



*North Vancouver Island
Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC)
2017-18 Mid-Year Meeting*

MEETING SUMMARY

December 4 & 5, 2017

Location - Maritime Heritage Centre, 621 Island Hwy, Campbell River, BC

Objectives:

1. To present and receive feedback on implementation activities, recently completed projects and upcoming projects.
2. To continue review and refinement of draft management plans for protection management zone (PMZ) areas.

Attendance:

MPAC Members and Alternates:

Bruce Storry – *Coastal Forestry*
Christina Mardell – *Coastal Forestry (Day 1)*
Bharat Adhikari – *Coastal Forestry*
Dan Edwards – *Commercial Fishery*
Jim McIsaac – *Commercial Fishery*
Graham Vaughn – *Commercial Tourism*
Will Soltau – *Harbour Authorities*
Kim Wright – *Marine Conservation*
Peter Stockdill – *Public Recreation*
Chuck Ashcroft – *Public Recreational Fishing*
Don Tillapaugh – *Shellfish Aquaculture*
Jim Abram – *Local Government (SRD)*
Heidi Soltau – *Local Government (RDMW)*
Jeff Long – *Local Government (RDMW)*
Leightan Wishart – *Local Government (District of Port Hardy)*

MaPP:

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

Observers:

Christa Rusel – *A-Tlegay Fisheries Society*

Regrets:

Sally Cargill - *Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*

Richard Opala – *Finfish Aquaculture*

Larry Samson/Charlie Cornfield – *Local Government (City of Campbell River)*

Day 1

Welcome and Opening

John Bones and Andy Witt welcomed the group on behalf of the NVI Technical Team and Scott Harris delivered a welcome from the Campbell River Band on behalf of Councillor Chris Roberts and Acting Chief Curtis Wilson. Introductions were made around the table and new MPAC members were recognized. The agenda and purpose of the meeting was reviewed. A summary of the last MPAC meeting was presented and the advice log was discussed.

General Discussion:

Discussion took place on advice log follow-up. Dan Edwards raised the advice related to crab fisher conflicts with Guardians in the Central Coast.

Discussion took place on involvement of non-member First Nations in management plan development for PMZ areas. Co-leads clarified that some PMZ areas are in territories of First Nations who were not part of the original NVI marine plan. Andy Witt clarified that it is B.C.'s responsibility to conduct consultation with appropriate non-participating First Nations on the PMZ plans when developed.

- *Advice was received on Level 1 and 2 docks and can be found in a separate advice log (#50).*

ACTIONS:

- **John to arrange a meeting with crab fishery representatives (with A'tlegay Society assistance) to further clarify the role and functions of Nanwakolas member stewardship programs.**

Update of Related Planning Activities - *Federal Oceans Initiative*

John Bones described progress on the **MPA network initiative**. The agreement about how the federal government, B.C. government and First Nations will work together is awaiting formal sign-off. MaPP staff successfully argued to include sub-regional stakeholder advisory committees (OACs) in MPA planning, although DFO was unable to support holding an OAC meeting following this MPAC meeting; rather they are planning a meeting of all stakeholders in February 2018. It was noted that the terms of reference for the advisory committees is not finalized.

John provided clarification about the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (**PNCIMA**) boundaries and the newly designated offshore marine protected area, and he described the progress of the PNCIMA governance agreement.

John presented a slide deck about progress on the **Ocean Protection Plan**.

General Discussion:

On the **MPA Network initiative**, MPAC members provided information about their experiences at recent DFO-led meetings for the recently announced offshore protected area, commitments to stakeholder engagement and data verification requests. Kim Wright commented about her analysis on stakeholder engagement across marine planning initiatives and stated that her findings show that in writing and in action the MaPP NVI sub-region is the most forthright and progressive.

Ocean Protection Plan: MPAC members provided comments about marine response preparedness.

- *Advice was received on aligning MPAC and OAC meetings and can be found in a separate advice log (#51).*

ACTIONS:

- **Josie will add the OPP presentation to the MPAC Dropbox.**

Recently-completed Projects Update

Jim Abram gave a presentation about a collaboration between the Strathcona Regional District and local organizations and businesses to clean up a site in **Frederick Sound** (not a MaPP project).

The **MaPP Strategic Approach** for the implementation of plan strategies was presented by Andy Witt.

Presentations were made on recently-completed NVI Plan projects. These were the **Tlowitsis Shellfish Aquaculture Pilot Project** (Barb Dinning and Don Tillapaugh), the **Shellfish Aquaculture Market Analysis** (Andy Witt), **Marine Incident Response** (John Bones), the **Log Handling Strategic Network** (Andy Witt), **Recreation and Tourism Economic Development** (Tony Wong) and **Cultural/Archaeological Projects** (Scott Harris).

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on clarification of issues that MPAC members raised, and on receiving further information about data sources and input on the projects.

- *Advice was received on considerations for marine incident response planning and can be found in a separate advice log (#52, #53).*

ACTIONS:

- **The NVI Team will follow up with the consultant regarding questions raised about cruise ship traffic and floatplane incidents (Marine Incident Response report).**
- **Co-leads will send the message to the federal government that the MPAC recognizes the need for funding for geographic response plan (GRP) development locally and that they are keen for work to begin.**
- **Tony Wong will incorporate MPAC feedback into the Recreation and Tourism Economic Development draft report and watermark it “draft for discussion.”**
- **MPAC members will provide feedback on the Recreation and Tourism Economic Development draft report within two weeks.**
- **Josie will add the following documents to the MPAC Dropbox:**

- **Frederick Sound clean-up presentation**
- **Marine Incident Response final report**
- **Recreation and Tourism Economic Development draft report**

Continuing or Recently initiated Projects - Review & Comment

Andy Witt presented a recently initiated NVI Plan implementation project, **Pollution Vulnerability and Priority Area Actions**: ESSA Technologies has been contracted to identify candidate sites for restoration and to recommend activities, collaborators, costs and funding sources. MPAC members may be interviewed for the project.

