

MARINE PLAN PARTNERSHIP  
FOR  
THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST

NORTH COAST

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017



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PARTNERSHIP FOR  
THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST

**NORTH COAST  
ANNUAL  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE NORTH COAST IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

We are pleased to present the first annual report for implementation of the North Coast Marine Plan. This report provides an opportunity to share our activities, achievements and challenges for the period ending March 31, 2017.

Implementation of the MaPP North Coast Marine Plan is an ongoing collaborative effort resulting from the partnership between the Province of British Columbia and the Gitga'at, Gitxaala, Haisla, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum and Metlakatla Nations, as represented by the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society.

The North Coast Implementation Technical Team has been working hard over the last year to move implementation of the North Coast Marine Plan forward. We hope you will enjoy reading about the progress that was made and we look forward to continuing to work towards full implementation of the North Coast Marine Plan.

Sincerely,

Allison Paul (Co-Lead, North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society)

Karen Topelko (Co-Lead, Province of B.C.)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The North Coast Technical Team co-leads would like to acknowledge and thank all those that have been involved in the North Coast Marine Plan implementation. This past year of implementation required dedicated work by dozens of people from the Province of British Columbia and the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society staff and Gitga'at, Gitxaala, Haisla, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum and Metlakatla Nations.

In addition, stakeholders and local governments, who were invaluable during the development of the MaPP North Coast Marine Plan, have been re-engaged through the North Coast Marine Plan Advisory Committee. Successful marine plan implementation will depend on continued communication and engagement, building on the relationships created during the planning phase.

The North Coast team would also like to thank MaPP contractors, who have helped us to make significant progress on implementation over the last year.

Lastly, none of this would be possible without the ongoing financial support of Tides Canada on behalf of MaPP implementation funding organizations.

## CONTEXT

The North Coast Marine Plan is the result of a collaborative planning process led by the Province of British Columbia (B.C.) and Gitga'at, Gitxaala, Haisla, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum and Metlakatla Nations, represented by the North Coast–Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society. This planning process is part of the broader First Nations-B.C. Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP) initiative.

During writing of the North Coast Marine Plan, objectives and strategies were developed to achieve marine ecosystem health, social and cultural well-being, and economic development through an ecosystem-based approach to planning and management. Ecosystem-based goals and principles were also applied in the development of the North Coast spatial plan, which identifies where specific marine uses and activities are recommended. Marine space is allocated to one of three zone types: general management, protection management, and special management. The partners' approach to implementing marine plan objectives, strategies and spatial recommendations is outlined in the Implementation Agreement, signed in 2016 (available at [www.mappocean.org](http://www.mappocean.org)).

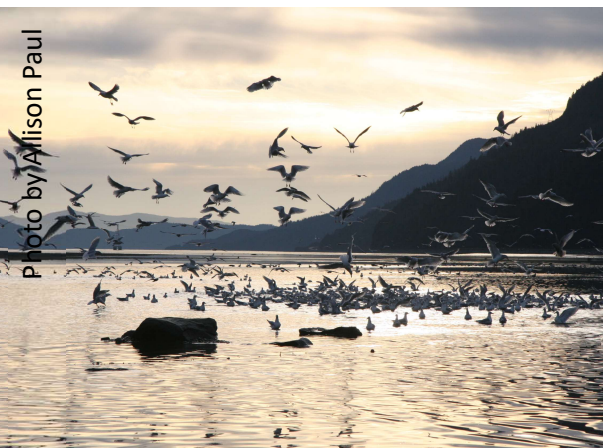
The marine plan focuses on direction for managing marine and coastal areas, uses and activities that are informed by First Nations strategic marine use plans and provincial strategic priorities, and where the Province of B.C. has jurisdiction. In the spirit of fully comprehensive integrated management, the partners continue to engage the federal government on issues that are of interest to the Government of Canada. For example, governments are working together to plan

a network of marine protected areas in the Northern Shelf Bioregion, which shares the same footprint as the MaPP initiative.

