



Central Coast Marine Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (MPIAC)

Mid-Year online meeting (via Zoom)
Friday, December 11, 2020
9:00-12:00pm

Objective:

To provide an end-of-year report with project updates and presentation of planned projects for 2021.

Participants

- **MaPP, Central Coast Implementation Technical Team (CCITT):** Sally Cargill (Co-chair), Vicki Sahanatien (Co-chair), Desiree Lawson, Philip Akins
- **MPIAC members and alternates:**
 - Michael Bissonnette, Marine Conservation (Alternate)
 - Erin Latham, Shellfish Aquaculture (Member)
 - Phil Dawson, Recreational Fishing Service Provider (Member)
 - ShellfishSarah Friesen, Marine Conservation (Member)
 - Scott Benton, Commercial Tourism (Member)
 - Lauren Eckert, Youth research and planning (Member)
 - Jim McIsaac, Commercial Fisheries (Member / Alternate)
 - Kim Olsen, Commercial Fisheries (Member / Alternate)
 - Warren Warttig, Coastal Forestry (Member)
 - Anne Salomon, Marine Academic (Member)
 - Nick Heath, Public Recreation (Member)
 - Richard Opala, Finfish Aquaculture (Member)
- **Observers:** Christina Mardell (BC Timber Sales), Brenden Kowtecky (Wilderness Tourism Assoc. of BC)

Meeting Summary

Welcome and opening comments

- Sally welcomed the group; reviewed previous meeting.
- Vicki introduced herself (new CCIRA Program Director for Marine Planning & Conservation) and other CCITT members; reviewed the agenda.
- All members and observers provided brief introductions.

Project updates and priorities – Discussion

Guardian Watchmen – 2020 Field season

- Desiree provided a brief update on the Guardian Watchmen season, which, despite the challenges from the pandemic was quite successful. Guardians were able to complete most of the activities in their work plans.
- Question from Jim re. approach(es) / steps being taken to strengthen relationships between Guardians and marine users – noted this as an objective of the Marine Plan (see [Marine Plan](#), s 5.9, pp. 40-). Interested to know how Nations [as order of government] want to see these relationships develop. Warren added interest in understanding what engagement occurs with marine forestry sector (for example), and what reporting / lessons can be taken back to sector to inform ongoing training and education. Several committee members gave examples of agreements (some longstanding and regularly updated) between their sectors / organizations and CC Nations. Sally suggested this is a topic we look at through our five-year work planning (2021-26).

EBM Monitoring Program – Phase 1 reports

- CCITT members explained how feedback on the reports has been integrated and provided an update on our internal review, which is almost complete (slides 5-7). A Summary report – highlighting key findings from first 5 years of monitoring – has been developed to post on the website; the report will include links to individual indicator reports, which we will continue to update on a (semi-) regular basis (slide 7). Early in the new year Committee members will be asked to review the Summary report and do a ‘red flag’ review of the final indicator reports before we take these public.

EBM Monitoring Program – Phase 2

- Sally provided an update on two proposals moving forward at the MaPP regional level to implement EBM indicator monitoring related to (1) collaborative governance and (2) seafood and labour, which we will be supporting at the CC sub-regional level (slide 8). Pip described our preliminary thinking on the components of an EBM monitoring program review – purpose: to review the current program and develop a strategy for moving forward (slide 9). The CCITT would like to come back to the MPIAC in the Spring to work together on this strategy.
- Members shared thoughts on the importance of ‘question-driven’ monitoring – i.e., what questions do we want answers to and how can indicator monitoring be designed accordingly? Notwithstanding different perceptions of the issues / problems, can we come to

a common understanding of how we should approach learning about ecosystem components (ecological, human well-being, and governance) and implementing EBM? In addition to ‘mapping the decision space’ as part of a program review (who are the decision makers? who are the stakeholders impacted by decisions?), a key objective of MaPP is to *change* that space to make decision making more equitable, transparent, in line with Constitution, connected to local communities. The monitoring program can / should help us advance this objective.

