



Central Coast Marine Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (MPIAC)

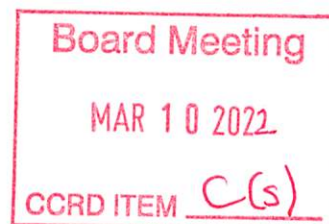
Online meeting (via Zoom)
Monday, January 31, 2022
1:00-4:00pm

Objective

To provide project updates and discuss planned activities for 2022-23.

Participants

- **Central Coast Implementation Technical Team (CCITT):**
 - Sally Cargill and Vicki Sahanatien (Co-chairs), Desiree Lawson (CCIRA), Philip Akins (MaPP)
- **MPIAC members and alternates:**
 - Anne Salomon, Marine Academic (Member)
 - Emmalai Page Marine Conservation (Alternate)
 - Erin Latham, Shellfish Aquaculture (Member)
 - Jim McIsaac, Commercial Fisheries (Member / Alternate)
 - Kim Olsen, Commercial Fisheries (Member / Alternate)
 - Lauren Eckert, Youth research and planning (Member)
 - Michael Bissonnette, Marine Conservation (Member)
 - Nick Heath, Public Recreation (Member)
 - Phil Dawson, Recreational Fishing Service Provider (Alternate)
 - Warren Warttig, Coastal Forestry (Member)
- **Members not in attendance:**
 - Sid Keay, Recreational Fishing Service Provider (Member)
 - Paul Manson, Renewable Energy (Member)
 - Richard Opala, Finfish Aquaculture (Member)
- **Observers:**
 - Christina Mardell (BC Timber Sales)
 - Malcolm Cowan (BC Shellfish Growers Association)
 - Nico Prins (BC Shellfish Growers Association)



Meeting Summary

Project updates and discussion

CCITT members provided updates on current activities (July 2021-present), including:

- **The Coastal Guardian Watchmen (CGW) 2021-2022 field season**
 - Desiree noted that the role of the Guardians on the water extends well beyond MaPP-related EBM monitoring – gave examples of search-and-rescue activities; highlighted InReach (GPS) as an invaluable tool for the Guardians’ work.
 - MaPP provides funding for two seasonal Guardians per Nation but continues to explore opportunities to expand this support; some Nations have drawn on other funding sources to hire full-time (year-round) Guardians.
- **EBM Indicator Monitoring Reports**
 - The Summary report is finalized and will be posted in the near-term; partner review of the individual indicator reports is ongoing.
 - MaPP monitoring to-date has been heavily focused on ecological (Species & Habitat) indicators, and looking to the implementation of the ‘human well-being’ indicators in the Central Coast and Regional MaPP suites will be a key topic of the upcoming program review (see next)
- **Indicator Monitoring Program Review**
 - The CCITT has drafted the scope and activities for the program review This approach, which is organized around five components of the monitoring program (Marine Plan objectives & strategies, Indicators, Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting, and Management action) is currently being reviewed and refined by the MaPP partners.
 - This is a Central Coast sub-regional project but is of common interest across MaPP.
- **Geoduck feasibility study with North Island College**
 - broodstock collection to occur shortly; planting scheduled for Summer’22
 - under the study’s Investigative Use / Park Use permits, there will be no consumption of harvested geoduck; if the outcomes of the study are promising, Nations may take next steps for commercial operations, including water quality testing in order to have the waters classified.
- **Proposed Marine Plan amendments**
 - Reminder that the current proposals are for minor administrative and spatial amendments to the Central Coast plan based on ‘discoveries’ and plan implementation. Additional amendments to all sub-regional plans may be forthcoming (including recommendations re. marine plant harvest, ‘level 1 and 2 docks’ (definitions), anchorages).
- **Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (C&E) Communications Strategy**

- this new project, which is related to a Marine Plan objective to improve marine-based compliance monitoring¹, is in the early stages of partner discussion; to Committee members' questions about the scope of the project, this is still to-be-determined.
- **Shipping and Marine Response**
 - work to complete Geographic Response Strategies is largely complete, but work is ongoing (including mapping, data management).
- **Regional Kelp Monitoring Project (RKMP)**
 - Vicki gave a preview of the RKMP StoryMap, which will be launched to the public in February, and noted an upcoming workshop, which will be focused on developing monitoring plans for all sub-regions
 - Current Central Coast priorities with respect to kelp monitoring include improving our understanding of effects of commercial kelp harvesting to inform decisions on harvest referrals.

Sector updates

Several committee members shared updates from their sectors.

