



*North Vancouver Island
Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC)
2019-2020 Mid-Year Meeting*

MEETING SUMMARY

November 14 & 15, 2019

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

Objectives:

1. To present and receive feedback on implementation activities, recently completed projects and upcoming projects, the plan amendment and review process, and related federal initiatives.
2. To discuss gaps in stakeholder participation in marine governance processes and related issues.

Attendance:

MPAC Participants:

Jim McIsaac – *Commercial Fisheries (Alternate)*
Bill Wareham – *Marine Conservation (Member)*
Jeremy Maynard – *Recreational Fishing Service Providers (Member)*
Chuck Ashcroft – *Public Recreational Fishing (Member)*
Don Tillapaugh – *Shellfish Aquaculture (Member)*
Jim Abram – *Local Government (SRD) (Member)*
Leighan Wishart – *Local Government (District of Port Hardy) (Member)*
Rod Sherrell – *Local Government (RDMW) (Member)*
Jeff Long – *Local Government (RDMW) (Alternate)*
Richard Opala – *Finfish Aquaculture (Member) (Day 2)*
Peter Stockdill – *Public Recreation (Member) (Day 2)*

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*
Kylee Pawluk – *MaPP Technical Coordinator*
Josie Byington – *MaPP NVI Planning Assistant and MaPP Communications Assistant*
Markus Thompson – *NVI EBM Coordinator (Day 2)*

Observers:

Bharat Adhikari – *Coastal Forestry*
Christina Mardell – *Coastal Forestry*
Killian Stehfest – *Marine Conservation*

Gene Gapsis – *Public Recreation (Day 1)*

Jennifer Jennings – *Public Recreation (Day 2)*

Regrets:

Bruce Storry – *Coastal Forestry (Member)*

Charlie Cornfield – *Local Government (City of Campbell River) (Member)*

Rick Snowden – *Commercial Tourism (Member)*

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

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.

Going forward, provincial staff advised that BC Timber Sales representatives, as members of the public service, would be engaging in MaPP implementation activities through internal processes and structures. However, they will still participate in stakeholder advisory committee meetings as observers.

Previous Meeting & Meeting Agenda

Sally reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting and provided a verbal summary of the last MPAC meeting (May 6 & 7, 2019), including project updates; annual report presentation and review; 2019-2020 work plan projects; PMZ management plan review, plan monitoring, amendment and review; updated on related planning activities and federal initiatives (guest: Gillian Oliver, Coast Guard); update on Regional projects; and action items. Comments were received about some of the action items.

Project Updates 2019-2020

Presentations were made about ongoing NVI Plan projects. These were the **Tlowitsis Marine Plant Pilot Project, Tlowitsis Shellfish Aquaculture Pilot Project, Shellfish Aquaculture Feasibility Study, Recreation and Tourism Follow-up projects, Training Needs Assessment, Climate Change Assessment, Archaeological Assessments, the Cultural and Heritage Action Plan, Guardian-Provincial Government Collaborations, Marine Trails Project, Fisheries Economy and Climate Change Working Group, PMZ Management Plans, Regional Data Management, Polluted Sites Restoration Project, Communications Project (video), and the Estuary Resilience Program**. Updates on the **Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Monitoring Program** were re-scheduled for Day 2.

General Discussion:

Discussion focused on technical questions related to the following topics:

- a) kelp and shellfish growth data, scallop farm feasibility and the shellfish inspection process;
- b) opportunities to share the Training Needs Assessment;
- c) sectoral/community work underway to address climate change impacts and gauging the level of interest in a proposed contract to identify gaps in preparedness for climate change impacts including potential funding sources;
- d) BC Marine Trails activities;

- e) review process and timeline for the PMZ management plans and the linkage to plan amendment;
- f) confirmation that some MPAC members are interested in forming a working group to advise on a project about the local fisheries economy and climate change;
- g) accessibility to MaPP's metadata catalogue;
- h) a polluted site and provincial process to identify the party responsible for clean-up;
- i) federal funding sources for removal of derelict vessels;
- j) technical questions related to estuary resilience monitoring;
- k) the status of the marine plan as policy guidance and the acceptance of tenure applications by FrontCounter BC; and
- l) the process for stakeholder input to the plan amendment and review process.

Clarification was made that:

- The shellfish feasibility final report will be publicly available. Even if the Tlowitsis First Nation doesn't proceed with a commercial development, there may be the opportunity for partnerships or arrangements with other investors/operators. The NVI Team is investigating re-visiting the scallop feasibility study to add an extra year of growth.
- The application process for S.17 map reserve notations for potential tourism development of former log-handling sites included consulting/statusing upland and adjacent tenure holders.
- First Nations will decide which archaeological data is shared with the Province for inclusion in the Provincial Archaeological Database.
- The archaeological pilot area does not seek to manage on-the-water activities such as recreational fishing etc.; it is strictly about archaeological resource management.
- Internal review and consultation on the NVI PMZ management plans will happen independently of the MPA network process.
- The Nanwakolas position on MPA network – that Nanwakolas involvement reflects previous collaboration among aggregate organizations, and that its technical involvement should not be viewed as support for MPAs, but for a sound process in which First Nations are providing technical expertise and process knowledge; member First Nations chiefs and councils are the ones who must give consent to MPAs in their territories and these discussions have not yet occurred.
- The intention is for the MaPP metadata catalogue to be accessible to the public.
- The NVI Team is sharing the locations of derelict vessels with Transport Canada.
- Additional communications tools are planned in addition to the recently developed Guardian video.
- *Advice received on the Project Updates may be found in the MPAC advice log*

