



*North Vancouver Island
Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC)
2020-2021 Mid-Year Meeting*

MEETING SUMMARY

December 7, 2020, 1:00 pm – 4:00 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:

Rick Snowdon – *Commercial Tourism (Member)*
Jim McIsaac – *Commercial Fisheries (Member)*
Dan Edwards *Commercial Fisheries (Alternate)*
Killian Stehfest – *Marine Conservation (Member)*
Ross Jameson – *Marine Conservation (Alternate)*
Richard Opala – *Finfish Aquaculture (Member)*
Jim Abram – *Local Government (SRD) (Member)*
Charlie Cornfield – *Local Government (City of Campbell River) (Member)*
Jeff Long – *Local Government (RDMW) (Alternate)*
Leightan Wishart – *Local Government (District of Port Hardy) (Member)*
Paul Grey – *Public Recreation (Member)*
Peter Stockdill – *Public Recreation (Alternate)*
Chuck Ashcroft – *Public Recreational Fishing (Member)*
Todd Russell – *Shellfish Aquaculture (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*

Regrets:

Bruce Storry – *Coastal Forestry (Member)*
Jeremy Maynard – *Recreational Fishing Service Providers (Member)*
Kermit Dahl – *Local Government (City of Campbell River) (Alternate)*
Rod Sherrell – *Local Government (RDMW) (Member)*
Fred Robertson – *Local Government (District of Port Hardy) (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 Kilian Stehfest was welcomed as the Member for Marine Conservation, replacing Bill Wareham.

Meeting Agenda & Previous Meeting

John reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting and provided a verbal summary of the last MPAC meeting (May 28, 2020), including project updates, annual report feedback, future projects, regional projects, and key action items. Agenda was endorsed with no additions.

Project Updates 2020-2021

Presentations were made about ongoing NVI Plan projects. These were the **Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Monitoring Program, EBM Indicator Reporting, Estuary Monitoring, Pollution Clean-up, Archaeological Assessments, the Archaeological, Cultural and Heritage Pilot Project, the Human Well-being Indicator Report, Marine Governance, Collaboration, and Climate Change Assessment.**

General Discussion:

Discussion focused on the following topics:

- a) Kelp monitoring fieldwork and key findings in the NVI sub-region, the correlation of bull kelp stipe size with biomass, and the importance to future biomass estimates in management decision-making.
- b) A summary report of 4 years of data collected during kelp, eelgrass and oceanographic conditions monitoring in the NVI sub-region.
- c) The progress on the estuary monitoring program, coordinated by the Nature Trust and involving Guardians.
- d) The pollution clean up that occurred in October 2020 coordinated by the Mamalilikulla Guardians, which removed derelict vessels and marine debris with the support of partners.
- e) The findings of the archaeological assessments conducted during the 2020 field season and to date.
- f) The article published by *Pacific Yachting*, brought to MaPP's attention by Peter Stockdill, and the First Nations' follow-up letter.

- g) The next steps in the Archaeological, Cultural and Heritage Pilot Project, which was completed in September 2020. Communications materials are in development, based on a communications strategy that was developed through the project. An end of project assessment is being conducted which will make recommendations for future work.
- h) The development of a report on Cultural Continuity and Connection, a human well-being indicator, based on the archaeological filed surveys done from 2016-2020.
- i) The Marine Governance Workshop Report Summary, which has inadvertently omitted comments from Commercial Fisheries Sector.
- j) Guardians and BC staff collaboration on projects during 2020 field season even though Covid-19 protocols prevented joint in-person work.
- k) Opportunities for Guardians to increase interactions with users and user groups.
- l) Feedback on the climate change assessment noted a gap for recreational public fishing and requests made for further distribution to local government staff.

Clarification was made that:

- The methodology for estimating biomass of giant kelp is different than for bull kelp.
- The bull kelp biomass methodology will continue to be assessed and data evaluated for other MaPP sub-regions.
- The Guardians have worked with Pacific Salmon Foundation to understand how their data can support monitoring of indicators the Nations are interested in.
- As part of the Regional Kelp Monitoring program, UVic researchers are analysing historical kelp data from marine charts and oceanographic data collected at lightstations was highlighted as an important component to include in future analysis work.
- The most recent *Pacific Yachting* magazine has published the letter sent by the First Nations' chiefs regarding sensitivity of publishing maps of site locations.
- Newly discovered archaeological sites by Nanwakolas Guardians are not currently entered into the Provincial register. A test of 5 new sites for compatibility with Provincial registry database standards showed that there is a discrepancy in standards that needs to be addressed. In the meantime, new sites will be entered into the Nations' databases for tenure referrals.
- Confirmation that the NVI assessment of human well-being will be expanded beyond Cultural Continuity and Connection in the future. At the MaPP Regional level, indicators for advancing Governance, Commercial Seafood Landings, Commercial Seafood Processing, and Participation in the Workforce are being addressed.
- A number of other clean-up initiatives are taking place, including derelict fishing gear and marine debris cleanups in the Broughton.
- Clarification that the Climate Change Assessment report followed a targeted approach by identifying which sectors and communities might be impacted, and for those sectors, what adaptation and mitigation planning is available. For next steps, we will identify the best investment for MaPP funding and not overlap with work that communities and industries have underway.
- The MaPP work, as an example of a collaborative planning process with First Nation partners, will inform the new Provincial Coastal Strategy.

