



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

**Implementation Advisory Group Meeting #3 - Webinar**  
October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:30 – 11:30 am

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**Objectives:**

1. Provide the Regional Marine Advisory Committee (RMAC) with an update on regional progress (2018-19) and on regional activities planned for and/or currently underway in 2019-20; and,
2. Receive input from the RMAC on key implementation work products and activities.

**Meeting Materials:**

1. MaPP Regional Action Framework Annual Report (2018-19)
2. MaPP Regional Kelp Monitoring Program (RKMP) Workshop Report

**Attendance:**

**RMAC Members & Alternates:**

Jim Abram – *Local Government (Strathcona Regional District)*  
Jeff Long – *Local Government (Mount Waddington Regional District)*  
Richard Opala – *Finfish Aquaculture*  
Jim McIssac – *Commercial Fisheries*  
Bruce Story – *Coastal Forestry*  
Bill Wareham – *Marine Conservation*

**MaPP:**

Steve Diggon – *Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative (Secretariat), Co-Chair*  
Kristin Worsley – *Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Secretariat), Co-Chair*  
Karen Topelko – *Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Secretariat and Co-lead for North Coast Sub-region)*  
Romney McPhie – *Regional Projects Co-ordinator*  
Berry Wijdeven – *Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Co-lead for Haida Gwaii Sub-region)*  
Gord McGee – *Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance (Co-lead for Central Coast Sub-region)*

Sally Cargill - *Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Co-lead for Central Coast and North Vancouver Island Sub-regions)*

Chris Apps – *Kitselas First Nation (Marine Working Member for the North Coast Sub-region)*

Rebecca Martone - *Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Marine Biologist*

Fiona Kilburn – *MaPP Administrator and Financial Co-ordinator*

## Opening and Meeting Information, Background

9:30 – 9:45 am

- Steve Diggon, Co-Chair, opened the meeting with a round of introductions.
- Steve reminded attendees of the materials circulated prior to the meeting and indicated that any questions/comments pertaining to these documents should be raised during this meeting, or via e-mail post meeting.
- Steve reviewed agenda and purpose/objectives of the meeting.

## Regional Progress 2018/19 and Broad Discussion on Progress/Performance Reporting

9:45 – 10:00 am

- Romney McPhie gave a high-level overview of regional progress in 2018-19.
- **Key messages** relayed during the presentation:
  - During Year 4 of MaPP implementation, activities of focus fell largely under four of MaPP's strategic outcomes:
  - **Governance and Collaboration:** MaPP Partners continued to build relationships, recognizing the power of collaboration to advancing common goals. MaPP Partners also continued to actively participate in initiatives with the federal government.
  - **Marine Zoning:** MaPP Partners completed a Zoning and Outreach Strategy; completed meaningful training and outreach with regional provincial staff to maintain awareness of the MaPP spatial zones ; completed a tenure report for implementation Year 3.
  - **Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement:** MaPP initiated on-the-water monitoring and a Regional Kelp Monitoring Program; completed a MaPP metadata standards document and a comprehensive data inventory, and initiated a metadata catalogue.
  - **Climate Change and Adaptive Management:** MaPP created a condensed version of a report completed in 2017-18 that details projected climate changes, impacts and recommendations for assessing vulnerability and risk for the MaPP region, and began an online interactive publication.
- Romney McPhie gave a presentation on progress and performance reporting, and invited **feedback from RMAC members by email by the end of November 2019.**
- **Key messages** relayed during the presentation:
  - MaPP has been reporting out annually on implementation progress relative to the annual work plans. *From a stakeholder perspective, is there a better way to monitor and report out on progress/performance?*
  - MaPP will complete a RAF Annual Report for 2019-20 (for consistency across the first 5 years).
  - MaPP Partners are discussing options for cumulative performance reporting
- **Items discussed included:** 1) whether the goals and objectives of the RAF and for each activity are profiled enough in the annual reports, and whether the annual reports should evaluate if/how the activities are on a path to achieving the goals/objectives; 2) the challenges MaPP has faced

implementing actions/activities under the outcome Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities; 3) the provincial tenure reports and the use of the plans by Front Counter BC when issuing tenures.