- Further reading:
 - [West Coast Env Law \(2020\), Guide to Coastal and Ocean Protection Law in BC](#) (from Michael B).

EBM Monitoring Program – Guardian Watchmen interim funding (2021-24)

- Vicki provided an update on our work to secure interim funding for the work of the Guardians (slide 11). This Fall we received a fundraising strategy from a consultant, which includes a list of organizations that the consultant found to be well-aligned with the EBM monitoring work and the Guardian programs (and not current or former MaPP funders). It also outlines steps that we can take to initiate funding conversations with these organizations, which we will begin taking immediately in the new year. Currently, MaPP does not have funding in place to maintain the MaPP-related work of the Guardians beyond March 2021.

Central Coast Plan Amendment

- Sally summarized seven Central Coast Marine Plan amendment proposals that have been drafted and are currently being reviewed by MaPP partners. These will be shared shortly with the Committee for input. In addition, potential plan amendments re. wild marine aquatic plant harvest recommendations, anchorage recommendations and the definitions for level 1 and 2 docks are being addressed at the regional level.
- Re. possible amendment for consideration, Jim raised concern that language describing PMZs as ‘aligned with’ IUCN guidelines (see [Marine Plan](#), pp. 57-58) causes confusion within the fishing sector (notwithstanding disclaimers re. management direction). “Finding a new way to describe PMZs would be very useful for the sector.” Sally will table this concern at Spatial Planning Sub-committee.

NIC-CCCFA Geoduck Feasibility study

- Desiree provided an update on preparations for our three-year geoduck aquaculture feasibility study with North Island College and the Central Coast Commercial Fisheries Association.
- A Project Brief is available in Dropbox.

Five-year work planning

- Sally described the work occurring at both regional and sub-regional levels to draft work plans for the coming five years. This work will support a MaPP ‘Business Case’ that will be

taken to prospective funders, laying out what MaPP has achieved over the past five years and the work that needs to be done going forward.

- The CCITT has proposed some preliminary project ideas, which we will review with the Central Coast partners before coming back to the MPIAC in the Spring for a more in-depth discussion. Background material will be provided ahead of next scheduled meeting.

MaPP Regional Update

- Sally provided an update on regional projects, including EBM monitoring and Five-year work planning (discussed in the sub-regional updates, above), the Regional Kelp Monitoring Program (including work with the Hakai Institute. to develop a metadata catalogue), and discussions on management direction for Wild Marine Aquatic Plant harvest.
- Members requested link to recordings of workshop webinars on BC Habitat Monitoring (ongoing through 2021). They are available [here](#) (recordings for Nov 26th and Dec 10th workshops are posted).

Sector updates

- Several members provided updates from their sectors. Michael B. highlighted commitment from incoming provincial government [to develop a coastal strategy](#) – “an exciting opportunity to bring coastal management up to the challenges of the 21st century.” Kim O. noted disappointment from commercial fishery sector that BC will remain only government in Canada without a ministry of fisheries and described work on many fronts to address serious issues re. salmon returns and, more broadly, to develop economically vibrant fisheries in our communities. Erin L. noted work to diversify products in the aquaculture sector, and the [new federal Aquaculture act](#) in development. Warren W. and Christina M.: activity in the forestry sector has been “muted” but picking up. Nick H: BC Marine Trails will be releasing [Code of Conduct](#) shortly.

Closing

- Next meeting: TBD. Spring 2021. Topics: EBM monitoring strategy; Five-year (‘Phase 2’) work planning.

Actions arising

- CCITT to provide documents for review (timeline: early in new year)
 - EBM Report Summary
 - EBM indicator reports – final drafts for ‘red flag’ review before making public
 - Plan amendment proposals
- CCITT to provide documents for information
 - NIC-CCCFA Geoduck Project Brief: filed in Dropbox.
 - BC Habitat Monitoring webinar series: [here](#).
- Sally to raise concern / issue re. reference to IUCN categories in Plan descriptions of PMZs at Spatial Planning Sub-committee.