

NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND MARINE PLAN: OVERVIEW 2015



North Vancouver Island Marine Plan Overview

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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The North Vancouver Island (NVI) Marine Plan (the Plan) provides spatial and nonspatial recommendations for achieving long-term ecosystem-based marine management to maintain social and cultural wellbeing and economic development based on healthy ecosystems within the Plan Area.

The Plan is a collaboration between the provincial government and the Nanwakolas Council, which represents seven participating member First Nations in marine planning: the Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em, Tlowitsis, Da'naxda'xw Awaetlatla, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, Wei Wai Kum, Kwiakah and K'omoks.

The Plan was prepared as part of the Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP), whose partners are the provincial government, represented by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and 18 member First Nations, represented by three First Nations organisations: the Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative, the North Coast–Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society and the Nanwakolas Council.

The Plan includes recommendations for developing and maintaining resilient marine ecosystems and sustainable economies for NVI communities. It focuses on providing direction for managing marine areas, uses and activities administered by the provincial government.



PLAN AREA

The Plan covers an 8,003 km² marine area of the North Pacific coast of Canada. The Plan Area follows the natural boundary of the coast and includes all submerged lands within the black boundary shown in Figure 1. The Plan Area is approximately 300 km northwest of Vancouver, British Columbia (BC) and is the most southerly of four sub-regional planning areas delineated by the MaPP initiative. The Plan Area encompasses marine and foreshore areas between Vancouver Island and the BC mainland coast, including several major inlets, Queen Charlotte Strait, Johnstone Strait and portions of Queen Charlotte Sound and Discovery Passage. Incorporated communities in the Plan Area are located mainly on Vancouver Island, from Port Hardy in the north to Campbell River in the south.

SCOPE AND JURISDICTION

The Plan focuses on the Crown marine areas and uses where legal jurisdiction and regulatory authority is provincial as opposed to federal, namely the foreshore, coastal “inland waters” and the lands covered by these waters. The Plan includes the marine areas of interest of Nanwakolas Council member First Nations.

The Plan does not propose specific management objectives for private, or Crown lands above the natural high tide boundary, but does consider the impacts of land uses, plans, zones, tenures and legal designations in these areas.

The Plan is consistent with efforts between the Nanwakolas member First Nations and the provincial government to advance reconciliation and relationships, and to advance collaborative relationships with stakeholders.