- **Commercial Fishing (Kim):** DFO's announced salmon fishery closures are anticipated to have a severe impact on the gillnet fleet, likely ending the careers of owner-operators like Kim; the federal government has said there will be no compensation for those impacted.
- **Commercial Fishing (Jim):** There are some positives to report, e.g., tuna and crab fisheries did extremely well last year; good news re. prawn tubbing; bocaccio numbers are "through the roof"; similar with sablefish. Other ongoing topics: US-Can dispute re. hake; herring quota (recently cut in half); beneficial ownership survey; fisheries reconciliation agreements; Observers at Sea (move to electronic monitoring) and other consequences of covid; lost gear recovery work.
- **Marine Conservation (Michael):** Michael shared with the Committee a recent WCEL blog post, "[With Mandate Letters out, what can we expect in terms of Ocean Protection & Management?](#)" (Dec 2021).
- **Marine Forestry (Warren):** Warren spoke to the old growth deferrals in the context of the Great Bear Rainforest agreement and the challenges that industry faces. He also noted the current high price of lumber, which is good for the industry.
- **Marine Academic (Anne):** While covid has curtailed activities, researchers were able to pivot to get a lot of interesting work done with remote help from community members. Ahead of our next meeting Anne will survey some of her faculty and student members to learn more about the academic work taking place on the Central Coast / MaPP region.

¹ see Central Coast Marine Plan, p. 25.

- **Recreational Fishery Service Providers (Phil):** Covid has been tough for the sector; business has been very quiet. Looking to 2022 for the industry to get back on its feet. Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) hasn't met recently but will be doing so soon.
- **Youth Engagement (Lauren):** Lauren asked members to please let her know if they have recommendations for connecting with youth in their sector – she would be happy to help capture their voices.

2022-23 Draft Work plan

CCITT provided a brief overview of proposed implementation activities, including:

- Guardian Watchmen EBM monitoring
- Indicator monitoring reports
- Indicator monitoring program review
- C&E communications strategy
- Marine Plan amendment
- Geoduck feasibility study (with North Island College)
- Marine Forestry
- Stakeholder and local government engagement
- Support to the Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards (SEAS) program
- 'Areas Requiring More Detailed Planning' (ARMDP)
- Namu clean-up
- Marine Plant Harvest Policy
- Marine Response Planning
- Regional Kelp Monitoring Project

Proposed activities will be discussed and finalized by the Central Coast MaPP partners.

Actions arising

- CCITT: share draft Scope-and-Activities document following partner review (expect draft to be finalized by April).

Next meeting

June 2022:

- Project updates.
- Focused discussion on EBM Indicator Monitoring Program Review.

2. MPIAC Advice Log – Updates

The advice log is filed in the MPIAC Dropbox, [here](#). Once confirmed, these lines will be added to the log, and responses will be provided:

Name	Sector	Subject	Topic	Comments / Advice
Jim Mclsaac	Commercial Fisheries	Rural economy		You've heard concerns [today at MPIAC] re. impacts of covid. Have you given any thought to getting support from rural economy specialists within the Province to help with this in the marine context; making sure we [MaPP] are doing what we can?
Erin Latham	Shellfish Aquaculture	Aquaculture	RKMP Workshop (Feb-March'22)	FYI: there is a report (April 2021) written for Coastal First Nations with Larry Greba on shellfish aquaculture & seaweed aquaculture future for Central & North Coast First Nations (Erin is a co-authors). Written for the Province (MoA) [not yet in the public domain]. Includes individual species assessments - all kinds of shellfish and seaweed; pretty relevant to the conversation here; definitely a major topic in ocean/Blue economy conversations at the reconciliation tables.
Anne Salomon	Marine Academia	Regional Kelp Monitoring Project (RKMP); Aquaculture	Workshop (Feb-March'22), global initiatives	When constructing this or future workshop it might be worth reaching out to international and policy-level discussions. There is huge interest in the kelp aquaculture industry, and already a lot of national and international interest in the production of food (there are huge initiatives at the global level re. 'blue foods' movement), as well as biofuel: interesting tradeoffs, supply chain issues. Some regions have a lot more familiarity with these topics, so might want to arrange some cross-regional discussions.
Jim Mclsaac	Commercial Fisheries	Regional Kelp Monitoring Project (RKMP)	Workshop (Feb-March'22)	We [Commercial Fisheries Caucus] work with some kelp harvesters; it would be valuable to have some of them who've been doing it for a long time (local knowledge), to be

Name	Sector	Subject	Topic	Comments / Advice
				involved.
Warren Warttig	Coastal Forestry	EBM indicator monitoring program review	Indicators	FYI: BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI) is working to figure out indicators that would suit sector.
Jim Mclsaac	Commercial Fisheries	EBM indicator monitoring program review	Provincial engagement, input	Suggest reaching out to Provincial colleagues (e.g., those involved in rural economy) for input / advice on socio-economic indicators
Jim Mclsaac	Commercial Fisheries	Committee feedback		It is difficult to provide feedback (e.g., on proposed work plan activities) 'live'. Suggest providing documents for review ahead of time.

3. MaPP Central Coast Draft Workplan (2022-23): Proposed Implementation Activities

2022-2023 Proposed Implementation Activity

AREAS REQUIRING MORE DETAILED PLANNING (ARMDP)

- Begin discussions on zone type and recommended uses and activities for the two ARMDP in South Bentinck (Dean/Bentinck and Asseek) and Kimsquit Bay.
- Work to resolve areas where there is conflict over tenures in Labouchere and South Bentinck.

