



PNCIMA INITIATIVE  
PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

DRAFT BACKGROUNDER › MARCH 2010

## 1 Purpose of this Document

*This background document is intended to give interested parties an overview of the outputs, timeline, structures, and planning process for the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) initiative.*

*A PNCIMA Planning Office document.*

*For more information about the PNCIMA initiative, please consult [www.pncima.org](http://www.pncima.org), or contact [info@pncima.org](mailto:info@pncima.org).*

Two other documents provide additional information about the PNCIMA initiative relevant to this Process Overview. *The Context for the PNCIMA Initiative Planning Process* background document describes why integrated management is important, and the governance arrangements and legislation that guide the PNCIMA initiative. The *PNCIMA Initiative Engagement Strategy* document describes a draft strategy for how interested and affected parties may participate in the planning process. Both documents are available on the PNCIMA initiative website ([www.pncimca.org](http://www.pncimca.org)).

## 2 Process Outputs

The main output of the planning process is a draft Integrated Management Plan (IMP). More specifically, an IMP will include:

- A vision and shared values for the area
- A description of the PNCIMA's main characteristics, summarized from key reports.
- A description of the key issues and opportunities in PNCIMA, summarized from participants and key reports
- An ecosystem-based management framework for the marine environment including goals, objectives and indicators for respecting the cultural, social, economic, and ecological health of the area;
- Oceans management recommendations, including:
  - Spatial management plan(s);
  - Management strategies and recommended practices (e.g., best practices for wastewater discharge)
- An implementation strategy, including an accountability matrix connecting various agencies' roles and responsibilities with relevant components of the integrated management plan; and,
- Enduring arrangements for on-going management.

Plans and processes already completed or underway that relate to PNCIMA will inform these outputs.

## 3 Process Structures

### 3.1 Engagement Structures

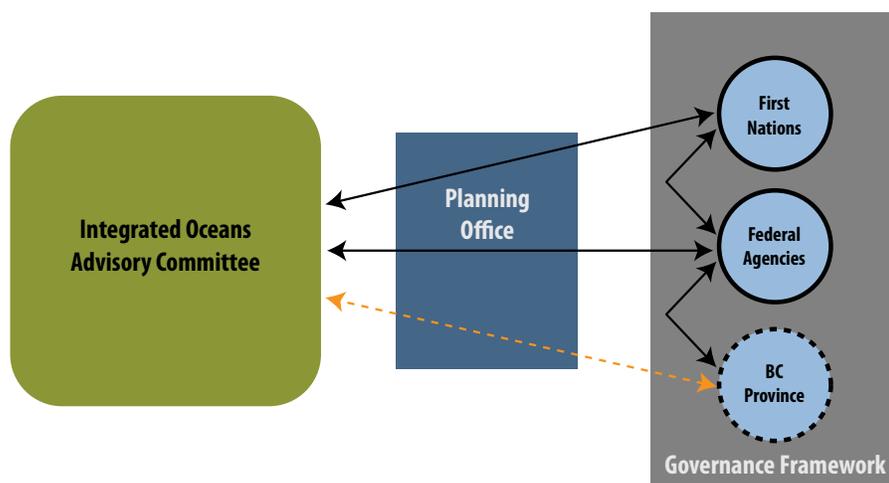
Stakeholder engagement in the planning process is critical to the success of the PNCIMA initiative. In order to achieve effective engagement, numerous options for participation are proposed, including:



- **PNCIMA Integrated Oceans Advisory Committee** The Integrated Oceans Advisory Committee (IOAC) will be an ongoing multi-sector advisory body that will help provide guidance on the planning process, its outputs, and implementation of the integrated management plan.
- **PNCIMA Working Groups** Working Groups will be formed on a time-limited basis to provide advice and recommendations on specific issues and/or products being considered in the development of the integrated management plan(s).
- **Existing advisory processes** The PNCIMA initiative will discuss issues that are relevant to specific sectors or areas through existing advisory processes, where applicable. Recommendations arising from PNCIMA discussions will be brought to these bodies for their response and comment, which would inform the work of the IOAC and Working Groups within the PNCIMA initiative.

Details on these and other opportunities for engagement are provided in the document titled, *PNCIMA Initiative Stakeholder Engagement Strategy* available at [www.pncima.org](http://www.pncima.org).

Figure 1 outlines the basic process structure components that will play a role in the PNCIMA initiative.



*Figure 1 Basic planning process structure components*

*Dotted lines reflect the Provincial government's current participation as an observer to the PNCIMA initiative.*

## 3.2 Planning Office

To support the PNCIMA planning process and the work of the engagement structures listed in section 3.1, the Planning Office has been established by federal agencies and First Nations to play a coordinating role for activities and to develop products related to PNCIMA planning. The Planning Office consists of appointed participants from the federal government and First Nations, with the Province of BC currently involved as an observer. The responsibilities of the Planning Office will be to:

- Administrate and organize meetings, workgroups, science advice, and communications;
- Draft documents (work plans, terms of reference for working groups, minutes, reports, *etc.*);
- Provide technical guidance to the IOAC, working groups, science groups, *etc.*;
- Serve as a communications link between the IOAC and the governance framework;
- Establish linkages between the PNCIMA initiative and existing initiatives, advisory processes and/or other bodies; and
- Draft planning products and the integrated management plan(s) based on information and input from the IOAC, public engagement, existing advisory and planning processes, working groups, science advice, and government legislation and policy.