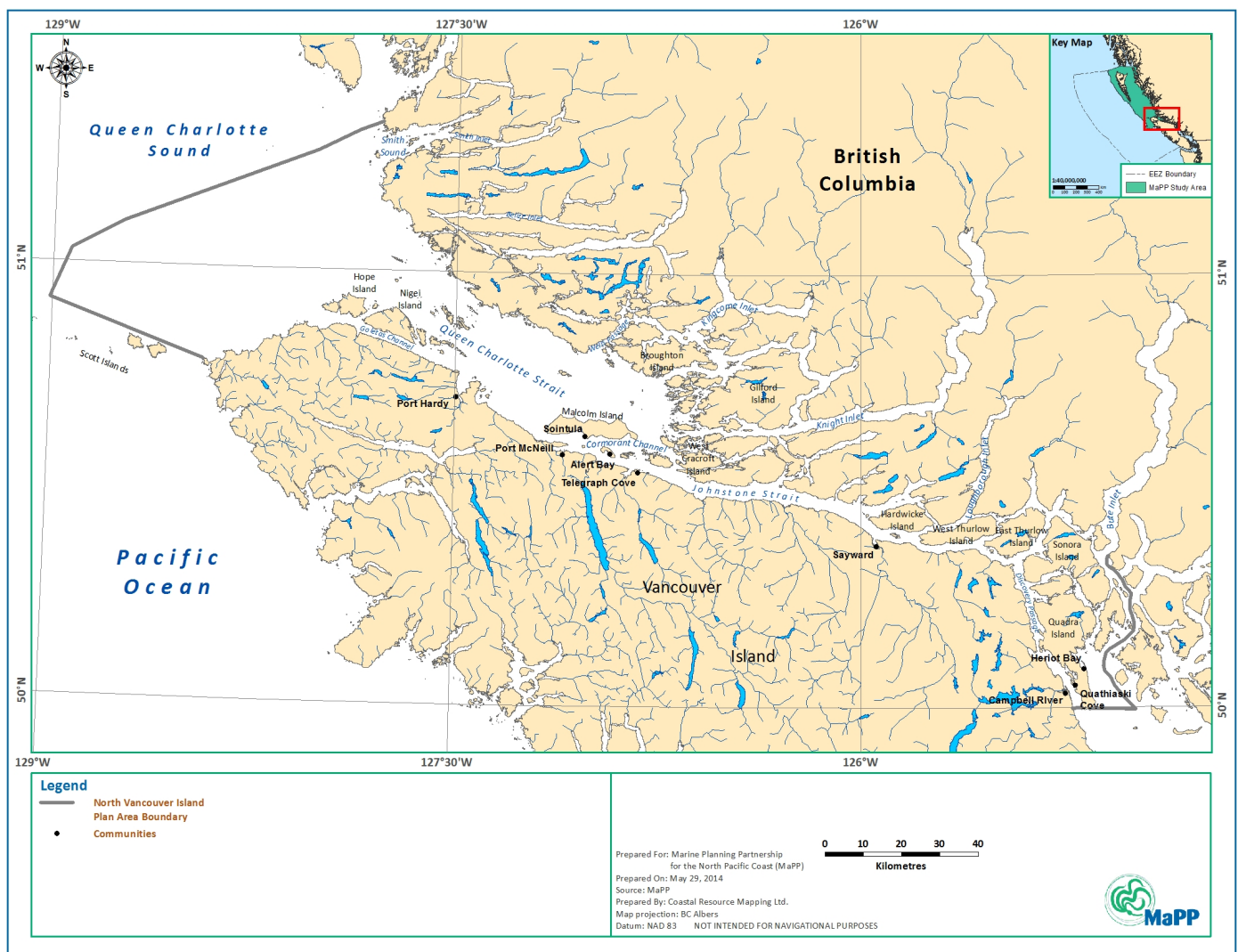


Figure 1 North Vancouver Island Plan Area



HA-MA-YAS MARINE PLAN

A Collaborative Marine Plan by Member First Nations of the
Nanwakolas Council



Johnstone - Butte



PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Plan brings together science, technical information, traditional knowledge and input from the technical team, a stakeholder Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC), Nanwakolas Council and public and stakeholder engagement. The MPAC provided comment and advice on Plan content at key stages in plan development. Public feedback was solicited and obtained through two sets of open house meetings and a formal public review period held on the final draft Plan.

Its foundation is a marine **ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach**, which is consistent with First Nations' traditional resource management and with provincial government direction in resource management. EBM is built on principles of ecological integrity, human well-being, governance and collaborative management. It recognizes the magnitude of interactions in an **ecosystem** and places **human** activities and impacts into the ecosystem management framework.

The Plan is based on **multiple ecological, cultural, social and economic data sources**, with key information and direction provided by First Nation community-based marine use plans (aggregated into the Ha-ma-yas Marine Plan) and provincial and local government land use planning and policy documents.

Relevant background scientific reports and technical documents from the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) planning process were used, along with the BC Marine Conservation Analysis, and additional information on forestry operation, diving areas, and high value commercial recreation and tourism areas.





NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND MARINE PLAN CONTENT

Along with introductory chapters that include the jurisdictional context, the planning approach, and a description of the Plan Area and key issues and opportunities, the Plan has three main components:

Plan Area Management Direction – a vision, objectives and strategies provide management direction for a healthier ocean, stronger marine economy, and improved cultural and social outcomes.

Area-Specific Management Direction - describes the approach to managing marine uses and activities through the establishment of spatially defined areas, or zones. This section of the Plan contains maps and identifies areas for protection, general and special management.

Plan Implementation - describes how the Plan will be implemented, monitored, reviewed and adapted over time.

More information about these three main components is found in the next few pages.





PLAN AREA MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

The Plan Area has healthy, diverse and resilient marine ecosystems that support social and cultural opportunities and a thriving economy. The goods and services provided from the Plan Area are world renowned and a major source of economic, community, cultural and social prosperity. Implementation of the Plan has reinforced the unique cultural connection of area First Nations to their traditional lands, waters and resources. Uses and activities are innovative, adaptable to changing technologies and environments, respect traditional values, and support the long-term sustainability of the supporting ecosystems. The management and decision-making processes for uses and activities are efficient, transparent and accountable, involve effective cooperation between jurisdictions, authorities and business, and consider future generations. The vision has been achieved through decisions that are guided by traditional and modern values, teachings and principles of Ecosystem-based Management. Community members, including First Nations members, are actively engaged in the stewardship, monitoring and management of the resources upon which their livelihoods depend.

