

Collaborative Decisionmaking 9:40 min

ART STERRITT Executive Director, Coastal First Nations

We know that if we can get our ecosystems back in balance, and make sure that we don't pollute the water, make sure that all the nutrients that are required in the ocean and the rivers and the lakes and everything that feed our salmon and feed our halibut and feed everything that there – if we can get that balance back, the natural capital that exists in that region will begin to bear fruit for us again. And that's the objective that Coastal First Nations has. That's the objective that we have in the terrestrial side, that's the objective we have on the marine side.

JIM ABRAM Chair, Strathcona Regional District

Over the last 10, 15 years when things started to fall apart economically, we started to diversify into like eco tourism, kayaking, whale watching, bear watching, etc. And you know, if you're gonna have tourism, then you have to have compatible uses happening around it.

RICK SNOWDON President, Sea Kayak Guide Alliance of British Columbia

The tagline of the government is "Supernatural British Columbia" and if we just let the development keep going without some kind of coordination,

there would just be ongoing unchecked development that ultimately would destroy all the values that we hold dear, and that a lot of the people on the coast hold dear.

The MaPP process is comprehensive, that takes into account all the user groups, not only commercial recreation but also public recreation, conservation and all the other sectors that have come to the table so that we can maintain that vision for a supernatural BC.

Narrator

Like the other sub regional plans for the Great Bear sea, the Haida Gwaii marine plan identifies zones for the protection of key marine ecosystems. These **protection** management zones eventually will become part of a larger network of marine protected areas throughout the Great Bear Sea.

SABINE JESSEN Director of Oceans Program, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, MaPP Marine Advisory Committee

Marine protected areas are particularly important because they do provide places where we can have healthy intact ecosystems. And that's a benefit, not only for the ecosystem itself, but as well for ecotourism and fisheries. Fisheries are probably going to be the biggest beneficiaries of marine protected areas.

The science from around the world is showing that if you control or stop fishing in marine protected areas, you're gonna have more fish, bigger fish, and overall healthier marine ecosystems, and some of those fish are going to spill over into the adjoining areas where fishing can still take place.

And so we have had a particular focus on how can we properly plan that network, bring all the best available, not only kind of Western science, but local knowledge and traditional knowledge to that process to design a really robust network of marine protected areas.

RUSS JONES Hereditary Chief, Haida Nation Project Manager, Haida Oceans Technical Team

Because of the way we've done the zoning, there's many areas you can fish, and what these protected areas do is they provide an insurance policy for the ocean.

They're protecting biodiversity and as well they're providing resilience to climate change or other stressors, which effect the marine environment. Protected areas are recognized as a necessity worldwide. Here in British Columbia we've made limited progress on establishing protected areas, so we see the Haida Gwaii marine plan as a way of laying out where we're going here in Haida Gwaii waters on protected areas and taking a step forward in protection of the ocean.

LEANDRE VIGNEAULT *Biologist & Fishing Guide, MaPP Marine Advisory Committee*

I definitely support this plan. I signed on to the Marine Advisory Committee because I believe really strongly that we need to do things differently, that what we've done to date around marine management has not always been successful. We have many examples of stocks in decline, in terms of fish that suggests that we're not managing things particularly well at the current time.

There's a lot more support locally than I thought there was gonna be. Like that one protected area lays over an area that all of us charter fishermen use and I thought there was gonna be a lot of opposition to that.

And some of the places on the east coast that we're identifying for protection are some of my favorite places to go fishing, but because they're pretty amazing places I think we should protected them before we deplete them.

Narrator

Through the marine planning process, people in British Columbia have created a joint vision of ocean stewardship for the North Pacific Coast – one of economic prosperity that can endure over generations.

As we face questions of how to best manage our ocean resources, the marine plans in place can help us avoid conflicts early on and guide us to find the best path forward in shaping the future of the Great Bear Sea.