While all of the objectives and strategies in the North Coast Marine Plan are important elements of an integrated ecosystem-based management approach for North Coast waters, a number of priorities were identified for near-term implementation, as outlined in Chapter 6 of the plan. Priority topics include governance, collaboration and consultation; cumulative effects; sustainable economies; and stewardship. Annual work plans and budgets guide implementation of the priorities; they describe the actions associated with each strategy, identify the parties involved, estimate the resources required and define general timelines to achieve implementation. Work plans are developed with First Nation marine planning community coordinators and B.C. government staff, and reflect the interests, needs and capacities of MaPP partners.

This annual report outlines key achievements, progress and challenges related to implementation of the North Coast annual work plan and budget for the period April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 (2016-2017). The work undertaken in 2016-2017 created a solid foundation from which to move forward on other implementation activities in the coming years.

An annual report for the MaPP region is also available on the MaPP website (<http://mappocean.org>). The regional report describes progress on implementation of the MaPP Regional Action Framework, a document that identifies actions that the provincial and First Nation governments recognized as being most appropriately implemented at the regional scale. Actions outlined within it are consistent with, and support, sub-regional marine plan recommendations from the four MaPP sub-regions: Haida Gwaii, North Coast, Central Coast and North Vancouver Island. The North Coast Technical Team provided support for implementation of a number of regional actions in 2016-2017, and they are documented within this annual report.





## IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

This section highlights key activities and achievements from 2016-2017 North Coast Marine Plan implementation. The implementation activities are organized under five MaPP strategic outcomes:

1. *Collaboration and Governance*
2. *Marine Zoning*
3. *Stewardship Monitoring and Enforcement*
4. *Economic Development and Healthy Communities*
5. *Climate Change and Adaptive Management*

The priority strategies advanced in 2016-2017 are listed in table format, organized by strategic outcome. A scorecard shows the implementation status of each strategy. The scoring categories are as follows:

- **Complete/functioning:** Of the discrete activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, all are completed. Of the continuous activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, all are fully operational and ongoing.
- **On track:** All discrete activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in 2016-2017 are completed. All continuous activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in 2016-2017 are fully operational.
- **In development / some activities initiated:** Of the activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, some have been initiated or are in development, but not all are yet complete/functioning.
- **Not started / not applicable to certain sub-regions:** No activities for this strategy have been initiated or planned for the time period or geography (region/sub-region).
- **At risk / significantly behind schedule:** Activities for this strategy are not progressing as planned, are behind schedule, or are projected to be behind schedule based on foreseeable risks.



Photo by Jessica Hawryshyn



Photo by Jo Smith





Not all scoring categories were assigned to strategies for North Coast in 2016-2017 reporting.

North Coast Marine Plan strategies often have multiple actions and activities associated with them. Full implementation of many of the North Coast strategies will happen over multiple years and, for this reason, many strategies are considered ‘in development’ or ‘on track’, rather than ‘complete.’

### ***Outcome 1: Collaboration and Governance – Strengthening the model of collaborative oceans governance.***

Significant progress was made towards achieving objectives for strengthening collaborative oceans governance, developing new structures and relationships to implement the marine plan, and improving engagement. Highlights of activities and achievements for the North Coast sub-region under this outcome include:

- The Province of B.C. and the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society, on behalf of member and partner Nations, signed an implementation agreement in August 2016. It outlines how the partners will collaborate to implement the MaPP North Coast Marine Plan.
- First Nations technical marine planning and resource management tables were established. Supported by the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society, the tables co-ordinate First Nation feedback and input into implementation of the North Coast Marine Plan and the Regional Action Framework. Meetings with all six Nations were hosted at regular intervals throughout 2016-2017. The North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society also met individually with each Nation throughout April and May to review the draft North Coast implementation work plan with marine planning community co-ordinators and other staff. This consistent communication and co-ordination ensures that the needs of the communities are understood and that Nations are able to guide and participate in the implementation of priority actions. For example, Nation-level engagement in the marine protected area (MPA) network planning process through the Technical Marine Planning and Resource Management Tables ensures that Aboriginal knowledge, values and resource management practices are communicated and integrated.
- A North Coast Marine Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) to support marine plan implementation was established. In early March, the inaugural meeting was hosted by the North Coast MaPP Technical Team in Prince Rupert. The meeting provided the opportunity to discuss the terms of reference for the committee, share information on the status of implementation on the North Coast Marine Plan and the Regional Action Framework, and to receive feedback on implementation products.

