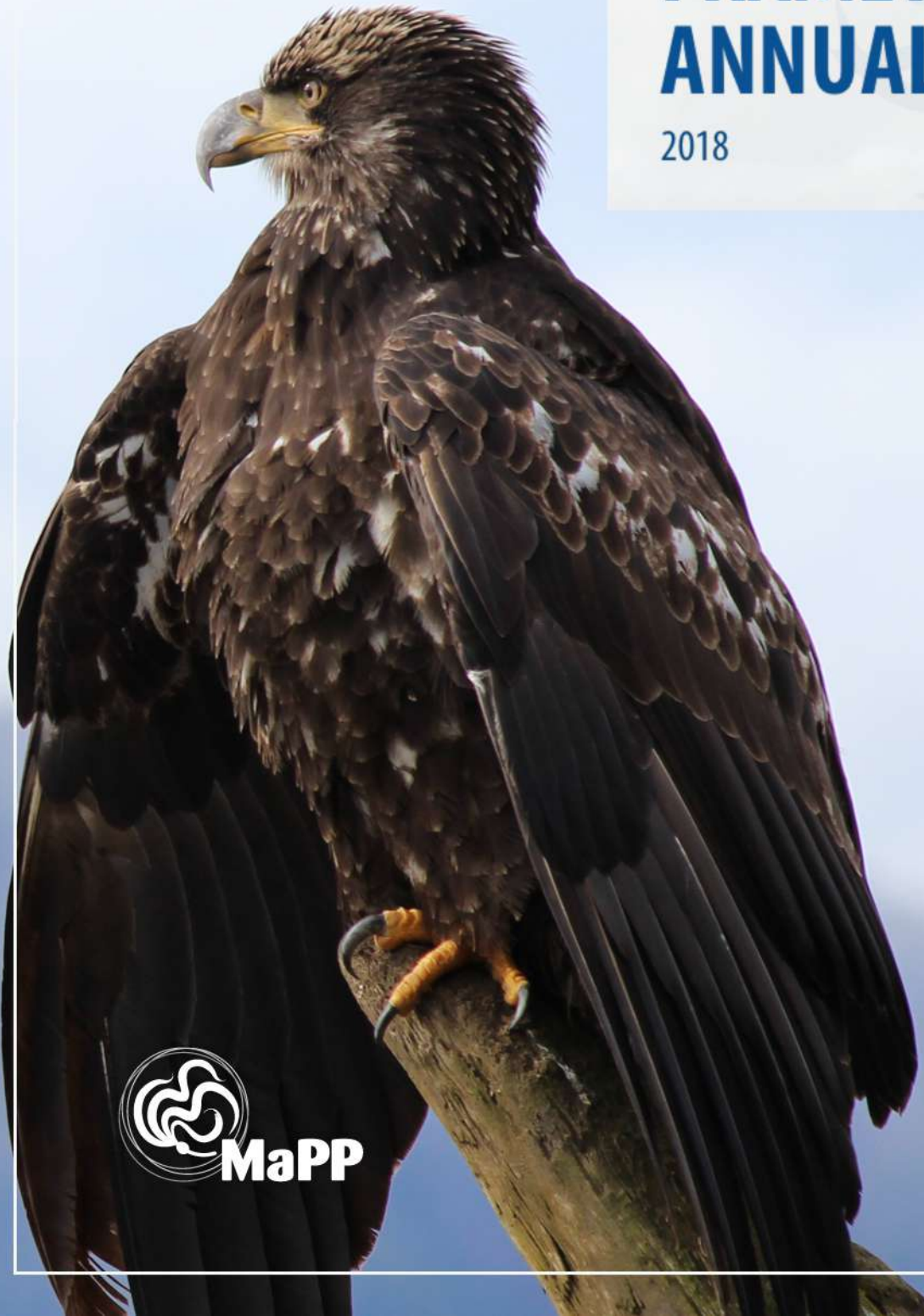


MARINE PLAN PARTNERSHIP FOR
THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST

REGIONAL ACTION FRAMEWORK ANNUAL REPORT

2018



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MESSAGE FROM THE MaPP SECRETARIAT

On behalf of the Province of B.C., the Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance, the Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative, the Council of the Haida Nation, the Nanwakolas Council, and the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society (collectively the “MaPP partners”), the MaPP Secretariat is pleased to present the 2017-18 MaPP Regional Action Framework Annual Report.