ACTIONS:

- **MPAC members to share Training Needs Assessment with interested parties.**
- **Kylee to send the Training Needs Assessment to VIU, NIC and other colleges with marine-related training programs, school districts, and individuals that were interviewed.**
- **Sally to review ILLR reports related to S.17 map reserve applications.**
- **Christina to find a contact person at BCTS/MOF who would be interested in helping prepare a report on climate change preparedness gaps and funding sources.**

- **MPAC to provide feedback on the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plans statement of work.**
- **NVI Team to undertake the project on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plans once additional feedback is received from MPAC.**
- **NVI Team to investigate archaeological/cultural sites listed in *BC Backroads* and bring to the attention of the provincial Archaeology Branch.**
- **Jim McIsaac to provide information about University of Washington climate change and fisheries vulnerability research.**
- **In future, NVI Team to send meeting action items in the body of an email to MPAC with the draft meeting summary.**
- **Sally to share with MPAC information about how to report violations observed to the RAPP line.**
- **NVI team to investigate potential partnership between MaPP, Marine Trails, BC Parks for a small-scale site clean up project**
- **NVI Team to finalize the NVI video.**
- **NVI Team to send the final video to MPAC members.**

Remaining Year 5 Projects / Potential Year 6 Projects

Sally presented the remaining Year 5 projects and potential Year 6 projects and feedback was received and discussed. For Year 5 these were **Polluted Areas Restoration, Marine Trails, Archaeology Pilot Project** implementation, **Recreation and Tourism** follow-up (workshops, site assessments), **Marine Governance, EBM monitoring, Plan amendment**, and **Climate Change** assessments (local fisheries economy, and gaps in adaptation preparedness and potential funding sources). Potential projects for Year 6 are related to facilitating collaboration between Guardians and BC Parks to increase opportunities for First Nation and local community management and monitoring in existing protected and conservation areas.

General Discussion:

Discussion focused on the scopes of the two climate change projects and technical details about the estuary resilience project, and the provincial responsibility regarding the future implementation of MaPP marine plans.

Clarification was provided that

- Funding is available for a contract on the local fisheries economy and climate change impacts.
- A review of marine plan performance is already implemented through the analysis of the consistency of tenure decisions with guidance in the NVI marine plan.

ACTIONS:

- **Jim Abram to provide a previously-developed Strathcona Regional District perspective on BC Marine Trails to Kylee.**
- **Gene Gapsis to provide a list of sites that were cleaned up by BC Marine Trails, potential sites for clean-up and information about the organization to be circulated to MPAC by the NVI Team.**

- **Kylee to contact Charlie Cornfield to confirm his interest in participating in small working group to scope a project on the local fisheries economy and climate change and set up a conference call with the group.**
- **NVI Team to continue to work with NVI Tourism to advance a training workshop(s).**

Plan Amendment and Review Process Update

John presented the proposed plan amendment and review process, and described three categories of amendment.

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on opportunities for stakeholder involvement in plan review and amendment and the timeline for the plan amendment process.

Clarification was provided that

- Plan amendments will address both spatial and aspatial aspects of the marine plan.
- Plan variance is a different process than plan amendment.
- *Advice received on the Plan Amendment and Review Process can be found in the MPAC advice log*

ACTIONS:

- **MPAC to provide feedback about the plan amendment and review process.**

Update on Related Planning Activities

John provided an update about progress made by the **Marine Protected Area Network**, the **Ocean Protection Plan** (regional response planning) and **PNCIMA** processes from a Nanwakolas technical perspective.

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on the activities and examples of challenges associated with response planning, the degree of First Nations support for MPAn, and the timelines for stakeholder input to the MPA network.

Clarification was provided that

- The timeline for stakeholder engagement on MPAn is the same across all sub-regions.
- Central Coast and Haida Gwaii sub-regions don't have any non-participating First Nations that are outside of the MPA technical process, unlike the NVI sub-region.
- Stakeholder input is the current focus of the MPA process, and are providing input at this time; they will have input on the MPA action plan draft once it is developed for review.

Co-chair Wrap-up

The wrap-up was deferred to Day 2.

Day 2

Welcome and Opening

Sally reviewed the agenda for Day 2.

Project Updates

Markus Thompson presented the EBM monitoring activities during the 2019 field season.

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on the inclusion of human well-being in EBM monitoring, various technical aspects of kelp and eelgrass monitoring program (including external partners, modeling and data sources and management), changes to the ecosystem over the past 40 years of development, access to historical records of kelp distribution, aspects of kelp biology, kelp harvest and the commercial uses for kelp.

Clarification was provided that

- Guardian training and employment contributes to human well-being in communities.
- North Coast is piloting a survey of community well-being, which can be used in other MaPP sub-regions.
- The provincial regulations limit harvest to 20% of a kelp bed.
- *Advice received on EBM monitoring program can be found in the MPAC advice log*

ACTIONS:

- **Sally to contact the Great Bear Rainforest team regarding human well-being indicators.**
- **Josie to add Markus's presentation to the MPAC Dropbox.**

Marine Governance Workshop

John and Sally introduced the session. The purpose was to discuss gaps in opportunities, and other issues associated with stakeholder participation in marine governance processes. They referred to strategies in the NVI marine plan, which address marine governance, and outlined a series of questions to guide the discussion.

The results of the Marine Governance Workshop are presented in a separate report.

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 spring 2020 either in person or by teleconference.