## 3.3 Governance Framework

Several agreements and coordinating bodies exist among federal government agencies and provincial government agencies to provide strategic direction and oversight to oceans management for Canada's Pacific coast<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, First Nations and federal agency staff work together on a Bilateral Coordination Steering Committee that provides strategic direction and executive oversight specific to the PNCIMA initiative. Collectively, these agreements and bodies serve as a governance framework for the PNCIMA initiative that can support the engagement structures listed above.

As the IOAC works collaboratively with the Planning Office on recommendations for an integrated management plan, opportunities will be planned

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<sup>1</sup> The agreements and bodies are described in more detail in "The Context for the PNCIMA initiative" document available at [www.pncima.org](http://www.pncima.org)

for dialogue between governance framework bodies and the IOAC to help ensure that all parties have a common understanding of the planning process outputs. Elected officials in federal and provincial government agencies will continue to serve as the final decision-making authorities on the components of the integrated management plan that fall within their areas of jurisdiction.

## 4 Process Timeline and Steps

The timeframe to produce the outputs leading to an IMP is two years from the time that the IOAC is convened.

The PNCIMA initiative will follow a series of steps to achieve its outputs. These steps will help maintain a consistent and orderly approach to reaching recommendations for an integrated management plan.

- 1 Develop a collaborative process
- 2 Assemble and analyze information to inform planning
- 3 Establish goals, objectives, and indicators
- 4 Develop strategies to achieve objectives
- 5 Review of, and integration with, other plans existing or underway
- 6 Develop and evaluate scenarios
- 7 Develop draft plan(s) along with implementation and monitoring strategies.

This step-wise approach recognizes that planning for integrated management will generate ongoing review and refinement as it is implemented. As issues arise through time and lessons are learned from initial work, the process structures described in section 4 can respond to ensure the IMP is regularly adapted to reflect changing conditions.

The work done to date for the PNCIMA initiative has focused on the first two steps. The next step for the initiative is to convene an Integrated Oceans Advisory Committee that brings interested and affected parties together to work with governments on the remaining steps.

## 5 Role of Science and Knowledge

Advice based on the best available science will be crucial to the PNCIMA initiative. The traditional and local ecological knowledge of First Nations and coastal communities will also be important. The initiative will draw upon the best available science and knowledge from the region and worldwide in fields relating to Pacific North Coast ecosystems and the management of marine resources. The primary roles of advice based in science and traditional and local ecological knowledge will be to:

- Provide recommendations and advice on information and analysis needs for the PNCIMA initiative as requested;
- Identify relevant research or subject matter experts who can provide input regarding specific queries/ feedback on material developed through the process;
- Provide assessments of scientific research as required to identify potential implications for management of coastal and marine resources on the Pacific North Coast;
- Assist in the development of proposals for conducting monitoring of the plan's intended outcomes.

Defining appropriate science and knowledge advisory structures will be an early task of the planning process.

## 6 Linkages to Other Processes

Numerous advisory processes already exist that provide opportunities for stakeholders to provide input to or collaborate with management authorities regarding ocean resources and conservation. Many of these advisory processes are specific to a sector. Examples of these include commercial fishery advisory boards to DFO and the regional Canadian Marine Advisory Council to Transport Canada. There are also currently a number of existing ocean and coastal management plans or planning processes underway for geographic areas in the PNCIMA. Examples include coastal plans developed by the Province of BC, the proposed Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, and the planning process for a Marine Wildlife Area around the Scott Islands being lead by Environment Canada.

The PNCIMA initiative works at a broader level than the management of any one activity or smaller geographic area. It provides governments and stakeholders with a framework that will influence and inform management of individual activities and areas in the context of coordinated and sustainable management of oceans.



The PNCIMA initiative will fulfill this role by:

- Communicating regularly with existing processes:
  - Discussing issues that are particularly relevant to one local area, sector, institution or group through existing advisory processes;
  - Bringing proposals arising from PNCIMA discussions to these processes for their response and comment.
- Integrating with existing plans and associated processes:
  - Developing an inventory of existing plans;
  - Identifying components of existing plans that are relevant to PNCIMA planning;
  - Building upon or creating compatibilities with existing plans and associated processes, or provide recommendations for updating them where they are no longer current;
  - Assessing the cumulative effects and contributions of plans and associated processes on the PNCIMA initiative goals and objectives.

## 7 Resourcing and Partnering

For a large project like the PNCIMA initiative to succeed, various partnering arrangements will be required to draw on the resources and expertise of government agencies, First Nations, sectors, funders, and academics. Some specific areas where partnering could be beneficial include:

- Information-gathering, research, analysis, and shared science to support the collaborative development of planning products;
- Convening comprehensive and effective stakeholder engagement and public communications.

The parties to the MOU on Collaborative Oceans Governance for PNCIMA are currently exploring partnering arrangements that would bring together interested parties with financial support from First Nations, government, and private interests including philanthropic foundations to support the activities described above. Stakeholders will be informed and engaged in discussions about partnering to ensure any arrangements are transparent, support the process effectively, and do not compromise the integrity of the process.





## 8 Implementation

A key output from the planning process will be an implementation strategy that includes an accountability matrix that connects various agencies' roles and responsibilities with relevant components of the integrated management plan. Developing the matrix will help ensure that all parties have a common understanding of which agencies will require an opportunity to review, approve, and implement the integrated management plan. Defining the process and timeline for plan implementation following approvals by relevant authorities will be an important component of the planning process.

A monitoring and evaluation framework will be established for the PNCIMA initiative to assess:

- the planning process;
- implementation of the integrated management plan; and
- effectiveness of the integrated management plan in achieving intended outcomes.

Evaluation results will be used to identify priority areas of the process or plan for further work or modification.