

## Schedule 4 of MPA Network Agreement GBS PFP Conservation Plan

*Defined Terms in this Schedule have the same meaning as provided for in the MPA Network Agreement. In the event of any inconsistency between this Schedule and the MPA Network Agreement or any Nation MPA Agreement, the MPA Network Agreement or Nation MPA Agreement prevail.*

### Context

The Network Action Plan sets out the Parties' shared approach to advancing site-specific marine conservation priorities and Network Goals and Design Elements and is the foundation for this Conservation Plan. Building on the Network Action Plan, this Conservation Plan summarizes the Parties' anticipated milestones and targeted timelines in the establishment of new and enhanced MPAs as described in the Conservation Pathways attached to the Nation MPA Agreements.

The Nations, Canada, and British Columbia each bring their own authorities, responsibilities, and tools, which include distinct processes and decision points, to this work. In a manner described and collaboratively developed under the Nation MPA Agreements, it is intended that each Parties' designation of a MPA would be consistent with the collaboratively developed Site Design and relevant Network Goals and Design Elements and that there would be one Management Plan, or consistent Management Directions, for each MPA developed collaboratively by the relevant Parties.

### Protection

Each MPA will be designed collaboratively under the relevant Nation MPA Agreements to achieve site-specific Conservation Objectives and contribute to the relevant Network Goals and Design Elements. Different tools of the Parties may be used to achieve these objectives and goals. In addition, Canada has established Protection Standards for Marine Protected Areas, and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures ("**OECMs**") to provide greater clarity and consistency on prohibited activities.

Through Indigenous laws, cultures, language, governance, and knowledge systems, Nations may contribute to the conservation and protection of MPAs included in Schedule 1 of the Nation MPA Agreements by declaring Indigenous protected and conserved areas ("**IPCAs**")<sup>1</sup>. As part of the collaborative processes under the Nation MPA Agreements, the Parties will collaboratively identify the appropriate proposed designation tools (e.g. IPCA, provincial and/or federal tools)

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<sup>1</sup> According to the report published by the Indigenous Circle of Experts, *We Rise Together* ([About IPCAs — CRP Website \(conservation-reconciliation.ca\)](https://www.conservation-reconciliation.ca)), IPCAs are lands and waters where Indigenous governing bodies have a primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, cultures, and language, governance, and knowledge systems. "IPCA" is a general term, and many Nations have adopted Nation-specific terms to reflect Indigenous-led conservation tools.

and the targeted timelines for designations of a MPA. Nations may choose to finalize IPCA designation before, at the same time, or after Canada or BC have finalized their regulatory processes.<sup>2</sup>

### *Canada's MPA Protection Standard*

Consistent with Canada's MPA Protection Standard<sup>3</sup> and subject to existing authorities and obligations, Canada intends, where feasible, to apply the MPA Protection Standard through legal mechanisms<sup>4</sup> to the following types of MPAs established by federal departments and agencies after April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019:

- *Oceans Act* MPAs (Governor-in-Council) established by Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
- National Marine Conservation Areas and marine components of National Parks established by Parks Canada Agency, and
- Marine National Wildlife Areas, and marine portions of National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries established by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

### *Canada's OECM Protection Standard*

Canada's marine OECM Protection Standard<sup>5</sup> is implemented through the *Government of Canada's 2022 Guidance for Recognizing Marine OECMs*.<sup>6</sup> Activities in federal marine OECMs are to be assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the risks to the biodiversity conservation benefits have been avoided or mitigated effectively.

### *Interim Measures*

In recognition of the time required to advance feasibility analysis and consult on long-term protection proposals for a MPA, the Parties may also apply interim measures where appropriate. Interim measures would be targeted to be in place for Category 1 sites by the end of 2025, in cases where:

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<sup>2</sup> In some circumstances there are IPCAs already declared within the region of a proposed MPA.

<sup>3</sup> Further details on the MPA Protection Standard, including general and specific exceptions, can be found online here: [Marine Protected Areas \(MPA\) Protection Standard \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/marine-protected-areas-mpa-protection-standard-dfo-mpo.gc.ca/).

<sup>4</sup> The intent to enhance certain vessel discharges in MPAs will be subject to technical, operational and safety considerations and may include voluntary measures.

<sup>5</sup> Further details on OECM Protection Standard can be found online here: [Guidance for recognizing marine Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures 2022 \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/publications/oecm-amcepz/guidance-directives-2022-eng.html).

