North Vancouver Island
Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC)
2018-19 Mid-Year Meeting & PMZ Management Plan Workshop

MEETING SUMMARY

October 10 & 11, 2018
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 PMZ areas.

Attendance:

MPAC Participants:
Bruce Storry – Coastal Forestry (Member)
Bharat Adhikari – Coastal Forestry (Alternate)
Christina Mardell – Coastal Forestry (Alternate)
Jim McIsaac – Commercial Fisheries (Alternate)
Rick Snowdon – Commercial Tourism (Member)
Richard Opala (Day 1) – Finfish Aquaculture (Member)
Bill Wareham – Marine Conservation (Member)
Ross Jameson (Day 2) – Marine Conservation (Alternate)
Peter Stockdill – Public Recreation (Member)
Chuck Ashcroft – Public Recreational Fishing (Member)
Don Tillapaugh – Shellfish Aquaculture (Member)
Leighton Wishart – Local Government (RDMW) (Member)
Dennis Buchanan – Local Government (District of Port Hardy) (Member)

MaPP Participants:
John Bones – Nanwakolas Council (Technical Team Co-Chair)
Andy Witt – Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Technical Team Co-Chair)
Sally Cargill – Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Scott Harris – Nanwakolas Council
Alex Barron – MaPP Technical Planner
Markus Thompson (Day 1) – Contractor- NVI EBM Coordinator
Josie Byington – MaPP NVI Planning Assistant and MaPP Communications Assistant

Observer:
Lance Underwood (Day 2) – Commercial Fisheries

Regrets:
Dan Edwards – Commercial Fisheries
Jim Abram – Local Government (SRD)
Larry Samson, Charlie Cornfield – Local Government (City of Campbell River)
Jeff Long – Local Government (RDMW)
Nick Heath – Public Recreation
Mike Kelly – Port Hardy Harbour Authority
Todd Russell – Shellfish Aquaculture

Day 1

Welcome and Opening
John Bones and Andy Witt welcomed the group on behalf of the NVI Technical Team. Introductions were made around the table.

Previous Meeting & Meeting Agenda
Andy reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting and provided a verbal summary of the last MPAC meeting, which focussed on review of the NVI Annual Report and work planning for 2018/19.

General Discussion:
Discussion focused on clarification of statements in the NVI Annual Report.

• Advice received during the session can be found in the MPAC advice log

Update on Related Planning Activities
John Bones provided an update on Federal Ocean initiatives (MPA Network, Ocean Protection Plan).

General Discussion:
Discussion focused on:
• Reconciliation Framework Agreement (RFA) signed with First Nations on Ocean Protection Plan (OPP) activities in the Northern Shelf Bioregion;
• Complexity of organizing for involvement in Ocean Protection Plan initiatives; B.C.’s involvement in development of the Regional response plan and other initiatives under the OPP including shoreline video surveys, proactive vessel management, and vessels of concern programs;
• Upcoming stakeholder advisory committee meeting on MPA network and timelines including how NVI PMZs are being applied to MPA network planning; and
• Level of consideration of socio-economic values in MPA network planning; and

ACTIONS:
• John to make the RFA available when it is ready for release by Transport Canada.
Ongoing Project Updates
Presentations were made on ongoing NVI Plan projects. These were the Recreation and Tourism Economic Development project, the Tlowitsis Shellfish Aquaculture Pilot Project, Cultural/Archaeological projects, and the Guardian program.

General Discussion:
Discussion took place on: recent tourism trends; technical questions related to the shellfish aquaculture project; and protection strategies for vulnerable cultural sites.

ACTIONS:
- Alex to add the MaPP Strategic Approach flowchart to the MPAC Dropbox.
- MPAC members to provide feedback on Recreation and Tourism recommendations due 2 Nov.
- Josie to provide Bill Wareham with access to the MPAC Dropbox.

New Projects
Presentations were made on ongoing NVI Plan projects. These were the EBM Monitoring & Kelp Model, Polluted Areas Restoration project, Communications projects, and the Marine Trails project.

General Discussion:
General discussion focused on:
- Technical questions related to the monitoring of kelp, eelgrass and oceanographic conditions; clarification that the definition of EBM in the kelp monitoring work plan is the same as was used in the NVI marine plan; the application of the kelp monitoring data to the kelp model;
- The staged approach to EBM indicator monitoring and plans for socio-economic indicator monitoring;
- Justification for areas selected for pollution restoration projects; clarification of how stakeholder feedback on the ESSA report was used.

ACTIONS:
- Alex to send the draft NVI Communications Strategy to the MPAC for feedback by 2 Nov.

Anticipated Projects / Year 4 Priorities
Presentations were made about anticipated projects and Year 4 priorities. These were the Marine Governance, Training Needs, Climate Change and Kelp Aquaculture projects.

General Discussion:
General discussion focused on: the definition of “governance” used by MaPP during plan development; and the scope of MaPP region-wide work on climate change.

ACTIONS:
- Advice received on the new projects can be found in the MPAC advice log
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- Alex to share draft statements of work for the Marine Governance, Training Needs and Climate Change projects with the MPAC when completed, with 3 weeks for feedback

Plan Monitoring and Review
A presentation was made on plan monitoring and review.

General Discussion:
General discussion focused on recent suggestions to address kelp harvest and changes to definitions of Level 1 and 2 docks; and the process and timeline for plan review.

- Advice received on the new projects can be found in the MPAC advice log

Co-chair Wrap-up
John Bones summarized Day 1 discussions.
Andy announced that Sally is replacing Andy in the role of NVI Plan Provincial co-lead.

Day 2

Welcome and Opening
John Bones reviewed the agenda for the day.

PMZ Management Plan Review
In a workshop, MPAC members and observers provided feedback on five draft PMZ management plans. These were Ba’as/Blunden Harbour, Nigei Island, Cape Caution, Burdwood Group, and SE Quadra PMZ Management Plans. Alex captured advice and suggestions within each management plan document as they were raised and discussed. There was a discussion of a potential timeline for feedback and revisions to the PMZ management plans with a goal of completing “final drafts” for December and a potential final review workshop in early 2019, if needed.

ACTIONS:
- Alex to share updated PMZ management plans with the MPAC for feedback.
- MPAC members to provide feedback on PMZ management plans by 16 November 2018.

Co-chair wrap up; Date of next meeting
John and Scott thanked Andy for his work as Provincial lead for the NVI Technical Team, and presented him with a gift of appreciation on behalf of the Nanwakolas Council team.
John provided a summary of the meeting and thanked the MPAC members for their participation and provided closing comments.

The next meeting will likely be the year-end meeting in spring 2019.