This report covers the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 and highlights progress made on a number of priority Regional Action Framework actions and outlines key activities for 2018-19.

Through implementation of the Regional Action Framework, the MaPP partners are advancing actions that 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 Regional Action Framework, along with the four sub-regional marine plans, serves to reinforce an ecosystem-based management approach to marine resources.

Implementation is led by the MaPP partners under the direction of the Marine Working Group, co-ordinated by the MaPP Secretariat and the Marine Implementation Technical Team, with input from stakeholders and local governments and supported by collaborators, federal government agencies and the general public.

We hope you enjoy reading of our progress to date.

Sincerely,

Karen Topelko, Province of B.C.
Kristin Worsley, Province of B.C.

John Bones, Nanwakolas Council
Steve Diggon, Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative



Photo: Barb Dinning

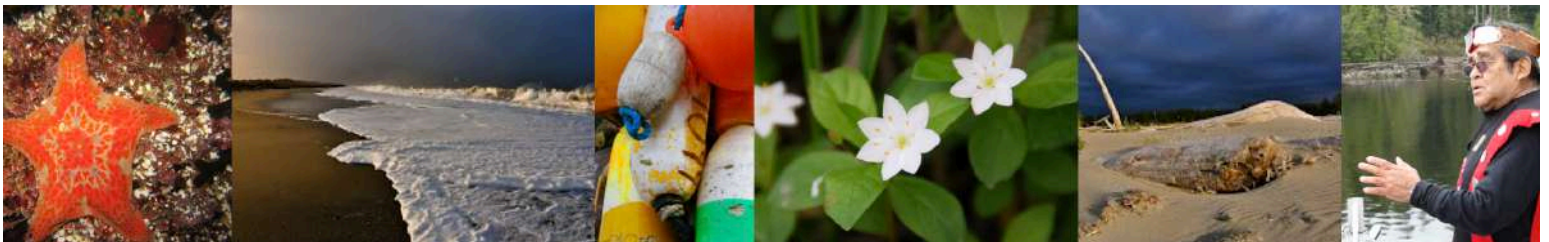
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

During year three 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, 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 co-ordinator for moving a multitude of projects forward during this period.

Collaborators, such as the Coastal Ocean Research Institute, as well as some federal government department representatives, also made contributions towards the implementation of the Regional Action Framework.

Additionally, the Secretariat would like to acknowledge the contribution of 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 members. Along with re-engaged members, new members will bring enthusiasm and expertise as we continue to implement important regional actions.

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



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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 Regional Action Framework actions, form the 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 2017-18 by the Marine Implementation Technical Team and the relevant sub-committees, and were further scoped during regional implementation work planning and budgeting, with input from the Regional Marine Advisory Committee membership. Priority implementation activities at a regional level focussed on: strengthening the model of collaborative oceans governance; monitoring pilot ecosystem-based management indicators; and advancing the development of regional frameworks.

In 2017-18, significant achievements towards implementing a number of priority actions were:

- Regularly convened sub-committees established to advance actions related to spatial zoning, ecosystem-based monitoring, climate change, cumulative effects, and data management. Successfully co-ordinated efforts of the sub-regional teams towards achieving regional objectives, encouraging a consistent yet flexible approach to regional implementation (**Implementation Action 6.2a**).
- MaPP partners from all sub-regions worked with collaborators (with relationships continued from year two or newly established in year three), such as the Coastal Ocean Research Initiative, Regional Monitoring Strategy, and Coastal Stewardship

Network, to make substantial progress on large-scale regional activities (**Governance Action 2.2a**). For example, MaPP and collaborators:

