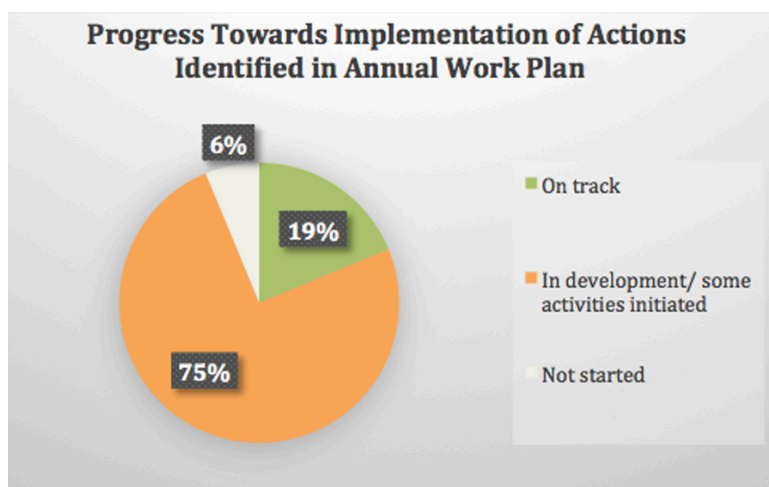


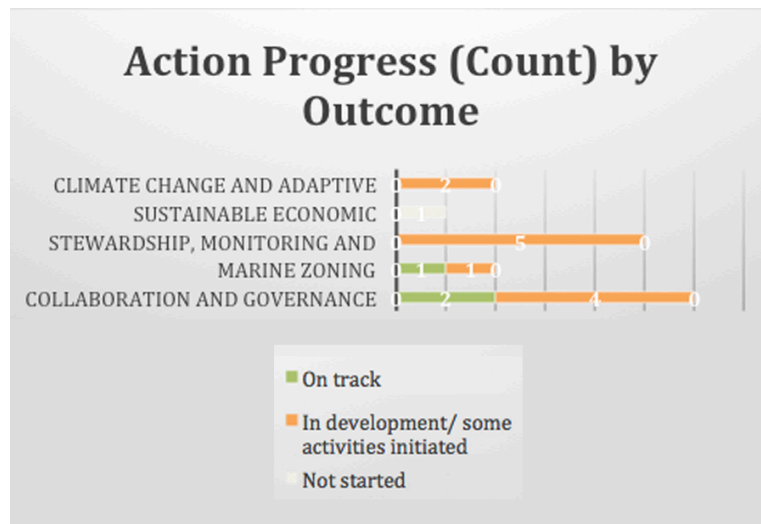
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS DETAILS

Key implementation achievements in 2016-17 related to MaPP RAF actions are described below under the five MaPP strategic outcomes. Each outcome update includes a table that lists all the specific RAF actions that the MaPP partners worked on in 2016-17. For each action, implementation status is indicated. Full implementation of many of the actions will take several years.

The Action Status scoring approach is as follows:

Complete/functioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the <u>discrete</u> activities intended to be undertaken for this action, all are completed • Of the <u>continuous</u> activities intended to be undertaken for this action, all are fully operational and ongoing
On track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All <u>discrete</u> activities intended to be undertaken for this action 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 action in the relevant budget year are fully operational
In development/some activities initiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the activities intended to be undertaken for this action, some have been initiated or are in development, but not all are yet complete/ functioning
Not started	No activities for this action were initiated in the relevant budget year
At risk/significantly behind schedule	Activities for this action 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 ocean governance.

