

MARINE PLAN PARTNERSHIP  
FOR  
THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST

# CENTRAL COAST ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17





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## MESSAGE FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The Central Coast Marine Plan outlined a vision, objectives and strategies for the stewardship and management of the Central Coast's coastal and marine areas, and provided guidance and recommendations for First Nations and provincial agencies in their evaluation of coastal and marine-based activities and uses.

The Province of B.C. and the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais, Nuxalk and Wuikinuxv Nations ("the Central Coast partners") are working to implement the recommendations in the Central Coast Marine Plan, with input from communities, stakeholders, local governments, and the broader public.

The Central Coast Implementation Technical Team is pleased to present the 2016-17 annual report. This report reflects implementation progress made between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017. We hope you will enjoy reading about the progress that was made and we look forward to continuing to work towards full implementation of the Central Coast Marine Plan.

Sincerely,

**Aaron Heidt and Gord McGee** (Co-Leads, Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance)

**Sally Cargill** (Co-Lead, Province of B.C.) and **Karen Topelko** (interim Co-Lead, Province of B.C.)



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Central Coast Implementation Technical Team would like to acknowledge and thank all the representatives of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais, Nuxalk, and Wuikinuxv Nations, the Province of B.C., the sector representatives who make up the Central Coast Marine Plan Implementation Advisory Committee and many other contributing organizations and individuals for the time and energy that they have put into implementing the Central Coast Marine Plan. The plan itself represents the culmination of several years of dedicated work by many of these same representatives. We thank all those representatives that have continued to remain involved through implementation, as well as those that have recently become involved.

We also wish to acknowledge the ongoing financial support of funders to the Great Bear Sea Fund at Tides Canada Foundation.

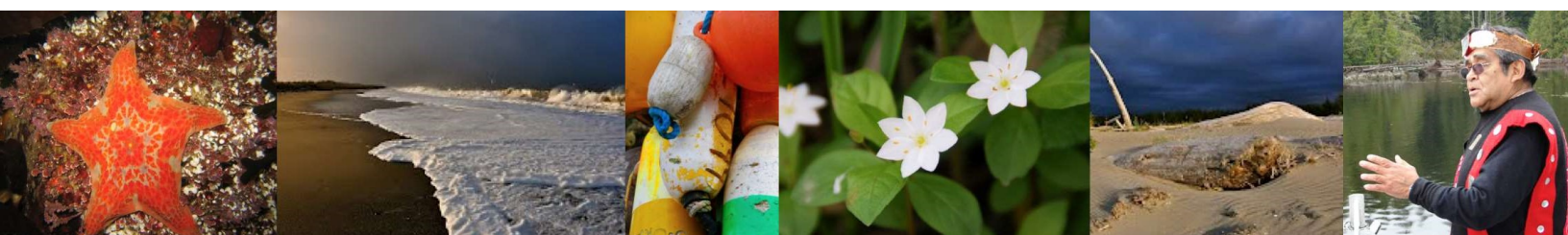
## IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OVERVIEW

Implementation priorities for the Central Coast Marine Plan were identified during the planning phase and were further scoped through implementation work planning and budgeting. Priority implementation activities in 2016-17 focused on strengthening the model of collaborative governance and establishing more collaborative and comprehensive monitoring networks.

In 2016-17 the partners formalized how they would collaborate through the implementation phase, and determined how the First Nation community and stakeholder engagement processes that proved successful during the planning phase would be maintained.

A draft suite of ecosystem-based management (EBM) indicators was developed and proper training for those involved in data collection was provided. Priority indicators were identified and monitoring efforts on these priority indicators initiated.

Some of the implementation activities that the Central Coast partners intended to begin in 2016-17 were postponed or were only partially implemented. In some cases, timelines were realigned to allow for greater coordination with other sub-regions or the region, and in some cases priorities were revisited because of a lack of capacity to implement the full workplan. The Central Coast partners are striving to increase capacity so that all priority actions in the 2017-18 workplan can be implemented successfully.





## IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS DETAILS



This section highlights key achievements related to implementation of the Central Coast Marine Plan in 2016-17, organized by associated Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) strategic outcomes.

