



*North Vancouver Island
Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC)
2018-19 Year End Meeting*

MEETING SUMMARY

May 6 & 7, 2019

Location – Comfort Inn, 1351 Shoppers Row, Campbell River, BC

Objectives:

1. To present and receive feedback on NVI Annual Report.
2. To seek input on 2019/20 Work Plan projects.
3. To provide updates on related planning and zoning initiatives.

Attendance:

MPAC Participants:

Bruce Storry – *Coastal Forestry (Member)*
Bharat Adhikari – *Coastal Forestry (Alternate)*
Jim McIsaac – *Commercial Fisheries (Alternate)*
Rick Snowdon (Day 1) – *Commercial Tourism (Member)*
Richard Opala – *Finfish Aquaculture (Member)*
Bill Wareham – *Marine Conservation (Member)*
Ross Jameson – *Marine Conservation (Alternate)*
Peter Stockdill – *Public Recreation (Member)*
Jeremy Maynard – *Public Recreational Fishing (Alternate)*
Jim Abram – *Local Government (SRD)*
Charlie Cornfield – *Local Government (City of Campbell River)*
Leighan Wishart – *Local Government (District of Port Hardy) (Member)*
Rod Sherrell – *Local Government (RDMW) (Member)*
Jeff Long – *Local Government (RDMW) (Alternate)*

MaPP Participants:

John Bones – *Nanwakolas Council (Technical Team Co-Chair)*
Sally Cargill – *Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Technical Team Co-Chair)*
Scott Harris – *Nanwakolas Council*
Alex Barron – *MaPP Technical Planner*
Josie Byington – *MaPP NVI Planning Assistant and MaPP Communications Assistant*

Observer:

Killian Stehfest – *Marine Conservation*

Guest:

Gillian Oliver (Day 2) – Canadian Coast Guard

Regrets:

Christina Mardell – *Coastal Forestry (Alternate)*

Dan Edwards – *Commercial Fisheries*

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

Nick Heath – *Public Recreation (Alternate)*

Mike Kelly – *Port Hardy Harbour Authority (Member)*

Chuck Ashcroft – *Public Recreational Fishing (Member)*

Don Tillapaugh – *Shellfish Aquaculture (Member)*

Todd Russell – *Shellfish Aquaculture (Alternate)*

Day 1

Welcome and Opening

John Bones and Sally Cargill welcomed the group on behalf of the NVI Technical Team. Introductions were made around the table and new members were welcomed.

Previous Meeting & Meeting Agenda

John reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting and provided a verbal summary of the last MPAC meeting (October 10 & 11, 2019), including federal planning initiatives, ongoing project updates, new projects undertaken, anticipated projects and Year 4 priorities, plan monitoring and review and a workshop on five draft PMZ management plans.

Project Updates 2018-19

Presentations were made on ongoing NVI Plan projects. These were the **Tlowitsis Shellfish Aquaculture Pilot Project**, **Tlowitsis Marine Plant Pilot** project, **Shellfish Aquaculture Feasibility Study**, **Polluted Sites Restoration** project, **Recreation and Tourism Follow-up** project, **Training Needs** assessment, **Marine Governance** project, **Marine Trails** project, **Communications** activities, the **Cultural and Heritage Action Plan**, **Archaeological** work, **EBM** Monitoring program, and the **Guardian** program.

General Discussion:

Discussion focused on technical questions related to shellfish growth data and the pros and cons of the Port Neville site for aquaculture development, clarification of kelp species used in the kelp model (EBM), regional work on human well-being indicators in EBM monitoring works, the scope of marine governance project, Nanwakolas input into the Marine Trails project, and the role of the Guardians.

Clarification was made that:

- The shellfish aquaculture feasibility study focused on potential First Nations operations but may include partnerships with existing commercial enterprises.
- The scope of the marine governance contract does include governance processes for MaPP, the MPA network, and other tri-lateral processes, but not for processes that fall under federal jurisdiction. Discussion was held about examples of authorized activities with overlapping jurisdiction.

- There are varying levels of support for the Marine Trails program across stakeholders and First Nations, the input provided by Nanwakolas into the Marine Trails project.
- Shifting distribution and abundance of kelp beds is being addressed in EBM monitoring work
- Guardian capacity and funding is focused on monitoring and building the program, activities related to enforcement of regulations and establishment of Indigenous laws are not in foreseeable future; efforts to establish and enforce traditional laws in the Central Coast sub-region; and the consideration of provincial and federal government commitment to UNDRIP.

ACTIONS:

- **MPAC members to provide feedback on the Shellfish Aquaculture Feasibility Study.**
- **Alex to confirm contact at City of Campbell River regarding restoration activities in the Campbell River estuary.**
- **Alex to add recommendations by tourism associations to the MPAC Dropbox.**
- **Alex/Josie to provide a webinar on Dropbox to interested MPAC members.**
- **Alex to add the Training Needs Assessment and Marine Governance RFPs to the MPAC Dropbox.**
- **Sally to ensure that Recreation Sites and Trails BC are connected to Marine Trails discussions.**
- **Ross Jameson to provide Alex with information about software that might be used for EBM monitoring.**
- **NVI Team to review EBM indicators and consider sub-regional projects on socio-economic indicators.**

Annual Report Presentation & Review

Alex Barron presented the draft 2018-19 annual report and feedback was received and discussed.