At a regional level, governance and collaboration was a significant focus of implementation in 2016-17. Key achievements included:

- Successfully co-ordinated the efforts of all four MaPP sub-regional teams towards the achievement of regional objectives, using a consistent yet flexible approach to regional implementation
- Finalized and distributed the RAF and the *MaPP Implementation Strategy* to MaPP partners, RMAC members, and the general public via the MaPP website (www.mappocean.org)
- Formed numerous internal sub-committees comprised of select MITT members, subject matter experts, and collaborators (where relevant) to facilitate the implementation of regional activities related to marine response, EBM indicators, data management, cumulative effects, spatial planning, and climate change
- Refined work planning and budgeting processes and templates, as well as tools and processes for internal and external progress tracking and reporting, such as selecting and implementing plan performance measures (PPMs) for assessing implementation progress against objectives, strategies and actions from the MaPP sub-regional plans and RAF
- Through a data management sub-committee, scoped and awarded a regional contract to help MaPP develop a comprehensive *Data and Information Management Strategy* for all data and information generated and accessed during implementation of regional actions and sub-regional strategies
- Worked successfully at a government-to-government level and started engaging with federal government representatives to advance critical, complex regional pieces of work such as Marine Protected Area Network (MPAN) planning, and marine incident response planning and preparedness

- Participated in and led governance and stakeholder engagement discussions with federal government Marine Protected Area Technical Team (MPATT) members, with the aim of solidifying an enduring governance structure and engaging stakeholders in MPAn planning early in implementation year 3 (2017-18)
- Confirmed membership for the implementation RMAC, and held the first in-person RMAC meeting where the terms of reference were finalized. Five stakeholder sectors and two local governments were represented at the meeting by ten RMAC attendees, and valuable advice was obtained on regional level activities both underway and planned



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Table 1. Priority regional action statuses for *Governance and Collaboration*, 2016-17

RAF Action implemented in 2016-17	Outcome	Implementation Status of Action
Governance - Action 2.2a Advance collaborative governance arrangements for marine management, including efficient and effective arrangements for implementing MaPP and other related recommendations and priorities (e.g., the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area).	Governance and Collaboration	In development /some activities initiated
Implementation – Action 6.2a Co-ordinate the involvement of sub-regional provincial government and First Nations staff in the implementation of regional actions, as appropriate.	Governance and Collaboration	In development /some activities initiated
Implementation – Action 6.2b Co-ordinate efforts to engage federal government agencies, local government, stakeholders, non-participating First Nations, and the general public in the implementation of MaPP regional actions, as appropriate.	Governance and Collaboration	In development /some activities initiated
Implementation – Action 6.2c Develop a regional work plan, in conjunction with sub-regional work plans, and review progress in achieving regional actions annually.	Governance and Collaboration	On track
Implementation – Action 6.2d Seek and secure resources for implementation of regional actions.	Governance and Collaboration	On track

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

At a regional-level, in 2016-17 MaPP focused on increasing awareness, understanding, and adherence to management direction for spatial zones in the sub-regional marine plans. Key achievements included:

- B.C.'s MaPP team engaged directly with provincial authorization staff to identify opportunities and approaches for formally incorporating the MaPP spatial zones in provincial decision-making processes, and for tracking the consistency of tenure decisions with the zones annually. Three successful meetings were held in 2016-17 – one with staff servicing the North Island, Central Coast and Haida Gwaii, and two with staff servicing the North Coast area (one in-person and one via conference call). These meetings raised awareness of the MaPP plans among provincial authorization staff, provided B.C. partner staff with an understanding of the challenges authorization staff have in interpreting the plans, and built relationships among provincial staff members. Following these initial training sessions, BC's MaPP team then worked with individual regional staff, as needed, to respond to specific questions. In 2017-18, B.C. partner staff will continue to provide information and advice on how to interpret and apply marine plan direction, with a focus on zoning and the recommended uses and activities (RUA) tables
- Reviewed previous coastal plan variance policies and drafted a preliminary approach for MaPP. This approach was discussed with provincial authorization staff at the meetings described above. Refinement of the approach will continue in 2017-18
- As part of the development of PPMs, initiated processes for tracking consistency of tenure decisions with the MaPP spatial zones annually
- Through the spatial planning sub-committee, initiated the development of an 'atlas' of all protection management zones (PMZs) in the MaPP region to aid with PMZ management planning and MaPP partner engagement in MPAn planning. Developed a template for automated reporting within SeaSketch, and liaised with SeaSketch to add new data layers and to start executing automated reporting
- Co-ordinated work by the sub-regions to develop a consistent template for PMZ management plans
- Collated spatial data for zones and associated RUA tables and began loading this information into B.C.'s Data Warehouse. Once completed, this will allow authorizations staff to easily overlay the locations of tenure applications with the MaPP zones and link directly to the associated management direction
- Through the MPATT, made significant progress on MPAn planning for the Northern Shelf Bioregion, including on the development of network design guidelines, ecological conservation priorities, socio-cultural conservation priorities, and network design strategies

