

PNCIMA Community Consultation Highlights

Skidegate, Masset, Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Campbell River, Port Hardy, Shearwater, Bella Coola, Vancouver

March 29 to April 13

Prepared by: Alex Grzybowski, Community Consultations Independent Facilitator

1.0 Introduction

The PNCIMA Planning Office and Steering Committee undertook community consultations in Skidegate, Masset, Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Campbell River, Port Hardy, Shearwater, Bella Coola, and Vancouver between March 29 to April 13, 2010. The purpose of the consultations was to get feedback from communities on options for public and stakeholder participation in the PNCIMA planning process. These options are outlined in the proposed PNCIMA Engagement strategy (<http://www.pncima.org/>) which was presented at each of the public consultation meetings. In addition to receiving information on the engagement strategy, meeting participants were provided with an update on PNCIMA implementation progress. Most of the discussion time was dedicated to key questions regarding the engagement strategy proposal.

This document provides highlights from these community discussions. It is structured in keeping with the agenda that was followed in the community meetings: PNCIMA Overview and Update; Engagement Strategy Presentation; Feedback on the Engagement Strategy Proposals. Comprehensive and detailed information on each meeting can be found on video or in the individual meeting notes which can be accessed at (<http://www.pncima.org/>). In addition, answers to general questions about PNCIMA can be found on the same website or by contacting the PNCIMA Planning Office.

The PNCIMA planning office is revising the Engagement Strategy based on the feedback it has received and will be starting implementation in June.

2.0 PNCIMA Overview and Update

Representatives of the PNCIMA steering committee (oversees implementation of PNCIMA) attended all of the meetings, welcomed participants and provided a brief overview and update on PNCIMA implementation progress. Copies of this presentation are available at (<http://www.pncima.org/>). Highlights from the presentation include:

- Summary of policy and legislative context – oceans strategy and act;
- PNCIMA Governance – various interagency and intergovernmental committees including Federal First Nation committees established as a result of the FN DFO Memorandum of Understanding;
- Summary of work to date
 - Released all 2009 PNCIMA Forum proceedings, presentations, videos
 - Launched new PNCIMA initiative website (www.pncima.org)
 - Released Issues, Challenges and Opportunities Discussion Paper
 - Held numerous follow-up meetings with different interested and affected parties
 - Started the Socio-Economic and Cultural Overview and Assessment (SECOA) report
 - Held a SECOA workshop to obtain community feedback
 - Developed a draft engagement strategy, process overview and context
- Next Steps
 - 2010 – Finalize Stakeholder engagement strategy and initiate; develop definition of ecosystem-Based Management

- 2011 - Ecological & Socioeconomic objectives/indicators; Identify strategies and management measures (e.g., spatial management plans, best management practices) for achieving objectives
- 2012 - Draft Integrated Management Plan and submit to decision makers

3.0 Engagement Strategy Proposal

The PNCIMA Planning Office (responsible for day to day implementation of PNCIMA) presented the draft PNCIMA Engagement Strategy (full presentation available at <http://www.pncima.org/>). Highlights from the Presentation include:

- Strategy was developed based on the results of 2009 PNCIMA Forum and community meetings; subsequent discussions with stakeholder and community representatives.
- Strategy includes 5 options for participation: Integrated Oceans Advisory Committee (IOAC); Working Groups; Workshops/Meetings/Forums; Existing Advisory Processes; the Internet.
- IOAC: Ongoing, multi-sector advisory body; Consensus-seeking; Will work collaboratively with Planning Office on recommendations for an integrated management plan; Participants from commercial and recreational users, coastal communities, ENGOs, etc.; Membership and size will reflect balanced consideration of inclusivity and efficiency
- Working Groups: Topic or geography specific; Time limited; Reviewing/developing products related to specific issues; membership will depend on the topic. – e.g. Marine Transportation
- Workshops/Meetings/Forums:
 - PNCIMA Forums: open to all interested parties; reporting out, inviting questions and feedback
 - Workshops: participants typically invited based on interest, experience or expertise; in-depth analysis and discussion about a specific topic, e.g. February 2010 SECOA workshop in Prince Rupert
 - Topic/area specific meetings: listening, informing and engaging interested parties as required
- Existing Advisory Processes: Existing advisory processes provide opportunities for stakeholder input to management authorities on ocean resources and conservation; Some are activity-specific (e.g. SFAB), some are area-specific (eg. Gwaii Haanas); Advisory process can develop outputs for integration into PNCIMA; Recommendations from the PNCIMA initiative will come to these bodies for their input; that input will inform PNCIMA planning
- PNCIMA Website: Central, public source of information for the process; Will serve as an online mechanism for gathering feedback and input on products and planning issues; May also be used to conduct polls, surveys and other mechanisms for gathering input and comment

