

North Coast Integrated Advisory Committee (NCIAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

February 7, 2023; 9:00am – 12:00pm

The Highliner Hotel Prince Rupert

Virtual option via MS Teams

Objectives

- Provide a detailed update on the North Coast Cumulative Effects (NCCE) Program and values
- Engage on Food Security/Access to Resources materials that have been provided to the NCIAC
- Provide an update on Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) North Coast Marine Plan renewal

Attendance

NCIAC In Attendance

- **In Person:** Provan Crump, Shellfish Aquaculture (Member); Chantal Wentland, Local Government – North Coast Regional District (Member); Samuel Mansfield, Transportation (Observer); Jason Scherr, Transportation (Observer); Emily Orr, Commercial Fishing (Member)
- **Virtual:** Chloe Robinson - Research and Marine Monitoring (Alternate); Paula Doucette, Transportation (Observer); Greg Knox, Conservation (Member); Marc Porter, Conservation (Alternate); Urs Thomas, Recreational Fishing (Member); Megan Eadie - Commercial Fishing (Member); Walsham Telshak, Local Government – District of Kitimat (Member)
- **Regrets:** David Lewis, Recreational Hunting (Member); Hermann Meuter, Research and Marine Monitoring (Member); Karina Dracott - Research and Marine Monitoring (Member); Jim McIsaac, Commercial Fishing (Alternate); Katrina Connors, Conservation (Member); Cheryl Brown, Coastal Forestry (Member); Stephen Hales, Coastal Forestry (Observer); Mike Viveiros, Coastal Forestry (Observer); Jason Harris, Recreational Fishing (Alternate); Warren Waycheshen, Local Government - District of Kitimat (Alternate); Daniel Fish, Local Government - North Coast Regional District (Alternate)

NCCE Program Partners in Attendance

- **In Person:** Maya Paul, North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society (NCSFNSS); Kyle Clifton, Gitga'at; Lia Chalifour, NCSFNSS; Rachel Post, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS); Rosalind Barabash, WLRS; Alli Morrison, WLRS
- **Virtual:** Grant Garner, NCSFNSS; James Herbert, Gitxaala Nation; William Nelson, Metlakatla First Nation; Quinton Ball, Kitsumkalum; Mike Jacobs, Haisla Nation

Opening

Maya Paul, Program Director, Cumulative Effects (CE) Strategic Initiatives with the North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society, and co-project manager of the NCCE Program, welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

NCCE Program Values – Overview/Context

James Herbert, Gitxaala Nation, NCCE Program Value Lead for Food Security Access to Resources, provided an overview of how the NCCE Program fits within the context of multiple collaborative Forums across BC.

Food Security / Access to Resources

James Herbert provided an overview and update on the Food Security / Access to resources (FS/AtR) Value, including:

- Partnership approach: The way that the work has been presented to date has been within a western framework, but the NCCE Program works to ensure that assessments are reflective of collaborative input and community values. The work is an integrated partnership and is collaboratively led by the Province and the First Nations.
- Indicators development: FS/AtR indicators were developed through a series of community health workshops.
- Cumulative effects assessment (CEA): Methods and approach, and key findings.

Alli Morrison, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and co-project manager for the NCCE Program, provided a summary of Fall 2023 engagement on the FS/AtR CEA, including:

- NCIAC review
- Other external reviewers:
 - City of Prince Rupert, District of Port Edward, City of Terrace, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine, First Nations Health Authority, Northern Health, Health Canada, DFO
- Received 20 comments from 4 reviewers (Kitimat, TC, FNHA, DFO)
- The NCCE Program Partners reviewed and responded to the comments, and is tracking them in a document titled 'Considerations for Future CEAs for FS/AtR'. Feedback will be shared with the NCIAC (see Action Item 1).

Samuel Mansfield offered to share the TC draft NSB Vessel traffic trend analysis 2013-2023 (see Action Item 2).

Estuary

Lia Chalifour, Salmon Lead for the NCSFNSS and NCCE Program, provided an overview of the Estuary Value. Grant Garner, Data Science Lead for the NCSFNSS and NCCE Program, provided an overview of the field program and North Coast Data Management System (NC DMS) and document management system. There is a completed draft of the Skeena River Estuary Current Condition Report that includes management recommendations, and the 2023 season for the field monitoring program is complete.

Next steps for the Estuaries Value:

- Complete and finalize Protocol
- Complete and finalize Current Condition Report
 - Complete internal and external engagement on products
- Finalize Data Management System (DMS)
 - Complete internal engagement on DMS
- Continue 7th year of Field Monitoring Program for 2024 season

Salmon

Lia Chalifour provided an overview and update on the Salmon value, work on which was initiated via the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). Lia walked through the status of each of the six salmon value goals, which are:

1. Gather existing spatial salmon and habitat data for the North Coast
2. Collate information on data gaps, key threats to the estuary, and planning limitations
3. Identify Partner Nations' priority areas for salmon and impacted sites to advance work for estuary planning, mitigation, and restoration efforts
4. Engage key parties in refinement and planning; foster collaboration and information-sharing
5. Develop a Skeena Estuary Management Plan (SEMP) with legislative authority
6. Identify priority estuarine habitats for restoration and implement 1-2 restoration projects

Concern regarding pinniped predation of salmon was raised by the Recreational Fishing representative, who recommended everyone read a recent DFO report on the subject (see Action Item 3).

Mapp Plan Renewal

Rosalind Barabash, WLRS, Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP) provincial lead on the NCCE Program, provided an overview of plan for the NC Marine Plan and renewal process:

- Marine plans we completed in 2015 with the intention of updating them every 5 years. The MaPP North Coast team has been keeping track of amendments and building them out with input from stakeholders and other inputs to the planning process. No actual amendments have been made yet, but now formalizing the regionally coordinated process:
 - Finalize work plan (January-March 2024)
 - Undertake plan reviews and develop amendment proposals (April – October 2024)
 - Finalize amendments and update plans (October 2024 – March 2025)
- Seeking additional capacity on the NC team for plan renewal and will provide details about who to submit feedback to but contact Rosalind.Barabash@gov.bc.ca in the meantime.
- Will look to the next NCIAC meeting for structured feedback and will circulate a 1-pager (see Action Item 4)

There was clarification that MaPP funds are both provincial and philanthropic.

Closing and Next Steps

Action items and next steps were reviewed. The meeting was closed at 11:45am. Next meeting TBD.

Actions Arising from the Meeting

Action 1: Partners to share out FS/AtR CEA commentary document with NCIAC.

Action 2: Sam to please share the digital version of the TC draft NSB Vessel traffic trend analysis 2013-2023.

Action 3: Urs to share pinniped report with the Partners – complete.

Action 4: Partners to circulate MaPP Plan Renewal one-pager to the NCIAC and details about how to provide feedback on the plan renewal process.

Actions arising from the meeting that were associated with advice from NCIAC members are also captured in the corresponding advice log for the meeting (Advice log NCIAC4).