

NANWAKOLAS PRESENTATION TO MPA STANDARDS PANEL
April 6, 2018, Westin Bayshore, Vancouver

1. OUR VIEW ON MARINE PROTECTION & STANDARDS:

- Our 6 Member Nations support the CONCEPT of protecting marine areas and developing standards.
- Protected status and standards must reflect our Member Nations sovereignty, rights and title to the marine protected areas:
 - through prior agreement on protection,
 - through legislative tools that reinforce collaborative management,
 - through full engagement in management planning, administration, compliance monitoring and enforcement, and in research programs.
- Protection and standards must benefit our Nations' long-term access and utilization of the marine resources on which we depend for food, social, ceremonial and (in some cases) commercial purposes.
- Protection and standards must prioritize vulnerable and sensitive cultural features, as well as ecologically significant features.

2. WHAT SHAPES OUR VIEWS:

- We have never surrendered sovereignty, rights and title to our territories and we have an inherited stewardship responsibility.
- We have been engaged for nearly two decades in collaborative terrestrial planning –and in resultant management agreements that were enacted using legislative tools that were created to address our needs (Land Use Orders, BC Conservancies).
- More recently, in Marine Partnership with BC we developed joint plans for our territories that included specific areas for “protection management” along with specific recommended uses and activities.

3. OUR VIEWS ON IUCN TOOLS (CATEGORIES AND STANDARDS):

- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categories of protected areas were applied to our joint NVI Marine Plan with BC.
- We view IUCN categories in the way they were originally set up to be viewed- as a means of comparing our “protection management” areas to marine protected areas around the world.
- Most of our NVI protection areas showed as Category IV areas.

- Similarly, we considered the “standards” that IUCN suggested for allowable uses and activities for each IUCN category, but only as a reference check for the acceptable uses and activities in our Member Nation plans and the joint MaPP plan with BC government.
- We do not believe the IUCN management standards are necessary, even as starting points, for any new protection area in our Member Nation territories, because we have outlined in our plans the uses we believe are compatible with the values we believe are important to manage – **our marine plans are our starting point.**
- IUCN standards are based on **a single-focus approach**, and do not take an integrated planning approach across an entire marine-scape that considers adjacent uses and ecosystem values, impact on existing and future users, etc.

4. ROLE OF INDIGENOUS APPROACHES:

- Clearly this presentation reinforces a much greater need for consideration of First Nation approaches and perspectives in development of protected area standards.
- It also reinforces the need for addressing the role of First Nations in management planning, administration of areas, monitoring and enforcement, as well as research.
- We are very much interested in the tools that would be used for establishing and area for protection, as these tools need to reinforce the stewardship role, rights and title of our Nations.
- A fundamental First Nations approach is that all areas and ecosystems are connected- we therefore think development of standards for protection areas must take into account the management approaches elsewhere in the marine territory.
- Thank you.