

August 29, 2019

To: Mike Featherstone
Pacific Urchin Harvesters Association

Re: **Commercial Fishing Industry Advice into the Northern Shelf Bioregion (NSB)**
Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network

The Marine Planning Team (MPT) is a group of experienced individual commercial fishing industry representatives (Brian Mose, Grant Dovey, Mike Atkins and Bruce Turriss) working on behalf of the commercial fishing industry to minimize the loss of fishing access and negative economic impacts associated with the development of a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in Northern Shelf Bioregion (NSB), which runs from upper Vancouver Island to the Alaskan border. We are writing to you to communicate the process we are undertaking and to seek your assistance in helping to provide experienced knowledgeable participants from your fishery to participate.

The Federal and Provincial governments and 16 First Nations (collectively referred to as the governing partners) are working together to develop a Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network in the Northern Shelf Bioregion (NSB). The governing partners have released a draft NSB MPA Network scenario for consideration by all parties (attached). The draft scenario proposes to reduce commercial fishing access by 40 per cent in the NSB. Initial estimates suggest that at least three quarters of the value of BC wild seafood is harvested from the NSB and that the draft scenario would take about \$100 million annually out of the BC economy, devastating fishing families in BC. As part of its process, the MPT will work with GSGilsason & Associates Ltd. (Gord Gislason) to undertake a socio-economic impact assessment associated with the advice provided by the commercial fishing industry.

The NSB is divided into four areas: Northern Vancouver Island (NVI), Central Coast (CC), North Coast (NC), and Haida Gwaii (HG). The governing partners have set up separate consultation processes for each of the four regions as well as an overarching Bioregion Oceans Advisory Committee (OAC). Each of the 5 committees has a maximum of 3 commercial reps and 3 alternates. The commercial industry representatives from each of these committees are being asked to speak on behalf of up to 24 distinct commercial fisheries that occur in the NSB:

1. Halibut
2. Sablefish Trap
3. Sablefish Longline
4. Rockfish longline
5. Live rockfish
6. Lingcod
7. Dogfish
8. Groundfish bottom trawl
9. Groundfish midwater trawl
10. Geoduck
11. Red Sea Urchin
12. Green Sea Urchin
13. Cucumber
14. Prawn
15. Shrimp trawl
16. Crab
17. Herring Seine
18. Herring Gillnet
19. Herring Roe-on-kelp
20. Salmon Seine
21. Salmon Gillnet
22. Salmon Troll
23. Tuna
24. Sardines

These 24 distinct fisheries include hundreds of vessels, more than a thousand commercial fishermen and many others involved in the commercial fishery infrastructure and support activities. Many of the commercial fisheries occur in all four NSB areas and most of the fishermen participate in two or more of the areas. Commercial fishing viability generally requires diversification and coordination of fishing investments and activities across fisheries and fishing areas.

Collectively, commercial fishermen have thousands of years of intimate knowledge of the marine areas in the NSB, including familiarity with valuable cultural and ecological features, species mix, species diurnal and temporal behaviour, currents and tidal flows, and connectivity and relationships between different marine areas. Under the governing partners consultation process, the area specific and bioregion commercial fishery representatives do not have sufficient information, knowledge and experience across all of the possible 24 distinct fisheries to properly represent all interests. Furthermore, they do not have the ability across species, fisheries, and areas to properly address:

- tradeoffs between users within a fishery on an area specific basis and across areas;
- tradeoffs between users across fisheries within a specific area and across areas;
- tradeoffs between users based on differing business plans and investments
- tradeoffs between users based on differing demographics and geographies

The MPT has convinced the governing partners to allow it to undertake, on behalf of the commercial fishing industry, a complimentary integrated inclusive process that would provide coordinated MPA Network zoning advice for all commercial fisheries across all 4 areas in the NSB, including an associated economic impact assessment. The approach the MPT will use will be very similar to the approach applied in 2017/2018 to provide marine zoning advice to the Gwaii Haanas Archipelago Management Board (AMB), which was largely adopted by the AMB and significantly reduced the impacts to commercial fishing proposed in the initial scenario.