The Plan provides **plan area management direction** for 13 topics. For each topic, issues are identified and proposed objectives and strategies establish guidelines for marine activities occurring in all Plan Area waters (see Section 4.3 of the Plan).

The plan area management direction provides recommendations for the topics below:

- *COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY*
- *INFRASTRUCTURE*
- *MARINE POLLUTION*
- *CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION*
- *CULTURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES*
- *RECREATION AND TOURISM*
- *FORESTRY OPERATIONS*
- *AQUACULTURE*
- *ENERGY*
- *FISHERY ECONOMY AND ASSOCIATED VALUES*
- *GOVERNANCE AND COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT*
- *REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT*





AREA-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Area-specific management direction is provided through spatial zones and associated recommendations for marine uses and activities. All spatial recommendations in the Plan provide policy guidance intended to inform the decision making process regarding uses and activities in the areas identified. Spatial recommendations are also intended to assist marine tenure applicants, stakeholder groups, industry and the general public in accessing and using marine space and resources.

The NVI Marine Plan has three overarching zone types with recommended use and activities (Figure 2):

General Management Zone (GMZ) (*45% of the Plan Area*) – supports a wide range of co-existing sustainable marine uses and activities associated with public, private and community uses.

Special Management Zone (SMZ) (*38 areas covering 22% of the Plan Area*) – includes areas of multiple uses and multiple high values/ high potential, and are assigned a management emphasis that is intended to strengthen, encourage and/or maintain opportunities for important existing values, uses or activities associated with local communities, First Nations and marine economic sectors related to the area emphasis (see Plan for a map of SMZ areas):

Community Emphasis Areas are intended to reinforce their value for seasonal and year-round uses and activities associated with, required by, and dictated primarily by, adjacent or nearby communities.

Cultural/Economic Emphasis Areas are intended to reinforce their high value to First Nations, on a seasonal and year-round basis, for cultural value protection, Aboriginal economic development opportunities, and food security.

Recreation/Tourism Emphasis Areas are intended to reinforce their high value to existing commercial tourism operations, particularly from late May to early October.

Protection Management Zone (PMZ) (*10 unique geographic areas covering 10% of the Plan Area*) – allocates space primarily for conservation purposes or objectives.

The remainder of the Plan Area consists of existing and proposed provincial government marine protection areas and the federal government proposed Scott Islands Marine National Wildlife Area.

Recommended Use and Activities Tables identify activities that are considered acceptable, not acceptable or conditionally acceptable for each zone. For activities that are conditionally acceptable, area-based conditions are provided. The Nanwakolas Council and Province address the following marine uses and activities in Plan zones:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • <i>BOTTOM AND OFF BOTTOM
AQUACULTURE SITES – SHELLFISH,
OTHER INVERTEBRATES, MARINE
PLANTS</i> | • <i>COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL
ANCHORAGE</i> |
| • <i>OFF BOTTOM AQUACULTURE SITES –
FINFISH</i> | • <i>DOCKS, WHARVES AND FACILITIES</i> |
| • <i>RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION</i> | • <i>FLOAT HOMES AND FLOATING LODGES</i> |
| • <i>FORESTRY AND MINING OPERATIONS</i> | • <i>COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC RECREATION
AND TOURISM</i> |
| | • <i>RESEARCH</i> |
| | • <i>LINEAR AND POINT SOURCE UTILITIES</i> |

Additional management provisions and conditions are provided for each zoned area.

