**North Coast Integrated Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Summary**

**June 6, 2022; 1:00pm – 3:00pm by GoTo Meeting**

# PRIMARY MEETING OBJECTIVES

* Initiate the North Coast Integrated Advisory Committee (NCIAC)
* Introduce NCIAC members
* Review the draft NCIAC Terms of Reference
* Provide an overview of the work being advanced under the North Coast Cumulative Effects Program (NC CE Program) in relation to three North Coast Values
* Cultivate open dialogue and answer questions
* Confirm next steps

**PARTICIPANTS**

**NC CE Partners**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Maya Paul | Program Director, CE Strategic Initiatives, North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society (NCSFNSS) | Meeting Chair |
| Kristin Worsley | Director of Coastal Marine Planning, Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, LWRS | Presenter |
| Carley Coccola | Manager with the Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Framework (CISF), LWRS | Presenter |
| Janine Pittman | Gitga’at Oceans and Lands Department, Food Security/Access to Resources (FS/AtR) Value Co-Lead | Presenter |
| James Herbert | Senior Advisor for Gitxaala Nation, FS/AtR Value Co-Lead | Presenter |
| Nicole Wallace | Kitsumkalum First Nation, Aquatic Habitat / Estuary Value Lead | Presenter |
| Lia Chalfour | NCSFNSS, Salmon Value Lead | Presenter |
| Alli Morrison | Team Lead with the CISF, LWRS |  |
| Rachel Post | Project Coordinator with the CISF, LWRS | Notetaker |
| Sukh Kaeley | Assistant Negotiator, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Lead |  |
| Oliver Dann | Assistant Negotiator, MIRR |  |
| Rina Gemeinhardt | Kitsumkalum First Nation |  |

**Stakeholders and Local Government**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Chelsey Ellis | Executive Director for Area AA Crab Association | Commercial Fishing (Member) |
| Emily Orr | Business Agent for United Fishermen & Allied Workers’ Union | Commercial Fishing (Member) |
| Greg Knox | Executive Director of SkeenaWild Conservation Trust | Conservation (Member) |
| Katrina Connors | Director, Salmon Watersheds Program, Pacific Salmon Foundation | Conservation (Member) |
| Mike Viveros | Engineering Department of BC Timber Sales, Ministry of Forests | Forestry (Observer) |
| Urs Thomas | Sport Fishing Advisory Board | Recreational Fishing (Member) |
| Jason Harris | Sport Fishing Advisory Board | Recreational Fishing Alternate to Urs Thomas) |
| Maggie Hall | Director of Economic Development, District of Kitimat | Local Government (Member) |
| Karina Dracott | Research Manager for OceanWise | Research and marine monitoring (Member) |
| Cloe Robinson | Senior Manager at OceanWise | Research and Marine monitoring (Alternate to Karina Dracott) |
| Jason Scherr | Port of Prince Rupert | Transportation (Observer) |

**Regrets**

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| Jim McIsaac | Commercial Fishing Caucus | Commercial Fishing (Alternate to Chelsea Ellis) |
| Marc Porter | Pacific Salmon Foundation | Conservation (Alternate to Katrina Connors) |
| Stephen Hales | BC Timber Sales | Forestry (Observer) |
| Cheryl Brown | Kalum Plan Implementation Committee | Forestry (Member) |
| Warren Waycheshen | Chief Administrative Officer, District of Kitimat | Local Government (Alternate to Maggie Hall) |
| Peter Christensen |  | Public Recreation (Member) |
| Paula Doucette | Transport Canada | Transportation (Observer) |
| Samuel Mansfield | Transport Canada | Transportation (Observer) |

# Opening and Meeting information

* Maya Paul opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and providing an overview of the meeting objectives and North Coast Integrated Advisory Committee (NCIAC) operating principles. She noted that the operating principles can also be found in the NCIAC draft Terms of Reference (ToR).
* Maya walked through the agenda for the meeting, noting that a “parking lot” would be used to track topics that require further discussion and cannot be fully addressed during the meeting.
* Maya facilitated roundtable introductions. Affiliations for participants are listed above.

*Please refer to the presentation slide deck for more information related to the items outlined below*.

# Review of Draft NCIAC Terms of Reference

* Kristin explained that the ToR had been circulated, and that she would go over highlights of the document and answer questions.

**Background, Context, and Purpose of the NCIAC**

* For context, the Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) was established across the Central and North Coast Region, covering an area from Campbell River to the Alaska border. While MaPP was being considered, the Environmental Stewardship Initiative was also initiated. Within the North Coast, particular interests around cumulative effects were coming up with both programs. To leverage efficiencies, both programs have come together to form the North Coast Cumulative Effects Program (NC CE Program). The NC CE Program area is a combination of the study areas of these two initiatives, which are in turn based on the territories of participating Nations.
* The Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) was originally formed to provide input into development of the North Coast Marine Plan under MaPP and was comprised of members representing marine sectors/interests and local government.
* MPAC has now evolved to become the North Coast Integrated Advisory Committee (NCIAC). The scope of stakeholders has been broadened from the initial planning process to support the NC Marine Plan implementation including the NC CE Program, to involve those with broader interests in the NC CE work in the Coastal Area (beyond just marine/marine intertidal areas).
* The role of the committee is to:
  + Provide advice and feedback on the NC CE Program including the NC Marine Plan implementation activities in the North Coast sub-­region using the individual and collective knowledge and skills of the NCIAC members.
  + Contribute, as appropriate, to other related marine initiatives and proposals in the North Coast Plan Area.