COMMUNICATIONS / PUBLIC AWARENESS

Guided by the communications Strategy completed in 2018-19, design and create signage and/or brochures to inform local communities and tourists about First Nations title and rights, cultural areas and sites, cultural beliefs, and values with respect to marine resources.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT

- If requested and funding available support Compliance & Enforcement workshops for Guardians and Provincial agencies and/or joint training and patrol opportunities.
- **TBD:** Explore how MaPP can support the Central Coast partners and Guardian Watchman compliance and enforcement.

CCCFA-NIC GEODUCK FEASIBILITY STUDY

Monitor and evaluate geoduck pilot sites in partnership with North Island College and the Central Coast Commercial Fisheries Association.

- plant geoduck seed at four sites in Heiltsuk and Kitsoo Xai'xais territory
- begin growth measurements and water sampling (field season 1 of 2)
- note that CCIRA provides \$17,500/year toward this project through other grants; NSERC grant requirement

EBM REPORTING

Finalize and prepare to publicize EBM indicator and summary reports on MaPP website and/or via StoryMap(s). Through the EBM monitoring program review, explore the best means of disseminating monitoring outputs for various audiences, including decision makers (e.g., storymaps, newsletters, briefing notes, journal articles).

EBM MONITORING PROGRAM REVIEW

Work with Central Coast Nations, CCIRA, MaPP, and invited specialists to review the Central Coast EBM monitoring program, including:

- evaluation of each CC EBM indicator, metric, and sampling protocol



2022-2023 Proposed Implementation Activity

- assessment / clarification of links between indicator monitoring, Marine Plan strategies, and decision making
- assessment of monitoring / research gaps
- assessment of capacity gaps (e.g., funding, training, research tools, protocols etc.)
- identification of other monitoring programs and outputs in the MaPP / Central Coast region; opportunities for collaboration, including with other MaPP sub-regions.
- prioritization for ongoing monitoring, including indicators that have not yet been initiated

Hold a facilitated workshop to update the Central Coast EBM monitoring program.

FUNDING FOR GUARDIAN WATCHMEN - EBM MONITORING

In alignment with regional fundraising initiatives and B.C. Business Case for MaPP implementation funding, seek stable funding opportunities for EBM indicator monitoring by MaPP Guardian Watchmen.

- final draft fundraising Case for Support completed, and list of prospective funders listed in 2021 draft Fundraising Plan

GUARDIAN WATCHMEN EBM MONITORING

Continue to support GW implementation of Central Coast EBM indicator monitoring program, including data collection, investments in equipment and fuel, and skills training.

MAPP REGIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES

- participate and bring Central Coast priorities to MaPP regional subcommittees, including: EBM indicators, Marine Plant Harvest Policy, Data Management, and Spatial Planning.
- support the advancement of regional 'human wellbeing' indicators, including: Collaborative Governance, and Stakeholder and Local Government Engagement.

MARINE FORESTRY OPERATIONS – SUMMARY OF REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVED WORK PRACTICES

Produce resources for Nations' stewardship staff that clarify relevant processes and resources available to help assess conditionally allowable activities in PMZs – focus on marine forestry: approved work practices for log handling.

MARINE FORESTRY OPERATIONS – BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Track projects / discussions regarding Best Management Practices (BMPs), including those related to potential mitigative/preventative measures and protocols for marine assessments in the Central Coast.

MARINE PLANT HARVEST MANAGEMENT



2022-2023 Proposed Implementation Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support development and implementation of regional marine aquatic plant management policies including monitoring programs. – Consider plan amendments in response to spatial recommendations of the Marine Plant Harvest Policy sub-committee.
<p>MARINE RESPONSE PLANS Support response planning on the Central Coast, including developing Geographic Response Strategies that outline field responses in the event of a marine incident at specific sites.</p>
<p>MPA NETWORK FOR THE NORTHERN SHELF BIOREGION To be confirmed, based on next steps in MPA Network process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Participate in MPATT and Network Committee meetings. Contribute to the development and refinement of draft technical reports (including Network Action Plan). Participate in stakeholder engagement events.
<p>PLAN AMENDMENT Finalize and implement 'Category 1' Marine Plan amendment proposals developed in 2020-21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete mapping and update summary statistics associated with completion of zoning for ARMDPs that have been resolved (Burke Channel – ARMDP #1, and Fog Creek / Green River – ARMDP #5). – Develop further amendments based on regional direction, including on marine use harvest, activities / use definitions, anchorages.
<p>PRIORITY SITE RESTORATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Undertake priority restoration projects at Namu – Identify funding opportunities for other priority restoration projects.
<p>SEAS / YOUTH ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – support the Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards program with funding contribution for program coordinators in each Nation.
<p>STAKEHOLDER AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support stakeholder engagement through the Marine Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (MPIAC) process on MaPP implementation, including the EBM monitoring program review, work planning, and plan amendment. – Conduct / participate in bilateral meetings with stakeholders / Central Coast Regional District as required. – Assist with development of stakeholder communication materials, such as newsletters.