

# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEANS

19-20 JULY 2016 | THE CAPITOL HOTEL TOKYU | TOKYO, JAPAN

## SESSION TWO: PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Photo credit: Nick Hall

### Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast

#### British Columbia, Canada

##### 1) What is the focus of this project?

The primary focus of the Marine Plan Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP) is the implementation of four sub-regional marine use plans and a regional action framework (RAF) that were approved in April 2015, and March 2016, respectively. The marine plans and the RAF focus on five outcomes:

- **Outcome 1: Collaboration and Governance** – Strengthening the model of collaborative oceans governance.
- **Outcome 2: Marine Zoning** – Achieving a healthy marine environment, robust economy, and strong communities through zoning.
- **Outcome 3: Stewardship, Monitoring and Enforcement** – Enhancing responsible use and protection of ecological, cultural and archaeological sites through conservation and sustainable practices, including comprehensive monitoring and enforcement.
- **Outcome 4: Sustainable Economic Development and Healthy Communities** – Fostering a new ecosystem-based marine economy that improves community and human well-being.
- **Outcome 5: Climate Change and Adaptive Management** – Undertaking studies and executing plans to better address the effects of climate change in the MaPP region.

##### 2) Which organizations and other partners are involved?

The MaPP partnership was formed in 2011 with the signing of a Letter of Intent between the Province of British Columbia (BC) and 17 BC First Nations, as represented by the Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative, the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society, Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance, Council of Haida Nation, and the Nanwakolas Council. The goal of the partnership at that time was to build on the transformative agreements developed and implemented in the terrestrial Great Bear Rainforest, and achieve the first large-scale marine spatial planning initiative in BC. The partnership has produced four sub-regional marine plans and a regional action framework that are now being implemented at the sub-regional and regional levels.

### **3) What activities or tools have proven successful in building capacity?**

Scientifically rigorous and collaborative in approach, MaPP is ground-breaking because of the unique partnership forged between the BC government and the 17 First Nations governments to co-lead plan development and implementation, the diversity of stakeholders it brings together, the number of marine issues it addresses, and its ecosystem-based approach to implementing economic development and conservation plans for one of the most ecologically significant regions on the planet. The MaPP plans also cover the largest ocean area of any marine spatial planning effort undertaken in North America.

Implementing collaboratively designed marine plans is a social innovation aimed at building the capacity of the partners to respond to challenges and opportunities in a more holistic and integrated manner. MaPP's holistic approach to oceans management is designed to increase the benefits derived from ocean resources in a responsible way, while protecting and restoring globally significant ecosystems, economies and social and cultural structures important to local inhabitants.

MaPP priorities include increasing the capacity of coastal communities, particularly First Nations, to monitor ocean conditions, help restore critical estuaries and habitats, and engage directly in the development and execution of geographic response plans in order to better plan for and respond to environmental emergencies.

### **4) What challenges have been experienced, specifically related to maintaining a focus on capacity building and/or replicating the project in other areas?**

In terms of challenges, MaPP is creating a new way of managing oceans in BC, requiring careful stewardship of change and effective engagement with stakeholders and other governments. Also, as the largest collaborative governance effort ever undertaken in BC, involving 17 First Nations and the BC Government, MaPP's inclusive governance structure must be recognized as both a breakthrough with potential to unlock broader systems-change and as a source of complexity for an already ambitious undertaking.

Maintaining a focus on capacity building and replicating this effort elsewhere could be challenging because the right enabling conditions need to be in place. These include adequate funding, commitment for leadership in marine planning, a willingness of other governments to engage with Indigenous people, and sufficient long term funding for implementing the plans once they are agreed.

### **5) What are the next steps for the project?**

The partners recently confirmed the approach to implementation for the first five years, and have initiated implementation of select priority strategies at the sub-regional and regional scales. MaPP has hired additional staff to help with implementation, and significant progress is expected this year.