**Membership, Sector Representation**

* The foundations of the original MPAC remain the same in striving for balanced representation across sectors
* There is one member and one alternate for each defined sector. The following definitions apply:
  + *Members* have a seat on the committee and act in a formal advisory role.
  + *Alternates* may attend all NCIAC meetings but provide a formal advisory role only when acting as the representative.
  + *Observers* may attend all NCIAC meetings. They do not act in an advisory capacity but may share information and answer questions as needed.
* It is important to have a core Advisory Committee, but to seek appropriate advice and feedback on the NC CE Program, particularly as additional elements of the Marine Plan continue to be advanced, other sectors may be brought to the table in certain instances to provide input. Kristin gave an overview of sector representation and noted that if anyone has any ideas of who may be able to fill sector gaps, to please share them.
  + **Action: Communications and Engagement (C&E)** Team will send out a reminder of sector gaps with meeting materials post-meeting
* Urs Thomas mentioned that the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) could potentially represent the recreational hunting sector
  + **Action: Urs** to send his BCWF contactto the C&E Team via email.

**Roles/Responsibilities, Key Processes/Procedures, and Funding for In-Person Meetings**

* A full list of roles and responsibilities of members can be found in the draft ToR that was circulated.
* A minimum of two in-person or virtual meetings will be held per fiscal year; these may be scheduled using online polls. Meetings are not intended to be public meetings and will not be advertised.
* Two members of the NC CE Program Project Team - one Indigenous Partner and one Province of BC representative – will chair the meeting.
* The NC CE C&E Team will function as the NCIAC Secretariat. Agendas, current advice log and materials will aim to be circulated two weeks in advance of meetings. Meeting summaries and advice logs will be circulated via email, and subsequently posted to the NCIAC Dropbox and the North Coast Marine Plan page of the MaPP website (mappocean.org).
* Funding to be provided in accordance with MaPP travel expense guidelines.
  + *Members*: Funding will be provided to cover travel, meals and accommodation to support meeting participation.
  + *Alternates*: Funding will be provided to cover travel, meal and accommodation expenses when substituting for members
  + *Observers*: No funding provision to support in-person meeting participation.
* **Action:** Members to send feedback on the draft ToR via email to the C&E team within the next couple of weeks**.** We will attempt to finalize via email in advance of the next meeting.

**Questions and Clarification**

* Previous committee (MPAC) members were invited to be a part of the NCIAC through both the Feb. 10th meeting and targeted email invitations. The NCIAC currently consists of previous members of MPAC as well as new members that have expressed interest. There may be representatives who are also continuing with the MPA Network process, but it was clarified that this was a separate advisory committee.
* There was some concern expressed that one member and one alternate per sector is too limiting (see advice log). This topic can be discussed further and may vary depending on whether meetings are held online or in-person. The draft ToR states that funding for travel, meals, and accommodation for in-person meetings is only provided to members, and alternates when they are substituting for members.
* Attendees expressed an overall desire for in-person meetings. The next meeting will likely be held in the fall, at which point it can be assessed whether it can be held in-person at a location within the North Coast Region
* *See advice log for specific questions/advice made and NC CE Program Partners’ response*

# Overview of the North Coast Cumulative Effects Program

* Carley Coccola provided an overview of the North Coast Cumulative Effects Program – values, study area, and cumulative effects framework. Value leads presented on each value, providing and overview of background, work to date, and current priorities and next steps for each value (*see presentation*).

**Food Security/Access to Resources (FS/AtR) Values**

* Janine Pittman provided an overview of the Food Security and Access to Resources value. During the scoping work, participating Nations clearly stated that impacts and access to harvested foods was of key concern to communities. To date, a conceptual model and protocol for cumulative effects assessment (Protocol document) have been drafted. The model was developed by experts in each partner community and has involved substantial conversation.
* Through application of the model and identifying linkages between drivers and stressors, 19 indicators were identified.
* The Protocol document was drafted in accordance with the MaPP CE Framework.
* The draft 2021 CE assessment was informed by an analysis of the base case (current condition for 15 indicators) plus three qualitative future development scenarios.
* Current priorities and next steps:
* Finalize the draft Protocol and the first (2021) iteration of the CE assessment (both are currently undergoing internal review). The Protocol document for this value will contain much of the information presented today in the slide deck when it is published.
* Scope, engage on and implement proposed management recommendations.