- completed preliminary data collection and reports on a sub-set of regional pilot ecosystem-based management (EBM) indicators (**Ecosystem-Based Management Actions 3.5a, 3.5b**);
 - completed the *MaPP Data and Information Management Strategy* (**Ecosystem-Based Management Actions 3.5d**);
 - completed the *Geographic Response Planning Guidance Document* and accompanying materials (**Marine Pollution Action 3.4b**);
 - completed the refined *MaPP Cumulative Effects Framework*, soon to be put forward for formal endorsement by the Marine Working Group (**Cumulative Effects Action 3.2a**);
 - advanced regional climate change work through a grant with the University of Victoria. Two foundational reports were completed: *Regional Climate Change Assessment: Projected Climate Changes, Impacts, and Recommendations for Assessing Vulnerability and Risk across the Canadian North Pacific Coast*, and *Evaluation of Specific Frameworks and Tools for Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk within the MaPP Region and Sub-Regions* (**Climate Change Action 3.1b**).
- Further developed MaPP partner processes for tracking the consistency of tenure applications, referral responses, and decisions with the management recommendations in the MaPP plans (**Zoning Action 5.2a**).
 - Continued meaningful training and outreach with provincial staff to maintain awareness and consideration of MaPP plans in the review and adjudication of tenure applications (**Zoning Action 5.2b**).
 - Continued to engage with the general public and stakeholders through the distribution of a bi-annual newsletter and facebook™ posts (**Implementation Action 6.2c**).
 - Additional funding was secured to support the collaborative marine protected area (MPA) network planning process. The funding will support additional technical capacity as well as stakeholder and public engagement in the process.

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IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS DETAILS

Progress on implementation of the Regional Action Framework in 2017-18 is described below under the five MaPP strategic outcomes. Each update includes a table that lists all the specific Regional Action Framework actions that the MaPP partners worked on in 2017-18. 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 two, year three or year four) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No activities for this action were initiated in the relevant budget year
At risk / significantly behind schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 2017-18. Key achievements included:

- Continued to successfully co-ordinate MaPP sub-regional teams and sub-committees towards accomplishing regional activities. The ecosystem-based management indicators, cumulative effects, and spatial planning sub-committees were particularly active in year three.
- Continued to develop and nurture external partnerships to access expertise and increase capacity. Our partnership with the Coastal Ocean Research Initiative continued to advance our regional (and sub-regional) ecosystem-based management indicators assessment and monitoring programs. We are also continuing conversations with the Ocean Health Index, and a small group of MaPP representatives attended an Ocean Tipping Points workshop in early November to help advance integrated ecosystem-based management, climate change, and cumulative effects work.
- MaPP partners continued to engage the federal government in numerous activities of mutual interest. This included hosting a marine response workshop in January 2018, attended by federal government officials who engaged in conversations aimed at development of community workshops to advance marine response planning in each of the MaPP sub-regions.
- MaPP partners presented at the 4th International Marine Protected Areas Congress in Chile. The symposium, titled *The Story of How Eighteen Governments Came Together with Marine Spatial Plans that Achieve Stewardship, Social, and Economic Goals, and how the Nineteenth Government's Marine Protected Area plans are intersecting*, involved representatives from MaPP partner organizations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- A tri-lateral agreement that will establish the way Canada, B.C., and First Nations collaborate on implementation of the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) plan was further developed. Near-term priorities for plan implementation include governance, marine protected area network planning, monitoring and adaptive management, integrated economic opportunities, and tools to support plan implementation (e.g., cumulative effects).
- A stakeholder engagement strategy was developed to support marine protected area network planning. Together with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, MaPP partners established advisory committees and hosted meetings in May and June 2017, as well as a large forum in February 2018 and two webinars. These engagement events were an opportunity to exchange information and solicit feedback on data and key technical analyses.
- The Regional Marine Advisory Committee met in February 2018, to provide progress updates on 2017-18 implementation activities, proposed 2018-19 activities and to review

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and receive stakeholder input to the draft MaPP Marine Cumulative Effects Framework. An email update was also sent to the Regional Marine Advisory Committee in January 2018.



