

Marine Protected Areas in the Beaufort Sea



To:
National Advisory Panel
on Marine Protected
Area Standards

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Political Landscape

Devolution of Oil & Gas Resources

- *1993 Canada/Yukon Oil & Gas Accord*
 - Canada's commitment to shared offshore management and revenue sharing
 - Established interim joint Federal/Territorial offshore committee
 - Ensures Canada/Yukon coordination of policies affecting offshore matters

- *1997 MOA (Yukon government & First Nations)*
 - Yukon's commitment to Yukon First Nations participation in negotiations of offshore oil & gas resources

- *2008 – Canada/Yukon MOU*
 - Provides clarity and detail regarding the Interim Offshore Provisions of the *Canada/Yukon Oil and Gas Accord*

Existing Oil and Gas Regime

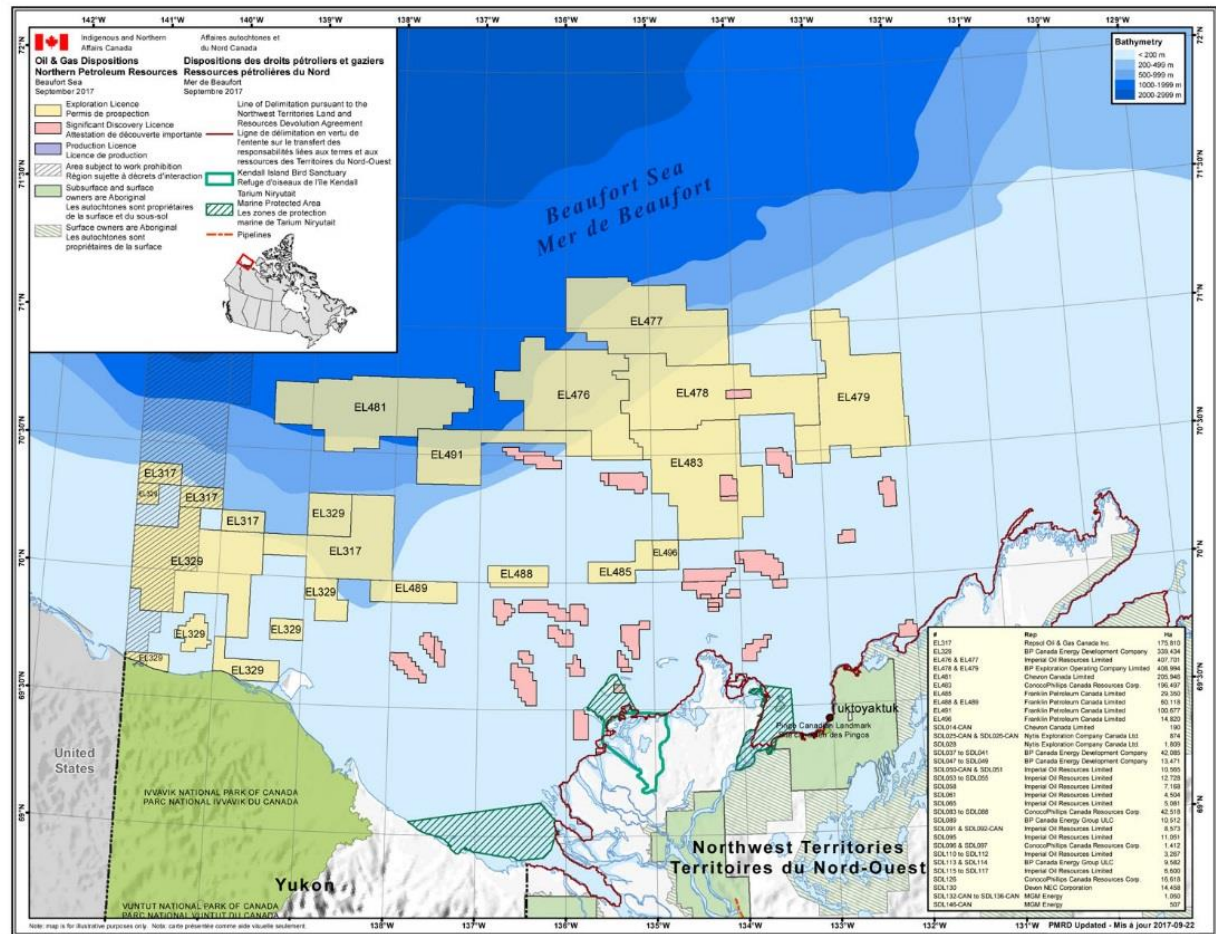
- Management Responsibility
 - Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
- Legislation
 - *Canada Petroleum Resources Act*
 - *Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act*
 - *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*
- Regulator
 - National Energy Board
- Related Co-Management – Inuvialuit Final Agreement
 - Environmental Impact Screening Committee
 - Environmental Impact Review Board