Each strategic outcome section also includes a table that lists all the related priority strategies that the Central Coast partners worked on in 2016-17. For each strategy, a scorecard is

provided that shows the implementation status of the strategy and key upcoming actions in 2017-18. Full implementation of many of the strategies will take several years.

Implementation status is defined as:

**Complete/functioning** – Of the discrete activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, all are completed. Of the continuous activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, all are fully operational and ongoing.

**On track** – All discrete activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in 2016-17 are completed. All continuous activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in 2016-17 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 were initiated in 2016-17.

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

The Collaboration and Governance outcome was a significant focus in 2016-17.

Key achievements included:

- Developing an Implementation Agreement<sup>1</sup> that outlines how the Central Coast partners will collaborate to implement the Central Coast Marine Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> The Central Coast Implementation Agreement can be downloaded at <http://mappocean.org/central-coast/implementation/>



- Confirming membership<sup>2</sup> and Terms of Reference for the Central Coast Marine Plan Implementation Advisory Committee, and holding the first in-person meeting.
- Agreeing on a method for assessing and communicating implementation progress against the objectives, strategies and actions from the MaPP sub-regional plans and Regional Action Framework.
- Finalizing a field guide that outlines steps that First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) can take to be more collaborative with respect to compliance monitoring.
- Outlining best practices and topics of interest for protocol agreements between local governments and First Nations.
- Reviewing guidelines for industry on engaging First Nations and identifying policy gaps/inconsistencies.

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<sup>2</sup> For a list of members on the committee go to: <http://mappocean.org/central-coast/advisory-committee/>



*Table 1. Implementation status of strategies identified in the 2016-17 workplan related to Collaboration and Governance.*

Central Coast Marine Plan Strategy	Implementation Status <sup>3</sup> as of April 1, 2017	Key upcoming actions in 2017-18
<b>Governance Strategy 2.3:</b> Seek required resources identified for the implementation of the Central Coast Marine Plan, including those required for governance structures.	Complete/ functioning	Continued support for Nation-level community engagement.
<b>Governance Strategy 2.4:</b> Establish a stakeholder advisory process that supports the successful implementation of the Central Coast Marine Plan.	Complete/ functioning	Continued support for stakeholder engagement through the Marine Plan Implementation Advisory Committee.
<b>Governance Strategy 3.1:</b> Encourage the development of protocols and agreements between First Nations and local governments.	In development / some activities initiated	Work with Central Coast Regional District on protocol agreement for areas of mutual interest such as climate change impacts and emergency response.
<b>Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy 2.1:</b> Establish a collaborative regional monitoring network among appropriate compliance agencies, including First Nations, that seeks to increase respect for the authority of First Nations' compliance and monitoring staff.	Not started	Discuss opportunities for increasing First Nations participation in compliance and enforcement activities. Identify policy and operational constraints. Discuss options for formalizing collaboration.  Clarify monitoring and enforcement authority roles and responsibilities, and provide recommendations for creating more inclusive and effective monitoring and enforcement programs across provincial and First Nations governments.
<b>Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy 2.2:</b> Improve understanding and communication between relevant compliance and enforcement agencies	In development / some activities initiated	Assess barriers and opportunities for creating more inclusive and effective monitoring and enforcement programs across provincial and First Nations governments.

<sup>3</sup> Implementation status is defined as:

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**Not started** – No activities for this strategy were initiated in 2016-17.



Central Coast Marine Plan Strategy	Implementation Status <sup>3</sup> as of April 1, 2017	Key upcoming actions in 2017-18
<b>Tenured Activities Strategy 1.1:</b> Review existing provincial tenure policies to ensure they are current, effective and up to date and consistent in describing proponents' responsibilities to engage with First Nations, while recognizing that the responsibility to consult remains with the Province.	In development / some activities initiated	Identify guidelines which can be used as a benchmark.
<b>Tenured Activities Strategy 1.2:</b> Develop provincial guidelines which support the development of protocols between First Nations and tenure proponents.	In development / some activities initiated	Develop recommendations to improve consistency of proponent guidelines in tenure policy.
<b>Traditional, Cultural and Heritage Resources Strategy 3.3:</b> Ensure protocols developed between tourism proponents and First Nations include guidelines for human activities around cultural sites and areas, including the use of First Nations monitors and guides, where appropriate.	In development / some activities initiated	Build off benchmarks identified through Tenured Activities 1.1 to develop recommendations for tourism operators.
<b>Traditional Cultural and Heritage Resources Strategy 3.5:</b> Ensure research protocols developed between First Nations and researchers identify local sensitivities and guide human activities around sensitive cultural and archaeological sites.	In development / some activities initiated	Build off benchmarks identified through Tenured Activities 1.1 to develop guidance for research protocols.