John Bones then provided an update on MaPP Regional initiatives. **Regional ecosystem-based management (EBM) Indicators**: MaPP partnered with Coastal Ocean Research Institute (CORI) at the Vancouver Aquarium to gather data and develop initial reports on six pilot regional indicators. **Climate Change Assessment**: a regional climate change study being finalized by a team at UVic and NVI will refer to it when the developing actions on climate change effects in the NVI Plan area. **Regional Infrastructure Study**: MaPP has confirmed an approach that includes using interested Regional Marine Advisory Committee members, but there has yet to be a meeting to initiate the project. **Cumulative Effects Framework**: MaPP received a refined Cumulative Effects Framework and video from a consultant, Steve Wilson, and MaPP is working with Transport Canada to relate it to some OPP initiatives.

General Discussion:

Discussion occurred on the status of EBM indicator work, and the lack of engagement with stakeholders. The co-leads pointed out that a decision had been made to further develop a number of ecological indicators for which information was already available, and which had been generally confirmed through the last stakeholder committee meetings. These were not intended to be the only indicators that will be used, but intended to get the indicator monitoring and reporting process underway. Other indicators are still being discussed for regional and sub-regional purposes.

- *Advice was received on governance indicators and can be found in a separate advice log (#54).*

ACTIONS:

- **Co-leads will circulate a recent document that identifies the regional indicators currently being used for MaPP reporting purposes.**

Plan Monitoring, Amendment and Review

John Bones reviewed the NVI Marine Plan commitments to plan monitoring, amendment and review processes. Andy Witt described the development of a variance process to address tenure applications that differ from plan direction.

General Discussion:

Jeff Long described the updated marine zoning developed by Mount Waddington Regional District.

Discussion took place on possible future plan amendment topics. MPAC members reinforced their interest in greater clarity between Level 1 and Level 2 docks.

ACTIONS:

- **NVI team to refine the definitions of Level 1 and Level 2 docks for the MaPP plans, with assistance from Peter Stockdill and Jim McIsaac, and review the revisions with other sub-regional teams.**

Day 2

Welcome and Opening

John Bones reviewed the agenda for the day.

Anticipated Projects / Year 4 Priorities

Andy Witt presented NVI's anticipated projects and Year 4 priorities. These are: an **NVI Communications Strategy** to develop outreach materials about the NVI plan and projects, and the development of strategies to address **Training and Human Resource Needs**. John Bones invited input on activities related to **Infrastructure**; anticipated work on **Sub-regional EBM Indicators** was described; input was invited on future **Aquaculture** projects; suggestions for next steps on the **Recreation and Tourism** project were requested. The NVI Team is ready to participate in the **MPA Network** as the process unfolds; expanded **Guardian Watchman programs** were described; and the **Polluted Areas Restoration** project will identify 1-2 key areas, the approach for restoration for the sites and potential funding sources. John invited input for **Climate Change** projects and confirmed that **Marine Response Workshops** will be held in association with the Coast Guard in 2018.

General Discussion:

Discussion occurred on the new NVI topics, regarding linkages between them and MaPP Regional activities, and the importance of focusing projects to the appropriate scope for MaPP.

Advice was received on the communications strategy, training and human resource needs, infrastructure projects, EBM indicators, the recreation and tourism report, Guardian Watchman programs and the aquaculture pilot project, and can be found in a separate advice log (#55-72).

ACTIONS:

- **Barb will add information about Regional pilot EBM Indicator to the MPAC Dropbox.**
- **MPAC members will provide feedback on EBM indicator materials.**
- **NVI Team to investigate online mapping tools related to sea-level rise and report back to MPAC members.**

PMZ Plan Development

John Bones and Barb Dinning presented the draft Rock Bay PMZ management plan.

General Discussion:

Description: MPAC members provided feedback the draft document. Specific comments were noted by the Technical Team for inclusion in the revision of the draft management plan for Rock Bay PMZ.

Specific advice on the draft Rock Bay PMZ management plan was captured and will be identified as part of the revised version of the document

ACTIONS:

- **MPAC members to provide feedback on the Hemmera report – other than the Rock Bay section – focused on their own areas of expertise, by Dec. 29.**
- **MPAC members will provide feedback on Rock Bay management plan by Dec. 29.**
- **The NVI Team will update the Rock Bay PMZ Management Plan as discussed including consulting with Jim Abram for succinct SRD zoning language.**
- **The NVI Team will use the Rock Bay plan format as the basis for developing the other PMZ plan documents.**
- **Josie to add the Rock Bay PMZ management plan to the MPAC Dropbox.**

Co-chair wrap up; Date of next meeting

John provided a summary of the meeting and thanked the MPAC members for their participation. Andy provided closing comments. Action items were reviewed.

The next meeting will likely be a workshop in February 2018 to further advance PMZ management plans.

ACTIONS:

- **Barb to send a Doodle poll to set the date for the next MPAC meeting.**
- **The NVI Team will work with MPATT to try and organize the next NVI OAC meetings in association with the PMZ planning workshop for NVI MPAC.**
- **The NVI Team will circulate the list of NVI Year 4 priorities to the MPAC.**