- Significant, positive progress was made towards establishing formal governance arrangements to support implementation of cumulative effects objectives and strategies, and to improve collaboration and co-ordination between related initiatives. This included development and engagement of a cumulative effects First Nations technical table to support discussions affecting the North Coast. Governance discussions will continue into 2017-2018.

**Table 1. Implementation status of strategies identified in the 2016-17 work plan related to Collaboration and Governance.**

North Coast Marine Plan strategies initiated in 2016-2017	Status of Strategy
<b>Governance Strategy 2.1.</b> Assess needs and identify resources required to ensure enduring governance structures are established and maintained to support implementation of the North Coast Marine Plan.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Governance Strategy 2.3.</b> Support the development of enduring, inclusive governance arrangements for designing and implementing a marine protected area network.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Governance Strategy 2.6.</b> Establish a collaborative stakeholder advisory process that supports successful implementation of the North Coast Marine Plan.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Governance Strategy 2.10.</b> Establish and support a First Nations technical marine planning and resource management table.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Compliance and Enforcement Strategy 2.6.</b> Establish partnerships with B.C. Parks to ensure adequate patrols of existing and future provincial parks and conservancies.	<i>On track</i>
<b>First Nations Resource Use and Management Strategy 2.3.</b> Support First Nations capacity for managing and responding to referrals.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Cumulative Effects Strategy 1.1.</b> Develop governance arrangements for implementing the MaPP cumulative effects framework.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Cumulative Effects Strategy 1.3.</b> Establish partnerships with education institutions, non-government organizations, and industry to facilitate cumulative effects research.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Cumulative Effects Strategy 2.1.</b> Commission a thorough literature review and gap analysis to compile all existing socioeconomic and ecological data that are relevant to cumulative effects assessment.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Cumulative Effects Strategy 2.2.</b> Collaboratively identify types, scope and scale of studies, including geographic and temporal frames.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>First Nations Resource Use and Management Strategy 2.1.</b> Consistent with government-to-government agreements, develop collaborative governance structures that are compatible with, and integrate, Aboriginal governance structures and Aboriginal knowledge.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Compliance and Enforcement Strategy 3.2.</b> Develop communications materials that inform marine users and the general public about Aboriginal rights and title, and Indigenous laws and resource management practices as they pertain to marine areas and activities.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Status of Strategy is defined as:</b>	
<b>On track</b> – All discrete activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in 2016-17 are completed. All	

*continuous activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in 2016-17 are fully operational.*

***In development / some activities initiated*** – *Of the activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, some have been initiated or are in development, but not all are yet complete/functioning.*

The North Coast Technical Team contributed to the following MaPP regional implementation outcomes:

- Development of MaPP's five-year implementation strategy, which outlines key elements of the MaPP partners' approach to implementing priorities identified in the MaPP sub-regional marine plans and the Regional Action Framework.
- Establishment of enduring governance structures at the executive, working group, and technical levels to support MaPP implementation, including the development of terms of reference.
- Establishment of, and support for, a Regional Marine Advisory Committee, established to support stakeholder and local government engagement on implementation of the Regional Action Framework.
- Establishment of new governance arrangements to support collaborative MPA planning in the Northern Shelf Bioregion. North Coast co-leads participate in MPA Technical Team meetings, and are also members of several sub-committees established to advance specific aspects of MPA network planning.

