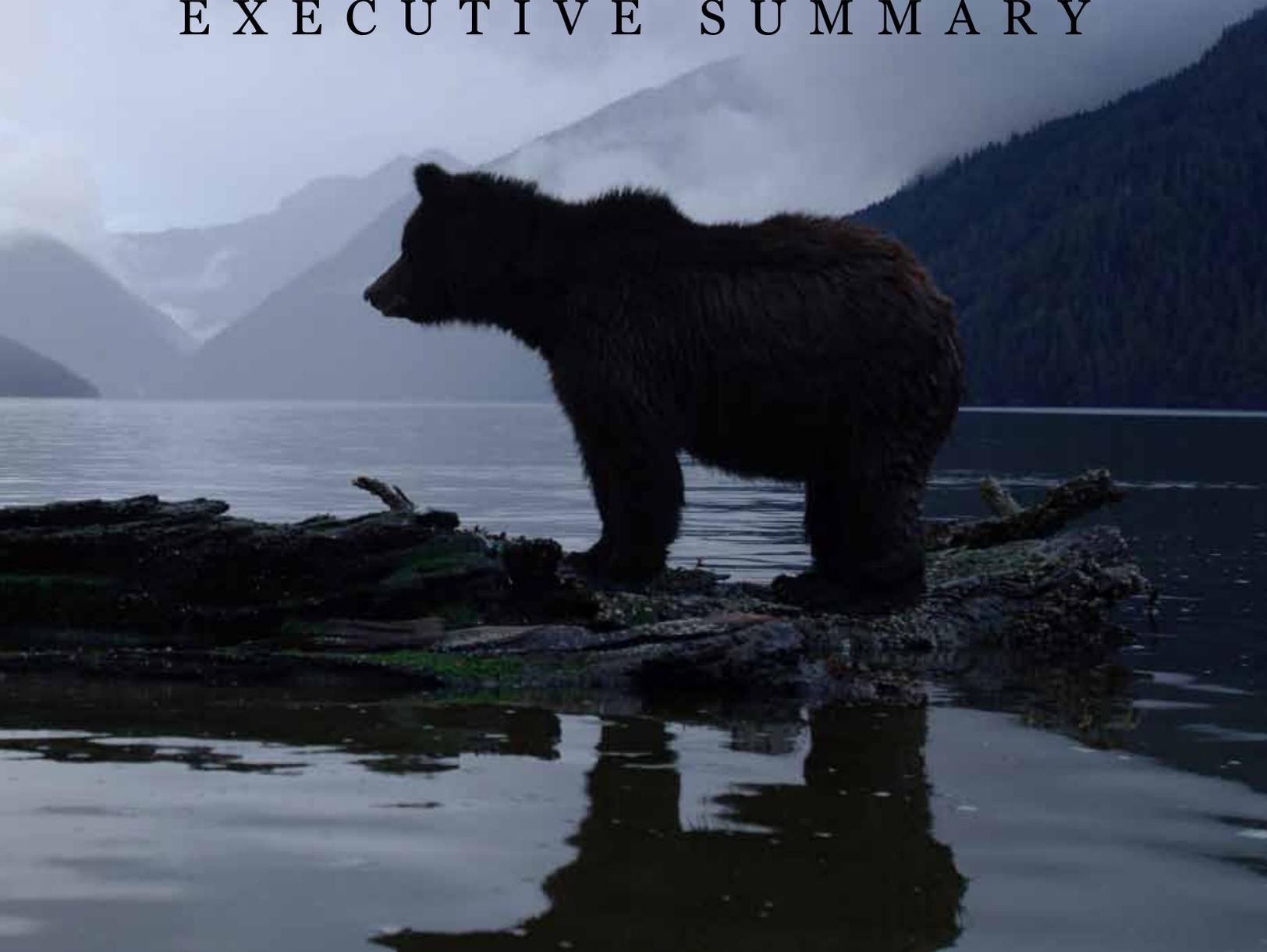


CENTRAL COAST FIRST NATIONS

MARINE USE PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Vision

The Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais, Nuxalk and Wuikinuxv Nations assert our rights and title to our respective territories and recognize the obligation bestowed upon us by our ancestors to manage our marine resources based on our traditional laws, knowledge and values. These values respect our balance with nature, recognize the connection between the land and sea, and understand the importance of educating our children and leaving resources for our children's children.

Using our traditional laws and knowledge, and through a co-jurisdictional relationship with other levels of government, we will create a healthy marine environment, a strengthening of our cultural, spiritual, linguistic, political and social freedoms, and a sustainable economy that employs our people.

The Central Coast First Nations' territories are the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest. Our territories are known for their old growth forests, productive salmon systems and diverse land and marine ecosystems.

