
PNCIMA Forum March 26th and 27th 2009

Executive Summary

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For:

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Turning point Initiative**

Canada 

**North Coast – Skeena
First Nations Stewardship Society**



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1. Introduction

This Executive Summary provides a summary of the inaugural PNCIMA Forum from March 26-27, 2009 in Richmond, British Columbia. The summary captures the perspectives of participants and input from speakers and governments presenting at the Forum, those included by webcasting and results from five preliminary meetings held in the PNCIMA region.

The objectives of the forum were to:

1. Develop a common understanding of the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA).
2. Provide the context for integrated management and marine spatial planning.
3. Develop a common understanding of the PNCIMA Collaborative Oceans Governance Framework and its implementation in PNCIMA.
4. Build support among stakeholders and interested parties to cooperate in a collaborative approach to integrated oceans management.
5. Provide input and identify the next steps in the development and implementation of integrated management plans for PNCIMA.

The Forum was structured to introduce the concepts of integrated management and marine spatial planning by speakers from the different levels of government, First Nations and guest speakers who provided context through case studies of their experiences. Facilitated breakout sessions focused on two key issues for the Forum, a Vision and Stakeholder Engagement. The Forum concluded with a response from the PNCIMA Steering Committee, highlighting messages they heard and indicating next steps for the Initiative.

2. Results

The Forum concluded with a significant amount of information generated to assist stakeholders better understand the directions of the PNCIMA Initiative and how their input may influence its progression. Similarly, organizers were given considerable material to catalyze the Initiative through the development of a common vision and stakeholder engagement strategy, a better appreciation of participant values, interests and perspectives as well as recognition of the challenges that may be faced as the Initiative unfolds.

2.1 Vision

Participants and organizers acknowledged that the Initiative needed to start with a common vision. In particular, there were some themes which emerged in the discussions that identified concepts which, when dovetailed, will provide the outline of participants' vision for the PNCIMA Initiative. The themes that emerged are as follows:

- **Community Based:** The process should be borne from the people, communities and regions that make up PNCIMA to ensure meaningful influence of the decisions and activities that would makeup and arise from the plan.
- **Healthy Oceans:** The health of the oceans is essential for everyone, and human stewardship of the ocean and its ecosystems extends to the rivers and terrestrial activities that influence the marine environment.
- **Role of First Nations:** The role of First Nations is an essential component in the PNCIMA process and First Nations’ participation is key to successful marine use planning in the region.
- **Integration:** An integrated process and plan for the region is needed. There is a need to integrate plans, processes, information and activities to ensure that resulting impacts may be understood and managed.
- **Wealth of knowledge:** Processes that are developed or in place, and the information, knowledge, science, data and results which radiate from them must be accessible and comprehensible. The sharing of information and knowledge among processes is fundamental to education and increased awareness of PNCIMA, and will be a catalyst for progress.
- **Timeline/Urgency:** The process is overdue and must be driven by a sense of urgency. There is a need for good information and science, but some pragmatic decisions may be needed as a matter of priority before complete datasets are available.
- **Capacity:** The process should be appropriately funded and resourced to allow for the potential to be realized. Ensuring that all participants have the capacity to participate in the process is seen as essential to achieve consistent and equitable representation among sectors.
- **Implementable/Enforceable:** A plan that is “implementable” entails being efficient and effective, not unwieldy or impractical to manage or enforce. Similarly, enforcement must be achievable and performable, with real consequences and defined mechanisms to punish offenders.
- **Monitoring/Evaluation:** Monitoring and evaluation should be achieved through a feedback mechanism which allows the Initiative to continually inform itself and be adaptable to new information, enabling the plan to become durable and effective in the future.

Furthermore, there were a number of principles expressed by participants that should inform how the vision for the Initiative is delivered. These include:

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| • Commitment | • Interest Based |
| • Inclusive | • Accountable |
| • Responsive | • Transparent |
| • Collaborative | |

2.2 Stakeholder Engagement

Generating input for a “stakeholder” engagement strategy was a central objective for the PNCIMA Forum, with breakout sessions dedicated to documenting contributions from participants. Participants recognized that “how” their voices were represented,

acknowledged and accounted for throughout the PNCIMA Initiative would be fundamental to resulting outputs and recommendations. This resulted in the following themes emerging from the breakout session and discussions in general.