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Table 2. Priority regional action statuses for *Marine Zoning*, 2016-17

RAF Action implemented in 2016-17	Outcome	Implementation Status of Action
Zoning - Action 5.2a Assess management and designation tools, including identification of gaps and potential new tools, to implement zoning recommendations identified in MaPP sub-regional marine plans.	Marine Zoning	In development /some activities initiated
Zoning - Action 5.2b Develop and co-ordinate an outreach strategy to inform provincial, First Nations, federal, and local government managers and decision-makers about MaPP spatial management recommendations and implementation requirements.	Marine Zoning	On track
Zoning – Action 5.2c Co-ordinate involvement in the tripartite (First Nation-B.C.-Canada) regional MPA network process, including defining and applying MPA network design criteria and collectively evaluating MaPP sub-regional marine plan recommendations, data and analysis for their contributions to a regional network.	Marine Zoning	In development /some activities initiated

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

Numerous activities were planned under this outcome for 2016-17, and related to RAF actions on EBM indicator monitoring and reporting, climate change, cumulative effects, and marine pollution. Key achievements included:

- Established and strengthened valuable collaborations with internal partner programs (such as the CFN-GBI RMS and Environmental Reporting BC) and external organizations (such as CORI), to advance the implementation of regional actions related to EBM indicators monitoring and reporting. Continued discussions with the Ocean Health Index on indicator framework alignment and quantitative indicator reporting
- Through the EBM indicators sub-committee (including representatives from CORI and the RMS), developed 10 indicator reporting themes and a list of 16 regional ‘pilot’ EBM indicators. Indicator selection was based on substantial work on indicators completed during the planning phase; on focused EBM indicators sub-committee discussions; and on the results of EBM indicator workshops and meetings held within the sub-regions in 2016
- Drafted an *EBM Indicators Monitoring and Reporting Strategy* and accompanying indicator ‘briefs’ (describing each indicator in more detail) in collaboration with CORI and the RMS, for finalization in 2017-18 in conjunction with the advancement of data management work and preliminary regional indicator analyses
- Completed a *MaPP Regional Strategy for Marine Response Planning and Preparedness*, a ‘living document’ that presents MaPP’s desired approach to marine response planning and preparedness in the MaPP region. It is anticipated that this document will guide discussions with the federal government on tripartite implementation of aspects of the Oceans Protection Plan
- Through the cumulative effects sub-committee, scoped and issued an external contract to refine and enhance the *MaPP Cumulative Effects Framework* for marine and coastal environments in the MaPP region, and co-ordinated engagement between the contractor and all MaPP partners, including individual First Nation representatives
- Identified regional ‘pilot’ indicators under the reporting theme *Stewardship and Governance* that will build understanding of compliance and enforcement in the MaPP region

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Table 3. Priority regional action statuses for *Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement*, 2016-17

RAF Action implemented in 2016-17	Outcome	Implementation Status of Action
Cumulative Effects – Action 3.2a Continue to refine the draft MaPP marine cumulative effects assessment framework in collaboration with the Province of British Columbia's cumulative effects project.	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	In development /some activities initiated
Cumulative Effects – Action 3.2c Advance dialogue on a common approach to integrate cumulative effects assessments into marine decision-making processes.	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	In development/ some activities initiated
Marine Pollution – Action 3.4b Support and co-ordinate pollution response through the use of tools such as data sharing agreements, common decision-support tools, and geographic response plans.	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	In development/ some activities initiated
EBM Monitoring and Indicators – Action 3.5a Based on existing and ongoing work, establish a regional suite of indicators and initiate monitoring and analyses.	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	In development/ some activities initiated
EBM Monitoring and Indicators – Action 3.5b Co-ordinate the development of information-sharing protocols where appropriate.	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	In development/ some activities initiated