## ***Outcome 2: Marine Zoning – Achieving a healthy marine environment, robust economy and strong communities through zoning.***

Highlights of activities and achievements for the North Coast sub-region under this outcome include:

- Member and partner Nations began the important task of compiling Aboriginal knowledge about sensitive or critical species and habitats. This information will inform the development of management plans that will be developed to further support implementation of the North Coast protection management zones and their associated recommended uses and activities tables. The management plans will include detailed descriptions of ecological, cultural, and tourism and recreation values, and other information needed to support implementation of conditional statements for applicable uses and activities.
- Significant progress was made towards completing an 'atlas' or directory of protection management zones through SeaSketch enhancements. Local and Aboriginal knowledge is key for the development of comprehensive 'atlas pages' for each protection management zone, and the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society

continues to work with the marine planning community co-ordinators to engage First Nations in the development of products that support implementation of the North Coast spatial plan, as well as marine protected area network planning.

- The MPA network in the Northern Shelf Bioregion, when complete, will conserve and protect traditional use, cultural heritage and archaeological resources (Goal 5). To support the planning process, member and partner Nations identified cultural conservation priorities. These are areas that are important to First Nations for presence of culturally significance species, culture and spirituality, and harvesting. Spatial files of cultural conservation priorities were prepared, and will be used to inform recommendations for the modification of existing protected areas, or the selection of new ones to meet the network goals and objectives. The identification and analysis of First Nations cultural conservation priorities was based on criteria developed by the MPA Technical Team, and aligns with the methods used for identifying and evaluating ecological conservation priorities. The MaPP protection management zones were priorities for analysis and assessment.

**Table 2. Implementation status of strategies identified in the 2016-17 work plan related to Marine Zoning.**

North Coast Marine Plan strategies initiated in 2016-2017	Status of Strategy
<b>Marine Protection Strategy 1.2.</b> Collaboratively develop and implement an evaluation framework to identify protection management zones that would benefit from permanent, legal protection through MPA designation.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Marine Protection Strategy 1.3.</b> Collaboratively identify protection management zones that will be advanced for consideration in the Canada-B.C.-First Nations MPA Network planning process.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Status of Strategy is defined as:</b> <i>In development / some activities initiated – Of the activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, some have been initiated or are in development, but not all are yet complete/functioning.</i>	

The North Coast Technical Team contributed to the following MaPP regional implementation outcomes:

- B.C. MaPP Technical Team members hosted information and training sessions with provincial staff and decision makers regarding the North Coast Marine Plan and its role in informing land use decisions.
- A system for ongoing monitoring and reporting on consistency between provincial land use decisions and the North Coast spatial zones was developed and tested.



### ***Outcome 3: Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement – Enhancing stewardship of ecological and cultural values, and archaeological sites and areas through comprehensive monitoring and enforcement.***

Highlights of key activities and achievements for the North Coast sub-region under this outcome include:

- A discussion paper and action plan on integrating Aboriginal knowledge and resource management practices into provincial planning was completed. Community meetings were held in September 2016 to support the development of recommendations. The recommendations and action plan are a first step towards improved understanding of how to better integrate Aboriginal knowledge and resource management practices into provincial planning.
- A First Nations ecosystem-based monitoring workshop took place in June 2016. Results of this workshop informed the selection of a suite of 16 pilot regional indicators as well as potential sub-regional indicators of interest. The workshop was also used to identify local stewardship programs and baseline studies.
- The cumulative effects co-ordinator continued to work hard to create a common understanding across cumulative effects initiatives in the North Coast, including the federally initiated Cumulative Effects Monitoring Initiative (CEMI<sup>1</sup>) in the Prince Rupert area, Metlakatla's Cumulative Effects Management Project, and the provincial Environmental Stewardship Initiative - North Coast Cumulative Effects Demonstration Project. The co-ordinator also provided support to engage North Coast First Nations and other MaPP sub-regions in a review of the *Cumulative Effects Framework for the Natural Resource Sector*, an interim policy document developed by the Province of B.C. and released for consultation in May 2016. These initiatives continue to inform development and refinement of MaPP's Cumulative Effects Framework for application on coastal and marine values. Co-ordination across initiatives aimed at monitoring, assessing and managing cumulative effects is important to maintain common understanding.
- Cumulative effects value identification and selection progressed in 2016-2017. The selection of values is an important early step towards the assessment of cumulative effects. The cumulative effects co-ordinator engaged in discussions with North Coast First Nation cumulative effects teams to:

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<sup>1</sup> CEMI is a collaborative process led by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to identify First Nations values and interests for the development of a cumulative effects monitoring pilot project in the Prince Rupert area. Participants include the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society and Gitga'at, Gitxaala, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, Metlakatla, and Lax Kw'alaams Nations.

