Marine Conservation Targets in Canada’s Marine Waters: Area-Based Management

October 11-13, 2017
United States – Canada Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum
Anchorage, Alaska

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Outline

• Canada’s Commitments
• Approach to Achieving Canada’s Marine Conservation Target (MCT)
• Science and Indigenous Knowledge in Area-based Management
  ➢ Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
  ➢ MPA Networks
  ➢ Integrated Oceans Management and Marine Spatial Planning
• Summary and Future Directions
Canada’s Commitments

• In 2010 Canada agreed to a Marine Conservation Target (MCT) under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi Target 11):
  “By 2020……10% of coastal and marine areas, ……are conserved …..”

• The target applies to Canada – not to an ocean or on a bioregional basis

• The commitment to meet the Aichi Target 11 was reconfirmed:
  ➢ In 2015: United Nations General Assembly’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  ➢ In 2016: Canada-U.S. Joint Statement on Climate, Energy, and Arctic Leadership
Canada’s approach to achieve its MCT is based on 3 foundational principles:

1. Knowledge based decision-making (Science / Traditional)
2. Transparency
3. Advancing reconciliation with Indigenous groups
Approach to MCT

• To achieve Canada’s MCT, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has been leading and advancing area-based conservation measures in Canada’s coastal and marine waters through the establishment of:

  ➢ Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
  ➢ Marine Protected Area Networks

• Marine Spatial Planning also ensures broader area-based conservation while supporting sustainable economic development

  ➢ Continued implementation of Integrated Oceans Management Plan of the Beaufort Sea
Science and Indigenous Knowledge in Area-based Management: Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

- MPAs are geographically defined areas in the marine environment managed for long-term conservation
- MPAs are designated under the Oceans Act
- Two MPAs have been designated in the Canadian Western Arctic: Tarium Niryutait MPA (2010) and Anguniaqvia niqiqyuam MPA (2016)
Science and Indigenous Knowledge in Area-based Management: Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

- Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) form the basis of MPAs. EBSAs are identified through a peer-reviewed Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat process.

- Science and Indigenous Traditional and Local Knowledge are used to inform all stages of the MPA process:
  - Formulate MPA Conservation Objectives
  - Delineate MPA boundaries
  - Inform the MPA regulatory process
  - Support MPA management and monitoring
Science and Indigenous Knowledge in Area-based Management: MPA Networks

- A plan that identifies ecologically and culturally important areas in the Western Arctic, looks at the risks they face, and recommends the most appropriate conservation tool to protect them.
- Sites are designed to “work together” to promote conservation goals over a broad geographic scale.
Integrated Oceans Management and Marine Spatial Planning

  - Guide and coordinate activities that affect the Beaufort Sea
  - Inclusive process
  - Decisions based on best available information - Science / Traditional and Local Knowledge

- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is the process of analyzing ocean areas and planning for their use

- MSP supports informed decision-making, takes into account areas for conservation and development
Summary and Future Directions

- Science and Indigenous knowledge inform all of our conservation initiatives
- Indigenous land claim obligations are respected

Future activities in the Beaufort Sea include:

- On-going management and monitoring of Tarium Niryutait and Anguniaqvia niqiqyuam Marine Protected Areas
  - Including the first assessment of the TNMPA Management & Monitoring plans
- Development of MPA Network Action Plan for the Western Arctic bioregion
- Assessment of sites with the Inuvialuit Settlement Region suitable for marine protection under MCT
- Science research activities on coastal and offshore fisheries and marine mammals
- Continued support for Integrated Oceans Management
Thank you

For further information:

Government of Canada

Protecting Oceans: Meeting Canada’s Marine Conservation Targets
http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/index-eng.html

Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Area

http://www.beaufortseapartnership.ca/