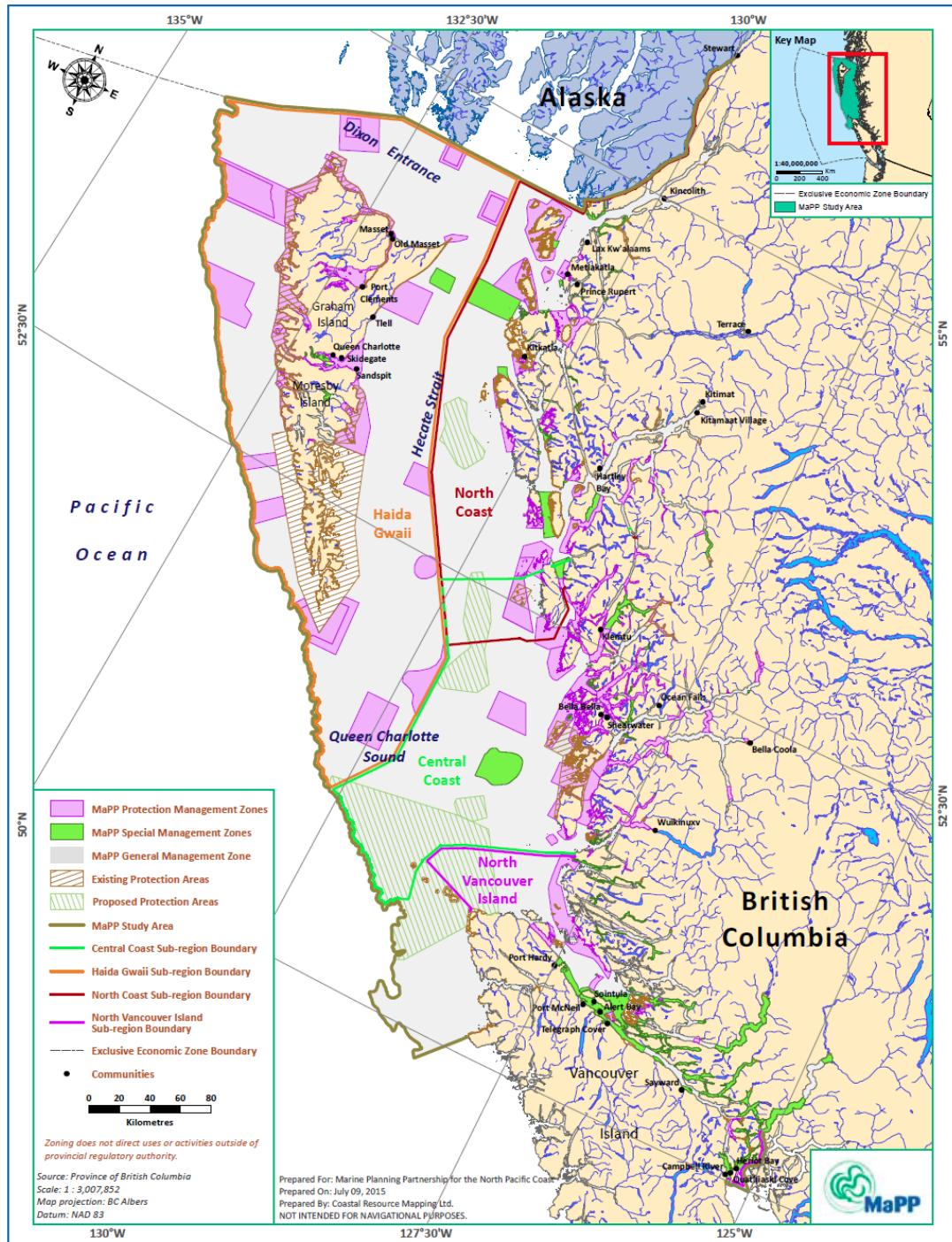
Key project goals and activities for the first five years include:

- Implementing a robust and adaptive ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach, including identifying and monitoring key ecological and human well-being indicators;
- Implementing Protection, General, and Special Management spatial zones identified in the MaPP plans, thereby protecting critical habitat for eelgrass, salmon, and other species, while also providing certainty for key marine users and a roadmap for emerging sectors, such as renewable energy and shellfish aquaculture;

- Advancing key tripartite initiatives with the federal government, including the development of a Marine Protected Areas Network;
- Strengthening marine-based monitoring and stewardship through enhanced capacity and collaboration, including increased coordination of data collection by government agencies, First Nations, industry, and other users;
- Advancing economic development initiatives related to shellfish aquaculture, tourism and seafood development;
- Implementing a cumulative effects assessment framework to address the unintended consequences of development;
- Undertaking pollution reduction management strategies and projects;
- Conducting a regional risk assessment for ocean climate change effects and implementing carbon restoration plans for carbon sinks, including critical estuaries; and
- Implementing proactive response plans for marine spills and incidents.

The outcomes of MaPP are being integrated into discussions with the federal government and various industry and stakeholder groups in order to influence ocean use and management decisions beyond those included in the MaPP agreement.

<http://mappocean.org/>



Zone designations in the MaPP region