

# Written submission to the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards.

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## Background

A [marine protected area, or MPA](#), is part of the ocean that is legally protected and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature. MPAs are an important tool to safeguard ocean ecosystems and wildlife, to protect community and cultural values, and to generate jobs and economic opportunities. Like most other countries, Canada has [made a commitment to establish MPAs in 10% of its oceans by 2020](#).

MPAs may allow some recreational, harvesting, and economic activities, depending on the potential risks of these activities to the ecological features being protected. Around the world, scientists, governments, Indigenous peoples, and marine industry players have worked together through the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN) to develop a system of [guidelines](#). These guidelines define categories of marine protected areas based on their objectives.

Within Canada, some parties have called for a set of guidelines, including protection standards, to improve consistency in how MPAs are created and managed. The IUCN categories may be helpful as a starting point in creating guidelines for use in Canada.

With all this in mind, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has convened the [National Advisory Panel on MPA Standards](#).

## Mandate of the Panel

The National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards will gather input and perspectives from Canadians in order to offer recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard on categories and associated standards for federal MPAs (i.e., [Oceans Act MPAs](#), [National Wildlife Areas](#), marine [Migratory Bird Sanctuaries](#) and [National Marine Conservation Areas](#)).

The Panel will use the IUCN guidelines, including its recommended marine protected area categories and protection standards, as a baseline, and will also consider whether adjustments to these standards could help meet the goals and expectations of Canadians. The Panel will also consider relevant recommendations of the [Indigenous Circle of Experts](#) and its recommendations on the concept of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) in terrestrial and inland waters.

In carrying out its work, the Panel will seek the perspectives of Canadians regarding values, aspirations, and interests relating to marine protected areas as a tool for ocean conservation and management. The Panel will not be reviewing or making recommendations regarding national or regional MPA targets, any specific MPA proposals, or any specific resource development proposals.

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### Written Submission

Your written submission would be most useful to the Panel if you responded to one or more of the following questions:

1. Experience around the world indicates that well-managed marine protected areas can help safeguard ecosystems and wildlife, rebuild fish stocks, and generate increased economic opportunities. What practical recommendations do you have for creating standards for marine protected areas?
  - a. On what do you base these suggestions? Best available science, indigenous knowledge, ecosystem approach, local knowledge or something else?
2. What role do indigenous approaches play in shaping your suggestions? What kinds of guidelines will help Canada to honour its commitments to reconciliation and new relationships with Indigenous peoples?
3. The IUCN has developed an existing structure to categorize marine protected areas. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the IUCN Guidelines?
4. Overall, do the Guidelines developed by the IUCN work well in the Canadian context?
5. Are there specific circumstances unique to Canada that pose challenges or present opportunities for the use of the IUCN guidelines? What might these be? How should these circumstances be addressed?

Written submissions for the Panel's consideration are to be submitted to the Panel Secretariat at [DFO.NationalAdvisoryPanel-ComitedeConseilNational.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.NationalAdvisoryPanel-ComitedeConseilNational.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) by July 31, 2018. Written submissions will be available online for public viewing following the conclusion of the final Panel meeting.

The Panel Secretariat will review all written submissions, and will summarize for the Panel all key themes and recommendations contributed by Canadians.

### Opportunity to present to the Panel

Would you like your submission to be considered for an oral presentation? If so, please indicate which date and location would be best for you. Panel Meetings are currently anticipated to take place:

- April, 2018 in Vancouver
- May, 2018 in Halifax
- June, 2018 in Iqaluit
- Summer 2018 in Ottawa