



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

MEETING SUMMARY

May 28, 2020, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Webinar

Objectives:

1. To provide the end of year report with project updates and presentation of planned projects for 2020-21.

Attendance:

MPAC Participants:

Bruce Storry – *Coastal Forestry (Member)*
Rick Snowdon – *Commercial Tourism (Member)*
Jim McIsaac – *Commercial Fisheries (Alternate)*
Bill Wareham – *Marine Conservation (Member)*
Ross Jameson – *Marine Conservation (Alternate)*
Jeremy Maynard – *Recreational Fishing Service Providers (Member)*
Todd Russell – *Shellfish Aquaculture (Member)*
Leighan Wishart – *Local Government (District of Port Hardy) (Member)*
Fred Robertson – *Local Government (District of Port Hardy) (Alternate)*
Rod Sherrell – *Local Government (RDMW) (Member)*
Jeff Long – *Local Government (RDMW) (Alternate)*
Paul Grey – *Public Recreation (Member)*

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*
Josie Byington – *MaPP NVI Projects Coordinator and MaPP Communications Assistant*

Observers:

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

Regrets:

Chuck Ashcroft – *Public Recreational Fishing (Member)*
Peter Stockdill – *Public Recreation (Alternate)*
Richard Opala – *Finfish Aquaculture (Member)*
Jim Abram – *Local Government (SRD) (Member)*
Charlie Cornfield – *Local Government (City of Campbell River) (Member)*
Kermit Dahl - – *Local Government (City of Campbell River) (Alternate)*
Mike Kelly – *Port Hardy Harbour Authority (Member)*

Welcome and Opening

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

Meeting Agenda & Previous Meeting

John reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting and provided a verbal summary of the last MPAC meeting (November 14 & 15, 2019), including project updates, future projects, the Marine Governance Workshop, and key action items. Agenda was approved with addition of an information item by Jeremy Maynard (Big Bar Slide). Meeting summary was endorsed with no comments.

ACTION:

- **Jeremy Maynard to forward information on the Big Bar slide to Josie for addition to the MPAC Dropbox.**

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, Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Monitoring Program, Archaeological Assessments, the Archaeological, Cultural and Heritage Pilot Project, Marine Governance, Guardian-Provincial Government Collaborations, PMZ Management Plans, the Estuary Resilience Program Climate Change Assessment, and Communications Project (video).**

General Discussion:

Discussion focused on the following topics:

- a) Human well-being indicators as a component of EBM monitoring.
- b) The effects of increased ocean temperature on kelp (die-off).
- c) Whether there has been work done to address clusters of cultural features in NVI, and the number of petroglyphs in Tlowitsis First Nation territory.
- d) Lack of awareness of cultural features as a source of unintentional disturbance in the Cultural and Heritage Pilot Project Area, and the power in describing what cultural sites include and telling stories about local myths. Further, the Commercial Tourism and Recreation sector offered that their members have a responsibility to educate guests about the recognition and value of cultural sites.
- e) Perceived gaps in the table of recommendations in the Marine Governance Workshop report.

- f) Whether or not the Province will consider legal designations of PMZ areas that do not end up within the MPA Network.
- g) Work being done on a proposed Coastal Management Act initiative by West Coast Environmental Law and other NGOs that would provide a statute to embed plans with formal direction requiring policy decisions to meet the objectives.

Clarification was made that:

- Human well-being indicators are being considered for both the NVI sub-region and the MaPP Region.
- Ocean temperature is being monitored at kelp survey sites and estuaries in the NVI sub-region.
- The Cultural and Heritage pilot project includes development of a communications strategy and communications tools to increase awareness of cultural features; that there was positive response from tourism organizations to disseminating educational materials when the communications strategy consultant contacted them; that a good distribution approach for communications materials is anticipated, e.g., through BC Marine Trails; and that development of materials by March 2021 is expected.
- MPAC members can provide additional feedback to the Marine Governance Workshop report.
- First Nations support some form of legal designation for PMZs outside the proposed MPA network; at this point, the Province indicated an interest in seeing the results of the MPA network process before making a determination on next steps for PMZs.