**Aquatic Habitats, Estuary Value**

* Nicole Wallace gave an overview of the aquatic habitats and estuary value.
* Working under the context of the MaPP CE Framework, the foundational work to describe current condition of the Skeena Estuary is substantially complete (Current Condition Report – CCR).
* Work on an Assessment Protocol continues. The intent is to make it applicable for assessment of any estuary in B.C., with the Skeena Estuary being used as a case study.
* The Estuary value includes a field program. The program seeks to collect data on several abiotic and biotic indicators in alignment with other initiatives (e.g. the water quality monitoring program that the Port of Prince Rupert conducts).
* The CE Assessment work will involve use of the Protocol. The team is not yet at a place of being able to incorporate future scenarios as the current state is still being determined.
* We have the ability to take pressure indicators, and state indicators and look at the overlap between key habitats and areas of pressure.
* Current priorities and next steps:
  + Finalize the draft CCR, and the Assessment Protocol and share this with stakeholders.
  + Will then carry forward the proposed management recommendations from the CCR into planning at which time we will also be seeking input.

**Salmon Value**

* Lia Chalifour provided an overview of the salmon value, noting that work is not quite as far along as the other values.
* Initial work focused on determining the applicability of the Skeena ESI freshwater focused fish and fish habitat protocol for salmon. It was a starting framework, but the report noted that it was insufficient to fully inform the state of salmon in the North Coast.
* Funding has been received from the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) to support advancement of Nations’ work in the Skeena estuary and fill in data gaps. This has started with a review and collation of background reports to inform the state of the salmon value in the North Coast.
* The team has also engaged with Skeena fish and fish habitat experts, as well as conducted recent engagement with the partner Nations to inform salmon value planning through a salmon visioning exercise in March.
* This work builds the very early foundation for the Skeena Estuary Habitat Management and Protection Plan (SEHMPP), as well as identifies a preliminary list of sites for restoration. Nations tried to identify as many candidate sites as possible (16 and counting), with the aim of selecting two for short-term restoration under the BCSRIF project.
* Current priorities and next steps:
  + Develop the SEHMPP – jurisdictional framework to facilitate development of the SEHMPP. A workshop will be held with agency representatives to confirm the planning approach.
  + Implement restoration of 2 sites by end of 2023/24.
  + Track restoration efforts in the area.

**Questions and Clarifications**

* *FS/AtR*
  + Based on the NC CE Program objectives, the FS/AtR value is focused specifically on Indigenous communities. There were comments that this value is important for non-Indigenous communities as well.
  + The FS/AtR values were combined as Nations’ concerns centered around impacts to food security as a result of access and the ability to harvest resources. The work focuses on barriers to access within the region, rather than on specific impacts to each Nation. Proposed management recommendations could, however, address community specific concerns.
  + There was a concern expressed about the need to have good data in decision-making, referencing the closure of crab harvesting sites to commercial and recreational fishing on the Central Coast last year. It was clarified that DFO (who manages crab and other fisheries) is not involved in co-developing this indicator, but also a recognition of the importance of good data.
  + There was a question about how FS is approached by area.
* *Estuary*
  + There was support expressed for the estuary work but concern that Tier 3 (i.e. external) engagement will not happen until the late stages of the work.
* *Salmon*
  + There was a question about whether there were plans for a smolt fence as part of monitoring.
  + There was a question about whether the salmon value is integrated with the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative.
* ESI and MaPP are partnerships between Indigenous Nations and the Province. The Province funds capacity support for the Nations, but there are other additional funding sources as well.
* Overall concern that there appears to be a growing gap between Provincial G2G work with Indigenous Nations, and the level of effort to inform and engage local communities.
  + The intent is to leverage the NCIAC to help gather the views of various user groups and also to inform when broader public engagement might be needed.
* *See advice log for specific questions/advice made and NC CE Program Partners’ response.*

# Closing and Next Steps

* There was a general agreement that later fall would work for the next NCIAC meeting, and that a Doodle Poll would be preferred as a means of selecting a date. Maya went over the next steps and thanked everyone for attending.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT (C&E) TEAM CONTACTS**

Rachel Post (Administrative Support): [Rachel.Post@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rachel.Post@gov.bc.ca)

Sukh Kaeley (Team Lead): [Sukhvinder.Kaeley@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sukhvinder.Kaeley@gov.bc.ca)

**ACTIONS**

* **Urs Thomas** to send his BCTS contact to the C&E Team as a suggestion for the Recreational Hunting Sector; **C&E Team** to reach out to the contact - complete
* **Committee** to send feedback for the draft terms of reference to the C&E Team by June 20, 2022[later extended to Wednesday June 29, 2022] - complete
* **C&E Team** to send out post-meeting materials:
  + meeting minutes and advice log for review
  + presentation deck from the meeting
  + a reminder of sector gaps for input from committee
* **C&E Team** to circulate
  + revised Terms of Reference with any additional comments after June 29th, 2022; likely seeking endorsement at next meeting
  + Doodle Poll to select a date for next meeting
* **Committee** to send to direct to the C&E Team
  + any suggestions of who may be able to fill sector gaps
  + any questions about the NC CE Program or NCIAC