The MPT approach uses a stepwise process that starts by developing fishery specific maps and then in logical steps progressively overlays these maps while engaging the fishery participants to work together to draw on their vast experience and knowledge to find balanced solutions that attempt to achieve the governing partners objectives to protect valuable ecological and cultural targets while minimizing the impacts on commercial fishing. The MPT believes that this can only be done by the fishers themselves and is why we need your help in identifying experienced knowledgeable participants from your fishery for this process.

As you can see from the attached list of meetings that have been scheduled, the process of initial meetings to develop maps for individual fisheries starts on September 25th and continues through to November 1. The progressive steps of overlaying the maps will occur in November

and early December. General industry meetings will be held in January 2020 throughout the coast to communicate the results of the process to all interested commercial participants. The final integrated commercial fishery map and advice (including the assessment of the socio-economic impacts) must be provided to the governing partners by January 31, 2020.

We would like to have at least 10 experienced fishermen from each fishery participate in the first and second stages of this process (and possibly even the third). Their collective range of knowledge and experience should ensure they have familiarity of important fishing locations across all four NSB areas. This includes knowledge of both the green and red sea urchin fishery and grounds.

This initiative is extremely important to the future of the sea urchin fishery and the entire commercial fishing industry. **Please e-mail or call me (bruceturris@shaw.ca / 604-524-0005) regarding who will be attending, on behalf of your fishery, the first meeting shown on the attached schedule.** Also, don't hesitate to reach out to me, or any of the MPT members identified below, if you have any questions regarding this matter. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to working with you and all commercial fishermen on developing meaningful advice regarding the NSB MPA network.

