

MARINE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP (MaPP)

What is MaPP?

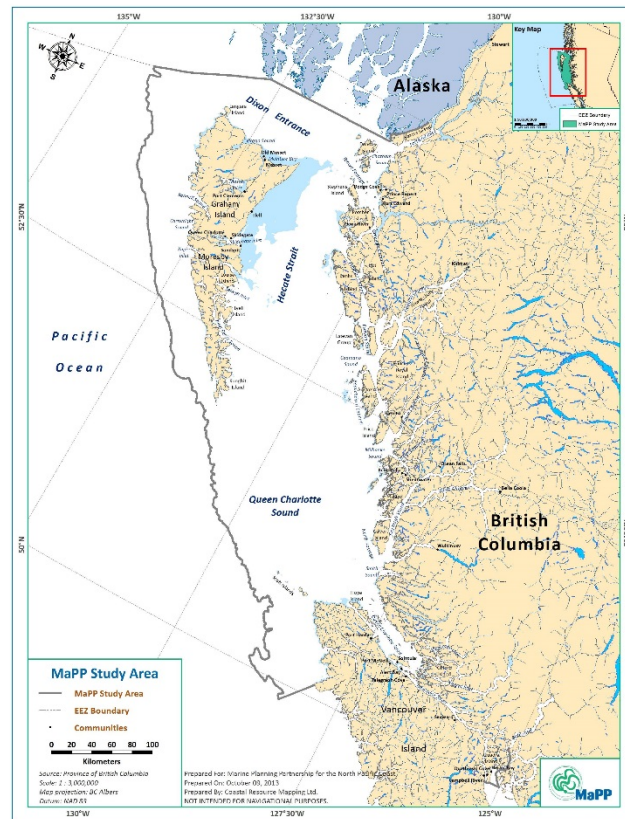
The MaPP initiative is a partnership between the Province of British Columbia (Province) and 18 member First Nations that is planning for marine uses and long-term ocean health on B.C.'s North Pacific Coast. The 18 member First Nations are represented by the Coastal First Nations–Great Bear Initiative, the North Coast–Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society and the Nanwaḱolas Council.

Where is the MaPP study area?

The MaPP study area encompasses about 102,000 square kilometres—a vast expanse of ocean that stretches along two-thirds of B.C.'s north coast. Ecologically, the MaPP boundary represents the Northern Shelf Bioregion of the Pacific Ocean.

The MaPP study area is divided into four sub-regions: Haida Gwaii, North Coast, Central Coast, and North Vancouver Island.

The MaPP initiative focuses on common First Nation and provincial marine interests where, as between the federal and provincial government, the provincial government has legal jurisdiction and regulatory authority, namely the foreshore (intertidal zone), coastal “inland waters” on the outer coast and the lands covered by these waters.



How is MaPP funded?

The MaPP initiative uses a public–private funding model. The partners have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that spells out the responsibilities, criteria and decision-making authorities of the provincial government, signatory First Nations and Tides Canada Initiatives Society, which administers the funds.

How will planning benefit the marine environments and communities?

As our oceans become busier with increasing commercial, industrial and recreational activity, there is a growing need for marine planning to help guide decisions about the use of our oceans. The MaPP marine plans will help to create opportunities for sustainable economic development, support the well-being of coastal communities and protect the marine environment.

How does the MaPP initiative relate to other coastal planning initiatives?

The Province and some of the First Nations involved in MaPP are participating in the federally-led Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) process. The PNCIMA initiative is intended to produce strategic marine planning goals, objectives and risk assessments at a regional Large Ocean Management Area scale. The Province and First Nations are jointly leading the MaPP process, which is intended to generate more operational and localized advice for marine uses. The MaPP initiative is focused on the nearshore and foreshore areas of the four sub-regions and will produce spatial (or site-specific) guidance for a variety of activities. The two marine planning processes are complementary, but deal with different issues at different scales.

In the last decade, First Nations have developed Community Marine Use Plans or direction, in addition to other supporting documents, which guide marine resource management based on the Nations' priorities and values. These documents were used to develop MaPP marine plans and the MaPP initiative seeks to work with those priorities where it is appropriate.

As well, there is a commitment by the Province and Canada to implement a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network on the Pacific Coast. The marine plans and the proposed protection areas will provide input into the development of that network.

What is the role of First Nations?

