

British Columbia's Oceans and Marine Interests

Presentation to Oceans Governance Workshop
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BC Ministry of Environment



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Oceans and Marine Fisheries Division

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Presentation Outline

- BC's Oceans and Marine Resources
- Jurisdiction and Ownership
- Federal Initiatives and Canada/BC Oceans Memorandum of Understanding
- Provincial Oceans Policy Framework



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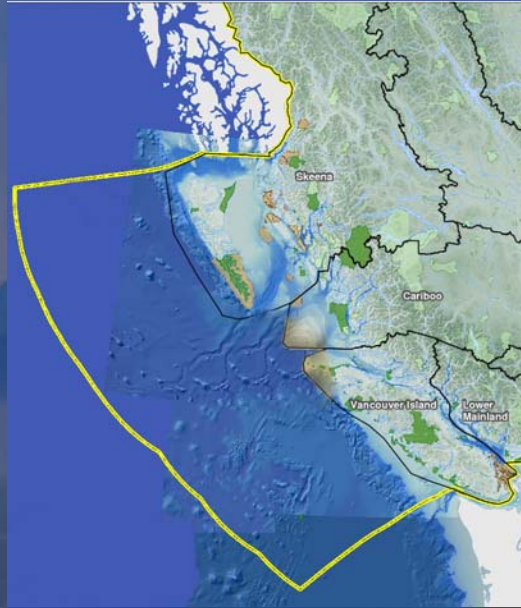
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BC's Ocean and Marine Resources

- 29,000 km of coastline
- 6,500 islands
- 450,000 sq km of coastal and offshore waters
- 400 fish, 161 birds, 29 marine mammals species
- Globally significant ecosystems



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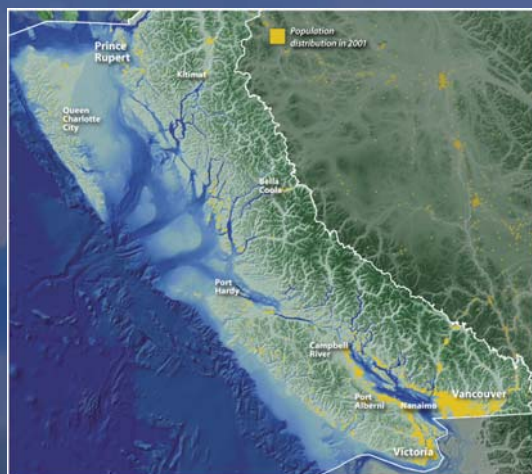


BC's Ocean and Marine Resources

- Most of BC's population lives within 150 km of the coast
- Oceans and coast integral to BC's economy and culture
- Major traditional and ongoing use by First Nations
- Oceans Health – linked to climate change



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BC's Ocean and Marine Resources

BC's Oceans Economy 2005

Total GDP	\$ 11.1 B
Labour Income	\$ 7.6 B
Employment	167,805 PY

7-8% of Total BC GDP



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BC's Ocean and Marine Resources

The Oceans Economy - 4 largest components

Marine Recreation	\$3.8 B – 33%
Marine Transport	\$3.3 B - 28%
Fisheries and Seafood	\$1.4 B - 12%
Marine High Tech	\$1.1 B – 9%



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Provincial Interests in Oceans

The Province's specific short and longer-term ocean and coastal interests include:

- Wild Capture Fisheries
- Seafood Processing
- Aquaculture
- Recreation and Tourism
- Marine Transportation
- Ports and Harbours
- Offshore Oil and Gas
- Renewable Ocean Energy
- Ecosystem Conservation
- Marine Protected Areas
- Coastal and Oceans Planning
- Crown Land Tenures
- Waste Management
- Oceans Research
- Information Systems
- Monitoring and Reporting

Many of these areas of interest are under Provincial jurisdiction; others fall under shared jurisdiction. Others, while federal jurisdiction, are of great interest to the province.