- Identify an initial suite of core values, building on work completed under the Cumulative Effects Monitoring Initiative.
- Correlate potential values with recommended ecosystem-based management indicators to identify potential gaps in the foundation list and potential alignment with regional work. This work was used in a value selection workshop held in December 2016 with North Coast First Nations.

**Table 3. Implementation status of strategies in the 2016-17 work plan related to Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement.**

North Coast Marine Plan strategies initiated in 2016-2017	Status of Strategy
<b>Governance Strategy 1.6.</b> Support efforts to expand the role of First Nations in monitoring and enforcement activities.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Governance Strategy 2.8.</b> Create adaptive management protocols that ensure that new marine resource and use information is integrated into policies, programs, and monitoring and enforcement practices.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Tourism and Recreation Strategy 1.3.</b> Work with stakeholder groups to identify appropriate marine access campsite locations.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Monitoring Strategy 1.4.</b> Develop a monitoring and assessment needs report for current and future requirements, including resources, across all agencies.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Marine Protection Strategy 1.4.</b> Integrate local and Aboriginal knowledge into MPA planning to improve scientific information and fill data gaps.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Marine Protection Strategy 3.4.</b> Work collaboratively to identify sensitive species and habitats and critical features to support the development of management plans for North Coast spatial zoning.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Cumulative Effects Strategy 3.1.</b> Commission an expert report on potential effects of proposed development(s) on ecological, social and cultural values.	<i>On track</i>
<b>First Nations Resource Use and Management Strategy 2.2.</b> Identify mechanisms for integrating Aboriginal knowledge and resource management practices into provincial-level planning and regulation.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Tourism and Recreation Strategy 1.5.</b> Develop and implement outreach and interpretive programs to improve awareness of local cultures and traditions, including First Nations interpretive signage throughout their territories.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Heritage Sites and First Nations Cultural Areas Strategy 5.2.</b> Support and facilitate the development of First Nations research policies to direct and manage research in their territories.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Heritage Sites and First Nations Cultural Areas Strategy 2.1.</b> Develop guidelines for human activities within sensitive cultural and archaeological sites that may inform management direction and establish regulations to reduce negative impacts.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Status of Strategy is defined as:</b> <i>On track – All discrete activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in 2016-17 are completed. All continuous activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in 2016-17 are fully operational.</i>	

*In development / some activities initiated – Of the activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, some have been initiated or are in development, but not all are yet complete/functioning.*

The North Coast Technical Team contributed to the following MaPP regional implementation outcomes:

- Member and partner Nations participated in the refinement of the regional MaPP Cumulative Effects Framework, a framework that was developed in 2014, during the planning phase. The framework is being modified to reflect advances in the technical understanding and development of an approach to assess and manage cumulative effects on marine and coastal values. Engagement with the four MaPP sub-regions and their partner Nations continues into 2017-2018.