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/publications/oecm-amcepz/guidance-directives-2022-eng.html>

- a. the MPA site tool and boundary have been clearly defined and agreed upon by relevant Parties;
- b. where the MPA is not expected to be designated by all relevant Parties before the end of 2025, and
- c. where the following principles are met:
  - i) The measure mitigates or removes an existing or foreseeable risk to at least one of the conservation priorities in the area;
  - ii) The application of the measure overlaps at least a portion of the proposed new MPA;
  - iii) The measure is aligned with the federal MPA Protection Standard, where possible;
  - iv) There is sufficient time and capacity to put the measure in place by the end of 2025, including any consultation and engagement processes that are necessary;
  - v) There is a commitment to keep the measure in place until formal designation of the area by all relevant Parties; and
  - vi) Implementing the interim protection will not divert capacity in a significant way from achieving long-term protections.

### **Summary of Conservation Pathways for MPAs**

A summary of the Conservation Pathways attached to the Nation MPA Agreements for each implementation category identified in the Network Action Plan is as follows:

#### *Category 1 Sites*

Category 1 sites described in the Network Action Plan are sites which are recommended for implementation by 2025, noting that designation of some sites will extend beyond 2025.

The relevant Parties have developed Conservation Pathways with anticipated milestones and targeted timelines for each Category 1 site and these are attached to the relevant Nation MPA Agreements.

#### *Category 2 Zones*

As described in the Network Action Plan, Category 2 applies to zones (comprised of zones, or aggregates of zones) in which protection is recommended for implementation by 2030. Additional details for proposed sites are still to be developed by the relevant Parties.

The Category 2 zones identified in the Network Action Plan are included in Schedule 1 of the relevant Nation MPA Agreements. As described in the relevant Conservation Pathways, the Parties will strive to identify sites and designation tool(s) of a proposed MPA site comprised of one or more Category 2 Zones by 2025 and establish new MPAs by 2030. Canada's and British Columbia's commitments to establish new MPAs are subject to the annual appropriation of funds by Parliament and the necessary policy authorities.

Once Consensus on the proposed boundaries, conservation objectives and designation tools of a proposed MPA site comprised of one or more Category 2 Zones has been reached, then by agreement Schedule 1 would be updated listing that site as a proposed MPA, and the Parties' anticipated milestones and targeted timelines related to the Establishment of that MPA would be added by agreement to the Conservation Pathways (Schedule 3) of the relevant Nation MPA Agreements.

### *Category 3 areas and enhanced existing MPAs*

Category 3 as defined in the Network Action Plan, applies to areas where further work among the relevant Parties is needed to identify MPAs, including in some circumstances working with other First Nations who are not currently part of the MPA Network.

