

Initiative Overview



North
to the Canada-US border

West
to the base of the
continental shelf

PLACE

The Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) is situated in British Columbia's central and north coast areas, encompassing 88,000 km².

The boundaries are based on ecosystem criteria, except for the Canada-US border. They reflect the Canadian portion of what is called the Northern Shelf ecoregion.

The PNCIMA is one of five large ocean management areas in Canada chosen for implementing integrated management planning.

Southeast
to the point of
separation of Johnstone
and Georgia Straits

South
to Brooks Peninsula

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The PNCIMA Initiative's purpose is to ensure a healthy, safe, and prosperous ocean area by engaging all interested parties in the collaborative development and implementation of an integrated management plan for PNCIMA.

This new approach will:

- foster the sustainable development of the area and its resources
- promote understanding of ocean processes, resources and ecosystems in the area
- promote application of the precautionary approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of the area's resources in order to protect these resources and preserve the marine environment
- reflect that conservation, based on an ecosystem approach, is of fundamental importance to maintaining biological diversity and productivity in the area
- recognize that the oceans and their resources offer significant opportunities for economic diversification and the generation of wealth for the benefit of all Canadians, and in particular for coastal communities in the area
- promote the integrated management of oceans and marine resources in the area
- reaffirm participants' role as world leaders in oceans and marine resource management.

PROCESS

Canada's Ocean Strategy calls for a new approach to oceans governance. This approach includes two key elements:

1. The collaborative development and implementation of an integrated management plan to minimize conflicts amongst users; and
2. The establishment of new institutional governance mechanisms to improve decision making.

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 ocean-related activities.

Stakeholders and communities will engage with governments through mechanisms which may include an integrated stakeholder advisory committee, working groups, PNCIMA forums, and existing

advisory bodies. Stakeholders and communities are being asked for their input on these and other ways to be involved.

Institutional Governance Mechanisms

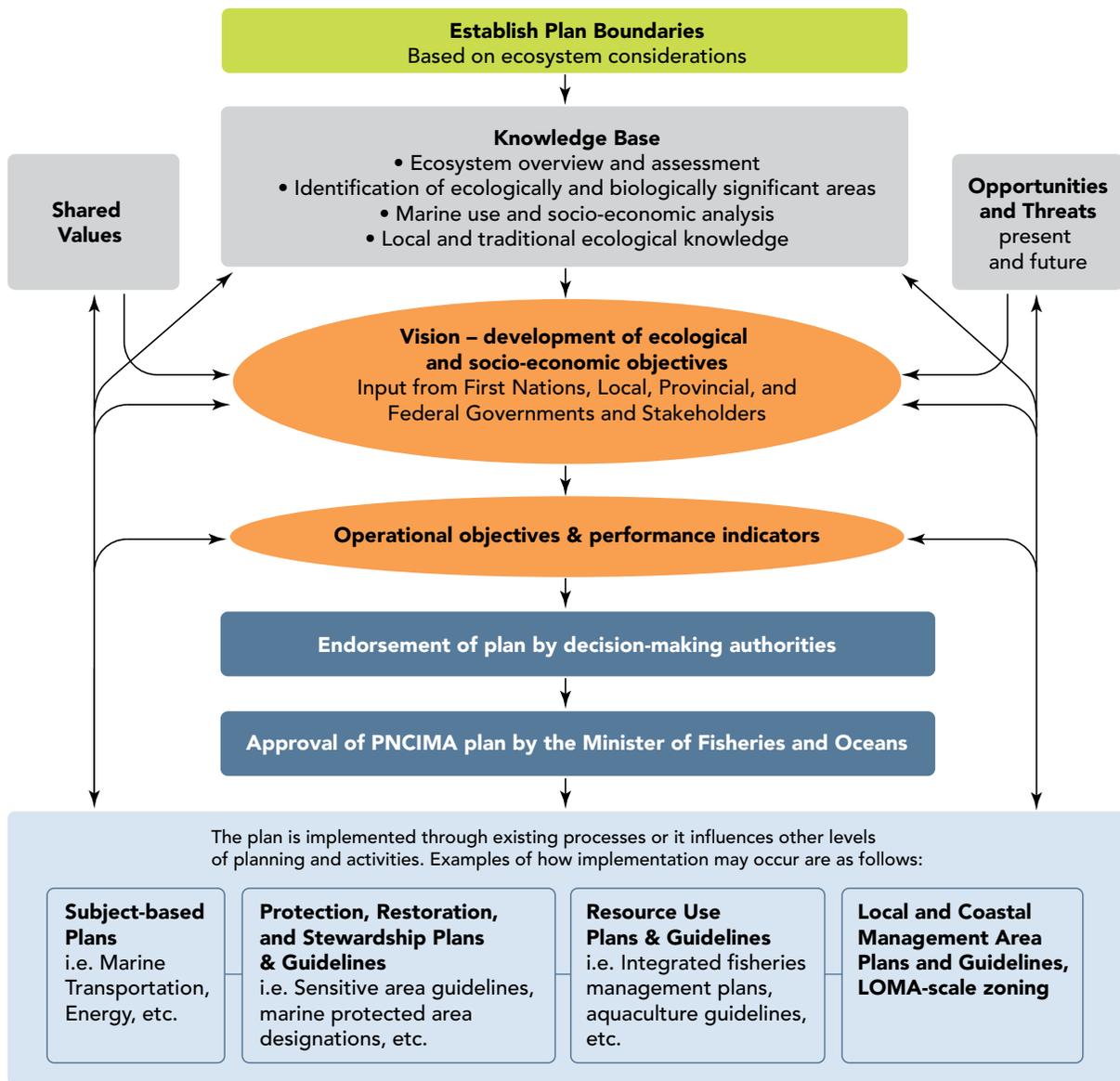
On December 11, 2008 the Government of Canada, the Coastal First Nations, and the North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Collaborative Ocean Governance, establishing a new governance mechanism through which these groups could work together to support the PNCIMA planning process.

