



Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP)
Regional Marine Advisory Committee (RMAC)
Draft Meeting Summary

Advisory Group Meeting #1
March 1, 2017, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Marriott Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond, B.C.

Objectives:

1. To review RMAC Terms of Reference (TOR) and Membership
2. For RMAC members to receive updates on the Regional Action Framework (RAF) Implementation and provide advice on specific activities
3. For RMAC members to receive an update and provide advice on MaPP Annual Reporting

Attendance:

RMAC Members & Alternates:

Ted Pellegrino, Nicholas Redpath – *Local Government (Kitimat-Stikine Regional District)*

Jeff Long – *Local Government (Mount Waddington Regional District)*

Jim McIsaac, Dan Edwards – *Commercial Fisheries*

Kim Wright, Alexandra Barron – *Marine Conservation*

Paul Kariya – *Renewable Energy*

Adrian Rowland – *Marine Infrastructure*

Todd Russell – *Shellfish Aquaculture*

MaPP:

Kristin Worsley – *Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Secretariat), Chair*

Karen Topelko – *Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Secretariat and Co-lead for Haida Gwaii, North Coast and Central Coast Sub-regions)*

John Bones – *Nanwakolas Council (Secretariat and Co-lead for North Vancouver Island Sub-region)*

Allison Paul – *North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society (Co-lead)*

Gord McGee – *Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance (Planner)*

Romney McPhee – *Regional Projects Coordinator*

Fiona Kilburn – *MaPP Administrator and Financial Coordinator*

Josie Byington – *MaPP Communications Assistant*

Guest:

Karin Bodtker – *Coastal Oceans Research Institute*

Regrets:

Jim Abram – *Local Government (Strathcona Regional District)*

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

Scott Benton – *Commercial Tourism*

Nick Heath – *Public Recreation*

Richard Opala – *Finfish Aquaculture*

Bruce Storry – *Coastal Forestry*

Steve Diggon – *Coastal First Nations (Secretariat)*

Opening and Meeting Information, Background

- Kristin Worsley, Co-Chair, opened the meeting.
- Introductions were made.
- Kristin reviewed agenda and purpose of the meeting. There were no additions to the agenda; a decision was made to move the Economic Development and Healthy Communities discussion to 1:45 p.m.

Review of MaPP Five Year Implementation

- John Bones reviewed the MaPP Five-Year Implementation Strategy for implementation orientation purposes, pointing out the document had already been made public.
- Items discussed included: the consistency of sub-regional and regional priority actions across five shared outcome themes; the need for a continued science advisory role in ecosystem-based management (EBM) framework implementation (ecosystem, human well-being, governance and knowledge); the need for governance activities to include actions related to stakeholder and local government involvement in decision-making processes; B.C. government staff capacity for implementation; the nature and content of implementation agreements between MaPP partners; and FrontCounter BC's approach to considering MaPP plan recommendations on tenure referrals.
- Clarifications provided by MaPP: 1) the Five-Year Implementation Strategy is complete; implementation activities are focused on achieving outcomes related to the five themes of: 1. collaboration and governance, 2. marine zoning, 3. stewardship, monitoring and enforcement, 4. sustainable economic development and healthy communities, and 5. climate change; 2) 'governance' as described in the Implementation Strategy (Figure 2) is focussed on B.C.-First Nations; opportunities will continue to be created for stakeholder and local government participation in various implementation activities; 4) B.C. provides staff time from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRO) and other ministries as its contribution for implementation of the sub-regional plans and RAF; 5) the content of implementation agreements focuses on structures and processes related to work planning for implementation of the marine plans; 6) the Implementation Strategy describes different commitments by sub-regions and the Region to use science advisors where appropriate, with the current use of science advisors mainly associated with Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network planning and EBM indicator monitoring; 7) the MaPP plans are being integrated into B.C. processes (FrontCounter BC) through internal staff training. Ongoing monitoring and support is provided by FLNRO staff.
- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*

Governance and Collaboration

- Kristin made a presentation on related initiatives (Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area [PNCIMA], MPA Network, Oceans Protection Plan [OPP]).
- Items discussed included: necessity for federal government involvement for effective oceans governance; Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) role in co-ordinating other federal ministries (Transport, Natural Resources, Economics, Parks); need for integrated management, not just co-ordinated management, for issues like conservation, fishing, shipping, and spills; potential action by stakeholders to write letters to the federal government to express support for integrated advisory processes; need for engagement of senior people (Chiefs and ministers) with federal counterparts for effective implementation; requirement for local buy-in from industries and communities for MPA development.

