



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada



June 6, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Governments of Canada and British Columbia are pleased to introduce the draft ***Canada-British Columbia Marine Protected Area Network Strategy*** (Strategy). This Strategy has been jointly developed by federal and provincial agencies, and demonstrates our commitment to work together to efficiently and effectively conserve BC's rich natural and socio-cultural marine resources.

A common foundation for marine protected area (MPA) network planning across Canada is provided by the draft *National Framework for Canada's Network of Marine Protected Areas* ("National Framework"). You will have had an opportunity to provide comments on the National Framework through an extensive national consultation process that concluded in late February, 2011. The Pacific Region, however, has its own unique geography and ecology, socio-economic conditions, and legislative tools. Therefore, the governments of Canada and British Columbia developed a Strategy that articulates ecological and socio-economic objectives and principles that are relevant for the Pacific region. The Strategy proposes a phased approach to implementation that will involve all marine interests and stakeholders whose participation will be essential for building a successful MPA network.

We welcome your feedback on marine protected area network planning in British Columbia and seek your views on the Strategy. Please comment on any aspect of the document or, to assist you in providing your feedback, you may wish to address the questions in the attached feedback guidance form. The draft Strategy will be posted for comment on Fisheries and Oceans' public consultation website (<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/consultation/oceans/canada-bc/index-eng.htm>) until August 31, 2011. Alternatively, you can direct your responses and inquiries to MPAIT@gov.bc.ca, or to:

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There are other ways you can share your impressions of, and suggestions for, the strategic approach to MPA network planning as set out in the draft Strategy. We are proposing to meet with marine stakeholders in a more public forum in Vancouver on June 20, 2011, at the Westin Grand (please RSVP to MPAIT@gov.bc.ca by June 15th). At your request, we would also be pleased to arrange a trilateral meeting.

We have attached some related materials that may help clarify the MPA network concepts and proposed approach. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments concerning this important initiative.

Sincerely,



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encl. Draft *Canada-British Columbia Marine Protected Area Network Strategy*
Review Guidance
Frequently Asked Questions