



Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA)

Summary of Issues, Challenges & Opportunities

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document provides a high-level overview of the range of issues which could be addressed as part of an integrated planning process for the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA).

Guidance on integrated ocean management planning is provided in the *Oceans Act*, *Canada's Oceans Strategy*, and an accompanying *Policy and Operational Framework*. The *Canada Oceans Action Plan* identified PNCIMA as one of five priority Large Ocean Management Areas (LOMAs) for the implementation of a new approach to oceans governance.

The new approach to oceans governance, called for in *Canada's Oceans Strategy*, includes two key elements:

- The establishment of new institutional governance mechanisms to improve decision making; and
- The collaborative development of integrated management planning to minimize conflicts amongst users.

1.0 INTRODUCTION cont.

Institutional Governance Mechanisms

On December 11, 2008 the Government of Canada, the Coastal First Nations, and the North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society signed a *Memorandum of Understanding on Collaborative Oceans Governance for PNCIMA* (PNCIMA MOU), establishing a new governance mechanism for collaborative decision making.

On September 18, 2004 the Governments of Canada and British Columbia signed a *Memorandum of Understanding Respecting the Implementation of Canada's Oceans Strategy on Canada's Pacific North Coast*. This MOU provides for further Canada-BC collaboration in order to increase the understanding and the protection of the marine environment, and to support sustainable economic opportunities.

Integrated Management Planning

A key commitment of the Oceans Act is to work collaboratively with all interested parties to develop integrated management plans for all oceans-related activities. On March 26 and 27th of 2009, the PNCIMA MOU signatories hosted the first PNCIMA Forum to launch the collaborative development of an integrated management plan for PNCIMA.

2.0 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Seventeen oceans issues, many of which are currently being addressed through separate and independent processes, have been identified for potential inclusion in an integrated management plan for PNCIMA. Some may be relevant topics for LOMA planning, while others are more appropriately addressed in sub-regional geographic management area (GMA) plans or local coastal management area (CMA) plans.

The following ten oceans uses should be considered as part of an integrated management plan. They include:

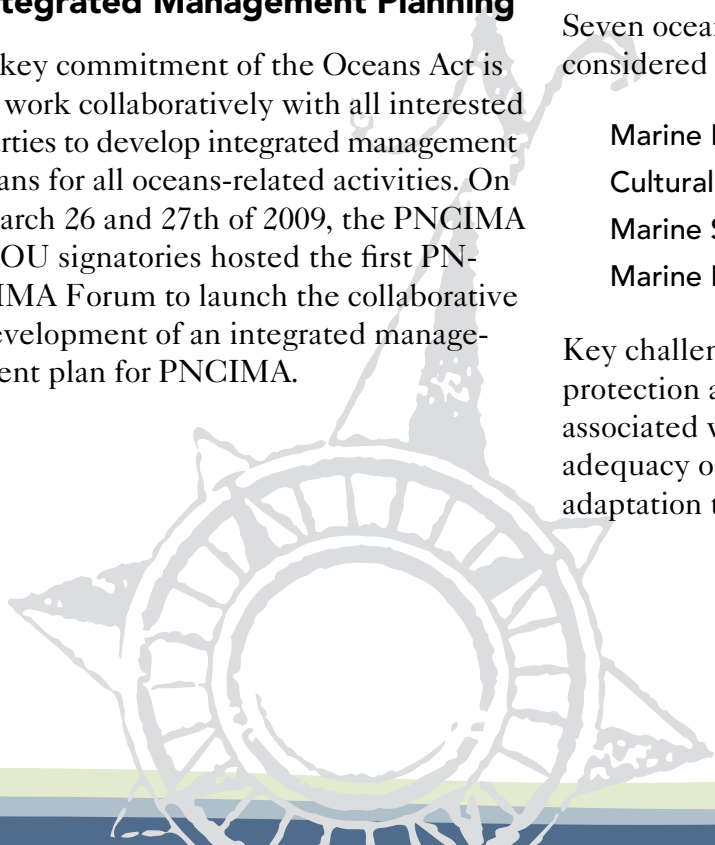
Marine Transportation and Vessel Safety	Recreational Fisheries
Maritime Defence and Security	Marine Recreation and Tourism
First Nations' Marine Fisheries	Marine Aquaculture
Commercial Fisheries	Renewable Ocean Energy
	Non-Renewable Ocean Energy
	Existing Land & Coastal Plans

Challenges associated with these uses include competition and conflict among different uses and activities, their potential impact on the marine environment and species, their sustainability as a basis for economic activity, and changes in ecosystems and species that support these activities.

Seven ocean environment and cultural issues that need to be considered in an integrated approach include:

Marine Protected Areas	Marine Climate Change Effects
Cultural Resources	Invasive Marine Species
Marine Spills	Species at Risk and Species of Concern
Marine Pollution	

Key challenges associated with these issues include adequate protection and management of ecosystems and species; risk associated with increased marine activities and uses; and adequacy of policies, plans and programs for mitigation and adaptation to potential effects.