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

The Central Coast partners further refined management zones in the Central Coast sub-region in 2016-17. Key achievements included:

- Continuing to engage in the Marine Protected Area Network (MPA) planning process for the Northern Shelf Bioregion.
- Advancing management planning for individual Protection Management Zones (PMZ), including creating a template for management plans for each International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category of PMZ, developing a guide for Nations to input information for PMZ management planning, and beginning to identify sensitive and/or critical features and habitats in priority PMZs.
- Supporting regional work to develop an atlas of all PMZs in the MaPP region.



- Initiating work to complete zoning in all five areas that require more detailed planning.
- Commissioning a detailed inventory of existing marine and associated land-based log handling tenures in South Bentinck to support discussions between the partners and industry on allocation of Crown lands in South Bentinck.

*Table 2. Implementation status of strategies identified in the 2016-17 workplan related to Marine Zoning.*

Central Coast Marine Plan Strategy	Implementation Status <sup>4</sup> as of April 1, 2017	Key upcoming actions in 2017-18
<b>Governance Strategy 2.2:</b> Actively engage in a governance structure that includes relevant Crown agencies and First Nations, for the development and implementation of a Marine Protected Area Network for the Northern Shelf Bioregion.	In development / some activities initiated	Participate in Marine Protected Area Technical Team and Network Committee meetings.
<b>Protection Strategy 1.1:</b> Work with relevant Crown agencies and First Nations to collaboratively discuss, identify and advance possible areas for inclusion in an MPA Network for the Northern Shelf Bioregion.	In development / some activities initiated	Support development of PMZ atlas and other key reports for use in the MPA network planning process.
<b>Protection Strategy 1.3:</b> Develop management tools and protection measures for collaboratively managing Protection Management Zones.	In development / some activities initiated	Continue to identify sensitive and/or critical features and habitat in PMZs and populate management plan templates.
<b>Tenured Activities Strategy 3.3:</b> Conduct detailed planning in the 5 areas still requiring planning.	In development / some activities initiated	Continue zoning discussions for the five areas still requiring detailed planning.

<sup>4</sup> Implementation status is defined as:

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**Not started** – No activities for this strategy were initiated in 2016/17.



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

Monitoring and enforcement were a significant focus in 2016-17.

Key achievements included:

- Hosting an EBM workshop that led to identification of an initial suite of 26 EBM indicators (including 16 regional indicators).
- Developing indicator briefs for all 10 sub-regional indicators.
- Building partnerships with Kitasoo Xai'Xais, Heiltsuk, Nuxalk and Wuiknuxv Nations' Science and Guardian Watchmen programs, the Hakai Institute, Coastal Oceans Research Institute and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to gather and analyze existing data for priority indicators such as yellow-eye and quillback rockfish, all five species of salmon, dungeness crab, herring and spill monitoring.
- Continuing to develop methodologies and monitoring capacity for the remaining indicators.
- Building scientific research and monitoring capacity in communities through Guardian Watchmen recruitment, training and patrols.
- Providing sub-regional support for regional actions on cumulative effects, EBM monitoring and marine spill response.
- Initiating remediation planning for Namu.
- Initiating an assessment of marine pollution policies for activities of concern.
- Initiating a multi-year collaboration with the Conservation Land Management Program to launch a monitoring program to assess estuarine health. Sampling includes water quality, rates of salt marsh erosion, surveys of salt march plant communities, waterfowl surveys and Nekton sampling in the Asseek, Koeve, and Bella Coola estuaries.



