

Presentation to the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards

May 4, 2018
Delta Beausejour



NB Experience with MPAs

- NB and Canada established the Musquash Estuary MPA in 2006
- NB participated in the Shediac Valley AOI review
- Participation in the CCFAM Oceans Task Group
- On-going discussions with DFO on MPA Network design for Scotian Shelf and Gulf of St. Lawrence regions

IUCN Categories

- Provide standardization of conservation objectives into categories – **for international consistency and reporting, e.g.,**
 - Protect pristine areas and conserve for reference
 - Protect but allow for research and education
 - Protect specific features
 - Protect ecologically important species, functions
 - Protect sustainable practices

What the IUCN categories are not

- Not prescriptive list of activities permitted or prohibited
- Not codification of activities permitted in each category
- Not a hierarchy
 - Activities should flow from the conservation objectives for the specific MPA, not from pre-determined categories/activities
 - Not a prescription or proscription of activities
 - Would expect most Oceans Act MPAs to be in Categories 4, 5 and 6
 - Other tools may be more appropriate for other conservation objective categories.

Science and conservation based standards

- Standards should ensure the MPA meet their conservation objectives and not be driven by classification and reporting categories
- “sites have been incorrectly assigned on the basis of activities that occur rather than using the stated management objectives”
- Components for Canadian standards
 - Precaution (as understood by TB directives),
 - Ecosystem approach,
 - Best available science,
 - Costs and benefits should be known
 - Conservation measures should be assessed for effectiveness, benefits and costs on a regular basis
 - Standards should be assessed for effectiveness on a regular basis

Indigenous Approaches

- Anticipate First Nations will bring forward their views on indigenous knowledge
- Encourage Indigenous engagement
- Existing studies (Indigenous or Traditional Use Studies) may be available to guide establishment of protection measures.
- Guidelines reflecting Indigenous values, created collaboratively to demonstrate honour of the Crown and reconciliation commitment.
- Input and support from local indigenous groups to manage guidelines reflecting indigenous values
- Guidelines build on the balance of economic, social, environmental and Indigenous values.
- Inclusion of Indigenous people in the identification of Marine Protected Areas.

MPA and other tools

- The targets are for “conservation”, not MPAs. Not all the 10% has to be in an MPA
- Marine conservation has many tools available:
 - SARA designated habitat
 - NMCA
 - *Oceans Act* MPAs
 - *Fisheries Act* Marine Refuges (OEABCMs)
 - *Fisheries Act* Ecological Sensitive Areas
 - *Fisheries Act* management measures
- Use the appropriate tool and coordinate the application of all tools
- Marine space should have a more integrated planning process to delineate the uses: conservation, renewables, extractive, transportation and infrastructure, etc.
- “A practical and functional approach to transparent management for ocean areas and activities that require co-operation of ocean users and Canadians by providing planning, risk management and clear and equitable decision making.”*

*GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN, DFO, 2013

Costs and Benefits

- MPA standards should include consideration of costs and benefits, including equity in the costs
- Benefits to “all Canadians” should not be at the exclusive “cost” to coastal communities
- Conservation measures should be regularly assessed versus their conservation objectives, in both benefits and costs

New Brunswick Perspective Fish and Seafood

- These sectors support thousands of New Brunswick families and is the main economic driver in our rural and coastal communities.
- NB fish and seafood are internationally recognized for quality and SUSTAINABILITY.
- Conservation of the marine environment and ecosystem functions is mandatory

New Brunswick Perspective – Energy

- NB is a rural, coastal province and therefore our economic potential is tied to the marine environment
- Energy potential is currently unknown, and unknowable until an off-shore agreement can be concluded and provide certainty for investment
- Cannot conclude a cost-benefit analysis on conservation measures until energy potential is explored.

New Brunswick Perspective- Environment, Transportation and Tourism

- Environment and Local Government: Existing Provincial Parks (Environmental Impact Assessments)
- Transportation and Infrastructure: Operation, maintenance, upgrading and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure.
- Tourism, Heritage and Culture: Growth from international markets to showcase stewardship

Thank you