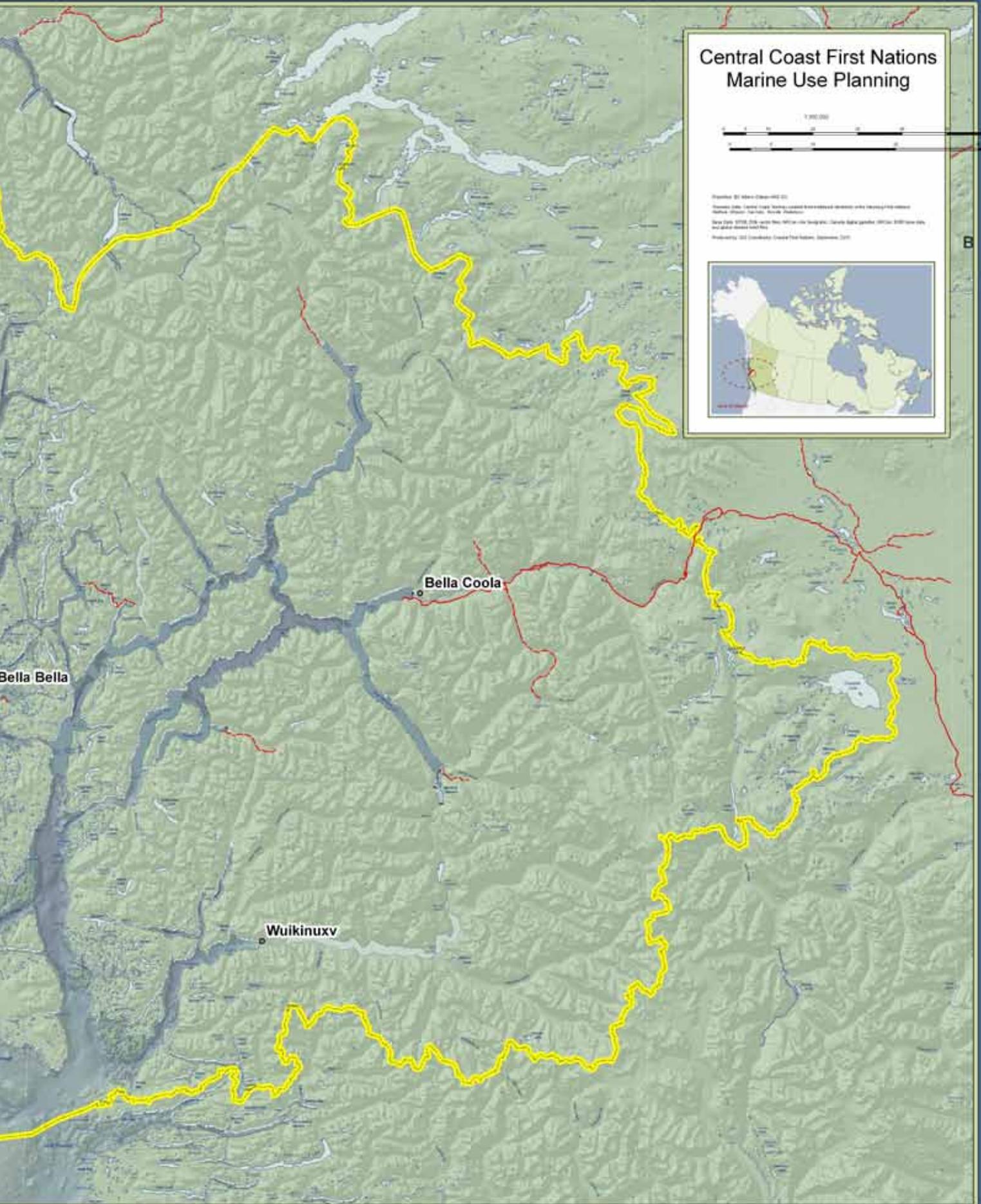


Central Coast First Nations Marine Use Planning

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Prepared by: [illegible]
Approved by: [illegible]
Date: [illegible]
Produced by: [illegible]



Plan Development

The Central Coast First Nations Marine Use Plan is a strategic document to guide the management of human activities in the territories of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais, Nuxalk and Wuikinuxv Nations. The Plan is comprehensive and covers jurisdiction, resource management, economic development and capacity needs across all sectors of the marine market and non-market economy.

The overarching goal is to realize a sustainable balance between ecosystem health, social and cultural well-being, and economic development. To this end, the Plan utilizes an ecosystem-based approach to resource use.

The Central Coast First Nations Marine Use Plan is a harmonized reflection of the goals, objectives and strategies of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais, Nuxalk and Wuikinuxv Nations. Nation-level plans were developed by community-based marine use planning committees and technical working groups. The committees were comprised of a broad cross section of elders, hereditary chiefs, elected councilors, commercial fish harvesters, and representatives from related Nation-level agencies and departments. The committee's work was supported by technical staff from a variety of fields including: project management, biology, strategic planning, global information systems technology, and research.