Advice received on the 2020-2021 Projects can be found in the MPAC advice log

ACTIONS:

- Team to provide the methodology for assessing giant kelp biomass when it is complete.
- **DONE.** Josie to provide details of the Quadra Centre for Dialogue presentation about the MaPP Regional Kelp Monitoring program.
- Paul Grey to forward information about the BC Marine Debris Working Group funding opportunity to Josie for distribution.
- Josie to follow up with Jim McIsaac for information on derelict fishing gear clean-up project for distribution to MPAC.
- Charlie to provide Josie with contact details for the group that conducted a plastics clean-up in 2019 at Brooks Peninsula.
- NVI Team to follow up with Jim Abram regarding pollution clean-up.
- Josie to circulate the Letter to the Editor from the Chief Richard Sumner and Chief John Smith about the pictograph article in *Pacific Yachting*, as forwarded from Peter Stockdill.
- NVI Team to check how local communities are included in the Archaeological, Cultural and Heritage Pilot Project Pilot Project Communications Strategy.
- NVI Team to send out the draft Human Well-being Indicator document to the MPAC members.
- NVI Team to send the MaPP Regional Human Well-being Indicator proposals (provided at recent RMAC meeting) to the MPAC for feedback.
- NVI Team to update the Marine Governance Workshop report with additional comments received and send it to the MPAC members.
- NVI Team to report out in the future on Provincial and First Nations actions arising from recommendations in the Marine Governance Workshop report.
- Scott and John to follow up on suggestion to make presentations about the Guardian programs to local governments.
- NVI Team to resend the Climate Change Assessment to local government staff.
- NVI Team to investigate how to amend the Climate Change Assessment Report to address comments made regarding exclusion of public recreational and guided fishing.
- John to send a copy of the CRIS (Coastal Resource Interests Study) report to Jim McIsaac.

Project Updates 2020-2021, continued

Presentations were made about ongoing NVI Plan projects. These were the **Plan Amendment Process, NVI Plan Amendment Proposal, PMZ Management Plans, Fisheries Economy Working Group, and Five Year Work Planning.**

General Discussion:

Discussion focused on the following topics:

- a) The MaPP plan amendment policy has been applied to the NVI plan, with the initial focus on eliminating redundancies, improving interpretation, and addressing gaps in the Plan tables outlining general provisions and conditional statements for each Plan zone.
- b) The work has also drawn from the PMZ management plans.
- c) Work can now resume with the Fisheries Economy Working Group.
- d) There will be a meeting planned with the MPAC in February/March 2021 to discuss work planning for the next 5 years of MaPP.

Clarification was provided that:

- The focus of plan amendment work to date has been on the plan as currently written. The work has not been broadened to address integration with federal government initiatives.
- Non-signatory First Nations are being engaged through Marine Protected Area Network activities and that venue is used to educate them about MaPP.
- All First Nations involved with MaPP signed an agreement with the Province to develop and implement the plans. To open MaPP up to other First Nations would have complications related to renegotiating MaPP implementation and funding agreements.
- Given the interplay between the plan amendment process and the PMZ management plan approval process, the PMZ plans may be considered as appendices in a future, revised NVI Marine Plan.
- No changes to zone boundaries are proposed in the current draft plan amendment proposal which focuses on clarifications to the general provisions and conditional statements.
- Participation in the Fisheries Economy Working Group was confirmed as Jim McIsaac, Charlie Cornfield, Ross Jameson, Jim Abram, Dan Edwards, and Killian Stehfest (tbc).
- The Ministry of Agriculture had been contacted previously to assist with scoping the Fisheries Economy Working Group activities.

Advice received on the 2020-2021 Projects can be found in the MPAC advice log

ACTIONS:

- **NVI Team to send the draft Plan Amendment proposal to the MPAC for feedback.**
- **Chuck to make enquiries within the Public Recreational Fishing sector for someone to participate on the Fisheries Economy Working Group.**
- **NVI Team to schedule a meeting of the Fisheries Economy Working Group.**
- **Charlie to forward the contact information for his executive assistant to Josie for his availability to attend Fishery Working Group meetings.**
- **NVI Team to schedule a meeting of the MPAC in February/March to discuss five year work planning.**

Update on Regional Projects

John and Sally presented on **Human Well-being Indicators** and **Spatial Planning**. Time did not allow for discussion of the **Regional Kelp Monitoring Program, Data Management, Wild Marine Aquatic Plant Management**, and the **RMAC meeting**. During the **Related Regional Initiatives and Issues** agenda block, Dan Edwards and Paul Grey provided comments.

General Discussion:

Discussion focused on the following topics:

- Dan spoke about his interest and experience in establishing a dialogue between the commercial fishing sector and Guardian programs.
- Paul suggested that information about Guardian programs could be shared with kayakers during training programs.

ACTIONS:

- **John and Scott to arrange to meet with Dan to discuss the NVI Guardian programs and interactions with commercial crab fishery.**

Co-chair Wrap-up

Sally and John closed the meeting and thanked the MPAC members for their participation. The next meeting will be a workshop in February or March to discuss the proposed NVI Five Year Work Plan.