JIM ABRAM *Chair, Strathcona Regional District*

So if we can avoid that conflict from the start by having the provincial government tell these people, "No. Sorry. This is not a good place to do this." And then we just avoid it all. So it makes my job easier, and it certainly saves the people that are wanting to live there or wanting to develop there, saves them a whole lot of money in going through the process, and it saves the provincial government a whole lot of money. So it's just a win-win all the way around.

Narrator

Crafted with extensive input from native communities, scientists, stakeholders and local governments the partnership announced the marine plans in a historic ceremony on April 27, 2015.

Marine Plan announcement event

STEVE THOMSON *Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources*

Today we are celebrating not one but four marine plans and not one but 18 First Nations that are a part of the MaPP process. It's an impressive achievement that was made possible only by compromise by every partner involved and a willingness to work together in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration.

Each of these regions have their own unique opportunities and their own unique challenges, and together they mark a milestone for sustainable economic development and stewardship of British

Columbia's coastal environment. They provide the province and First Nations a shared vision for future marine planning decisions including planning for critical ecosystems as well as sustainable economic opportunities.

PETER LANTIN *President, Council of the Haida Nation*

The marine plans are a significant step forward in protecting the oceans around us for future generations and ensuring its sustainable use. It outlines a path forward that prioritizes culture, healthy intact ecosystems, and sustainable communities.

DOUG NEASLOSS *Governance Representative, Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance*

For our Nations, the implementation of the MaPP plans is a beacon of hope of how governments can work together to protect and sustain our natural resources. We are proud of the work that we accomplished with the Province over the last 2 ½ years and we are excited for the work ahead as we turn these plans into action. Thank you.

Narrator

Among the growing number of countries who are advancing marine planning for the oceans,

World Map depicting 36 countries by 2015

British Columbia's Great Bear Sea represents one of the largest marine planning areas in the world.

Map of 4 Sub-Regions

The MaPP marine plans designated four sub regions within the Great Bear Sea. Haida Gwaii, North Coast, North Vancouver Island and the Central Coast.

The marine plans are tailored to the specific characteristics of each sub-region and are based on three management zones that will benefit human wellbeing, economic opportunities and ocean conservation.

GRAPHIC OF PLAN 4 Sub regions each with (3 ZONES)

General Management Zones –

* Areas that allocate space for a wide range of public, private and community marine uses – managed with an ecosystem based approach.

Special Management Zones -

* Areas that allocate space for high priority or high potential marine uses.

Protection Management Zones

* Areas that allocate space primarily for conservation purposes.

KIM SANDER WRIGHT *Former Marine Planning Director, Living Oceans Society*

We want to look at the big picture and look how our economies and our ecosystems are tied together and how they impact one another. We have to do it collectively. You can't just do that one government ministry at a time. It needs to be done in collaboration with each other. It needs to be all levels of government, all different business and industry sectors, coastal communities and local governments,

First Nations, environmental conservation, science – all sitting at the same table, all looking at the same maps with the same data sets, so everyone is contributing something to the solution.

DAN EDWARDS *BC Commercial Fishing Caucus*

Rolling out a plan like this is not the end of something, it's pretty much the beginning of it.

Protected Areas Overview 1:30min

Clip of Graphic explaining the difference between Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas

In a fully protected Marine Reserve the abundance, size, and egg production of marine species increases substantially, compared with unprotected areas nearby.

Marine Reserves are safe havens for the big, old, fat, fertile female fish that can replenish fish stocks with their long spawning seasons and numerous high-quality offspring.

Marine Reserves may also spread young marine plants, invertebrates, and fish into surrounding waters that are open to fishing.

What's the difference between Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas?

Marine Protected Areas may be less restrictive than Marine Reserves by allowing activities like salmon trolling, crabbing, sport fishing, and other extractive activities.

Eel_Grass

8:20min

Narrator

In about three feet of water and down to twenty to twenty-five feet or so are the eelgrass beds, where they haven't been dredged up in the past. Eelgrass beds function as nursery grounds for many commercial fish, including King Salmon. The Opalescent Nudibranch is only one of many sea slugs who permanently dwell in the eelgrass.