Community input was integral to the successful completion of the Plan. To achieve a high level of input the Nation-level committees undertook a series of community-based research studies, held feasts and open houses to receive feedback on plan components, and participated in community outreach events.

The governance and management direction, economic initiatives and capacity development needs outlined in the Central Coast First Nations Marine Use Plan reflect the collective interests of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais, Nuxalk and Wuikinuxv people.

The Plan is a living document. It will be updated as new information about our territories comes to light. This includes reviewing the Plan with local communities to ensure it meets our collective interests. We believe that together First Nations and local non-First Nations can enhance plan outcomes and improve implementation of the Plan's goals and objectives.

Guiding Principles

1. Ensure conservation of natural and cultural resources

Conservation of natural and cultural resources is the highest priority of the Central Coast Marine Use Plan. Natural and cultural resources must be sustained to maintain and safeguard our direct connection to our territories and their resources.

2. Ensure Central Coast First Nations' priority access to resources for cultural and sustenance use

Maintaining Central Coast First Nations' access to all areas of our territories is essential for cultural and sustenance purposes. The rights and opportunities of Central Coast First Nations to hunt, fish, harvest, trap and otherwise use the land and sea resources for cultural, spiritual, sustenance, economic and trade uses must be assured and take precedence over all other uses, except conservation.

3. Enable appropriate Central Coast First Nations' commercial use of resources

For too long our communities have sat on the side-lines while others have realized economic well-being off of the resources in our territories. Central Coast First Nations' economic development and diversification is required to create both employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

4. Enable appropriate non-First Nations' commercial and recreational use of resources

For non-First Nations' use of land, water and other resources to be supported by the Central Coast First Nations, respect must be demonstrated for each Nation's title and rights, culture, and the natural resources that continue to sustain that culture. Priority will be given to local non-First Nations' economic development. Non-First Nations' commercial interests in our territories must also commit to providing viable and sustainable economic opportunities for our people.

Ecosystem-Based Management

Central Coast First Nations continue to depend on the health of surrounding ecosystems to survive and flourish. Over the past two centuries, however, the Western industrial economy has disturbed ancient linkages between human communities and their environment. To address the harm of the industrial economy on natural ecosystems the scientific community coined the term ecosystem-based management (EBM), which recognizes that conventional resource management does not consider broader ecosystem dynamics or the linkages between communities and the environment, and is threatening biodiversity.

Central Coast First Nations have been practicing ‘ecosystem-based management’ for thousands of years. These traditional resource management and enhancement practices contributed to the sustainability of some of the richest cultures and societies on the planet. The principles and practice of what western scientists and resource planners now call EBM are integral to the resource management direction in our Plan. First Nation’s principles fundamental to EBM include:

Respect - *Precautionary / Inclusive and Participatory*

The need for respect in interacting with the natural world and other humans is described in numerous First Nation oral histories. It encompasses the maintenance and restoration of ecological integrity, stewardship of resources and places, being inclusive and participatory, and applying the precautionary principle to ensure that decisions today are not detrimental to future generations.

Balance - *Integrated & Sustainable over the Long-term*

Balance ensures the intergenerational equity (fairness to future generations) that has sustained First Nations cultures through time. Balance encompasses the modern concepts of sustainable use, integrated management and the fair distribution of costs and benefits.

Intergenerational Knowledge - *Adaptive Management*

Within Central Coast First Nations' communities, 'listening to your elders' speaks to intergenerational transfer of knowledge. Adaptive management is a modern term that expresses the similar concept that decisions should be based on learning from past experience. Intergenerational knowledge and successful adaptive management require good communication.

Giving and Receiving - *Reciprocity*

The act of giving thanks is practiced throughout Central Coast First Nations' cultures. Reciprocity within and between clans, and reciprocity with the spirit world is necessary. The principle of reciprocity speaks to shared responsibility and community – two themes, which are cornerstones of First Nation's culture.

Key Policy Statements

While our Plan is comprehensive and we expect to work with a number of parties to realize its implementation, there are a number of specific issues that are a priority to the Central Coast First Nations. We expect to work with government, our neighbouring communities and industry to address these issues as soon as possible.

Co-jurisdiction / Shared decision-making

Central Coast First Nations maintain rights and title over our entire territories. In the past, consultation about resource harvesting and development in our territories has been inconsistent and for the most part inadequate. Moving forward, we believe decisions about the activities in our territories must be made in conjunction with the Central Coast First Nations, on a co-jurisdiction basis. As with the Provincial and Federal governments, resource extraction and development in our territories must require the approval of our Nations.

Government revenue sharing

In order for the Central Coast First Nations to reach our authority, resource management, and economic goals we will need to significantly increase our institutional, human and capital capacity. In particular, we require a stable source of capital to manage our territories. Currently, the Federal and Provincial governments receive significant resource revenues and taxes from the resource wealth in our territories. We want a share of that wealth and will work with both levels of government to realize revenue sharing agreements.