- **Relationships/Trust/Accountability:** The degree to which the engagement strategy can develop relationships and especially trust will influence the success of the PNCIMA Initiative.
- **Complexity – Scale and Issues:** The scale of engagement is important. It speaks to ownership, accountability and influence over the issues most relevant to participants’ area and the decisions which result.
- **Representation:** Addressing the concept of representation is an important first step in establishing trust and relationships. Representation is a responsibility suggesting there will be a need for some accountability, both in expressing the interests of stakeholders and in reporting back results.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Within the context of representation, the various roles of different levels of government, as well as the limits of stakeholder influence, have to be clarified.
- **Capacity:** Better funded sectors should not be able to sway the process or influence decisions. However, funding is only one component of capacity. There are also practical questions of staffing, access to information, interpretation of data, training, time and travel.
- **Timeline:** A timeline for the Initiative that reflects the need for progress and the urgency to get started is needed. There is a need for a “roadmap” that will assist participants to identify where they may access the process and be accessible to others, in addition to tracking where parallel processes and stakeholder engagement may be happening.
- **Communication:** A satisfactory outcome will include participants’ feeling that they are part of the process, being listened to and being respected. Participants understood that an effective strategy will need to be informed through effective communication.

A number of very specific principles emerged that participants suggested should guide the engagement strategy. As expected, these principles mirrored the principles discussed in the vision breakout session:

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|---------------------------|------------------|
| • Transparency | • Accountability |
| • Access | • Commitment |
| • Consistency | • Inclusive |
| • Clarity | • Interest Based |
| • Sharing and Reciprocity | • Collaborative |

2.3 Challenges

The following list indicates, in no particular order, some of the key challenges heard or implied through the discussion at the PNCIMA Forum.

1. **Timing and Data:** The need to act boldly, sometimes without complete knowledge will be essential if environmental values are not to be compromised through the passage of time.

2. **Uneven Resources:** An ongoing obstacle may be the disproportionate resources various parties have. Funding can address some of this but equal access to information and expertise will also be challenging.
3. **Current and Future Regulation:** How existing regulatory bodies, local actions and new systems are integrated remains a central question for the Initiative to address.
4. **Attitude and Responsibility:** Translating the vision and philosophy of the PNCIMA Initiative into action and behaviour will also require an adjustment of attitude. Who will control the stewardship of the region and how cooperation among federal governments, First Nations, other governments and stakeholders will work will all need to be determined through the planning process.
5. **Primacy of Values:** The priority or primacy of various values will also be a challenge. The Initiative will have to consider whether *balance* is the prime objective or whether a specific value (e.g. the ecosystem, economic well-being, community cohesiveness) will trump others.
6. **First Nations Engagement:** The Initiative's chances of success will be greater if all coastal First Nations in the PNCIMA region are engaged. First Nations not yet a part of the PNCIMA Initiative through the collaborative governance MOU will need to have a real and effective voice if the Crown's obligations for consultation and cooperation are to be honoured.
7. **Governance Framework:** There is a governance framework in place. However, the absence of several First Nations and the Province of British Columbia will have to be addressed and clarified as it relates to decision making and engagement issues. Perhaps more important will be clarity about limits to mandates and the limits to decision-making, recommendatory power and advisory power among stakeholders.

3. Next Steps

The PNCIMA Steering Committee felt it was important to identify how the messages they heard would be addressed, what new steps they will undertake and what activities currently underway will continue in the next year.

In correlation with the PNCIMA Secretariat the Steering Committee will:

1. Take steps to advance the stakeholder engagement strategy and consultations;
2. Develop and finalize a PNCIMA process Terms of Reference based on the governance structure, stakeholder engagement strategy, and input received in the PNCIMA Preparatory Meetings and at the Forum;
3. Start the Marine Transportation Working Group (MTWG);
4. Take a community based approach to the PNCIMA Initiative; and
5. Contribute to the information and knowledge base.

There are a number of ongoing activities and/or processes which members of the Steering Committee will continue to be involved in. These include:

- DFO’s continued work with Parks Canada on the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA)
- DFO’s continued work to move forward with the Glass Sponge Reef Area of Interest (AOI)
- Environment Canada’s continued work to move forward with the Scott Islands National Wildlife Area designation
- Linking with past and current provincial planning activities and linking land-use planning to marine-use planning
- First Nations continued work on the development of Community Plans

An assembly of a general timeline over the next year in terms of short, medium and long-term time frames was provided:

Short Term	Medium Term	Longer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release of the PNCIMA Discussion Paper • Development of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy • Release of all Forum Meeting Notes and Reports • Maintenance and updating of the PNCIMA website • Organization of Community Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the PNCIMA process Terms of Reference • Establishment of the Marine Transportation Working Group • Finalization of the Coral and Sponge Conservation Strategy • Continued work on the Gwaii Haanas NMCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of the Socio-Economic and Cultural Overview Assessment (SECOA) report • Organization of the 2010 Fall Forum