General Discussion:

- Discussion focused on the Regional Response Planning process, polluted areas restoration work, and the scope of work for the climate change project.
- Clarification was provided about the role of MaPP in the federal Regional Response Plan process, and about previous restoration work in the Campbell River estuary.
- *Advice received on the Annual Report can be found in the MPAC advice log*

ACTIONS:

- **MPAC members to provide feedback on the annual report by May 24.**
- **Alex to update the annual report for posting to the MaPP web site.**
- **NVI Team to engage with the City of Campbell River regarding restoration work in the Campbell River estuary.**
- **Charlie Cornfield to provide contact information of City of Campbell River staff working on climate change adaptation.**

2019-20 Work Plan Projects

Presentations were made on ongoing and prospective new NVI Plan Projects. These were the **Fisheries Economy** project, **Climate Change** project, **EBM Monitoring**, **Shellfish Aquaculture** projects, **Recreation and Tourism** projects, **Management of Protection Areas** and **Cultural and Heritage Sites** projects.

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on:

- eDNA and the importance of calibrating test results.
 - Carbon credit funding and the amount of the NVI annual budget.
 - Scope of the renewable energy and local fisheries economy strategies in the NVI marine plan.
 - Alignment of PMZs and other protected areas with the MPA network process.
 - Funding sources for stakeholder expenses to participate in the MPA network process.
 - First Nations' processes for reviewing the MPA network design.
- *Advice received on the new projects can be found in the MPAC advice log*

ACTIONS:

- **Alex to check if EBM co-ordinator or Hakai Institute can provide more information on eDNA protocols and methods.**
- **Jim McIsaac, Jeremy Maynard, Charlie Cornfield and Bill Wareham to form a working group to scope activities to address local fisheries economy strategy and climate change (Alex to provide support).**
- **NVI Team to review strategies on renewable energy and consider adding an activity to the 2019-20 work plan.**

Co-chair Wrap-up

The wrap-up was deferred to Day 2.

Day 2

Welcome and Opening

Sally reviewed the agenda for Day 2. John summarized the Day 1 discussions and provided further clarification about the types funding for stakeholders to participate in the MPA network process and the funding level achieved for the first five years of MaPP implementation.

PMZ Management Plan Review

Alex presented changes to the PMZ management plans, using the **North Malcolm** plan as an example.

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on:

- Feasibility of adding a general management objective to each PMZ that does not provide direction or prohibition.
 - Provincial consultation with non-member Nations on PMZ management plans.
 - Process for First Nations approval of the MPA network protected areas in the NVI sub-region.
- *Advice received on the PMZ management plans can be found in the MPAC advice log*

ACTIONS:

- **Alex to highlight changes and add the draft PMZ management plans to the MPAC Dropbox.**

- **MPAC members to provide comments on PMZ management plans by May 31, including whether to include overarching management objective(s) that provide recommendations but not directions or prohibitions.**
- **Sally to follow up on which provincial tools are being applied to the management of glass sponge reefs in Howe Sound.**

Plan Monitoring, Amendment, and Review

John introduced the session and referred to a map of the Johnstone-Bute plan that Jeremy brought in. He described the work going on within MaPP to address plan amendment and review. Sally described the annual plan monitoring reporting and staff training conducted by the Province and requests received for updates to dock definitions during plan amendment.

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on:

- Jurisdiction relating to the right to anchor and a corresponding suggestion for plan amendment, and broader discussion of jurisdiction and the challenges that have arisen.
- *Advice received on Plan Monitoring, Amendment and Review can be found in the MPAC advice log*

ACTIONS:

- **John to add plan amendment to the RMAC agenda.**
- **Co-leads to present highlights of the MPAC discussion about plan amendment to colleagues in MaPP and to encourage advancement of this work.**

Update on Related Planning Activities & Federal Initiatives

Gillian Oliver, Canadian Coast Guard, gave a presentation on Regional Response Planning.

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on:

- Regional Response Plan development by federal, provincial and First Nations governments, and that the marine response industry is considered a stakeholder and will be consulted after the plan is drafted.
- Regional Response Plan (RRP) boundary following the Northern Shelf Bioregion and MaPP boundaries.
- DFO funding for First Nations to identify Areas of Concern (AoC) as part of the RRP development process. The report on AoC which was commissioned by NVI and included information from the MPAC was submitted to Gillian.
- Provincial representatives in the Incident Command centre will notify local government representatives.
- DFO Science updating product behaviour information.
- Federal election timing will not affect the timeline of RRP completion and consultation.
- *Advice received on the related planning projects can be found in the MPAC advice log*

ACTIONS:

- Interested MPAC members to fill in the **Appendix 1 Resources table** and return it to Gillian.

Update on Regional Projects

Presentations were made by Sally on Regional projects. These were the **Climate Change** project, the **Kelp Monitoring Workshop**, **Data Management**, and ongoing regional work on **Zoning Outreach**.

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on:

- Hiring of Regional Data Management Coordinator, inventorying, cleaning and consolidating MaPP data
- The kelp workshop was an internal MaPP meeting, and that NVI kelp monitoring protocols appear in the 2018-19 kelp monitoring report in the MPAC Dropbox.

ACTIONS:

- **Sally to check whether the kelp workshop report can be shared with MPAC members.**
- **Josie to add the UVic climate change report 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 and provided closing comments.

The next meeting will likely be the year-end meeting in late October or early November 2019.