Stock restoration and rehabilitation

The health of many of the fish stocks in our territories are a pressing concern to the Central Coast First Nations. We maintain that immediate actions through improved management, increased funding for enhancement and spatial planning must occur to return stock numbers to sustainable levels. This work needs to start now and the Central Coast First Nations are eager to work with government and stakeholders to this end.

Key Policy Statements

Priority access to FSC

Harvest of resources from our territories is an important part of the contemporary and ongoing activities of the Central Coast First Nations, providing resources for food, medicine, fuels, building materials, and ceremonial and spiritual uses. However, we are finding it increasingly difficult to access fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Our people have to go further and stay out for longer periods to feed their families. We believe that areas must be set aside for the exclusive use of local people. By doing this, we will ensure priority access for local people, while at the same time creating refuge from industrial activity and intensive commercial and recreational fishing for marine species.

Monitoring and enforcement

Policy and regulation will only lead to sustainable practices with sufficient monitoring and enforcement. The government's current approach to monitoring activities in our territories is woefully inadequate. Successful implementation of our Plan requires that the Central Coast First Nations are able to directly enforce our plans, laws, policies and guidelines.

Territorial-based economic development

We have stood witness to resources leaving our territories in record numbers with no benefit to our Nations or communities. In commercial fisheries alone, catch value from our territories was over \$18 million in 2007. Ecosystem-based management requires that social and economic well-being is achieved at a local level. Policy changes must occur to ensure that industry development and resource extraction in our territories benefits local communities. A key component of this is the development of impact-benefit agreements between First Nations and businesses operating in our territories.

Bottom trawling

The unselective and destructive nature of bottom trawling is inconsistent with our beliefs and EBM. Bottom trawling should be prohibited throughout the Central Coast.

Climate Change

Climate change has the potential to have significant negative impacts on our marine territories through rising ocean levels, ocean acidification, increasing ocean temperatures, shifting weather patterns, and spreading of exotic species. These impacts will affect our community, economy, and the health of our ecosystems. While we cannot solve the climate change issue within the confines of our marine plan we have taken two types of actions to try to reduce the impacts on our environment:

We live here. We drink the water, we breathe the air, we eat the fish, we eat the crabs. Who better knows about the area than those who grew up on the water?

- Alex Chartrand

- **Increasing resiliency of species and ecosystems.** A larger genetic pool, and healthier species populations and ecosystems will better enable species to respond to a changing climate. We plan to increase the resiliency of species and ecosystems through spatial planning, reduced harvesting and mitigation of other human impacts.
- **Aligning industry development and economic goals with environmental beliefs and interests.** Each industry was scrutinized for its impact on the environment and climate. In most cases, we present mitigation strategies that we believe will allow industry and a healthy environment to co-exist in our territories. In other cases, such as off-shore oil gas, we believe the environmental and climate impacts are too great to justify development.

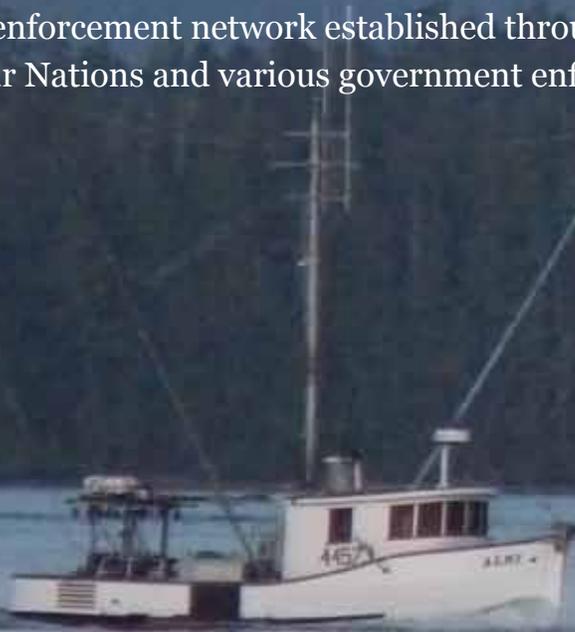
Our Plan reflects our goals for our economy, our communities, our environment and the climate.

Monitoring and Enforcement

As with all policies and management decisions, the success of our Plan will depend on its implementation. While the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xai'Xais, Nuxalk and Wuikinuxv have always maintained that we have sovereign right to rule our territories, other levels of government do not recognize this right. This lack of recognition affects all Central Coast First Nations' management and is a considerable barrier to effective management of our territorial resources.

Monitoring and enforcement of resource use in Central Coast First Nations' territories requires staff, training, agreed upon authority, transportation, facilities, equipment and capital. It is highly preferable to have Central Coast personnel in monitoring and enforcement positions, as they bring cultural and local knowledge to the positions, have more credibility with the community, and are likely to have lower turnover rates.