*Table 3. Implementation status of strategies in the 2016-17 workplan related to Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement.*

Central Coast Marine Plan Strategy	Implementation Status <sup>5</sup> as of April 1, 2017	Key upcoming actions in 2017-18
<b>Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy 2.6:</b> Develop a monitoring and assessment needs report for current and future requirements, including resources, across all agencies.	Not started	Hire contractor to identify monitoring and assessment needs (staff requirements, policy gaps, infrastructure gaps, etc.) in the Central Coast
<b>Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy 2.8:</b> Build capacity for appropriate levels of monitoring and enforcement, with particular attention to monitoring and enforcement within MPAs.	On track	Continue implementation of EBM monitoring program.
<b>Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy 3.6:</b> Measure long-term changes in ecological integrity and human wellbeing using the Central Coast sub-regional EBM indicators identified during implementation of the Central Coast Marine Plan.	On track	Continue implementation of EBM monitoring program.
<b>Pollution Strategy 1.1:</b> Work with relevant Crown agencies and First Nations to contribute to the ongoing review, assessment and, where applicable, amendment and implementation of marine pollution policies and laws, focusing on international best management practices.	In development / some activities initiated	Finish developing report on best management practices for key pollution concerns.
<b>Pollution Strategy 2.1:</b> Identify sites for marine habitat restoration.	In development / some activities initiated	Convene workshop with B.C., First Nations and NGOs to identify priority restoration sites.
<b>Pollution Strategy 3.1:</b> Work with First Nations and relevant Crown agencies to review and implement	On track	Support the regional marine spill response process and associated activities outside of

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international best management practices for marine accidents and spill clean up.		MaPP.
<b>Pollution Strategy 3.2:</b> Develop information-sharing protocols that ensure the efficient flow of information and data among all levels of government.	In development / some activities initiated	Support the regional marine spill response process and associated activities outside of MaPP.
<b>Pollution Strategy 3.5:</b> Ensure that sufficient response capability is in place before marine activities are approved.	In development / some activities initiated	Support the regional marine spill response process and associated activities outside of MaPP.
<b>Pollution Strategy 4.1:</b> Research and compile effective components of successfully implemented marine response plans in other geographic regions.	In development / some activities initiated	Support the regional marine spill response process and associated activities outside of MaPP.
<b>Pollution Strategy 4.2:</b> Work with relevant Crown agencies and First Nations to gather and analyze all relevant information and data to populate marine response plans.	In development / some activities initiated	Support the regional marine spill response process and associated activities outside of MaPP.
<b>Tenured Activities Strategy 11.2:</b> Work with relevant agencies to ensure compliance with Best Management Practices for logging-related activities.	In development / some activities initiated	Continue to incorporate monitoring of log handling sites into regular Guardian Watchmen patrols.
<b>Tenured Activities Strategy 11.3:</b> Continue to monitor forestry floating camps, barges and land-based facilities, identifying any marine ecological impacts, and reporting infringements to appropriate agencies.	Complete/ functioning	Continue to incorporate monitoring of forestry floating camps, barges and land-based facilities into regular Guardian Watchmen patrols.
<b>Traditional, Cultural and Heritage Resources Strategy 2.1:</b> Develop outreach and education programs that inform local communities and tourists about First Nations title and rights, cultural areas and sites, cultural beliefs and values with respect to marine resources.	In development / some activities initiated	Hire contractor to develop communication materials.
<b>Traditional, Cultural and Heritage Resources Strategy 3.2:</b> Develop guidelines that teach potential visitors about basic etiquette while visiting cultural and archaeological sites.	In development / some activities initiated	Hire contractor to develop communication materials.
<b>Traditional, Cultural and Heritage Resources Strategy 3.4:</b> Improve coordination between provincial agencies and Coastal Guardian Watchmen to monitor impacts on cultural and archaeological sites.	On track	Develop methodology for cultural site monitoring indicator and incorporate monitoring of cultural sites into regular Guardian Watchmen patrols.



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

The Central Coast partners explored requirements for building a successful shellfish aquaculture industry on the Central Coast. Programs that teach First Nations youth about traditional management and harvesting practices were supported.