Note: Bill C-69 proposes creating an Impact Assessment Agency and replacing the National Energy Board with the Canadian Energy Regulator. Assessments would take into account environmental impacts, as well as social and economic impacts, and effects on Indigenous peoples.

Resource Potential and Existing Rights

- Natural Gas – 40Tcf
- Oil – 4,500 MMbbls
- Since 2005, new rights acquired by:
 - Encana
 - Shell
 - Imperial
 - ConocoPhillips
 - Chevron
 - ExxonMobil
 - BP
 - MGM
 - Arctic Energy
 - Franklin Petroleum
- Approximately \$2 billion in work commitments



Opportunities

- Revenue
- Education & training
- Employment
- Infrastructure
- Enhanced participation in decision making and assessment processes



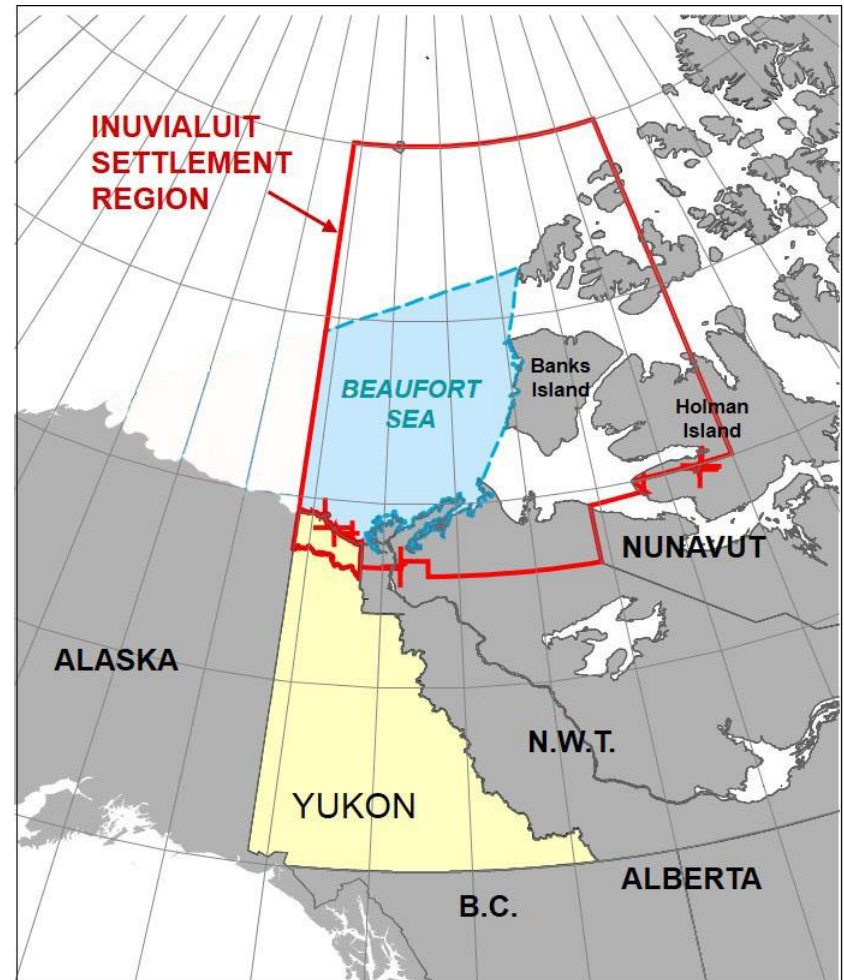


Planning Initiatives

- Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative (1997-2010)
Tarrium Niryutait MPA
- Frontier/Offshore Regulatory Renewal Initiative (2005) (*ongoing*)
- Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action (2004 -2007)
- Integrated Oceans Management Plan (2005-2009) (*ongoing implementation*)
- NEB's Arctic Offshore Drilling Review (2010-11)
- Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment (2011-2015)
- MPA and MPAs Network Planning
- CPRA Review (2016)
- Beaufort Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (2016-2021)
- Canada's Oceans Protection Plan (2016)
- Five-year review of 2016 Arctic offshore oil and gas licencing moratorium