ACTIONS:

- **Paul Grey to forward the BC Marine Trails proposed Code of Conduct to Josie for addition to the MPAC Dropbox.**
- **MPAC members to share ideas for communications tools about cultural sites.**
- **MPAC members to provide comments on the Marine Governance Workshop report.**
- **NVI Team to address stakeholder feedback and issue another version of the Marine Governance Workshop report.**

Annual Report Feedback and Future Planning Priorities

John described the NVI Annual Report and invited stakeholder feedback. He then led a discussion about priorities and needs for future implementation of the marine plan.

General Discussion:

Discussion focused on the following topics:

- a) Potential actions stakeholders could take in support of continued funding for MaPP
- b) Impacts of the pandemic could be addressed in a new project, or considered during the plan amendment process when addressing how values may have shifted since the plan was completed. Examples discussed were the component of community-based fisheries and its role addressing food security and local markets, increased tourism by local people and fewer international visitors, negative impacts on public recreational fishing service providers, the demand for wood fibre for masks, and the potential for a rural well-being survey to assess impacts on employment.
- c) Caution was expressed regarding spending MaPP funds to assess the impacts of the pandemic because the provincial and federal government are doing that work.

Clarification was provided that:

- MaPP funding proposals are in development and targeted to include potential for both public and private funding.
- From the MaPP perspective, priorities include sustainable economic development, spatial management for uses or promoting the zoning concept. Monitoring, enforcement and stewardship may have to be scaled back in order to be sustainable over the longer term. Climate change would be a component of ecosystem monitoring on estuary resilience and oceanographic indicators in relation to kelp and eelgrass.

ACTIONS:

- **MPAC members to provide feedback on the NVI Annual Report within 2 weeks.**
- **MPAC members to provide their input on the future priorities and funding support for NVI plan implementation, as necessary.**
- **MPAC to provide advice on projects related to the pandemic.**
- **NVI Team to consider the impacts of the pandemic during plan amendment work.**

2020-21 Work Plan Projects

John and Sally presented the **Archaeological Inventory Work; Archaeological, Cultural and Heritage Pilot Project; EBM Monitoring; Pollution Clean-up project; and Plan Amendment.**

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on these topics:

- a) When reporting on indicators, there is the need to access the impacts of the ecological system on human well-being and vice versa.
- b) Organizations that conduct pollution clean up projects.

Clarification was provided that:

- The purpose of previous work to identify unused log handling sites was to identify areas that are no longer needed to support forestry operations for potential alternate uses such as tourism. There were 5 sites submitted to the Province as designated use areas and are currently being evaluated. If designation is received, a feasibility study will be undertaken.
- The NVI Team will consult with the MPAC for feedback on draft communications products developed during phase 2 of the Cultural and Heritage pilot project.
- Public EBM indicator summary reports will be produced for kelp, eelgrass, and estuary monitoring and archaeological inventory work conducted during NVI plan implementation.
- The Central Coast sub-region is also undertaking a plan amendment process this year. The co-leads were uncertain about the work plans for the North Coast and Haida Gwaii sub-regions. All sub-regions will be included in plan amendments that affect all the plans.
- *Advice received on the 2020-21 Work Plan Projects can be found in the MPAC advice log*

ACTIONS:

- **MPAC to advise the NVI Team of sources of data related to human well-being and governance indicators.**
- **Paul Grey to provide information on groups involved in clean-up projects.**

- **NVI Team to make contact with the Dead Boats Society regarding derelict vessels.**
- **Josie to add information about polluted sites within the NVI sub-region to the MPAC Dropbox.**
- **MPAC members to advise Josie of additional polluted sites within the NVI sub-region.**
- **Josie to add the MaPP Plan Amendment Process document to the MPAC Dropbox.**
- **NVI Team to share proposed plan amendments with the MPAC for comment once they are developed.**

Update on Regional Projects

Sally provided an update about progress made on **Regional Kelp Monitoring, Human Well-being Indicators, Data Management, and Wild Marine Aquatic Plant Management.**

General Discussion:

General discussion focused on MaPP working group membership and process to select Regional Human Well-being indicators.

ACTIONS:

- **Sally to follow up with the Regional Projects Coordinator to ensure that Regional Marine Advisory Committee feedback is included in the selection process for Regional Human Well-being indicators.**

Update on Fisheries Economy Working Group

- Sally and John provided an update on the status of the Fisheries Economy Working Group and confirmed that the group will meet if and when funding is confirmed later this year.

Co-chair Wrap-up

Sally and John closed the meeting and thanked the MPAC members for their participation. The next meeting will be in-person in the fall if social distancing restrictions are lifted.