First Nations are partners with the Province on the MaPP Initiative and work collaboratively to develop the marine plans. First Nations are responsible for ensuring that the natural and cultural heritage of First Nation territories is passed on to future generations. First Nations also have a mandate to coordinate and develop a marine use planning process that supports development of marine plans and integrates Large Ocean Management Area planning, while seeking to maintain ecological integrity, strong economies and the well-being of coastal peoples.

How will the plans affect First Nations rights and title?

The plans are consistent with First Nations constitutional rights (Section 35). The plans do not in any way define or limit the title and rights of First Nations, and are without prejudice with respect to rights and title in regards to any current or future litigation, negotiations or treaties.

What is the role of the Province?

The Provincial mandate extends to activities that occur in contact (e.g., straits, channels and fjords) and between the 'jaws of the land' on the outer coastlines (e.g., estuaries and bays).

The Province will only provide direction on areas within its mandate, which include:

- Coastal and marine tenures for specific activities (aquaculture sites, docks, clean energy, and underwater cables)
- Provincial seafood development programs (seafood marketing, processing and distribution)
- Protected Areas (e.g., Canada–B.C. Marine Protected Area Network)

- Community, social and economic programs related to marine and ocean interests
- Marine spill preparedness and response programs (oil spills or other debris discharge such as landslides, sedimentation, etc.)

How does MaPP account for uses and activities outside of provincial jurisdiction?

The Marine Planning Partnership is aware of ongoing federal–provincial–First Nations high-level ocean planning processes, such as PNCIMA and the Canada–BC Marine Protected Area Network Strategy.

The MaPP initiative is communicating with all relevant agencies regarding the marine planning process, and the draft recommendations in the plans include a commitment to work with relevant agencies where appropriate.

DRAFT PLANS

The MaPP planning teams are developing four sub-regional marine plans (Haida Gwaii, North Coast, Central Coast, and North Vancouver Island) and a regional priorities plan.

What is the purpose of the regional priorities plan?

The regional priorities plan will identify common interests that are of regional significance and that can benefit from integrated and joint actions.

What is the purpose of the sub-regional marine plans?

The draft sub-regional marine plans outline the vision, objectives and strategies for management of marine uses and activities in each sub-region.

Once completed, the marine plans will inform decisions regarding the sustainable economic development and stewardship of B.C.'s coastal marine environment. The plans will provide recommendations for key areas of marine management including uses, activities and protection. They represent a balance between different interests including harvesting ocean resources, maintaining and enhancing other economic uses, protecting ocean ecosystems, and supporting traditional and cultural uses.

Who was involved in developing the draft plans?

The draft plans were prepared by the Province and the partner First Nations. Marine stakeholders provided input and advice to the process via four sub-regional marine planning advisory committees and a regional advisory committee.

In addition, a Science Advisory Committee provided expert technical and scientific knowledge and advice to assist the MaPP initiative in meeting its objectives.

What information is included in the plans?

Each of the sub-regional plans outlines the key issues, concerns and opportunities for that area and provides a vision for the future. For each of the issues, a series of objectives, and strategies to achieve those objectives, are presented. The plans address ecosystem-based management and marine spatial planning priorities of the province and First Nations.

What data were used in developing the plans?

The MaPP initiative is founded on an ecosystem-based framework (see next page) and uses the best available science and local and traditional knowledge to develop its marine plans. In addition to employing a number of other planning tools, the MaPP planning teams and marine planning advisory committee members had access to the Marine Planning Portal to visualize different data layers and learn more about the MaPP study area.

What is the Marine Planning Portal?

The MaPP Marine Planning Portal is a sophisticated planning tool that allows users to visualize many different data layers to learn more about the MaPP study area. The Portal has more than 250 data layers including administrative boundaries, species, habitats, and marine uses. This information is used to support discussions and decisions related to the development of marine spatial plans. These discussions include ways to avoid spatial conflicts between marine uses and activities and to maintain the ecological integrity of marine ecosystems.

What issues are addressed in the plans?

Issues vary by sub-region, but include uses and activities on the land adjacent to marine areas and the seabed. Overarching issues include climate change (and related impacts such as ocean acidification), marine pollution, marine protection, and cumulative effects. In addition, the plans deal with a variety of marine uses and activities such as aquaculture tenure, fisheries products and marketing, recreational fishing related tenures, tourism, forestry, renewable energy, and research/monitoring.

What issues are not addressed in the plans?