Successful implementation of our Plan requires that the Central Coast First Nations are able to directly enforce our plans, laws, policies and guidelines. Such an arrangement would require a tripartite enforcement network established through a memorandum of understanding between our Nations and various government enforcement agencies.



Successful implementation of our Plan requires that the Central Coast First Nations are able to directly enforce our plans, laws, policies and guidelines.

Marine Resource Management

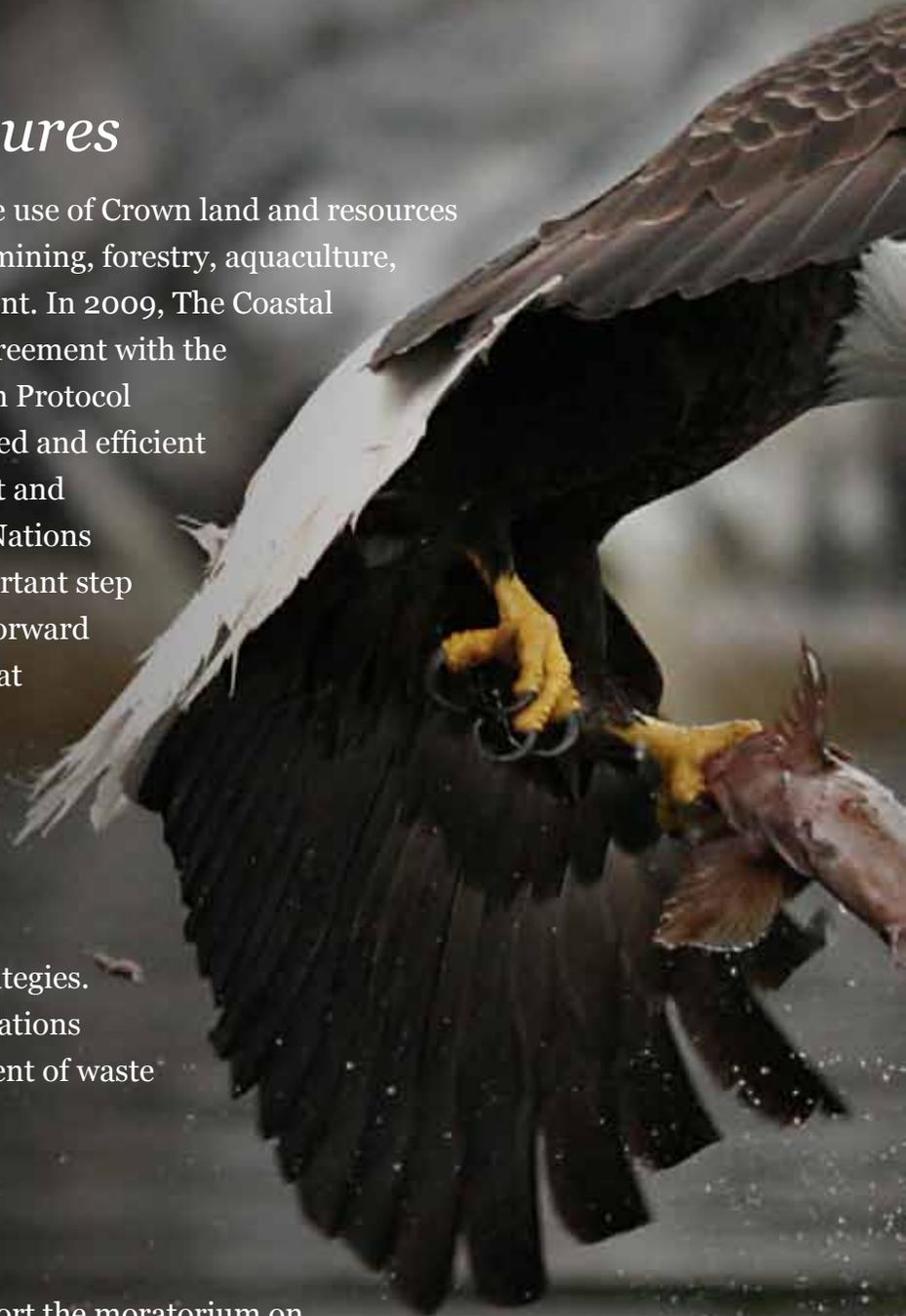
Land and coastal tenures

The provincial tenuring system permits the use of Crown land and resources for various industrial activities including: mining, forestry, aquaculture, tourism operations, and energy development. In 2009, The Coastal First Nations signed a ground-breaking agreement with the Provincial government. This Reconciliation Protocol introduces a more collaborative, coordinated and efficient approach to land and resource engagement and decision-making. The Central Coast First Nations acknowledges that this Protocol is an important step toward shared decision-making and look forward to implementing a greater influence on what happens within our territories.

While many tenured activities are addressed directly in our Plan, we believe all industries in our territories need to mitigate their impact on our environment through waste and pollution reduction strategies. This requires greater Central Coast First Nations control over the monitoring and enforcement of waste and pollution infringements.