***Outcome 4: Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities – Fostering a new ecosystem-based marine economy for improved community and human well-being.***

Highlights of key activities and achievements for the North Coast sub-region under this outcome include:

- Opportunities to partner with local stewardship groups were explored to improve the potential for community involvement in monitoring and research activities. These stewardship groups may be engaged to design and conduct baseline studies to fill data gaps.
- The capacity of member and partner Nations to share their knowledge and influence the management of marine and coastal resources in their territory was strengthened. The funding provided through MaPP to support Nation engagement contributes towards improved community well-being.
- Six North Coast guardians/technicians completed the Stewardship Technicians Training Program with the Coastal Stewardship Network in March 2017. Four North Coast guardians/technicians began courses with a new cohort for the Stewardship Technicians Training Program in October 2016 and are expected to complete the program in March 2018. The Stewardship Technicians Training Program provides students with the applied skills and knowledge required to work in resource stewardship and/or develop certified field skills for their current positions.
- The cumulative effects value identification work that was undertaken in 2016-2017 touches on topics such as healthy communities and sustainable economic development for the North Coast. The broad suite of values that are being identified includes, for example, water quality, human health and health services, food security, access to resources and a marine-based economy.

**Table 4. Implementation status of strategies identified in the 2016-17 work plan related to Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities**

North Coast Marine Plan strategies initiated in 2016-2017	Status of Strategy
<b>Monitoring Strategy 2.1.</b> Support the expansion of First Nations stewardship and resource management programs to enhance capacity for field monitoring and data collection.	<i>In development / some activities initiated</i>
<b>Cumulative Effects Strategy 2.3.</b> Contract First Nations and local stewardship groups to design and conduct baseline studies to fill data gaps.	<i>On track</i>
<b>Status of Strategy is defined as:</b> <b>On track</b> – All discrete activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in 2016-17 are completed. All continuous activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy in 2016-17 are fully operational. <b>In development / some activities initiated</b> – Of the activities intended to be undertaken for this strategy, some have been initiated or are in development, but not all are yet complete/ functioning.	

The North Coast Technical Team contributed to the following MaPP regional implementation outcome:

- The North Coast participated in the regional selection of ecosystem-based monitoring indicators. The suite of 16 pilot indicators cover a broad set of themes such as: sense of place and well-being, stewardship and governance, coastal development and livelihoods, climate change and oceanography, and species and habitats.



Photo by Allison Paul





***Outcome 5: Climate Change and Adaptive Management – Undertaking studies and plans to better address the effects of climate change in the MaPP region.***

The North Coast Technical Team contributed to the following MaPP regional implementation outcomes:

- Preliminary work was started to scope out what the climate change vulnerability assessment will look like and how the North Coast and regional work can overlap. This strategy is ranked as ‘not started’ because timelines were realigned to allow for greater co-ordination with other sub-regions and the region on the climate change vulnerability assessment work.

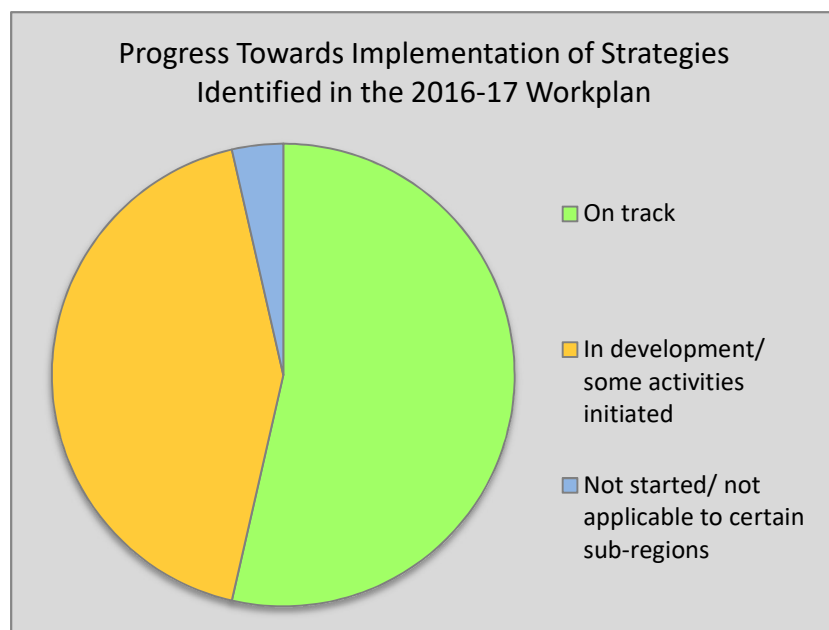
***Table 5. Implementation status of strategies identified in the 2016-17 work plan related to Climate Change and Adaptive Management***