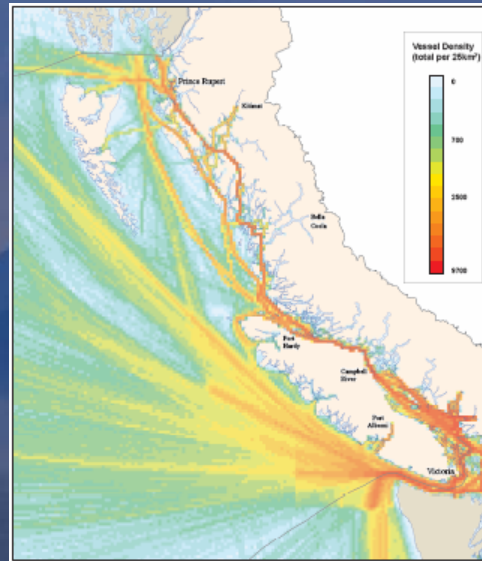
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BC's Ocean and Marine Resources

Future Opportunities:

- Port Development
- Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Marine-based tourism
- Wave, Wind and Tidal Energy
- Offshore Oil and Gas



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Vessel Traffic Density

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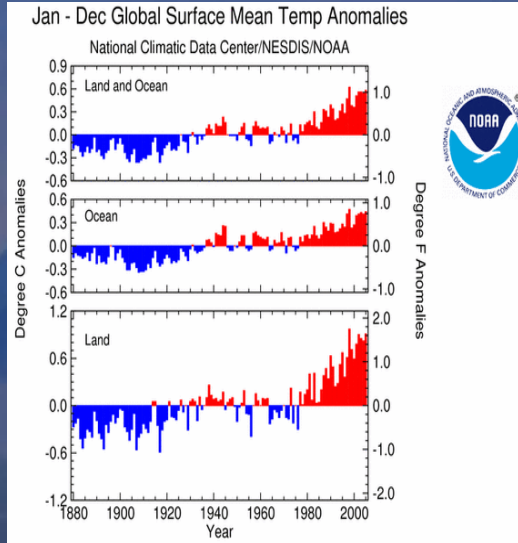
BC's Ocean and Marine Resources

Challenges:

- First Nation Aspirations
- Coastal Community Decline
- Marine and Land Based Pollution
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Biodiversity Protection
- Jurisdictional Uncertainties
- Stakeholder Involvement



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Jurisdiction and Ownership

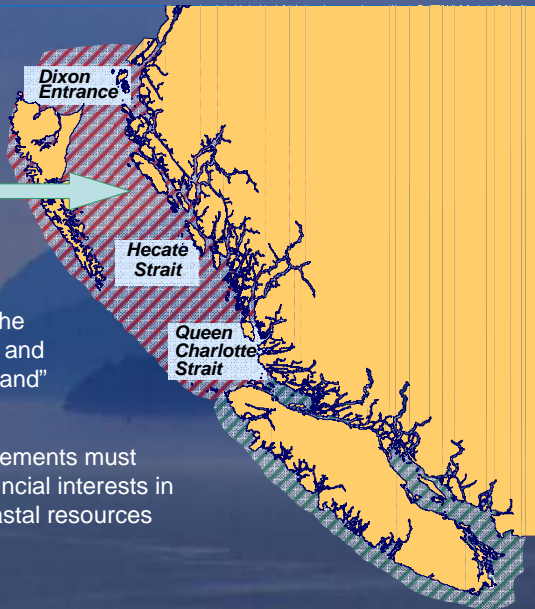
Ownership of a large portion of BC's ocean remains unresolved

British Columbia clearly owns the seabed of the Strait of Georgia and the seabed within the "jaws of land"

Governance arrangements must accommodate provincial interests in our oceans and coastal resources



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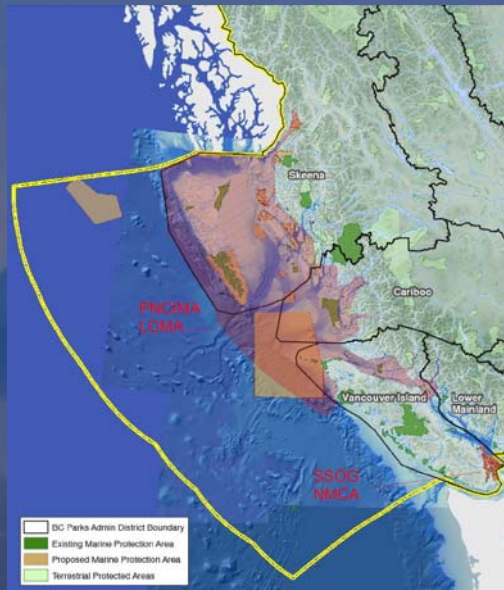
Federal Initiatives