- **Clarifications provided by MaPP:** 1) a more thorough evaluation of whether plan (or framework) implementation is achieving goals/objectives is usually done after a longer time frame; if MaPP carries out cumulative performance reporting, making the link between activities/actions implemented and goals/objectives will be important; 2) MaPP would like RMAC advice on where we should be focusing regional economic development efforts; 3) the tenure analysis is conducted primarily to monitor consistency of land use decisions with MaPP zoning recommendations; it includes a break-down of what sectors tenures are issued for; the report(s) can be shared with RMAC, upon request.
- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*
- **ACTION: RMAC members to provide feedback on progress and performance reporting by email to Romney McPhie ([rmcphie@mappocean.org](mailto:rmcphie@mappocean.org)) by the end of November 2019.**
- **ACTION: Interested RMAC members to request completed tenure analysis reports from MaPP.**

## Review of MaPP Regional Kelp Monitoring Program (RKMP) and Wild Marine Aquatic Plant Management (WMA PM) Review

10:00 – 10:30 am

- Romney McPhie presented slides on the MaPP Integrated EBM Program.
- **Key messages** relayed during the presentation:
  - MaPP established a regional suite of potential indicators and has initiated monitoring and analyses (Action 3.5a).
  - There are 19 aspects of coastal and ocean health identified for monitoring – these are either values or stressors on values.
  - In 2017-18 and 2018-19, the MaPP EBM Sub-Committee worked with the Coastal Ocean Research Institute to obtain and summarize baseline information on a subset of the 19 aspects; through this work gaps in monitoring and reporting were identified.
  - One of the aspects researched was kelp; it became apparent that there were many gaps in our understanding; at the same time, there were calls for improved management of wild marine aquatic plants on the North Pacific coast.
  - In 2018-19, kelp was confirmed as a ‘pilot’ value for co-ordinated monitoring across the region.
- Rebecca Martone presented slides on the Regional Kelp Monitoring Program (RKMP).
- **Key messages** relayed during the presentation:
  - A regional workshop was held in April 2019 to exchange knowledge and establish support for the RKMP across the sub-regions.
  - ‘Working’ goals were confirmed, and a number of key questions were generated to frame the RKMP activities in 2019-20 and beyond.
  - Since workshop, MaPP has been working to advance the RKMP through: 1) protocol development (field and drone); training and field monitoring (every sub-region, boat-based and/or drone monitoring, # metrics); large-scale monitoring (e.g., WorldView-2 satellite imagery); collaborations (Hakai, UVic, etc.).
- Berry Wijdeven presented slides on the MaPP Wild Marine Aquatic Plant Management (WMA PM) Review.
- **Key messages** relayed during the presentation:
  - MaPP First Nation Partners have raised concerns regarding marine aquatic plant harvest policy and management.

In late 2018, the MaPP MITT provided support for a collaborative review of the current regime, and created a Policy and Planning Working Group to lead the review.

- **Reflections (looking ahead):** MaPP will continue analysis of existing data, prepare for the 2020-21 field season, evaluate RKMP process and outcomes, evaluate process and outcomes against the WMAPM Review recommendations.
- **Items discussed included:** 1) concerns regarding the harvest of wild kelp as opposed to kelp aquaculture, and the potential for monitoring of kelp to lead to increased harvest; 2) concerns that the RKMP is being driven by a desire for development of harvest, and of the ecological impacts of increased harvest; 3) potential contradictions between implementation of a kelp monitoring program versus climate change goals/objectives in the RAF and sub-regional marine plans; 4) appreciation for how the program ties into broad EBM goals; 5) participation by stakeholders in EBM work.
- **Clarifications provided by MaPP:** 1) harvest levels are determined annually, so there is the opportunity for monitoring to influence harvest annually; 2) one of the overarching questions of the RKMP is how changes in kelp biomass might impact ecological systems dependent on kelp; 3) there is a desire within the Nations (supported by the Province) to change the way the kelp resource is managed.
- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*