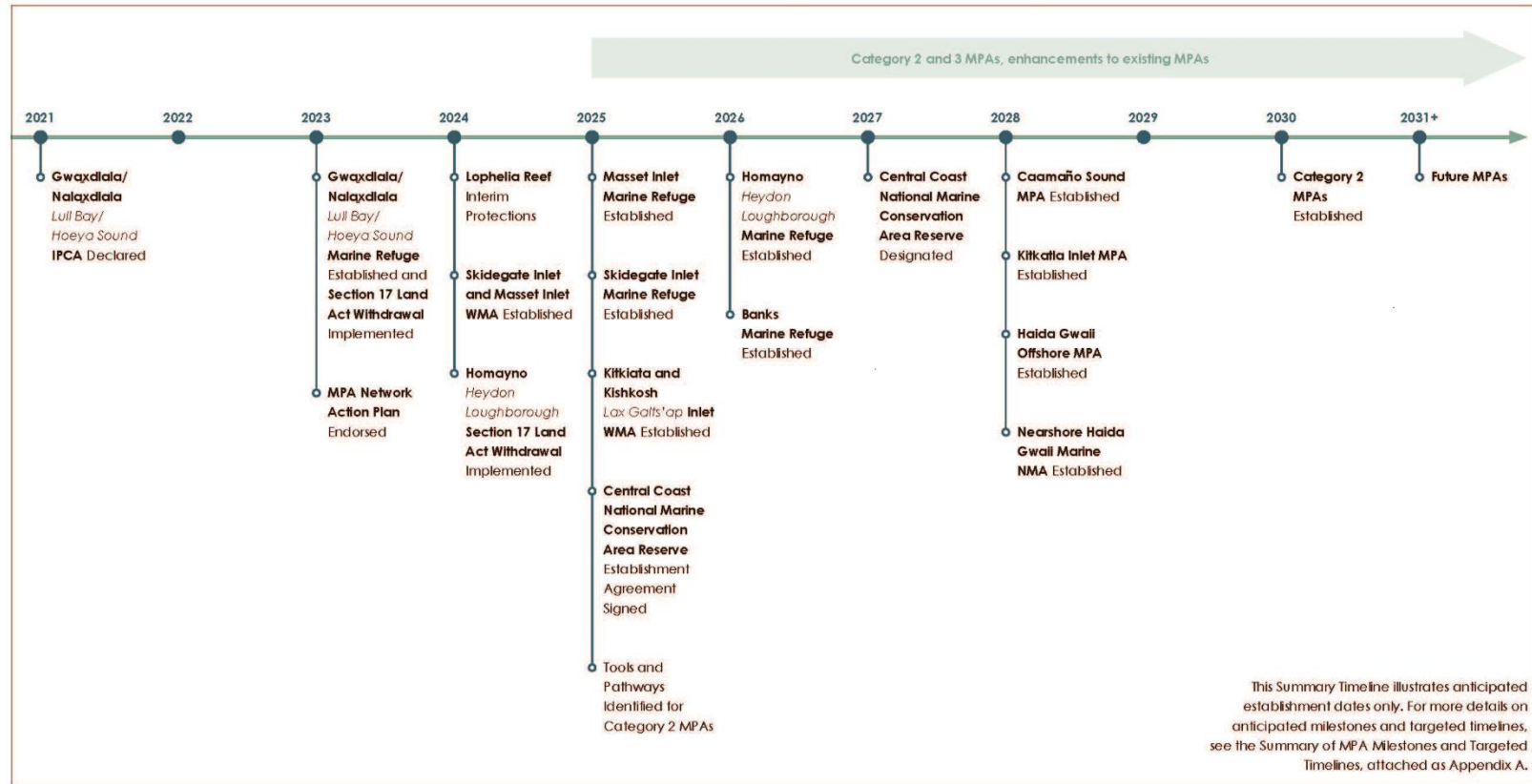
Under the relevant Nation MPA Agreements, Canada, British Columbia, and the Nations will strive to reach Consensus on the Establishment of MPAs within Category 3 areas, including expanding or enhancing Existing Sites, to contribute to the Network Goals and Design Elements. It is recognized that given various variables, some MPAs within Category 3 areas may take longer to identify and develop. Canada's and British Columbia's commitments are subject to the annual appropriation of funds by Parliament and the necessary policy authorities.

Category 3 areas identified in the Network Action Plan are included in Schedule 1 of the relevant Nation MPA Agreements.

Once Consensus on the proposed boundaries, conservation objectives and designation tools of a proposed MPA site within a Category 3 Area has been reached, including where relevant the enhancement or expansion of Existing Sites with any relevant proposed transition related to an Existing Site, then by agreement Schedule 1 would be updated listing that site as a proposed MPA, and the Parties' anticipated milestones and targeted timelines related to the Establishment of that MPA would be added by agreement to the Conservation Pathways (Schedule 3) of the relevant Nation MPA Agreements.

## Summary timeline

### Great Bear Sea MPA Network | Anticipated MPA Establishment Timeline



Attached as Appendix A to this Conservation Plan is a graphic summarizing the anticipated milestones and targeted timelines for the Category 1 Sites, and sites within Category 2 Zones and Category 3 Areas as of the date of execution of the MPA Network Agreement.

### **Existing Sites**

In the NAP, Canada, British Columbia and the Nations identified Existing Sites already Established by one or more Party which are recognized for their ecological contribution to the MPA Network. As part of the implementation of the MPA Network, the Parties will review the various types of Existing Sites and consider any transition process which may be helpful to potentially bring them into the MPA Network Agreement and the Nation MPA Agreements. If Consensus has been reached at the Network Scale, recommendations will be made to the relevant Parties. At any time, the Parties may add Existing Sites to Nation MPA Agreements as provided for in those agreements.

