



A First Nations Marine Planning and Management Table



Healthy Communities, Healthy Oceans for the Future

The coastal waters of the north Pacific coast are among the most biologically diverse marine environments on the planet. First Nations people have managed these marine areas and lived from their abundance for millennia.

As leaders in coastal stewardship, First Nations have a vision for ocean management that includes healthy communities, sustainable economies, and thriving ecosystems. For more than a decade, First Nations communities have led marine planning initiatives in our Traditional Territories with provincial and federal governments – including the Marine Plan Partnership (MaPP), and the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) initiative.

The Reconciliation Process

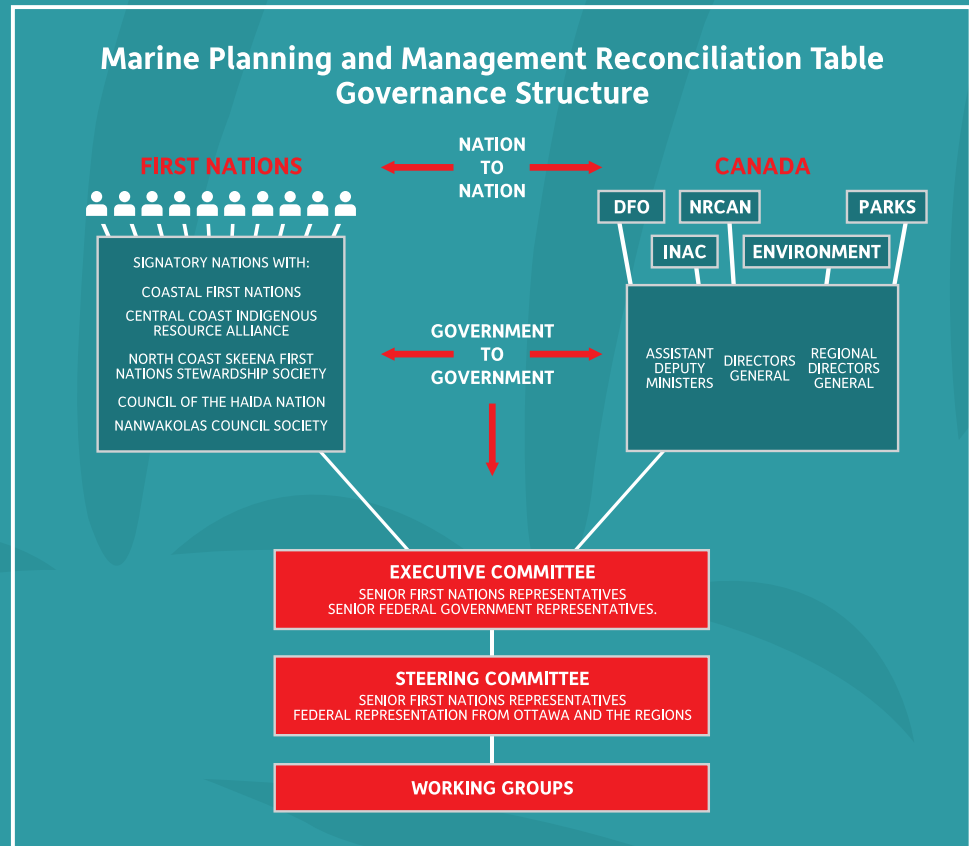
Canada has made clear its commitment to a nation-to-nation relationship with First Nations, based on recognition of Aboriginal Rights and Title, respect, co-operation, and partnership.

In early 2017, First Nations, Canada and the Province of British Columbia endorsed PNCIMA, a plan supporting strategic marine use planning and ocean management in our territories. With its commitment to PNCIMA, the federal government agreed to join First Nations in establishing the first national model of collaborative governance for marine use planning.

First Nations are working together to create a Marine Planning and Management Reconciliation Table that will ensure joint decision-making by First Nations and Canada in carrying out the PNCIMA plan in our territories. The Reconciliation Table also aims to develop links to other marine planning initiatives in the region.



How Will a Marine Planning and Management Reconciliation Table Work?



- First Nation organizations will work with their membership on planning initiatives and products.
- Regional First Nations organizations together with CFN will play a coordinating role, developing strategic position papers and an overall communication plan for the process.
- As mandated by their communities, First Nations organizations will continue to work with the Province of BC to implement MaPP plans and develop agreements at the Marine Planning Reconciliation Table.
- First Nations and Canada will engage BC provincial agencies as needed to advance the work.
- Individual Nations may participate where appropriate and necessary.