Photo: Allison Paul

Table 1. Priority regional action statuses for *Governance and Collaboration*, 2017-18

RAF Action implemented in 2017-18	Outcome	Implementation Status of Action
<p>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 plan).</p>	Governance and Collaboration	In development / some activities initiated
<p>Governance – Action 2.2b Continue to identify and advance opportunities for more effective and collaborative First Nation-provincial environmental assessment processes.</p>	Governance and Collaboration	In development / some activities initiated
<p>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.</p>	Governance and Collaboration	In development / some activities initiated
<p>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.</p>	Governance and Collaboration	In development / some activities initiated
<p>Implementation – Action 6.2c Develop a regional work plan, in conjunction with sub-regional work plans, and review progress in achieving regional actions annually.</p>	Governance and Collaboration	On track
<p>Implementation – Action 6.2d Seek and secure resources for implementation of regional actions.</p>	Governance and Collaboration	On track

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

At a regional-level, in 2017-18 MaPP focused on increasing awareness, understanding, and consideration of management direction in the sub-regional marine plans. Key achievements are described below.

- MaPP made significant advancements in terms of provincial staff training and outreach. B.C. hosted meetings with regional authorizations and Front Counter BC staff to discuss MaPP zoning recommendations and consideration of MaPP zones in the review of tenure applications. Four training sessions were completed in regional and district offices. Training was also provided to staff across different provincial ministries to bring attention to the MaPP plans and to identify opportunities for program or project alignment and efficiencies.
- A tenure analysis report was completed for year two, the results of which showed a high level of consistency between decisions made on authorizations and the direction provided in the MaPP plans. The awareness of the MaPP plans has improved greatly and the plans were referenced regularly in land use reports developed for decision makers.
- B.C. partner members have also worked to have spatial zones loaded into the provincial data warehouse and registries to facilitate integration of MaPP spatial zoning into decision-making. For example, the marine plans are now available on B.C.'s Integrated Land & Resource Registry, which provides proponents with a single source of reliable information on B.C. Crown land legal interests and land status. The registry also has information on land and resource restrictions and reservations, and locations of private land.
- In consultation with B.C. Front Counter BC staff, B.C. partner members developed a draft plan variance process and template in co-operation with the Marine Implementation Technical Team.
- Significant progress was made on marine protected area network planning for the Northern Shelf Bioregion, including data collection, assembly, management, validation, and analysis; process design and project management; and on building technology support (e.g., SeaSketch, Marxan). First Nations communities identified cultural conservation priorities and quantitative targets for their representation in the network, a significant contribution to the planning process.
- MaPP developed a newsletter to communicate the contribution of MaPP's spatial zoning to the MPA network planning process.

Table 2. Priority regional action statuses for *Marine Zoning, 2017-18*

RAF Action implemented in 2017-18	Outcome	Implementation Status of Action
<p>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.</p>	Marine Zoning	In development / some activities initiated
<p>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.</p>	Marine Zoning	On track
<p>Zoning – Action 5.2c Co-ordinate involvement in the tripartite (First Nation-B.C.-Canada) regional marine protected area network planning process, including defining and applying marine protected area network design criteria and collectively evaluating MaPP sub-regional marine plan recommendations, data and analysis for their contributions to a regional network.</p>	Marine Zoning	In development / some activities initiated