Eelgrass beds are home to a wealth of marine life. They are an incredibly important habitat. In this rich environment, mating comes natural and when spring comes along, packages of eggs soon litter the eelgrass.

Giant pink starfish patrol eel grass for food.

English soles don't just have fun in front of my camera. They have learned that plankton gathers in front of my video lights. Easy pickings.

Migratory waterfowl often gather in small flocks, or even larger numbers, to feed on the rich bounty of eelgrass meadows. They store energy before flying north again. Here Surf scooters, common goldeneyes, and buffleheads take turns filling their bellies. They feed on snails, small crabs, and other crustaceans.

Pacific herring feed on zooplankton in the offshore environment. They are of tremendous importance to the marine food chain. In early spring they take to the shore and move into sheltered bays. After congregating in deeper channels, herring move into sub or even into tidal waters to spawn. Submerged vegetation, especially eelgrass, is the preferred spawning habitat. Herring spawning events attract large numbers of predators, which like to feed on the fatty fish and their nutritious eggs.

These cormorants are diving for herring, which have just spawned.

Baby Island is well known for its Harbor Seals hauling out there. But they don't only rest on land. They also relax just idling through the eelgrass beds. I dive with a reed breather, which is completely noiseless and makes no bubbles.

Harbor Seals have been hunted by men for centuries. They are cautious around us. But if I just sit on the bottom and wait, I become irresistible to them. And soon I feel that tug on my fin. Then I can move freely as if one of them. Every Harbor Seal has a personality, and diving with them my way, you soon learn to know their characters. Where which seal likes to go, and how it reacts to you, and the other seals.

Diving at night yields yet a completely different picture of Holmes Harbor. In the shallow water on the way to the eelgrass beds, I get pounded by smells, blinded by my video lights. A staggering amount of fish. While some fish have wedged themselves into my dive gear, this soft smelt gradually got used to my lights.

Juvenile King Salmon or Chinook hunt at night for the bounty of the nursery grounds. Yes, I have seen many young Chinook getting bigger by the day. They need these eelgrass beds. And this one in front of my home is a magnificent one.

Young Chinook on the night prow, also have to be aware of larger predators. Spiny Dogfish come up from the depth at night. And while they're probably out for smelt, a juvenile Chinook will not be safe.

Pacific Market Squid show up in late summer. Some forage above the eelgrass. Others come to mate. It is a spectacle to watch these agile mollusks move through the water. They definitely appear very alien to me. They communicate with color flashes across their skin. Here white ones are out hunting, and colored ones are displaying for a mate.

Delicate comb jellies. A large, predatory worm. A stinging Lion's Mane grows to six feet across. It is the largest jellyfish in the world, and when fishing, its tentacle load may stretch to hundred feet in length.

Tube-snouts seek for cover in the eelgrass. An Alabaster Nudibranch is out on the prow. Juvenile Rock Fish and Perches catch krill, fatally attracted to my underwater lights.

In some areas eelgrass beds have completely disappeared. I cannot stress more the importance of keeping these eelgrass beds intact. This is where many fish – commercial and otherwise – survive young age.

To me Hooded Nudibranchs are some of the weirdest, not-from-this-world looking citizens of the eelgrass community. Reminiscent of a delicate underwater Venus Flytrap, these strange Nudibranchs actively herd plankton into their mouths. Opening and closing the large hood, they also use the ring of tentacles to caress their prey in the right direction. With up to seven inches long, Hooded Nudibranchs are also one of the bigger sea slugs of the Salish Sea. They often come in small, or even larger, groups and Three-Spined Sticklebacks sometimes use the opportunity to steal trapped food out of the hood of the Nudibranch. And when a Hooded Nudibranch thinks it needs a better hunting ground, it simply dislodges from the eelgrass blade and swims to a better location, hopefully. Hooded Nudibranchs swimming really look like out from this world. Sea Angel-like things, currents to relocate themselves.