Off-shore oil and gas

Central Coast First Nations currently support the moratorium on off-shore oil and gas exploration and development. This includes opposition to exploration and seismic testing, off-shore oil and gas operations, as well as pipeline development, and tanker and condensate shipping through our territories.





Alternative energy

There are great opportunities to use wind, hydro, tides and waves to generate electricity on the Central Coast. However, our geography also presents some challenges. The biggest hurdles include long distances to the transmission grid and difficulty in accessing high potential areas.

While often promoted as a green alternative to conventional energy generation, wind, hydro, tidal and wave energy have potential for negative social and environmental impacts. Despite the potential impacts, Central Coast First Nations believe that the alternative energy sector can be developed and managed in a sustainable manner, which maintains the natural environment for future generations.

Any alternative energy developments in our territories must be accompanied with an Impact-Benefit Agreement with the Nation, which ensures sustainable development and management of the project and a fair return to our people in the form of revenue sharing and employment.

Aquaculture

The Central Coast First Nations have practiced forms of aquaculture for thousands of years, including shellfish gardens that were owned and managed by families, and salmon habitat management and enhancement practices that were the property of extended family groups.

The Central Coast First Nations are very receptive to shellfish and aquatic plant aquaculture development. We believe it offers a sustainable economic development opportunity that aligns with our goals for a conservation-based economy for our territories.

Marine Resource Management

Salmon

The relationship between salmon and Central Coast First Nations cannot be overstated. For over 11,000 years our culture, social structures, and economy have been based on the abundance of salmon in our territories.

Today, salmon are no less important to our people. Yet, we have stood witness to greed and poor management for 150 years. The result is a fishery in crisis. Salmon runs are at historical lows, commercial fishermen cannot make enough in a single year to pay their expenses, the commercial recreational fishery has been forced to focus on other species, and we cannot get enough salmon to meet our FSC needs. We believe we need to return management of the salmon fishery to our people. We successfully managed the salmon for over 11,000 years, and given the opportunity we could do so again.

Sustainable salmon fisheries will require equitable international treaties on salmon rights, more precise and timely monitoring of stocks in our territories, a decreased commercial and recreational fishing effort, and improved enhancement and habitat rehabilitation efforts.

*The relationship between
salmon and Central Coast First
Nations cannot be overstated.*

Marine Resource Management

Commercial fisheries

The commercial fishing industry has defined the coast since the 1870s. In the Central Coast alone, the projected 2007 landed commercial catch value was estimated at \$18 million. However, many commercial species are in decline and through buy-back programs and consolidation of licences commercial fishing is playing a smaller role in our local economy. In fact, there has been a 17% decline in industry employment since 1996 – the local impact is significantly greater.

Co-jurisdiction agreements with DFO will be negotiated to ensure that the Central Coast First Nations have equal jurisdiction and authority over the management of fishery resources in our territories. There are a number of immediate actions that should be taken to improve the sustainability of commercial fisheries in our territories. Through revenue sharing agreements with government and resource users our Nations will undertake studies to determine the effectiveness of current and proposed management regimes at sustaining populations of commercially important species.

Commercial fisheries management must respond to the need for more sustainable practices, improved access to marine resources for First Nations' food, social and ceremonial purposes, and improved economic outcomes for local coastal communities. Our Plan provides a series of strategies for meeting these objectives.

Marine Resource Management

Eulachon

Prior to European contact a vast network of trails used by generations of First Nations existed throughout BC, “this trail system was the life blood of the native culture and economy”. The grease trade from the coast to the interior was so important that the trails connecting the communities were known as “grease trails.”

The drastic decline of the Central Coast eulachon populations in the 1990s occurred during the most significant shrimp trawl activity in Queen Charlotte Sound. The impact of the by-catch was amplified as it occurred in the offshore areas inhabited by Central Coast eulachon, which is one of the smaller eulachon populations.

Management practices for fisheries and industries that impact eulachon populations must adopt the precautionary principle and limit all possible impacts on eulachon numbers. Of paramount importance is the establishment of a moratorium on all shrimp and drag trawl fisheries on the Central Coast.

Recreation and tourism

The Central Coast First Nations are open to capturing the range of economic, social and environmental benefits that can be realized through strategic and planned participation in the tourism sector.

The obvious benefits of tourism in the region must be balanced with the associated negative social, cultural and environmental impacts. For example, the increase in marine and kayak touring and associated moorage and camping has resulted in conflicts in areas used by our people as food gathering camps, clam harvesting areas and seaweed grounds. Sound management that minimizes impacts on wildlife and natural areas, and respects First Nations’ rights and cultural practices will lead to a vibrant and sustainable tourism industry on the Central Coast.

