

Coastal First Nations announces collaborative marine planning initiative

The Coastal First Nations is creating marine plans in partnership with the Province for Haida Gwaii, the Central Coast and the North Coast.

The initiative, known as the Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast (MaPP), was launched on November 28th, 2011. “Our partnership with the Province will support the development of marine plans for Haida Gwaii, the North Coast, and the Central Coast,” said Art Sterritt.

Sterritt, the executive director of Coastal First Nations, added the three sub regional marine plans will be integrated to generate regional planning products and guidance that will be informed by scientific and technical expertise in areas such as social sciences and economics, marine biology, ecology and oceanography. It’s anticipated the marine plans will be completed by December, 2013.

The collaborative planning partnership aligns with and builds on earlier successful agreements between the Coastal First Nations and the Province, Sterritt said. “The reconciliation protocols and the strategic land and resource management agreements provide us with frameworks that we can draw on as we move forward with marine planning.”

The agreements foster a coordinated and efficient approach to land and resource management, collaborative engagement and decision-making, he said.

An important feature of MaPP is that it will carry out meaningful and transparent community and public engagement with industry, environmental non-governmental organizations and other interested parties, Sterritt said. “Marine plans will incorporate an ecosystem-based management approach, which is inherent in First Nations’ management of our marine environments and has been adopted by the Province, to ensure the co-existence of healthy marine ecosystems and human communities. Traditional ecological and local knowledge will inform the planning process and outcomes, which will include strategies that promote the economic, social and cultural well-being of B.C.’s coastal communities.”

Additional information – Background

Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast is a joint marine planning process between First Nations and the Province of British Columbia. Member First Nations include:

- Coastal First Nations (CFN), as directed by:
 - Heiltsuk Nation
 - Council of the Haida Nation
 - Old Massett Village Council
 - Haisla first Nation – Kitamaat Village
 - Gitga’at First Nation – Hartley Bay
 - Metlakatla First Nation – Metlakatla
 - Kitasoo/Xaixais First Nation
 - Skidegate Band Council
 - Wulkinuxv Nation
 - Nuxalk Nation
- North Coast – Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society (NCSFNSS), as directed by:
 - Gitga’at First Nation – Hartley Bay
 - Gitxaala First Nation – Kitkatla
 - Metlakatla First Nation – Metlakala
 - Kitsumkalum First Nation – Kitsumkalum
 - Kitselas First Nation
 - Haisla First Nation – Kitamaat Village
- Nanwakolas Council (NC), as directed by:
 - Kwakiutl First Nation
 - Mamalilikulla-Qwe’Qwa’Sot’Em First Nation
 - ‘Namgis First Nation
 - Da’naxda’xw Awaetlatla First Nation
 - Gwa’sala-‘Nakwaxda’xw First Nation
 - Kwiakah First Nation
 - K’omoks First Nation
 - Tlowitsis First Nation