



Central Coast Marine Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (MPIAC)

Online meeting (via Zoom)
Friday, June 24, 2022
10:00-12:00pm

Objective

To provide project updates and discuss the planned review of the Central Coast EBM Indicator Monitoring Program.

Participants

- **Central Coast Implementation Technical Team (CCITT):**
 - Sally Cargill (LWRS) and Vicki Sahanatien (CCIRA), Co-chairs
 - Desiree Lawson and Geneviève Reynolds (CCIRA)
 - Philip Akins (MaPP)
- **MPIAC members and alternates:**
 - Anne Salomon, Marine Academic (Member)
 - Erin Latham, Shellfish Aquaculture (Member)
 - Jeneen Sutherland, Commercial Tourism (membership nomination in progress)
 - Jim McIsaac, Commercial Fisheries (Member)
 - Michael Bissonnette, Marine Conservation (Member)
 - Nick Heath, Public Recreation (Member)
 - Richard Opala, Finfish Aquaculture (Member)
 - Warren Warttig, Coastal Forestry (Member)
- **Members not in attendance:**
 - Kim Olsen, Commercial Fisheries (Member / Alternate)
 - Lauren Eckert, Youth Research and Planning (Member)
 - Paul Manson, Renewable Energy (Member)
 - Phil Dawson, Recreational Fishing Service Provider (Alternate)
 - Sid Keay, Recreational Fishing Service Provider (Member)
- **Observers:**
 - Christina Mardell (BC Timber Sales)

Meeting Summary

Project updates and discussion

CCITT members provided updates on current activities (Feb 2022-present), including:

- **The Coastal Guardian Watchmen (CGW) 2022-2022 field season**
 - Desiree reported that work planning went well over the Spring, and that the field season is now underway. Most of last season's Guardians have returned, and some new Guardians have also been hired. In addition, all four Central Coast Nations have Guardian Watchmen Coordinators this year, which will help the seasons run smoothly. The coordinators are mostly previous Guardians themselves – a reflection of the growing internal capacity that the Nations are building.
 - Sally highlighted the recent announcement of a Memorandum Of Understanding between the Kitasoo Xai'xais and Nuxalk Nations and BC Parks to support discussions, training, and agreements to authorize the Nations' Guardians as Park Rangers. This exciting pilot project is of interest to all of the Central Coast MaPP partners, and we will be watching it closely.
- **Geoduck feasibility study with North Island College**
 - Desiree updated the Committee on progress as we look towards the study's first field season this summer. Geoduck broodstock was collected from the Central Coast and delivered to Seed Science's hatchery in Nanaimo in January. The production of geoduck seed has gone well, and we expect to be able to plant the seed at the study sites in September. This will follow field trips in August to prepare the sites (installation of vexar tubes in the intertidal study plots to protect the juvenile geoduck, as well as dataloggers for water monitoring).
 - ***Update:** following the meeting we received the unfortunate news from Seed Science that the geoduck seed has died; this means we will be unable to plant this year, as planned.*
- **Clean-up of hazardous materials at Namu**
 - Sally reported that B.C. provided funding in March to hire a barge to remove debris from the Namu cannery site (this material had previously been moved from docks at risk of collapsing and spilling the material into the marine environment). This fulfilled a commitment by the province to match funding provided through MaPP to support clean up at the site.
 - Nick noted that there many sites up and down the coast where, like Namu, property owners have not been held accountable for clean-up. In response to question from Warren, Sally confirmed that Heiltsuk and the province have been in discussions about the future use of Namu.
- **Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards (SEAS)**
 - MaPP was able to make a financial contribution to the Nations' SEAS programs this year, which run in each Nation during the school year (e.g., Salmon Fest) and over

the summer (including opportunities for students to join Guardian Watchmen in their work on the water and land).

- Anne would like to support the program if there are opportunities for students / researchers who are in the communities to help out.