Issues outside of the scope of the plans include:

- Uses and activities that are regulated or managed by the federal government (such as marine transportation and commercial fishing), however where there is overlap or the Province has shared jurisdiction, these topics are discussed
- Management of private lands or uplands
- Ocean tanker and other marine traffic, LNG development and BC Ferries service

What is Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM)?

Ecosystem-based management is an adaptive approach to managing human activities that seeks to ensure the coexistence of healthy, fully-functioning ecosystems and human communities. Marine ecosystem-based management differs from sector-based resource management in that it defines management strategies for entire systems, not individual components of the system, with humans as an explicit part of the marine ecosystem. An EBM approach to marine management accounts for interactions among resource sectors and the cumulative effects of ocean uses and activities.

There are three equally important elements of the MaPP ecosystem-based management framework:

- **Ecological integrity** describes ecosystem connectivity and habitat and species diversity. It is focused on ecosystem structure, function and resilience
- **Human well-being** is the combination of social, economic and cultural aspects of human communities, including spiritual and cultural connections to the marine environment
- **Governance** (and collaborative management) focuses on a collaborative, effective, transparent and integrated governance and management, as well as public engagement

What is the MaPP Zoning Framework?

The zoning framework includes three zone types:

- **General Management Zones** (GMZ) in which a wide range of sustainable marine uses and activities are permitted
- **Special Management Zones** (SMZ) which allows space for high priority/high potential sustainable marine uses including economic development and cultural uses that require specific environmental conditions or locations
- **Protection Management Zones** (PMZ) which allocate space primarily for conservation purposes

Protection Management Zones (PMZs) are consistent with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines.

What criteria were used to identify Protection Management Zones?

The best available scientific data supported by traditional and local knowledge were used to inform the development of the draft plans and the location, extent and type of PMZs including areas or interest for protection. If you feel that better information is available, please share this during the consultation process so that relevant recommendations can be reviewed.

What activities are recommended in a Protection Management Zone?

The draft plans provide detailed tables of recommended uses and activities within each PMZ. They include conditions around First Nations' marine resource use, provisions for activities that may have major disruptive effects on seasonal migration of marine species, and on First Nations' cultural values, and on minimizing effects on reef and coral habitat.

Uses and activities that are regulated or managed by the federal government (e.g., commercial fisheries—guided and non-guided—and transportation) are assumed to be acceptable subject to following the requirements of the appropriate federal department.

How will the plans support fishing?

MaPP objectives for fisheries-related topics include:

- Supporting the fisheries economy
- Coordinating effective processing and marketing for B.C. fisheries products and experiences
- Utilizing available and emerging tools to support the First Nations' food, social and ceremonial fishery
- Identifying commercial and recreational fisheries values
- Maintaining and enhancing fisheries infrastructure and processing facilities to support economic development or respond to climate change implications

First Nations will continue their constitutional right under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act* to fish for food, social or ceremonial purposes.

How will the plans affect jobs and the local economies?

The MaPP marine plans are intended to balance sustainable economic development with environmental stewardship, help improve the efficiency of approval processes within existing policies and procedures, reduce spatial conflicts among marine users, and provide business certainty. The plans include strategies designed to support and enhance marine economic activities.

How will the plans be implemented?

Each of the four sub-regional plans are intended to have an implementation workplan and priority actions. It is anticipated that a Marine Plan Monitoring and Implementation Committee will oversee implementation with linkages to sub-regional processes.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Where can I see the draft plans?

For each of the sub-regions, you will find downloadable copies of the draft plans, summaries of the plans, details of the public meetings, and other background information on the MaPP website <http://mappocean.org/>.

If you think we have not interpreted the data and information correctly or there is other information we should consider, then we want to hear about that during the consultation process and will consider incorporating that into the plans.

How can I make my views known?

Each of the MaPP sub-regions will hold a series of community public meetings to provide information and hear input on the draft plans. Members of the public and stakeholders are encouraged to attend and provide their feedback.

What if I can't come to the public meetings?

The MaPP website has information on each of the sub-regional plans and a broader regional management plan. Members of the public and stakeholders can fill out an online response form or send comments by email.

How will my feedback be used?

The MaPP partners along with their technical staff will review all the input in the consultation processes and make changes to the plans when appropriate. MaPP will document the input from public and stakeholders, what input was used or not used, and why.

What are the timelines for public comment?

The review period is between April and early-July 2014. The four sub-regional marine plans (Haida Gwaii, North Coast, Central Coast and North Vancouver Island) and the regional priorities plan are scheduled for completion later in 2014.