Sincerely,

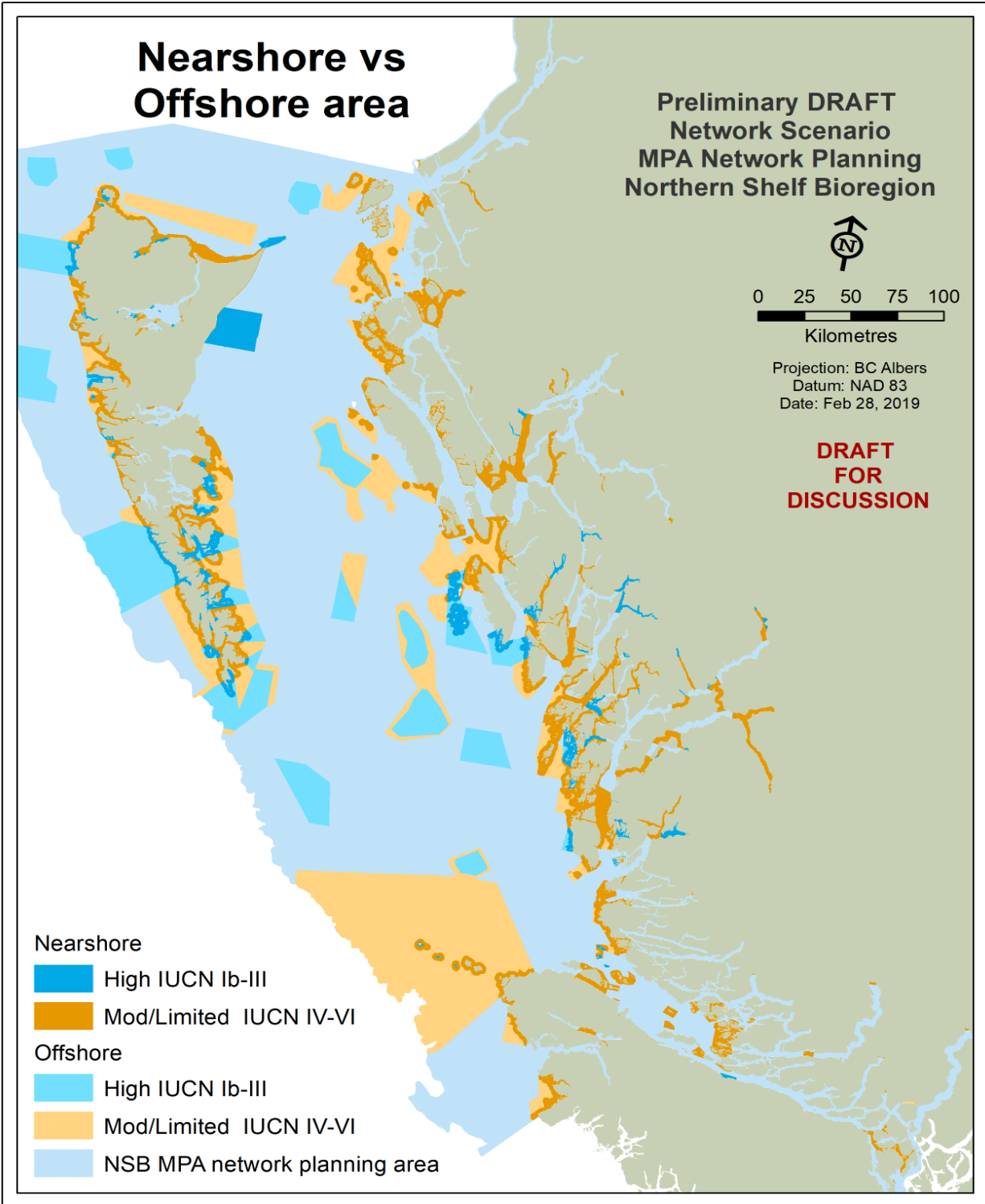


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on behalf of the MPT:

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Governing Partners NSB Draft MPA Network Scenario



MPT Coordinated Commercial Fishing Industry Advice Process Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Fishery(s)	Location
INITIAL LAYERS			
Sept. 25, 2019	9 a.m.	Sea Cucumber	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
	1 p.m.	Red & Green Sea Urchin	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Sept. 26, 2019	9 a.m.	Geoduck	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
	1 p.m.	Prawn	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Oct. 1, 2019	1 p.m.	All Fisheries (Haida Fishers)	Masset, Haida Gwaii
Oct. 2, 2019	9 a.m.	All Fisheries (Haida Fishers)	Queen Charlotte City, Haida Gwaii
Oct. 7, 2019	9 a.m.	Crab	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
	1 p.m.	Shrimp	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Oct. 8, 2019	9 a.m.	Tuna	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Oct. 15, 2019	9 a.m.	Halibut	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Oct. 16, 2019	9 a.m.	Sablefish	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
	1 p.m.	Rockfish	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Oct. 17, 2019	9 a.m.	Trawl	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
	1 p.m.	Lingcod/Dogfish	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Oct. 31, 2019	9 a.m.	Salmon (seine, gillnet, troll)	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Nov. 1, 2019	9 a.m.	Herring	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
FIRST MERGE: LOGICAL GROUPING OF INITIAL LAYERS			
Nov. 6, 2019	9 a.m.	Salmon/Herring	Crest Hotel, Prince Rupert
	1 p.m.	Shellfish	Crest Hotel, Prince Rupert
Nov. 7, 2019	9 a.m.	Groundfish	Crest Hotel, Prince Rupert
	1 p.m.	Tuna	Crest Hotel, Prince Rupert
Nov. 12, 2019	TBD	NGO Webex	Webex
SECOND MERGE: OFFSHORE AND INSHORE			
Nov. 13, 2019	9 a.m.	Offshore: Groundfish, Salmon Troll, Tuna	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Nov. 14, 2019	9 a.m.	Inshore: Shellfish, Salmon (seine/gillnet), Herring	Dorchester Hotel, Nanaimo
Nov. 15, 2019	9 a.m.	3rd day if required	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Nov. 21, 2019	TBD	NGO Webex	Webex
FINAL MERGE: BIO-REGION MAP			
Dec. 3, 2019	9 a.m.	all fisheries. Merge offshore and inshore	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Dec. 4, 2019	9 a.m.	all fisheries. Merge offshore and inshore	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Dec. 5, 2019	9 a.m.	3rd day if required	Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo
Dec. 12, 2019	TBD	NGO Webex	Webex
INDUSTRY UPDATES			
Jan. 6, 2020	TBD	General Industry Update	Vancouver (loceation TBD)
Jan. 7, 2020	TBD	General Industry Update	Nanaimo (loceation TBD)
Jan. 9, 2020	TBD	General Industry Update	Prince Rupert (loceation TBD)
Jan. 14, 2020	TBD	General Industry Update	Port Hardy (loceation TBD)

Northern Shelf Bioregion MPA Network MPT Process Flow Chart for the Commercial Fishing Industry