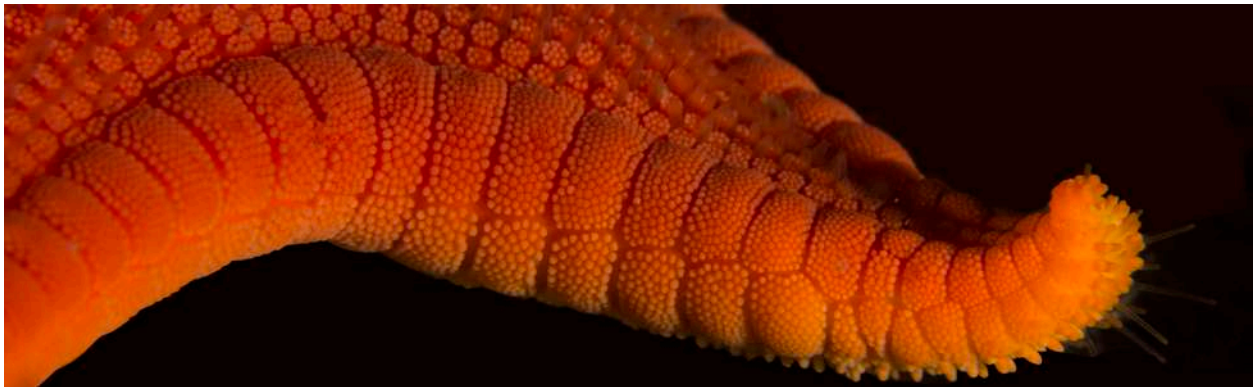


Photo: Markus Thompson

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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 2017-18, including indicator monitoring and reporting, climate change, cumulative effects, and marine pollution. Key achievements are described below.

- Continued collaboration with the Coastal Ocean Research Institute (CORI) to find and interpret data related to a sub-set of regional pilot ecosystem-based management indicators, specifically:
 - eelgrass, kelp, and Pacific salmon (species and habitat theme),
 - sea surface temperature and sea surface salinity (climate change and oceanography theme), and
 - trends in water quality (fecal coliform, shellfish closures, ocean acidification, oil spills and contaminants) (clean water theme).

CORI delivered data reports for these indicators for internal evaluation, as well as a report identifying regional data gaps and recommendations for future monitoring activities.

- Completed an external contract to refine the preliminary *MaPP Marine Cumulative Effects Framework* through a review of best practices and initiatives to date (local to international), and engagement with the MaPP partners. Resulting deliverables are a refined 'evergreen' cumulative effects framework and a document outlining recommended next steps towards implementation of the framework. The document has technical support from the partners and will be moved forward for endorsement from the Marine Working Group in early 2018-19. Implementation discussions have started within the cumulative effects sub-committee and the Marine Implementation Technical Team. The draft cumulative effects framework was reviewed at the Regional Marine Advisory Committee meeting in February 2018.
- MaPP partners completed a comprehensive *Data and Information Management Strategy* for application to all data and information generated (and accessed) during implementation of regional actions and sub-regional strategies. The strategy addresses the unique MaPP data needs (especially data and information security) and provides recommendations on implementation, which are now under review by the Marine Implementation Technical Team.



Photo: Barb Dinning

Table 3. Priority regional action statuses for *Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement, 2017-18*

RAF Action implemented in 2017-18	Outcome	Implementation Status of Action
<p>Cumulative Effects – Action 3.2a Continue to refine the draft MaPP marine cumulative effects assessment framework in collaboration with the Province of B.C.’s cumulative effects project.</p>	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	On track
<p>Cumulative Effects - Action 3.2b Collaborate with sub-regions to select and implement an appropriate pilot(s) to test the cumulative effects framework for marine uses and activities.</p>	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	In development / some activities initiated
<p>Cumulative Effects – Action 3.2c Advance dialogue on a common approach to integrate cumulative effects assessments into marine decision-making processes.</p>	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	In development / some activities initiated
<p>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.</p>	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	In development / some activities initiated
<p>Marine Pollution - Action 3.4c With relevant agencies and departments, review existing funding mechanisms for pollution prevention and response, and explore opportunities to improve existing policy and bolster funding, as necessary.</p>	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	In development / some activities initiated
<p>Marine Pollution - Action 3.4d Develop partnerships to implement a regional education program that will raise public awareness of marine pollution regulations, policies and best management practices.</p>	Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement	In development / some activities initiated

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<p>EBM Monitoring and Indicators – Action 3.5a Based on existing and ongoing work, establish a regional suite of indicators and initiate monitoring and analyses.</p>	<p>Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement</p>	<p>On track</p>
<p>EBM Monitoring and Indicators – Action 3.5b Co-ordinate the development of information-sharing protocols where appropriate.</p>	<p>Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement</p>	<p>In development / some activities initiated</p>
<p>EBM Monitoring and Indicators - Action 3.5d Maintain and enhance a comprehensive and publicly accessible data portal to more effectively share ecosystem-based management indicator monitoring data, spatial data, and other relevant data and reports (e.g., cumulative effects, climate change and marine pollution).</p>	<p>Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement</p>	<p>On track</p>



Photo: Barb Dinning

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 began to explore issues around marine infrastructure. Progress on this included:

- The formation of an economic development sub-committee to understand work that may have been completed to date, scope regional level opportunities, and review contract deliverables for year three and beyond.
- MaPP partners began an internal scoping document for advancement of marine infrastructure focused specifically on a ‘coastal services highway.’ Infrastructure issues related to impacts of climate change were advanced through regional climate change work with the University of Victoria (see Outcome 5: Climate Change and Adaptive Management).