4.0 Feedback on Engagement Strategy Proposals

After completion of the two presentations and general Q & A. the discussion focused on key questions that the Planning Office and the Steering Committee were seeking advice on regarding the engagement strategy. In all but 2 communities the meetings broke into smaller groups to discuss the questions then each group reported on the results of their discussions. The discussion results were recorded on feedback forms by the groups and any individuals that wanted to provide additional feedback during or after the meeting. Highlights from the responses to the questions are provided below organized around each of the questions.

1. Integrated Oceans Advisory Committee (IOAC)

a. What changes would you recommend making to the list of responsibilities of the IOAC (p. 5 Engagement Strategy)?

- Be pragmatic about concrete outcomes the IOAC can deliver over a 2 year period – E.g. some spatial plans for specific areas, a definition and commitment to EBM, identification of areas for follow up work
- Clarify where recommendations go, who writes plan, the planning process, how does IOAC interact with governance framework
- Ensure IOAC communicates with the regions and communities
- Focus the mandate of the IOAC and PNCIMA on the sustainability of the whole area considered in terms of sustainable and ecologically rational sub-units.
- Provide advice on how local communities should be compensated for suffering impacts of developments
- IOAC terms of reference need to recognize the coast wide implications of many specific development and management issues

b. How would you suggest adjusting the proposed participation in the IOAC recognizing the need for balance and an efficient number of members?

- Effective representation of regions and communities is essential to success; 5 options for achieving this:
 - Blend sector and regional representation (e.g. each sector takes on added responsibility to represent a region) – keeps table small and workable with enhanced community representation
 - Parallel processes – significantly expanded IOAC (up to 30 or 40 with proportionally more community representation) working with regional forums in the 4 regions (HG, NC, CC, NI) all of which facilitate communication and provide feedback on specific products that come out of working groups and workshops.
 - Expanded IOAC but not too expanded – community representation increased to 1 or 2 from each of the 4 regions (HG, NC, CC, NI)
 - Variation on expanded group: have a second row of participant observers/alternates that can communicate with and replace representatives at the table. This would enable more community (and potentially other sector) reps to be in the room and still keep the table small.
 - Regionally based IOAC – regional forums send representatives to IOAC on the basis of what issues will be discussed at the IOAC. Therefore the IOAC membership shifts with the agenda. There would be no PNCIMA wide sector representation in this model.
- keep it small (25 per max, 15 ideal) and clarify that it's not the only opportunity for participation.
- allow for alternates (attend and be informed, step in when someone's away) (but also allow for more people in the room from that same interest that don't speak but stay informed – UN model)
- Don't just consider balance between individual sectors but also recreational, commercial, and community interests
- focus on both balanced composition and an experienced membership
- balance between first nations and non-first nations representation
- Missing sectors/areas/interests include; forestry, interface with upland and watersheds, food fishing, the province, academics, youth
- Include two members from the SFAB – one south coast and one north coast member

- Marine conservation involves many different perspectives and types of expertise – marine ecosystems protection, seabirds/mammals, sustainable fisheries, naturalists, environmentalists – one person cannot represent all of these
- don't lump together renewable and non-renewable energy

c. What advice would you give the Planning Office in order to make the IOAC effective?

- Develop a rules of engagement/participation agreement at the outset
- Provide training or capacity building on effective collaboration and problem solving
- Include a dispute resolution process – e.g. facilitated meetings between parties in conflict with solutions brought back to the table.
- Provide independent facilitation and effective co-chairs
- Ensure there are clear workplans
- There is strong need and role for independent science, local and traditional knowledge
- Provide a balance between oral history and written science.
- Clarify how that group will be supported – need a budgetary plan for the IOAC and a funding commitment by DFO
- develop effective networks within regions/interest groups to get important PNCIMA information out
- cover travel costs and prevent loss of income; some groups may have more funding which shouldn't compromise the ability of others to participate.
- Extend the TOR beyond 2012 – The institutional arrangements need to be enduring.

2. Working Groups

a. What topics and or locations do you think require a working group and what would they focus on specifically?