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

The MaPP partners initially explored initiating a regional shellfish and aquatic plant aquaculture marketing study in 2016-17, with a focus on market trends, programs, and opportunities. However, capacity limitations at a regional level hindered the scoping and initiation of this activity. With a regional shift in focus under this outcome late in 2016-17 towards the initiation of infrastructure-related activities, this marketing activity was postponed. Progress, however, was made under this outcome in 2016-17 and included:

- Reviewed and obtained valuable advice on potential regional-level economic development activities with MaPP partner representatives, including individuals from relevant provincial agencies (e.g., the ministries of Agriculture and Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training) and the Coastal First Nations - Coast Opportunity Fund (CFN-COF), and with implementation RMAC members
- Identified regional ‘pilot’ indicators under the reporting themes *Sense of Place and Wellbeing* and *Coastal Development and Livelihoods* that will build understanding of community health and wellbeing
- Started scoping year 3 (2017-18) infrastructure-related activities, and received approval on these from the MWG in their review of the Year 3 Regional Work Plan and Budget

Table 4. Priority regional action statuses for *Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities*, 2016-17

RAF Action implemented in 2016-17	Outcome	Implementation Status of Action
Economy and Infrastructure – Action 3.3b Enhance regional collaboration and improve local economic benefits related to shellfish aquaculture and fisheries, including developing and marketing value-added products, identifying potential economic incentives, identifying and promoting new or niche markets, promoting the viability of shellfish aquaculture to attract investment, and encouraging new regional investment in seafood processing.	Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities	Not started

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

MaPP had planned in 2016-17 to issue a contract related to assessing climate change vulnerability and risk in the MaPP region. However, regional actions require significant efforts to implement; the priorities, commitments, and intentions of all MaPP partners need to be considered in the development of each regional activity. An underestimation of the effort required to develop climate change activities, and a desire to effectively engage with ongoing climate change initiatives to identify efficiencies, affected the schedule for this piece of work.

Achievements by the MaPP partners in 2016-17 related to climate change actions included:

- Developed through the climate change sub-committee a draft scope of work for a regional project to provide background information and climate-related impact statements to support vulnerability and risk assessments for the MaPP region
- Initiated discussions with the University of Victoria Marine Ethnoecology Research Group regarding MaPP regional climate change work and potential areas of overlap and efficiency, with the aim of forming collaborative arrangements to advance MaPP climate change work in 2017-18
- Identified regional ‘pilot’ indicators under the theme *Climate Change and Oceanography* for long-term monitoring to inform response strategies

In 2017-18, initiating dedicated climate change projects will be a high priority for the MaPP region, given the implementation delays experienced in 2016-17 and the need for regional work to precede more detailed sub-regional assessments. Re-scheduled timelines will be solidified early in 2017-18, when collaborative arrangements are formalized.

Table 5. Priority regional action statuses for *Climate Change and Adaptive Management*, 2016-17

RAF Action implemented in 2016-17	Outcome	Implementation Status of Action
Climate Change – Action 3.1a Identify and monitor climate change indicators for the MaPP region, and incorporate into a long-term and effective EBM monitoring program that will inform response strategies	Climate Change and Adaptive Management	In development /some activities initiated
Climate Change – Action 3.1b Develop and conduct a regional risk assessment for ocean climate change	Climate Change and Adaptive Management	In development /some activities initiated

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead to implementation year 3 (2017-18), at a regional level, MaPP will continue to focus on co-ordinating MITT and sub-committee discussions to advance regional priorities as identified by all the sub-regions. Collaborative working arrangements with both internal and external programs and organizations will continue to provide expertise, capacity, and momentum to regional projects.

Those activities scheduled for implementation in 2016-17 but not completed due, in part, to the complexity of the projects and capacity limitations, will be of highest priority for implementation. Activities under the outcome Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities, which have yet to be addressed by MaPP at a regional-level, will also be prioritized, along with those activities under the outcome Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement specifically focused on improving compliance and enforcement capacity.

Increased provincial and First Nations' partner capacity will help MaPP meet 2017-18 objectives. MaPP will also strive to strengthen relationships with the federal government to advance common priorities in subsequent implementation years, and will continue to receive valued advice from RMAC members on all implementation activities.



WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

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