- **1997:** Federal *Oceans Act* proclaimed to provide for “integrated management of oceans resources”.
- **July 2002:** Federal *Oceans Strategy* - framework for Canada’s oceans-related programs and policies; little or no provincial and territorial input.
- **March 2004:** Canada and British Columbia MOU - commits governments to collaborate on the delivery of the federal *Oceans Strategy* on the Pacific coast.
- **May 2005:** Federal *Oceans Action Plan* – 2 year, \$28M first phase; little or no provincial and territorial input.



Federal Initiatives

- Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) Regional Oceans Plan
 - From Campbell River and Brooks Peninsula to Alaska
- Marine Protected Areas
 - Bowie Seamount
 - Scott Islands
 - Gwaii Haanas
 - Southern Strait of Georgia
 - Coral and Sponge Reefs
- Development opportunities for ports, offshore energy and coastal community diversification need to be accommodated



2004 Canada-BC Oceans MOU

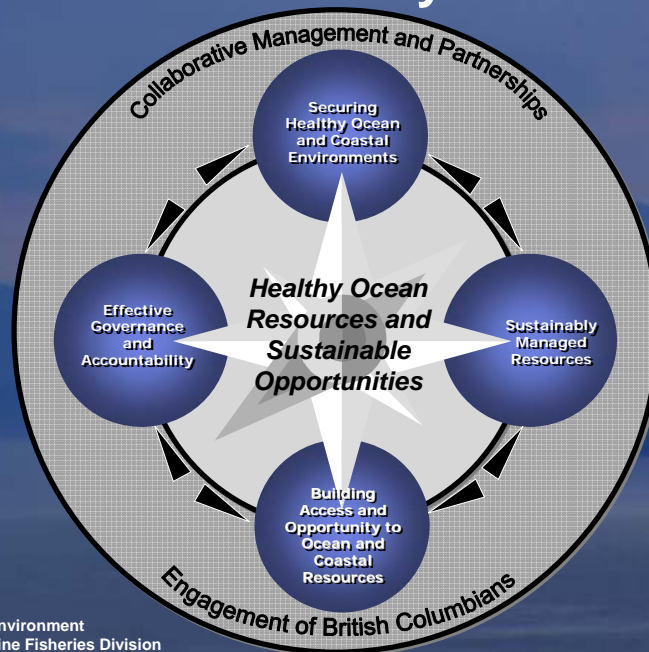
Canada-BC Memorandum of Understanding Respecting the Implementation of Canada's Oceans Strategy on the Pacific Coast of Canada

Identified 6 areas for future collaboration:

1. Developing system of marine protected areas
2. Integrated coastal planning and oceans management
3. Integrated oceans information management system
4. Developing indicators for oceans management and state of the environment reporting
5. Information sharing related to offshore oil and gas resources
6. Harmonizing Aquaculture decision-making



BC's Oceans Policy Framework



Effective Governance and Accountability

Current Activities

- Complete and implement Canada/BC Ocean MOU sub-agreements
- Co-chair and support Canada/BC Oceans Coordinating Committee
- Co-chair National Oceans Task Group on behalf of provinces and territories
- Pilot Regional Area-Based Approaches to Integrated Oceans Management
- Influence the second phase of federal *Oceans Action Plan*
- Host regional conference on oceans governance

Proposed Future Initiatives

- Engage First Nations in Oceans Management issues
- Establish permanent, inclusive and collaborative oceans management governance structures
- Build oceans management arrangements with neighbouring US states
- Work with Federal government to develop and implement an integrated command response structure for maritime emergencies



Summary

- BC's oceans and coastal resources have very high environmental, social, cultural and economic value to Canadians
- "Ownership" is uncertain
- Jurisdiction is shared
- The provincial government's interests are substantial
- Existing governance arrangements are not adequate
- This conference is very timely