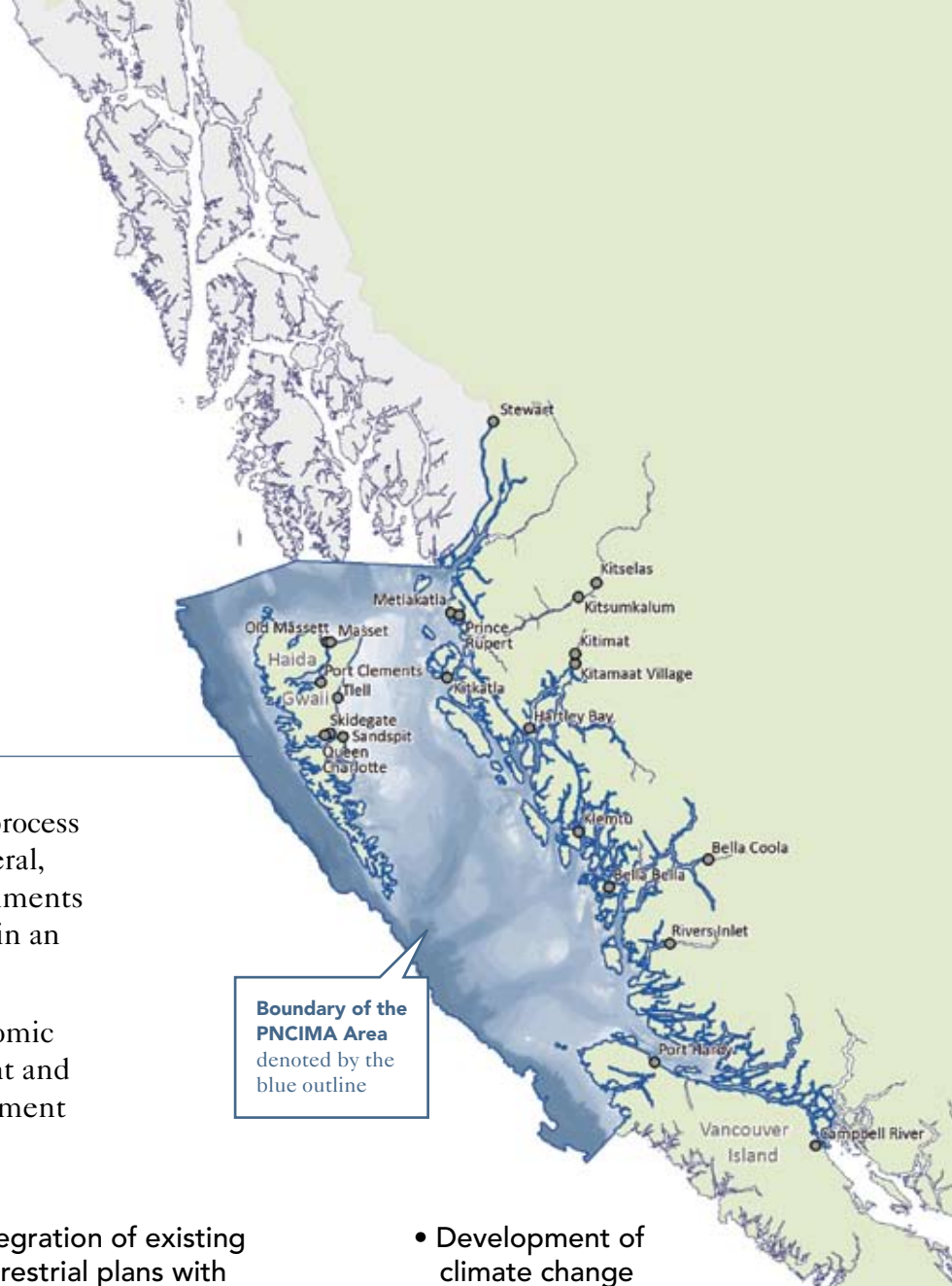


3.0 OPPORTUNITIES

The PNCIMA integrated management process provides an excellent opportunity for federal, provincial, First Nations and local governments and stakeholders to address these issues in an integrated manner.

Environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes resulting from the development and implementation of an integrated management plan for PNCIMA could include:

- Reduction in conflicts and competition between user groups and activities;
- Ensuring that activities are sustainable and support coastal economies;
- Identification of 'best management practices' for marine activities;
- Determination of the risks associated with marine transportation increases and measures to reduce these risks;
- Space and time-related allocation of marine areas for uses and activities;
- Integration of existing terrestrial plans with adjacent marine plans and updating of existing plans;
- Development of recommendations for an MPA network;
- Identification of sensitive ecological areas;
- Improvement of spill prevention, preparedness and response;
- Pollution prevention and reduction measures;
- Development of climate change adaptation actions;
- Identification of measures to reduce invasive species introductions; and
- Development and support for species at risk recovery efforts.



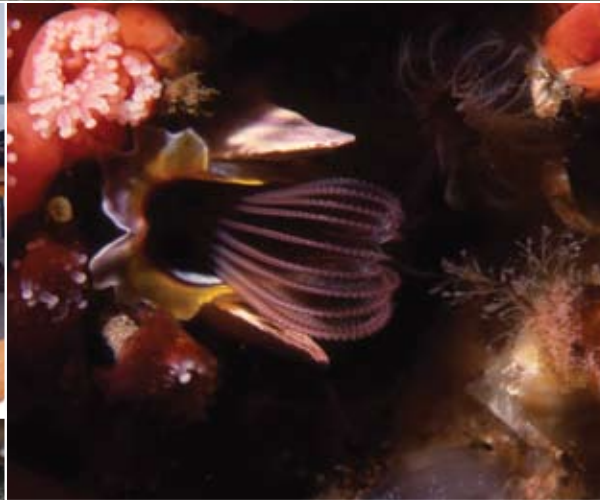


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