North Coast Marine Plan strategies initiated in 2016-2017	Status of Strategy
<b>Climate Change Strategy 1.1.</b> Conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment for North Coast marine ecosystems.	<i>Not Started</i>
<b><i>Status of Strategy is defined as:</i></b> <b><i>Not started– No activities for this strategy have been initiated.</i></b>	

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The following graphics illustrate the implementation status of the 2016-2017 work plan strategies. Please note that not all scoring categories were assigned for North Coast 2016-2017 reporting. Refer back to page 4 for a description of the scoring categories.

Figure 1 displays the progress towards implementation of the strategies identified in the 2016-2017 work plan. It shows the percentage of all 2016-2017 strategies by scorecard category. For example, more than half of strategies in the 2016-2017 work plan are considered 'on track.'

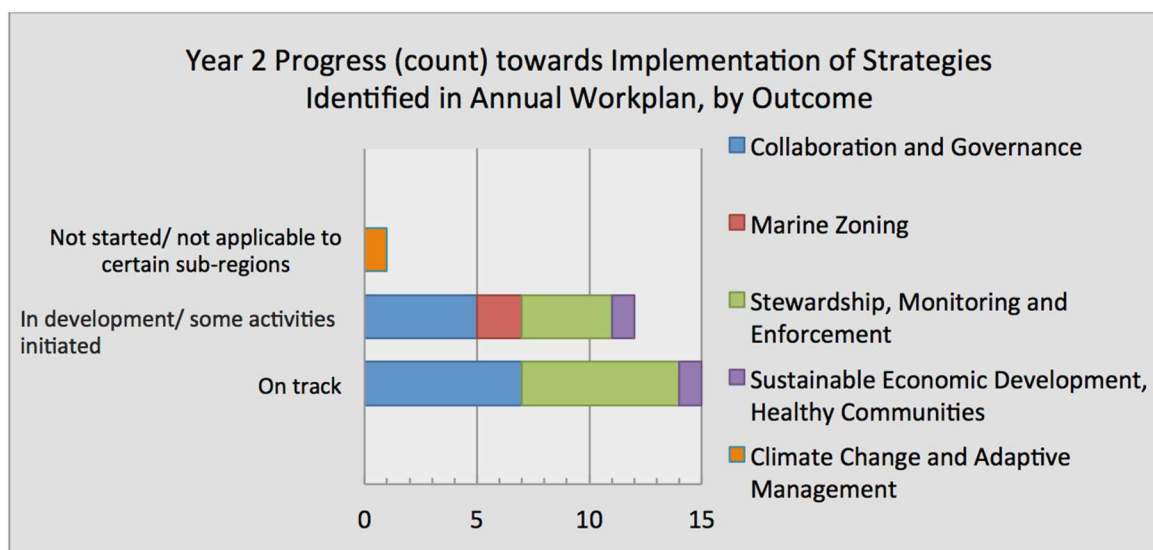


**Figure 1. Strategy implementation by scorecard category.**

Strengthened collaboration and governance is recognized by the partners as key to addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. In 2016-2017, the North Coast Technical Team formalized the institutional structures required to implement many aspects of the North Coast Marine Plan, outlined how the partners would collaborate through the implementation phase, and how community and stakeholder engagement processes that proved successful during the planning phase would be maintained. Strategies related to the outcome 'stewardship, monitoring and enforcement' were also an area of focus for implementation, particularly those associated with assessing cumulative effects. Partners are working to strengthen the communication and co-ordination between cumulative effects initiatives to ensure that limited resources are efficiently applied. This includes establishing governance structures and engaging relevant government and non-government agencies and partners. Cumulative effects will

continue to be a priority for the North Coast, an area that may be facing an intense period of industrial development.

Figure 2 shows the significant effort dedicated to improving collaboration and governance as well as stewardship, monitoring and enforcement. It shows the status of all strategies identified in the 2016-2017 work plan for each MaPP strategic outcome.