Under the PNCIMA MOU, leaders work together in a Steering Committee that is responsible for strategic direction and executive oversight. Government and technical staff work together in a Secretariat which supports the Steering Committee.

Federal agencies coordinate their participation on the Steering Committee and Secretariat through an Interdepartmental Committee, while individual First Nations coordinate through collective organizations and a Governance Committee.

Consistent with the PNCIMA Initiative's principle of adaptive management, the governance model is expected to evolve as relationships and experience are built. For example, PNCIMA may evolve into a tripartite governance structure, including Federal, Provincial, and First Nation representation (the Provincial government currently is observing the process and considering its participation). In addition, discussions are on-going with individual First Nations who are not members of the collective First Nations bodies. The role of federal agencies with oceans management responsibilities will also be further refined over time.

Figure A



PRODUCTS AND PLANS

The primary output of the PNCIMA initiative is an integrated management plan for the area. This plan could be supported by more detailed plans in local and coastal areas, as well as subject-based plans. *Figure A* shows the main elements of plan development and implementation.

The plan will be informed by a knowledge base, which includes an ecosystem overview, marine environmental quality review, socio-economic analysis, marine use analysis, and traditional & local ecological knowledge.

This knowledge base will be used, along with shared values and an understanding of opportunities and threats, to define

a vision and objectives. These will then be translated into operational objectives and performance indicators. Existing management processes will then incorporate the endorsed vision, objectives, and indicators into future plans and activities.

In order to maintain a strong connection between the overall plan and different activities and processes in the area, a series of topic based working groups will inform and be informed by plan development. The first working group will focus on marine transportation. In addition, local and coastal area plans will inform and be informed by topic based groups and the overall plan.

STRATEGIC QUESTIONS

Stakeholder engagement is critical to the successful development of an integrated management plan for the PNCIMA. In order to advance the collaborative creation of a broader more inclusive planning process, input is being sought from all parties on the following three questions:

Stakeholder Engagement

There are a number of ways to ensure that effective and meaningful stakeholder engagement occurs throughout the PNCIMA process.

What kind of stakeholder engagement process would work for you?

PNCIMA Values

To ensure that the PNCIMA planning process results in an effective plan, it will be critical that we work together to develop a vision and objectives for this process.

What are some guiding principles and values that you or your group feels should be included in the vision for the PNCIMA initiative into the future?

PNCIMA Issues, Opportunities, and Challenges

There are many issues, opportunities, and challenges that should be considered as part of the PNCIMA planning process.

What are your key issues, opportunities and concerns?

PRINCIPLES

Sustainable development

Environmental, social and cultural values are considered with the aim of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Integrated management

A cooperative process that brings together all partners in the planning and management of activities in estuarine, coastal and marine waters while seeking balanced consideration of the full range of biological, social and economic objectives and perspectives.

Precautionary approach

Erring on the side of caution.

Inclusiveness

A diversity of stakeholder interests will be included and engaged in a meaningful way in PNCIMA initiatives and stakeholder interests will be considered equally in all recommendations or decisions.

Authorities

Each party brings authorities and mandates to the PNCIMA initiative and will respect, and will together benefit from those authorities and mandates in the process.

First Nations

Federal and provincial governments have fiduciary relationships with aboriginal people. The PNCIMA initiative reflects a relationship between the federal and First Nations governments that is of a different character than that between governments and stakeholders.

Consensus

Participants in the PNCIMA planning process will seek to develop recommendations through consensus.

Efficiency

Issues will be addressed in a timely manner.

Accountability

Participants in the PNCIMA planning process are committed to accountability – both to their constituents and to each other.

Transparency

Recommendations will be made openly, with information and results shared with all participants.

Adaptability

The process is designed to permit and support evolution and will be monitored and evaluated to support shared learning and adaptation through adaptive management.

Knowledge-Based

Recommendations will be based on best available information and will include both science-based and traditional ecological/local ecological knowledge, information and data.

PEOPLE

For more information about PNCIMA, please contact:

PNCIMA Secretariat
phone (604) 666-8437
email info@pncima.org

Canada 



Coastal First Nations –
Turning Point Initiative

North Coast – Skeena
First Nations Stewardship Society