- **MaPP Regional subcommittees**

- Vicki provided an update on the MaPP subcommittees through which we work with other subregions on regional activities. The most active of these, currently, is the *EBM Indicators subcommittee*, which has been heavily engaged in the Regional Kelp Monitoring project and is also working to advance human wellbeing indicators including Stakeholder and Local Government Engagement (a draft proposal for this indicator was presented to the Regional Marine Advisory Committee earlier this month) and Co-governance. The *Data Management subcommittee* is developing a portal to store and share metadata (information about data collected in the MaPP region), which should be completed later this year following testing and further discussions. The *Marine Plant Harvest Policy subcommittee* and *Spatial Planning subcommittees* have not met yet this fiscal year.

- **Shipping and Marine Response Planning**

- Vicki reported that lots of training as been occurring at the Nation level on aspects of marine response, and progress has been made with Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard to integrate response plans (this work occurs primarily through the Oceans Protection Plan rather than MaPP). A big push this coming year will be enhancing community equipment caches to enable rapid response – a key challenge identified by communities on the Central Coast.
- Warren noted the importance of local capacity to store the absorbent materials and skimmed liquids that results from spill response and cleanup, and of training for responders to handle oil-affected wildlife (Warren can provide this training if there is interest).

- **EBM Indicator Monitoring Program Review**

- The CCITT provided a detailed update on the upcoming Program Review, including a recap of the program from the planning phase (2015-2017) through the first five years of implementation, and an overview of the Scope & Activities document that will guide the review (this document was shared with the Committee ahead of the meeting).
- The CCITT requested that committee members provide written feedback on the Scope & Activities document by July 8th. Some initial comments: Warren emphasized the need to design a monitoring program that is relatively simple (= sustainable), pointing to the Fraser Basin Council as an example; Nick agreed; Anne shared a recent paper that relates to this point, and underlined the importance of capacity for analysis (“that’s where the rubber hits the road”) and would like to explore opportunities for graduate students / post-doctoral researchers to support this work.

Sector updates

Several committee members shared updates / posed questions to the CCITT team from their sectors.

- **Marine Conservation:** to a question from Michael about the MPA in Kitasu Bay, recently announced by Kitasoo Xai'xais, Sally confirmed that this area is a PMZ in the MaPP plan (PMZ #2), and our understanding is that the draft management plan released by the Kitasoo Xai'xais is consistent with the draft management plan for the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy in this area. Vicki confirmed that the Kitasoo Xai'xais announced Gitdisdu Luyeks MPA and that this protected area was proclaimed by the Hereditary Chiefs and under Kitasoo Xai'xais laws, customs, principles, and values, and will be managed accordingly: this initiative is an exciting development for the Central Coast Nations and all coastal Nations. The announcement and management plan can be accessed [here](#). Michael was also interested in the development of B.C.'s Coastal Marine Strategy, including timelines and involvement of the MaPP partners. Sally confirmed that engagement with stakeholders and the public on a draft intentions paper will happen this Fall. The intentions paper is being co-written by BC with First Nations coast wide. Vicki confirmed that the MaPP First Nations Leadership and technical staff have been engaged, and the general view from the Nations that the MaPP plans should be integral to and implemented through the Coastal Marine Strategy.
- **Marine Academic:** Anne provided a brief update on some work out of her lab related to the impacts and implications (governance and social as well as ecological) of large-scale kelp harvesting; would be happy to share data and experiences.
- **Commercial Tourism:** Jeneen (who is just a couple weeks into her role with the Wilderness Tourism Association!) noted that, while the sector is not through the pandemic yet, business is looking up for this summer. Jeneen would like to learn more about possible intersections between the sector and the priorities / needs of the MaPP partners (thinking for example about potential contributions that could be made by WTA members to the SEAS program).
- **Coastal Forestry:** Christina let the committee know that a 5-year review of the Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order is currently open for public input (until Aug. 8th).

Actions arising

- Desiree / CCIRA connect Anne with the SEAS coordinators.
- Sally to raise the gap in training for emergency spill responders to handle affected wildlife at Central Coast and North Vancouver Island inter-jurisdictional planning tables for marine response.
- MPIAC members to provide feedback on the Scope & Activities document (for the Central Coast EBM Indicator Monitoring Program Review) no later than **Friday, July 8th**.

Next meeting

Jan-Feb 2023 (TBD):

- Project updates, including outcomes of EBM Indicator Monitoring Program Review.
- 2023-24 work planning: proposed projects.