Yukon Offshore Interests

- Governance
- Economic Benefits
- Resource Revenues
- Financial Considerations
- Infrastructure
- Capacity Development
- Sustainable Development



Sustainable Development and MPAs

- Yukon's vision: responsible resource development balanced with environmental management, and benefits for Yukon.
- Social development and economic development need to be considered in addition to environmental protection.
- Environmental management in the Beaufort Sea involves: various federal and territorial government departments and agencies; the Inuvialuit co-management bodies; and non-governmental organizations.
- MPAs primary focus is on environmental protection.
- MPA planning and establishment requires considerable time – potential impacts on economic development (i.e. uncertainty for investors).





Views on Panel 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?

- Don't reinvent the wheel (not "creating" standards)
- IUCN has already done this work with significant multisectoral engagement

a. On what do you base these suggestions? Best available science, indigenous knowledge, ecosystem approach or something else?

- Yukon's practice with PA management is within Yukon (i.e. onshore and coastal).
- Management efficiency, global consistency.
- Consistency in marine, intertidal, and terrestrial/freshwater management regimes is beneficial. This enables different jurisdictions (e.g. Yukon, Canada, and Inuvialuit) can work together under a common framework.
- Consistency for national and international commitments, such as Canada's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Aichi conservation targets, and Canada Target 1.



Views on Panel Questions

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?

2a

- Yukon has had significant successes with collaborative management of terrestrial/coastal protected areas with Inuvialuit and First Nations.
- Our approach: We won't speak for our indigenous partners. For indigenous perspectives, you need to work directly with indigenous people.

2b

- IUCN guidance takes into account indigenous perspectives, traditional management, traditional uses, and governance from around the globe.
- Don't separate terrestrial, freshwater, and marine PAs and planning. Acknowledge jurisdictional silos, then work despite them not within them.
- Understand and follow Final Agreements, treaties, etc.



Views on Panel Questions

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?

Strengths

- Yukon follows IUCN categories for protected areas in Yukon, as do other Canadian Federal/Provincial/Territorial jurisdictions.
- These are global standards, which is important to us, to our partners, and to our stakeholders.
- IUCN marine guidelines ensure consistency with overall IUCN framework that is used around the globe, i.e. the CBD framework
- Incorporates a broad range of protected areas/levels of protection.
- Meets the need for transparency on Canada's implementation of CBD.
- Globally, it is the only standard. It has been the Canadian standard for decades.

Weaknesses

- The IUCN guidelines require technical expertise to interpret and apply them consistently. Fortunately practitioners across Canada have worked together (through the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas) to produce guidance on the practical application of IUCN guidelines in the Canadian context.
- Limited assessment of social and economic potential, opportunities and impacts.

4. Overall, do the Guidelines developed by the IUCN work well in the Canadian context?

- Yes, from Yukon's perspective. Additional thought should go into social and economic aspects.

5. Are there specific circumstances unique to Canada that pose challenges for the use of the IUCN guidelines? What might these be? How should these circumstances be addressed?

- No, from Yukon's perspective.



Key Messages

- Enhanced federal coordination on current planning initiatives and programs, and involvement by Indigenous groups and Territorial governments;
- Fulfil outstanding offshore oil and gas commitments (negotiations as per the Accord);
- Resource development needs to be balanced with environmental protection.
- Considerable research and planning has been undertaken and continues in preparation for oil and gas activity in the Beaufort Sea.
- Existing and proposed regulatory regime ensures environmental protection in the offshore.
- Yukon is committed to responsible development in the Beaufort Sea.
- Ensure MPAs adequately address and mitigate social and economic impacts, and effects on Indigenous people.

Thank You!