Table 4. Priority regional action statuses for *Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities*, 2017-18

RAF Action implemented in 2017-18	Outcome	Implementation Status of Action
<p>Economy and Infrastructure - Action 3.3a Confirm specific gaps in regional and coastal community marine infrastructure and services, and initiate action to address them to improve economic development and human well-being.</p>	Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities	In development / some activities initiated
<p>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.</p>	Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities	In development / some activities initiated

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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.

To advance climate change work, MaPP issued a grant for the assessment of climate change vulnerability and risk in the MaPP region.

Achievements by the MaPP partners in 2017-18 related to climate change actions included:

- Through a grant with the University of Victoria’s Marine Ethnoecology Research group, MaPP completed two foundational reports to advance regional climate change work. The *Regional Climate Change Assessment: Projected Climate Changes, Impacts, and Recommendations for Assessing Vulnerability and Risk across the Canadian North Pacific Coast* is a background report that includes projections, impacts, and adaptation recommendations for MaPP to consider. The *Evaluation of Specific Frameworks and Tools for Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk within the MaPP Region and Sub-Regions* report includes framework tools available for vulnerability/risk assessment, including recommendations for both regional and sub-regional frameworks. Spatial files were provided as a component of Phase 1.
- Continued and initiated new discussions with partnering programs (e.g., Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative, Climate Action Secretariat) regarding work planned by MaPP and already undertaken or contemplated through other programs, to identify any synergies/efficiencies moving forward.
- The Coastal Ocean Research Initiative developed reports on climate change metrics such as sea surface temperature, sea surface salinity, and ocean acidification (See Outcome 3: Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement). In 2018-19, the initiation of dedicated climate change projects is anticipated to be a priority for the MaPP region given the need for regional work to precede more detailed sub-regional assessments.



Photo: Gilian Dusting

Table 5. Priority regional action statuses for *Climate Change and Adaptive Management, 2017-18*

RAF Action implemented in 2017-18	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 ecosystem based management monitoring program that will inform response strategies.	Climate Change and Adaptive Management	On track
Climate Change – Action 3.1b Develop and conduct a regional risk assessment for ocean climate change.	Climate Change and Adaptive Management	On track
Climate Change - Action 3.1d Develop regional educational tools for application that explain ocean climate change effects, their impacts on marine ecosystems, human communities and infrastructure, and adaptive capacity.	Climate Change and Adaptive Management	Not started / not applicable to certain sub-regions
Climate Change - Action 3.1e Increase public awareness of climate change, including applicable laws, policies and customs governing marine resource use, best management practices, and adaptive capacity.	Climate Change and Adaptive Management	Not started / not applicable to certain sub-regions



Photo: Markus Thompson

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LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead to implementation year four (2018-19), at a regional-level MaPP will continue to foster tri-lateral collaborations including, where possible, integration of governance and stakeholder activities across different initiatives (e.g., Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area plan implementation, marine protected area network planning, Oceans Protection Plan), especially where priorities overlap. With the federal government's renewed focus on ocean planning and management, the MaPP partners recognize the unique opportunity to advance objectives requiring federal participation and may need to re-prioritize some items in order to take advantage of available opportunities.

Activities that were scheduled for implementation in 2017-18 but not completed due, in part, to the complexity of the projects and capacity limitations, will be undertaken as resourcing allows. For example, activities under the outcome Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities, specifically the 'coastal service highway,' remain an interest for longer-term implementation, along with activities under the outcomes Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement.



Photo: Barb Dinning





WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

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