



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

**Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

of

PHILIP AKINS

MA (Carleton University, 2005)
BSc (University of Victoria, 2002)

**“Making Collaboration Work: An Evaluation of Marine Protected Area Planning
Processes on Canada’s Pacific Coast”**

Department of Geography

Friday, April 28, 2017
9:00AM
David Turpin Building
Room A132

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Rosaline Canessa, Department of Geography, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Michelle-Lee Moore, Department of Geography, UVic (Member)
Dr. Grant Murray, Department of Geography, UVic (Member)
Dr. Michael Webb, Department of Political Science, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Evelyn Wayland Pinkerton, School of Resource & Environmental Management, Simon Fraser
University

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Francis Nano, Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

It is widely agreed that marine protected areas (MPAs), which can provide long-term protection to marine ecosystems of high ecological, economic, social and cultural value, will only be successful if they are designed and implemented with the involvement and support of stakeholders and other key actors. Putting a collaborative approach into practice is not easy, though. Appropriate governance structures, which formalize and facilitate information sharing, consensus building, and decision making are necessary, but insufficient. Also needed is a shared interest on the part of all groups – beginning with MPA agencies themselves – to work together, notwithstanding the often considerable investments of time, effort and material resources that are required. Perhaps most fundamentally, effective collaboration depends on trust, and strong interpersonal relationships.

Consistent with a global trend in favour of more inclusive and participatory approaches to protected area planning and management, Canada's federal government has set out to develop a national system of MPAs in cooperation with a broad array of interest groups, including marine resource users and other stakeholders; government actors with responsibilities and authorities for oceans activities that relate to the objectives of MPAs; and Aboriginal communities and organizations within whose territories MPAs are situated. The overarching goal of the study was to understand the extent to which federal MPAs in British Columbia (BC), Canada, are established collaboratively, and what is required to overcome obstacles to successful collaboration. This goal was pursued through an in-depth investigation of two MPA planning processes in BC: the proposed Race Rocks MPA, at the southern tip of Vancouver Island; and the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, in the Haida Gwaii archipelago. Data for the study was collected through semi-structured interviews; documentary research; and a participant questionnaire.

The study found that, while MPA agencies engaged with outside parties in a variety of ways to plan Race Rocks and Gwaii Haanas, these processes fell short of expectations for genuine collaboration in a number of respects. In the case of Race Rocks, this has resulted in the failure (for a second time) to designate the MPA. The dissertation illuminates the challenges and shortcomings that were encountered in both cases, and offers practical solutions to address them.