## MaPP Approach to Plan (and RAF) Amendment and Review

10: 30 – 11:00 am

- Karen Topelko gave a presentation on MaPP's (proposed) approach and invited **feedback from RMAC members by email by mid-November 2019.**
- **Key messages** relayed during the presentation:
  - Amendments can be triggered by: a) a formal assessment and review process in response to a plan commitment or best practice; and/or, b) discoveries made during plan implementation. MaPP's amendment process includes six proposed steps (see presentation slides for more detail).
  - Next steps for MaPP are to: a) complete technical review of proposed process and submit for Marine Working Group approval (Nov/Dec); and, c) implement plan review and amendment process (timing under discussion).
- **Items discussed included:** 1) general agreement that the 'framework' makes sense; 2) updates required to reflect the MPA network should not be characterized as 'minor'; the MPA network and its impact on the plans/RAF will require a rigorous discussion, including with stakeholders; 3) the resources required to carry out a plan/RAF amendment and review process, and whether there are resources available in Year 5; 4) suggestion that sub-regional advisory committees are a good forum for discussing specific amendments, and to enable better participation.
- **Clarifications provided by MaPP:** 1) agreement that the MPA network in the context of plan amendment will require further consideration/discussions; 2) each sub-region will decide how (and when) to assign capacity to plan review and amendment; 3) the RAF may only need administrative amendments (MaPP sees no need for minor to major amendments at this time); 4) stakeholder engagement has not been fully 'fleshed out' at this time; 5) administrative amendments are not expected to require stakeholder input, where minor (depending on the amendment) and major amendments are; 6) agreement that specific amendments will likely be addressed through sub-regional advisory committees.
- *See advice log for specific advice made and Regional team response.*

- **ACTION: RMAC members to provide feedback on MaPP plan and RAF amendment and review process by email to Karen Topelko ([Karen.Topelko@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Karen.Topelko@gov.bc.ca)) by end of November 2019.**

## Regional Actions and Activities, 2019-2020

11:00 – 11:20 am

- Kristin Worsley and Steve Diggon presented on key actions/activities underway regionally in MaPP implementation Year 5.
- **Key messages** relayed during the presentation:
  - Areas of focus for RAF implementation this year include: Integrated EBM Program implementation, with a focus on RKMP implementation; data management; implementation of MaPP zoning, and; review of MaPP's Five Year Implementation Strategy
- **Items discussed included:** 1) the MaPP regional climate change report, specifically its references to socio-economic impacts and the potential for these results to inform EBM indicator work; 2) public access to data; 3) sector contribution to MaPP data; 4) Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) implementation; 5) MaPP's current funding structure and what is being considered moving forward.
- **Clarifications provided:** 1) public access to data is MaPP's intent; 2) there are sensitivities with respect to some data sets, and for these there will be sharing restrictions; 3) the MaPP metadata catalogue will be a public-facing catalogue identifying contact people for each data set; 4) MaPP is amenable to receiving information on relevant data sets from sectors, and to inputting metadata into the MaPP inventory and catalogue; 5) with respect to PNCIMA implementation, the MPAN process is operating under an 'ad-hoc' governance structure, but there is interest in formalizing a tri-lateral structure, which should help with PNCIMA implementation overall; 6) MaPP is currently attempting to understand which RAF priorities might be better implemented bi-laterally versus which ones might benefit from tri-lateral implementation; 7) MaPP's current funding structure is based on philanthropic funds and carbon credits, and, moving forward, there is an opportunity to allocate carbon credits to MaPP based on a five-year review cycle (with carbon credit funds being based on sales)
- **ACTION: Where relevant, RMAC members to provide MaPP with sector data sets for inclusion in MaPP metadata inventory and catalogue.**

## Wrap-up and Adjourn

11:20 – 11:30 am

- Kristin Worsley thanked all participants for their attendance and provided closing comments.
- The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

## Action Item Summary

1. ACTION ITEM: RMAC members to provide feedback on progress and performance reporting by email to Romney McPhie ([rmcphie@mappocean.org](mailto:rmcphie@mappocean.org)) by the end of November 2019.
2. ACTION ITEM: Interested RMAC members to request completed tenure analysis reports from MaPP.
3. ACTION ITEM: RMAC members to provide feedback on MaPP plan and RAF amendment and review process by email to Karen Topelko ([Karen.Topelko@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Karen.Topelko@gov.bc.ca)) by the end of November 2019.

4. ACTION ITEM: Where relevant, RMAC members to provide MaPP with sector data sets for inclusion in MaPP metadata inventory and catalogue.
5. ACTION ITEM: MaPP to schedule next RMAC meeting via Doodle.