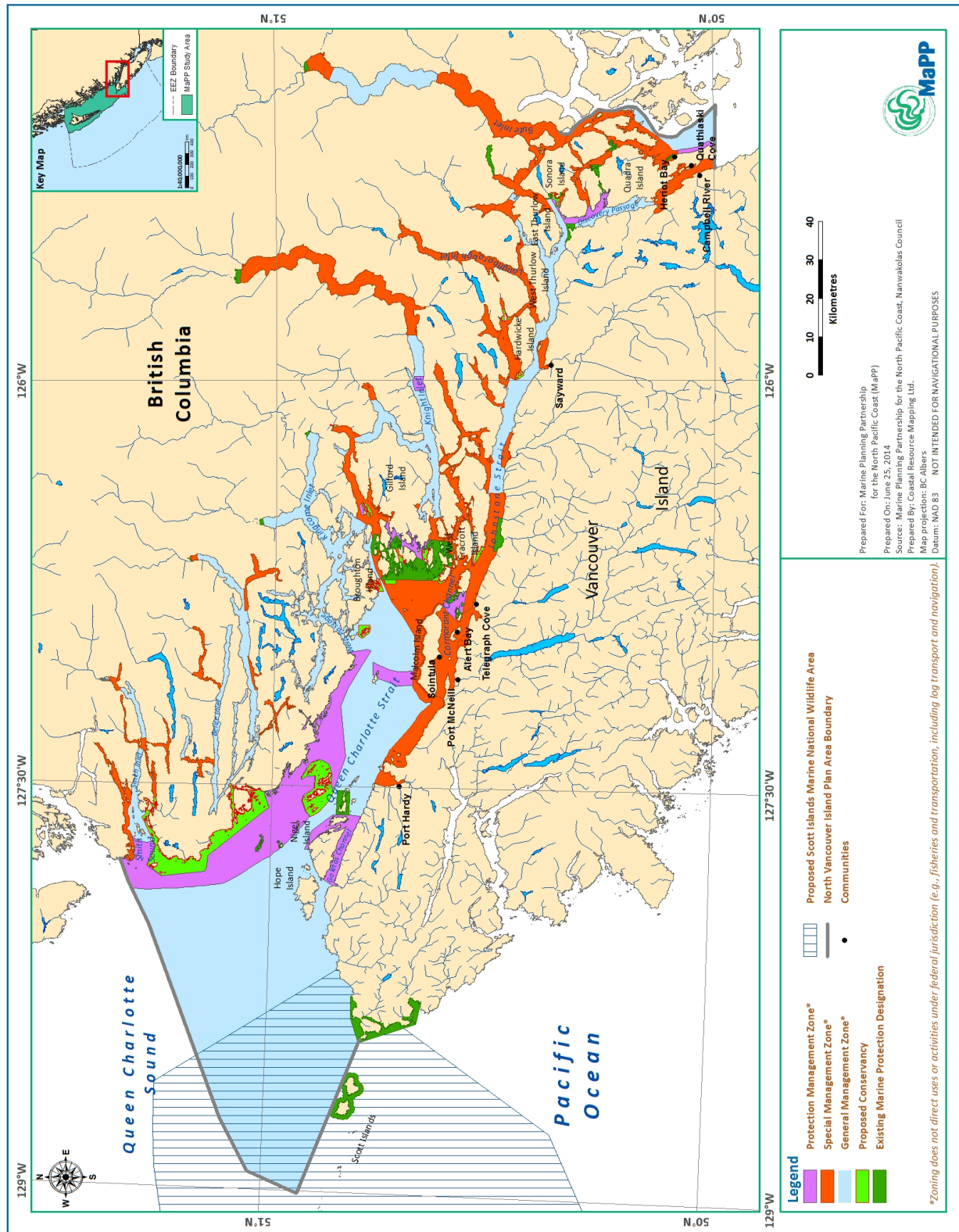


Figure 2 North Vancouver Island Marine Plan Zoning Designations



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Plan is intended to remain relevant to changing issues, priorities and conditions. This will be accomplished through the development of a NVI Marine Plan Implementation Agreement between the Nanwakolas Council and the provincial government and associated management structures.

The Plan recommendations, including Plan Area management direction and zone recommendations are prioritized in the Plan for future implementation. Continued collaboration and integration will be essential as work is conducted on all plan strategies. The Plan contemplates an implementation advisory committee of stakeholders that will periodically meet to give advice on implementation.

Plan implementation progress will be reviewed annually using **EBM implementation indicators** to measure long-term changes in marine ecosystems, including community and human health, which are potentially attributed to the implementation of Plan recommendations. The Plan outlines a “Plan variance” process, in which a use or activity identified in the Plan as “Conditionally Acceptable” or “Not Acceptable” may be challenged by a proponent. The Plan variation process will require appropriate rationale, and will reflect the EBM approach.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Marine Planning Partnership - mappocean.org

MaPP Marine Planning Portal (using the Seasketch application) - mapp.seasketch.org

Nanwakolas - www.nanwakolas.com/

British Columbia - www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/SLRP/