- Clarifications were provided that: 1) MaPP continues to work tri-laterally with the federal government on shared initiatives, and will continue to strive for an integrated advisory process for these initiatives.
- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*

Review of RMAC Terms of Reference

- John provided an overview of the draft Terms of Reference.
- Items discussed included suggestions for changes to clauses in the Purpose, Process, Membership, and Operating Principles sections and the way in which the Advice Log is populated.
- Clarifications were provided that: 1) representation within a sector is intended to be flexible so members can best respond to topics addressed; 2) the use of stakeholder sub-committees is anticipated; 3) MaPP Secretariat are developing a stakeholder support application process; changes suggested were reasonable and could be accommodated.
- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*
- **ACTION: Secretariat to circulate a revised Terms of Reference.**
- **ACTION: Secretariat to distribute the stakeholder funding criteria and application to RMAC members once it is approved internally.**
- **ACTION: Ensure RMAC advice log clearly outlines nature of actions taken for advice given.**

Economic Development and Healthy Communities

- Karen made a presentation on the topic of potential regional economic development activities.
- Items discussed included: shellfish industry potential and constraints, including lack of capacity at DFO's shellfish testing lab; benefit of a MaPP-sponsored infrastructure needs workshop with selected invitees; benefit of creating an RMAC sub-committee to focus on infrastructure needs; need for B.C. economic strategies to support moving product from communities; opportunity for a "blue bond" to attract investment; new round of federal government dock divestiture an economic advantage in communities.
- Clarifications provided that: 1) finfish aquaculture is not an activity in all sub-regions, that is why it is not addressed in regional actions; 2) infrastructure to fill gaps in the regional "marine highway" has always been a priority.
- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*
- **ACTION: Secretariat to establish a sub-committee of RMAC to assist in development of a regional marine infrastructure workshop and participants who would contribute.**
- **Workshop to lead to an action plan for filling regional infrastructure gaps.**

Marine Zoning

- Karen presented the approach to implementation of MaPP spatial plan and related initiatives.
- Items discussed included: need for greater adherence to plan recommendations, especially to provide positive examples for local government confidence; plan interpretation training sessions for local government; delay in moving forward with protection management zone (PMZ) management planning; variable level of public access to individual or aggregate First Nations marine plans at the discretion of the First Nation.
- Clarifications provided that: 1) percentages of areas in zones do not total 100% due to un-zoned areas from the planning phase; 2) un-zoned areas are being discussed during the implementation phase; 3) MaPP zoning is largely consistent with the zoning of preceding B.C. coastal plans; 4) management tools along with the plan strategies support economic development and cultural and

heritage protection in addition to conservation of biodiversity; 5) management tools for PMZs can be identified concurrently with the MPA Network process; 6) the interim protection measure for Yakoun Estuary, Salmon River Estuary, Asseek Estuary is a Section 16 that prevents further disposition of Crown land while the area is in the process for consideration as a designated wildlife management area; 7) B.C. is currently adding MaPP zones to databases accessed by tenure authorizations staff and tenure applicants.

- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*
- **ACTION: B.C. to invite local government to tenure authorizations staff training sessions, or conduct sessions with local government where applicable.**
- **ACTION: Secretariat to consider means of involving stakeholders and local government in promoting consistency with MaPP plan recommendations.**
- **ACTION: Secretariat to provide links to MPA Network Process website and MPA Strategy document to RMAC members.**
- **ACTION: Zone shape files and access to Seasketch to be provided to Mount Waddington Regional District planning department.**

Stewardship, Monitoring, Enforcement

EBM Monitoring – Background

- Karin Bodker made a presentation on the CORI Partnership, Regional Pilot Indicators and Data Management project.
- Items discussed included: distinction between stewardship and governance indicators; difference between plan performance measures and EBM indicators; need for MaPP data management strategy; lack of an indicator related to stakeholder role in governance; need for an integrating indicator that cuts across different themes; need for inclusion of federal government in indicator development; potential for indicator data to guide government policy for rural development.
- Clarifications provided that: 1) consultant reports on the development of EBM indicators are in Stakeholder Dropbox; 2) plan performance measures will quantify the number of tenure applications and land use decisions that are consistent with plan zoning; 3) Regional indicators are iterative and will be refined in future; 4) sub-regions will monitor additional indicators beyond the Regional suite; 5) MaPP will establish the metadata listing the locations of data, rather than establishing a data repository.
- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*
- **ACTION: Secretariat to review the governance indicators and consider stakeholder feedback.**

Marine Response Planning

- Romney gave a presentation on **progress-to-date and related initiatives (OPP)**.
- Items discussed included: need for communication with West Coast Aquatic regarding marine response; details of the marine response pilot project; zoning status of Douglas Channel.
- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*
- **ACTION: Secretariat to distribute the marine response strategy to RMAC members for their advice.**
- **ACTION: B.C. reps to contact the B.C. Environmental Emergency program representative regarding the response planning being done by West Coast Aquatic Management Board.**

Climate Change

- Romney made a presentation on the regional vulnerability assessment study.

- Items discussed included: role of Hakai Institute in collecting data on ocean acidification; Marine Environmental Observation Prediction and Response (MEOPAR) Network – new federally-funded marine research initiative based at Dalhousie University with SFU, UVic, Memorial University participating; it is a new network for collecting unusual ecological sightings.
- Clarification was made on the timeline for the study (the statement of work is under development).
- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*

Annual Reporting

- This discussion was not held due to time constraints.

Wrap-up and Adjourn

- Kristin thanked all participants for their attendance.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.