**Figure 2. Strategy progress (counts) by MaPP strategic outcome**

Most North Coast Marine Plan strategies will be implemented over multiple years and some of the implementation activities that the North Coast partners intended to begin in 2016-2017 were postponed or were only partially implemented. In some cases, timelines were realigned to allow for greater co-ordination with other sub-regions or the region, and in some cases priorities were revisited because of a lack of capacity to implement the full work plan.

Key challenges encountered in 2016-2017 include:

- Scoping: requests for changes to projects affected the North Coast budget and timelines. However, scope changes were sometimes necessary to address new opinions or information, uncertainty around requirements at the planning stage, and changes in the availability of people funds, or equipment.
- Resources: achieving full implementation of each priority strategy requires multiple steps and often involves multiple people. In some cases, identified timelines may have been unrealistic given the resources available.
- Dependencies: external factors and dependencies had unintended consequences for planned activities. They were difficult to anticipate, and affected timelines and

resourcing.

- Expertise: some of the projects being undertaken required unique skill sets or knowledge held outside the partnership, which posed a challenge when developing scopes of work and managing projects.
- Integration: successful implementation of many of MaPP's strategies required engaging others across agencies and partners at multiple levels. Nurturing collaboration was challenging but necessary to make efficient, effective and sustainable progress.

The North Coast partners are working hard to address these challenges so that all priority actions in the year 2017-2018 work plan can be implemented successfully. To ensure we are better positioned to deliver on key outcomes, we will aim to set realistic timelines and deliverables, seek more opportunities for partnership and collaboration, and engage consultants, when appropriate.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Priorities for implementation are guided by the North Coast Marine Plan Vision Statement:

*"The ecological and cultural richness of the North Coast region is maintained and enhanced. The diverse territories and productive marine resources support healthy and prosperous communities for the benefit of current and future generations. Governance structures are collaborative, co-operative and integrated and enable ongoing public participation in plan implementation. Management frameworks incorporate evolving information and adapt to changing social, technological and environmental conditions."*

Progress made in 2016-2017 laid the foundation to achieve a variety of priority strategies that, together, put us on a solid path towards achieving this vision.

Looking ahead to 2017-2018, work will focus on developing and formalizing the governance structures needed to support implementation of the cumulative effects strategies in the North Coast Marine Plan. This will enable the parties to develop and implement a consistent, complementary and co-ordinated approach to monitoring, assessing and managing cumulative effects in the North Coast.

Additionally, work will continue on developing the regional MaPP Cumulative Effects Framework through collaborative efforts with the four MaPP sub-regions, and adapting it for implementation in the North Coast. Work will also progress on developing the suite of core coastal and marine values and selecting values and indicators to implement within a phased approach.



Focusing on improved harmonization between First Nation and provincial monitoring and enforcement agencies, the North Coast team will implement strategies that support the coordination of patrols and monitoring schedules. Relationship building with monitoring and enforcement agencies will help to develop partnership opportunities into the future. The North Coast team will develop an ecosystem-based management monitoring strategy in 2017-2018. Monitoring effort will initially focus on marine water quality.

Management planning will continue for protection management zones and cultural special management zones, with management plans being developed for prioritized areas. In addition, the North Coast will undertake a pilot project to develop a management plan for a site of high cultural significance.

North Coast co-leads will continue to support the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network Planning Process through participation in MPA Technical Team meetings and sub-committees established to advance specific aspects of MPA network planning. In addition, Nation-level engagement in the MPA network planning process will continue to ensure that Aboriginal knowledge, values and resource management practices are integrated.

We will continue to build relationships with other agencies, organizations and institutions throughout the region that share an interest in collaborative management of marine resources, and we will continue to engage local governments and stakeholders in our efforts to achieve a collective vision for the North Coast.

Photo by Allison Paul





## WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Marine Plan Partnership:  
<http://mappocean.org/>

Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast | MaPP is a partnership between the Government of B.C. and First Nations.