- Science, local and traditional knowledge working group or panel to gather and distill relevant information and provide feedback on EBM thresholds
- EBM WG – short term to assist in developing EBM definition
- economic sustainability WG – delivering concrete outputs that result in sustainable economic activities in communities
- economic opportunities – break down by regions - Increasing local/community benefits derived from ocean resources
- capacity and community building for emerging economies, how locals access resources adjacent to their communities
- working groups for contentious issues – transportation (tanker traffic); aquaculture (finfish); fisheries (common vision for the future for fisheries)
- Marine conservation – MPAs and other conservation options
- integration WG – focussed on what gets integrated and how? Could start by integrating sector visions (how do sectors envision the coast 20 years from now and are those visions compatible? If not, what are the incompatibilities that need to be resolved)
- marine transportation - Cumulative effects of increasing marine transportation and oil tanker traffic
- sustainable fisheries (all different fishing interests instead of independent sectors)
- By-catch – focussed on strategies to reduce by-catch
- Communications and outreach – with focus on ensuring those that are interested know about PNCIMA and have access to information
- Climate change – approach to monitoring and adaptation

- Renewable and Alternate energy - could develop policy on siting for energy developments
- monitoring indicators for ecosystem health
- Oil spill response and effective sharing of community plans and ensuring that agencies have the best information available on ecologically sensitive areas and a protocol for contacting and notifying people
- Cumulative effects assessment.
- Industry/Tourism – working group to resolve issues
- Waste management and discharges
- Finfish Aquaculture including impacts on wild stocks
- Ocean Health in terms of Human health implications
- Marine, coastal and upland interface

3. Meetings (Local and Regional Forums and Workshops)

a. Which topics should be the focus for workshops and forums in your area or regionally?

- renewable energy options, opportunities and potential impacts
- aquaculture (finfish and shellfish separate)
- rare and endemic species
- high productivity marine areas
- marine protected areas (existing work, what's possible, uses that are compatible or not, bringing people up to speed with respect to the developing MPA network)
- What are the tools for conservation management... beyond MPAs.
- Land sea interface issues and solutions
- current knowledge regarding Integrated Oceans Management processes worldwide
- sustainable fisheries
- Enbridge – potential implications and risk management options
- Marine spatial planning as it would relate to PNCIMA area
- razor clams and preventing interception of fisheries,
- air transportation and bird life.
- Marine economic strategies, tool for economic management
- Ocean health, Marine Stewardship and sustainability
- Education and outreach on Oceans issues and solutions
- Point and non-point sources of pollution
- More focused discussions about how sport fishing is conducted in the area
- Suggestions to link to transboundary processes (i.e. Alaska); link to first nations planning in various communities

4. Existing Processes

a. How would you advise the PNCIMA Planning Office to involve existing processes and which ones do you think it would be most important to involve?

These processes/groups can potentially provide products for integration into PNCIMA as well as providing feedback on PNCIMA products:

- area A crab/naikun wind group spatial plan and Broughton area monitoring plan (may produce specific outputs that are quite useful and could be integrated into PNCIMA)
- CMAC – a useful sounding board for a Marine Transportation WG
- Integrated fish harvest planning groups

- NC sustainable marine fisheries and communities initiative (could support NC regional table)
- fisheries advisory processes
- Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area planning committee
- Scott Islands MPA planning table
- community outreach centres as local points of contact
- smaller scale planning throughout PNCIMA – FNs, Gwaii Haanas, local coastal zone or estuary planning
- Rivers Inlet/Smiths Inlet Sockeye Recovery

5. Feedback using the Internet

a. How would you like to participate in PNCIMA using the internet?

- Use social media including setting up a Facebook page
- Internet access is limited in smaller communities – need to make arrangements with schools or government offices to provide community access to the internet to get info., participate in webcasts etc.
- feedback using the internet on particular products needs to be interactive... i.e. web based workshop that facilitates input from a broad variety of people – communication and dialogue, not just email
- use webcasts and skype
- set up virtual library
- internet cannot replace the need for periodic face to face engagements
- ensure community libraries have access to hard copies of the information and the website
- meeting schedule needs highlighted on the PNCIMA home page
- use community access program centres that exist in some communities that can help people find and access information
- alternative to the internet community include:
 - tv, articles in local papers, local radio
 - mailouts and the local DFO office as a place to pick up info or provide feedback.
 - using the chamber of commerce as a point of contact and chamber of commerce members can distribute info in the communities