What do we hope to achieve?

Develop a Nation-to-Nation relationship

– Advance a collaborative, coordinated and efficient approach to decision-making in marine spatial planning and ocean management in our Traditional Territories.

- Develop a collaborative decision-making model between First Nations and Canada for ongoing management of our territorial waters.
- Identify specific issues relating to marine planning, ongoing management and enforcement in which First Nations are seeking jurisdictional authorities.

Advance Marine Spatial Planning

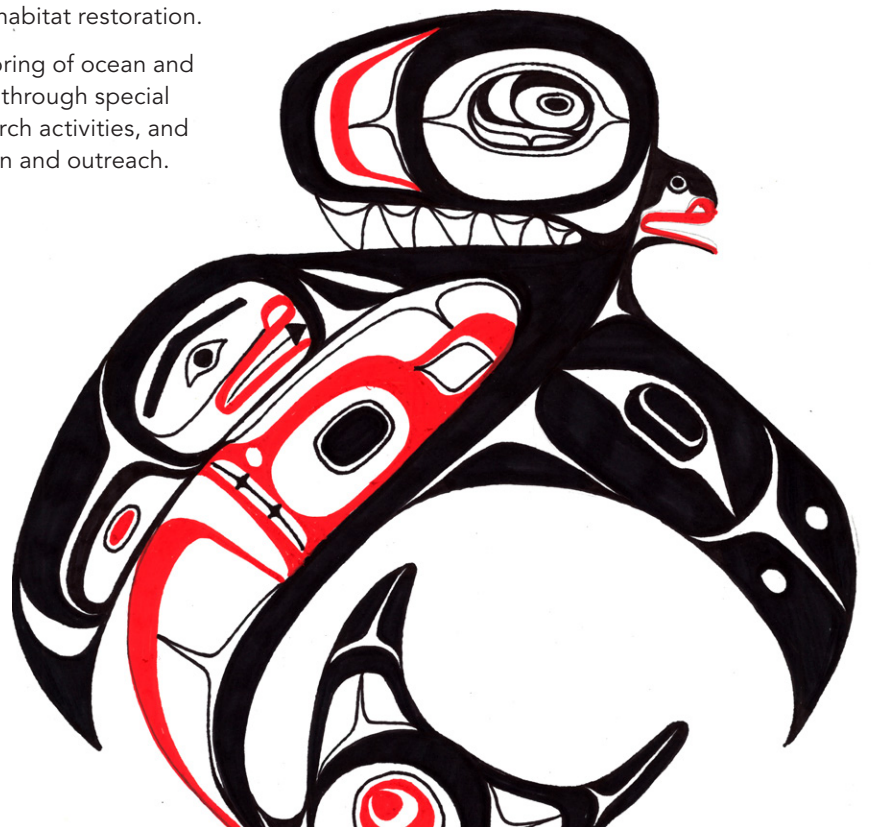
– Supporting the implementation of PNCIMA and MaPP.

- Inform tenuring processes on where development can take place in our territories.
- Assess cumulative impacts to marine ecosystems and cultural values to ensure prevention and mitigation measures with a long-term monitoring system are in place.
- Recognize, understand and prepare for climate change.
- Identify areas for habitat restoration.
- Undertake monitoring of ocean and ecosystem health through special science and research activities, and ongoing education and outreach.

Promote a Healthy Environment

– Collaboratively plan and carry out marine protection activities in a way that preserves ocean health, supports coastal communities and allows for sustainable marine use.

- Identify marine areas for protection that support the ecological, social and cultural values of First Nation communities.
- Establish a Network of Marine Protected Areas in our Traditional Territories.
- Protect fisheries areas for food, social and ceremonial use.





Timelines

Phase 1 – January 30, 2017

- Scope detailed workplan and budget for Phase 2.

Phase 2

- First Nations regional organizations will secure community mandates on subject areas set out in the Framework Agreement.
- Implementation of Framework activities will begin on initiatives that have received community mandate.

Phase 3

- Implementation of Framework activities will be undertaken on initiatives that have received community mandate.

For more information and to view the Marine Planning and Management Reconciliation Table video, visit: www.coastalfirstnations.ca

Photo Credit: Doug Neasloss

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