Marine Resource Management

Shipping and transportation

Numerous industrial marine development proposals are being pursued within the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area of British Columbia. Several new terminal and marine transportation projects for North Coast ports in Prince Rupert, Kitimat and Stewart are at various levels of development. Of particular concern is that several of these projects include the marine transport of hydrocarbons.

While all of the ports in the Central Coast are small 'remote ports' and none of the new developments are proposed in our territories they will significantly increase the amount of marine traffic in the area, thereby potentially increasing the frequency and severity of accidents and associated spills. At the same time, small commercial and transient vessels continue to travel our territorial waters. The resulting release of sewage, grey water, bilge water, and garbage continue to be of serious concern to our Nations.

Improved regulation, better monitoring and enforcement, and the ability to respond quickly and effectively to local spills which threaten natural resources are needed to ensure these visitors do not harm our marine resources.

Marine Resource Management

Commercial recreational fishery

The recreational fishery plays an important role in the social and economic life of many British Columbians. In the past twenty years, sport fishing has become a hundred million dollar industry. However, sport fishing also has negative environmental, social and cultural impacts, which are felt acutely by Central Coast First Nations. These include: impact on cultural resources, few local benefits, pressure on small salmon runs, over fishing, catch and release mortality, and poor monitoring and enforcement. Our Plan outlines management strategies that address the negative environmental, social and cultural impacts of the sport fishery in our territories. The foundation of these changes must come from protocol agreements between sport lodges and our Nations.

Food, social and ceremonial

Our people have an ancient, deep and abiding relationship to our territories. This relationship exists on many levels: spiritual, cultural, ceremonial, and material among them. The continuing importance of resources that are harvested from the land is an indication of the strength of our cultures and attachment to the land.

Ensuring that our people have adequate access to marine resources for FSC purposes is of primary importance to the Nations. Current management practices are not sufficient to uphold DFO's "doctrine of priority". We believe upholding the doctrine of priority requires changing current fisheries management practices to incorporate traditional knowledge and the wisdom of our elders, mitigating and preventing external anthropogenic and natural impacts on fisheries resources, and establishing Marine Conservancies, which allow for First Nations' FSC access.

Marine Resource Management

Northern abalone

Northern abalone have always been an important component of our diet and economy. Central Coast First Nations traditionally picked abalone in the intertidal zone. This insured that there was always sufficient brood stock to support a healthy abalone population. The advent of SCUBA diving and subsequent ballooning of the commercial fishery in the 1970s led to a steep decline in abalone population numbers and the protection of Northern abalone under Canada's Species at Risk Act.

We are very alarmed by the continued decline of such a culturally important species and believe that a concerted effort needs to be put in place to reduce the impacts of poaching and increasing brood stock. A trial abalone FSC tidal harvest in our territories could also improve monitoring of abalone stocks and provide our people with the opportunity to harvest abalone again, without significantly impacting brood stock.

We are very alarmed by the continued decline of such a culturally important species and believe that a concerted effort needs to be put in place to reduce the impacts of poaching and increasing brood stock.

Economic Development

Unemployment on the Central Coast is significantly higher than the National average. Jobs in the marine sector, once the dominant employer in our communities, are almost non-existent. Yet, over 70% of our people believe that a priority should be placed on marine-based economic development.

The Plan's goals, objectives and strategies for economic development aim to once again make marine industries the foundation of the Central Coast economy, while taking into consideration the carrying capacity of the ecosystems in our territories and recognizing our Nations' skills and assets.

In areas where our people have strong historical links to an economic activity, such as commercial and sport fishing, seafood processing, shellfish aquaculture, and tourism, we seek to create partnerships as well as become major owners and operators within the industry. In emerging industries, such as shipping, transportation and alternative energy, we seek to partner with experienced companies in a manner that benefits our Nations and the developer.



Building Capacity

In order for our Nations to be able to reach our authority, resource management, and economic goals we will need to significantly increase our institutional, human and capital capacity. Specifically, we will need to create institutions to govern resource use in our territories, capital to employ management staff and to fund management and research activities, and educational opportunities to ready community members for employment opportunities in marine-related positions from governance and management to deck hands and Guardian Watchmen.

We will work collaboratively with government, industry, ENGOs, and other interested partners to improve our capacity to achieve the goals outlined in our Plan.

A black bear is shown in profile, looking towards the right side of the frame. The bear is in a natural, outdoor setting with a blurred background of trees and foliage. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the bear's fur.

*In order to restore and maintain
our ecosystems, cultures, and
human well-being we need to
cooperate and respect one another.*

- Ross Wilson

Marine Spatial Plan

Existing, new and emerging marine industries and activities are competing for coastal and ocean space, producing varying levels of impacts that may infringe on other users and increase the potential for conflicts. As concerns are raised about cumulative impacts and overlapping areas of incompatible uses, recognition is growing that the current sector-by-sector approach to marine resource management is not working. A more integrated and comprehensive approach is needed to effectively manage all activities and uses in a way that ensures ecosystem health and the well-being of coastal communities.

