



Regional Marine Advisory Committee (RMAC) Meeting Summary

June 2, 2023, 9:00 am – 12:00pm
via Zoom

PRIMARY MEETING OBJECTIVES

The objective of this meeting is to provide updates on the Coastal Marine Strategy, recent and current regional activities, the MaPP regional workplan for fiscal 2023-24, the Stakeholder Engagement Indicator workplan (including a request for advice), and to discuss stakeholder activities and their intersection with MaPP actions.

PARTICIPANTS

MaPP Partners

- Steve Diggon, Coastal First Nations – Co-Chair
- Heather Maddin, Province of BC
- David Angus, Province of BC, Co-Chair
- Sally Cargill, Province of BC
- Taylor Mason, Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance
- Julien Braun, Council of Haida Nation
- Jen Temple, MaPP Regional Projects Coordination Team
- Pip Akins, Central Coast Planner and Regional Projects Coordination Team
- Sarah Schroeder, MaPP Regional Projects Coordination Team
- Stefania Gorgopa, Province of BC
- Ben Morrow, Province of BC
- Oliver Kerr, Province of BC

RMAC

- Jim McIsaac, Commercial Fisheries
- Susan Sinnott, Strathcona Regional District
- Nick Heath, Public Recreation
- Kate McMillan, Conservation
- Kathy McRae, Commercial Tourism
- Nico Prins, Shellfish Aquaculture
- Megan Eadie, Commercial Fisheries
- Richard Opala, Finfish Aquaculture

Regrets

- Gerry Kristianson, Recreational Fishing Service Providers/ Recreational Angling/Public Fishery
- Karl Bergman, Local Government (North Coast Regional District)
- Michael Uehara, Shellfish Aquaculture
- Owen Bird, Recreational Fishing Service Providers/Recreational Angling
- Warren Warttig, Forestry

1. Opening and Meeting Information

- David Angus, co-chair, opened the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement and a round of introductions
- David reviewed the objectives of the meeting and the agenda. There was a request to add a ten-minute break after the regional workplan presentation.

2. Coastal Marine Strategy Update

- Stefania Gorgopa provided a presentation of the current status of the Province's coastal marine strategy process.

- Seventy-three written submissions and 845 online feedback forms were received during the public consultation period.
- A series of 3-4 technical sessions will happen, likely May-July, to turn the broad policy direction outlined in the intentions paper into specific goals and actions that the province will commit to implementing over a 20-year time horizon.
- Open houses are scheduled for June in Prince Rupert, Steveston, Victoria, Campbell River and Port Alberni.
- A draft is expected in September, to be shared with First Nations, BC staff, stakeholders and Canada, with check-ins between June and September as well.
- Aiming to have the final version for approval in December; release date in early 2024.

Clarifications

- The Province will discuss internally to action any gaps in provincial participation regarding cross-jurisdictional coastal and marine strategies.

3. 2022-23 Annual Report/StoryMap

- Jen presented the highlights of the 2022-23 regional projects work and provided a first preview of the MaPP annual storymap report. The three achievements highlighted were:
 - a. Regional EBM Indicators, including progress on the Regional Kelp Monitoring project, the Stakeholder and Local Government Engagement Indicator and the Co-governance Indicator;
 - b. Data management, including the metadata catalogue launch, training, identifying sub-regional super-users and drafting data management plans.
 - c. Communications and Engagement through ocean decade activities, events and online tools.

Clarification

- Jim McIsaac asked how MaPP might improve visibility of the MaPP website to share accomplishments and to ensure political and public support for the future. MaPP's updated communications strategy will utilize tools that reach broad audiences, seek additional funding and capacity support for increasing MaPP's visibility and work with Partners and collaborators to amplify MaPP messaging.

ACTION: MaPP to share the link to the Annual Report StoryMap when it is completed.