### ***Related initiatives***

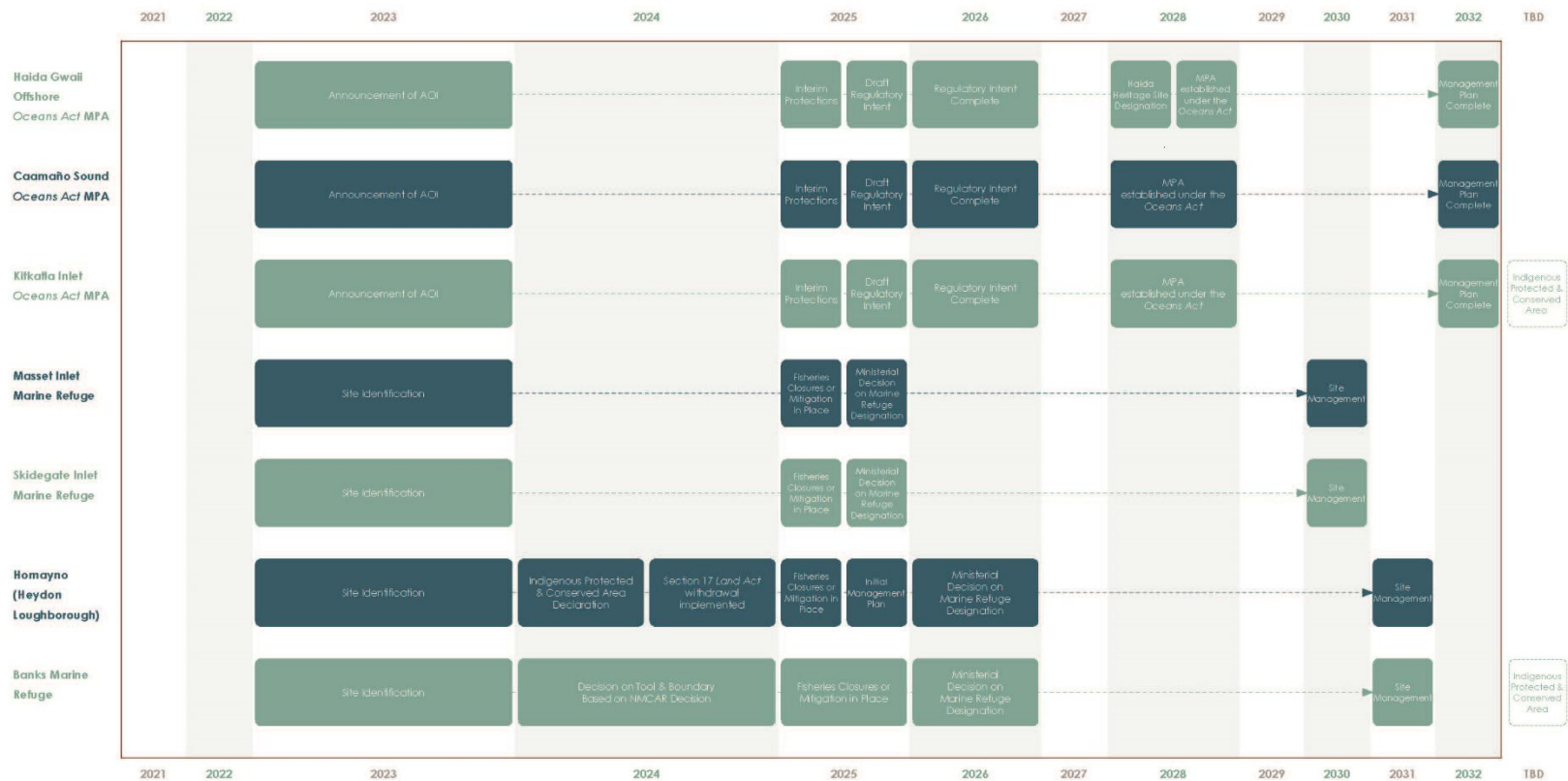
As described in section 8.5 of the MPA Network Agreement work is also under way through other Collaborative Governance processes and venues that reflects shared conservation priorities of the relevant Parties that may relate to but is not directly within the scope of the GBS PFP Closing Agreement or the MPA Network Agreement or Nation MPA Agreements. Examples include:

- the Oceans RFAs and other initiatives to promote marine safety and reduce impacts on the marine environment from shipping in the NSB and the MPA Network, including but not limited to Proactive Vessel Management Initiatives, and the NSB Marine Incident Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Framework (NSB Framework), including places of refuge and cumulative effects of shipping;
- Canada's work to develop new, and/or strengthen existing requirements for discharge of ship-based pollutants;
- the BC Coastal Marine Strategy, and the Intergovernmental Skeena Estuary Management Planning Process; Reconciliation Framework Agreement for Advancing Co-Governance, Integrated Land and Marine Stewardship, Economic Revitalization and Renewal and Community Resilience in the Pacific North Coast Bioregion and other venues to strengthen First Nations roles in coastal and marine tenure review and approval; and
- the Fisheries Resource Reconciliation Agreement, Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative, and other venues and programs to manage, restore, and protect fisheries and strengthen community-based fisheries management.

## APPENDIX A

### APPENDIX A

### Great Bear Sea MPA Network | Conservation Pathways



## Great Bear Sea MPA Network | Conservation Pathways