Marine spatial planning is the modern term for describing a place-based approach to management that mirrors our traditional management systems. First Nation family and clan relationships hold strong connections to place, and specific locations had primary purposes like seaweed picking or salmon fishing. This traditional way offers new solutions to achieving sustainable management of our marine environment by providing a means to implement ecosystem-based management and decision-making.

Our marine plan balances our culture, economy, and ecosystems, to ensure a future for our grandchildren.

- Charlie Mason

Marine Spatial Plan

Goal of the Central Coast First Nations' Marine Spatial Plan:

A marine environment where the ecological integrity of important habitats is restored or maintained, where access to and protection of cultural and FSC resources for the Central Coast First Nations is ensured, and where a sustainable economy, which benefits local people, is created.

Central Coast First Nations have designed 5 marine zone types and 2 sub-areas to facilitate sustainable resource use in our territories.

1. Marine Sanctuary Zone protects the most sensitive habitats from all extractive human impacts. They may allow for limited impact scientific research and First Nations' FSC use.
2. Marine Conservancy Zone ensures that the natural integrity and values of an area are protected with the overall goal of enhancing biodiversity, while still providing access to marine resources for local food and FSC purposes as well as non-extractive tourism use.
3. Habitat Management Zone provides protection for sensitive habitats, while allowing for commercial, recreational and First Nation uses that have limited negative impacts on sensitive ecological features.
4. Aquaculture Management Areas ensure that high opportunity areas for aquaculture are available as the industry expands in the Central Coast.
5. Transportation Corridors provide for the safe and efficient movement of marine vessels, while protecting important species and sensitive habitats from the anthropogenic effects of shipping.
6. Alternative Energy Areas ensure that high opportunity areas for wind, tidal and wave energy are available as the industry expands on the Central Coast.
7. Integrated Management Zone provides space for all reasonable marine uses.

Marine Spatial Plan

Allowable activities in each marine use zone

Human Use	Marine Sanctuary	Marine Conservancy	Habitat Management Zone	Aquaculture Management Area	Alternative Energy Area	Transportation Corridors	Integrated Management Zone
Central Coast First Nations traditional fisheries and cultural practices	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial fisheries – Line, trap and net			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Groundfish - Benthic trawl							
Groundfish - Mid-water trawl			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial fisheries - Invertebrate			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreational fisheries			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aquaculture			✓	✓			✓
Ecotourism / recreational activities	✓ ¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-fishing commercial vessels		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓ ²
Commercial fishing and recreational vessels (no extraction)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transportation infrastructure developments			* ³	✓	✓ ⁴		✓
Alternative energy					✓		✓
Non-renewable energy							
Mining, logging and industrial foreshore development							✓
Education and research	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

1. Recreational diving is not permitted in Marine Sanctuaries 2. Oil and gas tankers are not permitted in the territories 3. Anchorages are permitted in the Habitat Management Zone 4. Transportation infrastructure would be limited to developments that support alternative energy projects

Marine Spatial Plan

The Central Coast marine spatial plan was created using extensive knowledge from community and traditional knowledge studies, provincial and federal datasets, and First Nations' community input. To review the spatial plan, the Central Coast First Nations are conducting a technical and cost-benefit analysis. Once this review is complete we will seek stakeholder support and understanding.

*We are connected to mother earth – we
are a spirit like the rocks and salmon
– we must respect this – what we do to
the land will happen to us... If we do not
respect our resources no one will.*

- Nuxalk visioning feast

Future Challenges/Implementation

Central Coast First Nations take responsibility for and an interest in all resources in our territories. However, for Federal and Provincial governments marine jurisdiction is a complex issue. We will use this plan to engage all levels of government in creating positive change in our marine territories. At the same time, we recognize that government may not be willing to address some of the issues in our Plan. As such, we will engage the local community, industry, environmental organizations and other third parties to implement our Plan. Mechanisms for realizing plan implementation include:

- Securing joint-management agreements with government to give the Central Coast First Nations' jurisdiction and governing authority over our marine environment and its resources, which enable revenue and benefit sharing, and provides for equitable First Nations' participation in economic development and capacity building;
- Acquiring specific resource tenures and licences through government negotiation, existing programs, and market buy-back;
- Developing partnerships with industry, environmental organizations and other third parties through memorandums of understanding, and impact-benefit or joint venture agreements;
- Affirming Aboriginal rights and title to our lands and resources through treaty, litigation and other means, as appropriate.

Ideally, the vast majority of the goals and objectives in this plan will be achieved through direct negotiation with Provincial and Federal Governments, and stakeholders. This will require the same spirit of cooperation and mutual respect that occurred during the land use planning negotiations. It will also require an open-mind and willingness to move toward a more sustainable and equitable future for our marine territories and people.

Everything we do here is not about us. It is about our children and grand children.

– Gary Housty

Contact Information

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