4. Regional Workplan for 2023-2024

- Jen presented the highlights of the 2023-24 regional projects work aligned with the implementation activities of MaPP sub-committees (Ecosystem Based Management Indicators, Data Management, Marine Plant Harvest Policy, Spatial Planning, Climate Change and Communications). Stakeholders were invited to consider the following questions:
 1. Does your organization/sector have an interest in a proposed project/activity?
 2. Does your organization/sector have resources/capacity to support work in these areas?
 3. Can you recommend resources, collaborations or approaches for advancing this work?

ADVICE

- Jim McIsaac noted several initiatives engaged in scenario planning and modeling, as a strategic approach for dealing with climate change impacts. MaPP could consider this as a regional approach within the climate change work.
- Jim McIsaac advised that understanding of changes to human well-being in the MaPP

region would benefit from reviewing DFO’s Social, Economic and Cultural Overview (SECOA) report.

Clarifications

- The climate change committee is discussing and considering potential partnerships for scenario planning and modeling and will review the links Jim McIsaac shared.
- The human wellbeing group has reviewed the SECOA report and will further consider how the statistics could be helpful in understanding any changes to wellbeing.

ACTION: Stakeholders to provide additional feedback on the MaPP regional workplan by July 31, 2023

5. Stakeholder Engagement Indicator draft Workplan and Request for Advice

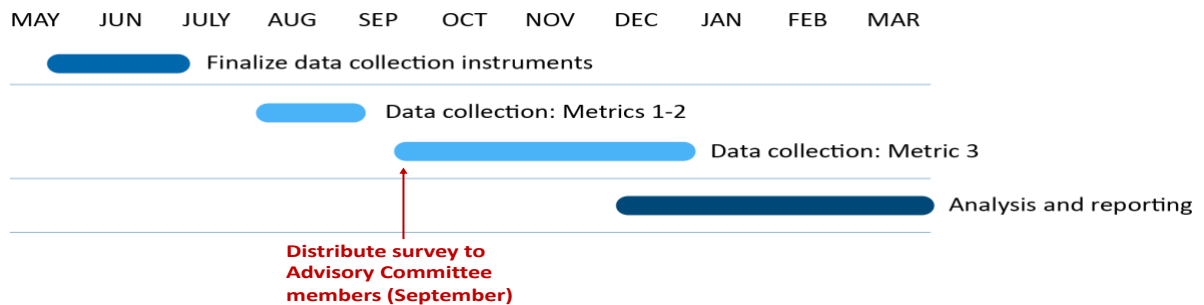
Purpose

- Provide MaPP Partners insights into how engagement can be maintained and improved to advance the interconnected goals of the EBM framework

Scope

- Engagement approaches with stakeholders and local government representatives by MaPP Partners on MaPP Plans and RAF implementation
- Target audiences of these engagement approaches are the regional and sub-regional advisory committees

Implementation timeline



Clarification

- MaPP will follow-up with further local government engagement (i.e. through the Union of BC Municipalities).

ACTION: RMAC members to review draft survey and provide any additional feedback by July 31, 2023.

6. Sector Updates

- **SRD:** Currently following up on aquaculture license decisions and working on the connected coast infrastructure for high speed internet to communities.
- **Shellfish Aquaculture:** Safety and maintenance of infrastructure a priority.
- **Public Recreation:** Engaging with First Nations on accessing coastal sites by rec users.
- **Commercial fisheries:** Current efforts include Connected Coast linkages to the fishing fleet; reviewing the fisheries labour market; partnering with VIU on the seafood accelerator business program; foreign licences ownership review; secondary services report (DFO) – impacts of fisheries decreases on infrastructure; fisheries festivals. Regarding collaborations with MaPP, is there interest in creating a forum to communicate in advance any fisheries closures and MPA sites that impact fisheries.
- **Commercial Tourism:** For small ship tours, working with Nations on protocol agreements. Interest in exploring opportunities to support MaPP through citizen science.

7. Wrap up and adjourn

Steve summarized actions, provided closing comments and thanked the RMAC members for attending the meeting.