Key achievements included:

- Assessing habitat suitability for shellfish aquaculture and developing a production model that predicts harvest date and biomass.
- Building local job opportunities in research, compliance, and monitoring, and supporting skills development training.
- Providing support for a coordinator to deliver the "Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards" (SEAS) program in three of the four First Nations communities.
- Identifying indicators that will build understanding of community health and wellbeing

*Table 4. Implementation status of strategies identified in the 2016-17 workplan related to Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities*

Central Coast Marine Plan Strategy	Implementation Status <sup>6</sup> as of April 1, 2017	Key upcoming Actions in 2017-18
<b>Tenured Activities Strategy 2.1:</b> Assess provincial tenures in the Plan Area, and review their current level of activity. Where appropriate, work with relevant agencies to reduce the number of inactive or under-utilized tenures.	In development / some activities initiated	Complete spatial analysis of implications of Great Bear Rainforest Agreement. Hold bilateral meetings with forestry industry related to reducing the number of inactive or underutilized forestry tenures.
<b>Traditional, Cultural and Heritage Resources Strategy 2.2:</b> Support programs and activities that encourage youth involvement in Traditional use	Complete/ functioning	Continue to support the SEAS program. Explore opportunities to engage non-Aboriginal youth in activities related to understanding and

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activities and stewardship of the marine environment.		managing the marine environment.
<b>Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy 3.3:</b> Provide First Nations and relevant local residents with training on collecting data related to EBM indicators in order to improve monitoring participation.	On track	Continue to support capacity building in First Nations communities through skills training and investments in equipment and fuel

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

The Central Coast partners supported regional climate change and adaptation planning initiatives. There were no sub-regional strategies related to climate change in the 2016-17 workplan.

Key achievements included:

- Providing sub-regional input on a regional contract to provide regional background information for the development of a climate change vulnerability/ risk assessment for the MaPP region.

## LOOKING AHEAD

In 2016-17 we formalized the institutional structures required to implement MaPP and laid the groundwork for building more effective and inclusive monitoring and enforcement on the coast. In 2017-18, we will build on this foundational work to advance marine zoning efforts and implement priority strategies related to stewardship, monitoring, enforcement, and sustainable economic development. Key activities for 2017-18 are summarized below by strategic outcome.

**Collaboration and Governance:** We will keep stakeholders and local government apprised of implementation progress and seek advice from them on topics such as the EBM indicators, draft management plans for Protection Management Zones, and sector-specific protocols and agreements.

**Marine Zoning:** We will continue to engage in the Marine Protected Area Network process. We will develop management plans for PMZs and complete discussions for the five areas that require more detailed planning.

**Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement:** We will work towards improved coordination between First Nation, federal and provincial monitoring and enforcement agencies. We will provide continued support for Guardian Watchmen to collect data on EBM indicators; welcome



and educate visitors in the territory; support marine response; and promote compliance through education and presence.

We will develop educational materials related to traditional and cultural uses, visitor etiquette and First Nations rights and culture and continue to support the SEAS program to mentor youth in traditional harvesting, marine management and tourism.

We will continue to build partnerships for stewardship and monitoring with Hakai Institute, Coastal Oceans Research Institute, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program. We will continue with remediation of Namu and identify other priority sites for restoration.

**Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities:** We will identify sites with the highest potential for scallop and geoduck aquaculture on the Central Coast and develop a feasibility assessment that determines the location, number and size of aquaculture operations required to make aquaculture operations financially viable.

**Climate Change and Adaptive Management:** We will continue to support regional climate change and adaptation planning initiatives.

## GRAPHICS AND FIGURES

The following graphics illustrate implementation status of the strategies identified in the 2016-17 workplan. Implementation status is defined as follows:

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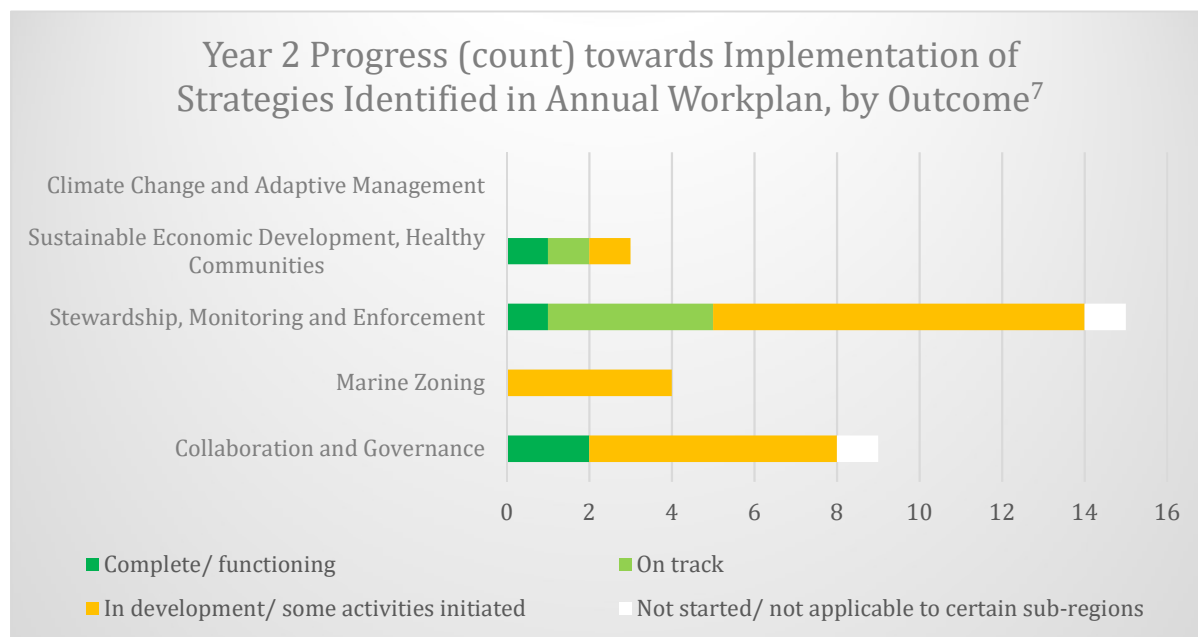
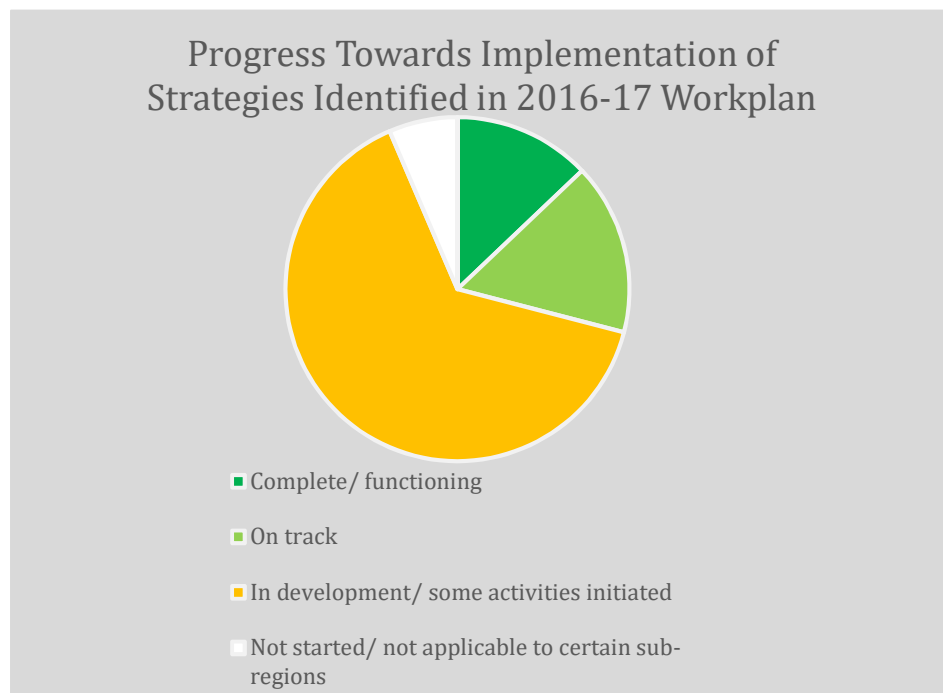
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Some of the implementation activities that the Central Coast partners intended to begin in 2016-17 were postponed or were only partially implemented. In some cases, timelines were realigned to allow for greater coordination with other sub-regions or the region, and in some cases priorities were revisited because of a lack of capacity to implement the full workplan. The



Central Coast partners are striving to increase capacity so that all priority actions in the year 2017-18 workplan can be implemented successfully.



<sup>7</sup> The Central Coast partners supported regional climate change and adaptation planning initiatives. There were no sub-regional strategies related to climate change in the 2016-17 workplan.



## 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.

