

TERMS OF REFERENCE

MALASPINA COMPLEX COASTAL PLAN

A. RATIONALE

Land and Water BC, resource user groups and the Powell River Regional District have requested that the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management undertake an integrated coastal plan in the Malaspina Complex area, to provide direction for the sustainable allocation and management of foreshore and aquatic land uses. This is a high priority planning area due to its significant marine biota, increasing concentration of resource uses including Sliammon First Nation cultural and historical use, shellfish aquaculture, tourism and recreation uses, and development on the adjacent upland. Concern has been growing about marine water quality as a result of the increased activity and development. Competition is increasing for limited available space, and residents fear there will be a loss of environmental amenities, property values and quality of life.

The Malaspina Complex Coastal Plan (MCCP) will enhance sustainable economic development, reinforce environmental values and reduce resource use conflicts through a government-led process that will involve collaboration with local communities, tenure holders and interest groups in the area. Federal agencies, the Sliammon First Nation and local governments will be key participants in plan development.

The MCCP process will deliver a comprehensive multiple use coastal plan by the end of December, 2003. This planning process is not intended to develop a community plan but may provide information for any future community planning process.

B. PLAN PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The primary purpose of the MCCP is to address conflicting interests through an integrated plan that will guide the management and allocation of marine aquatic lands, including intertidal areas. The Plan will guide foreshore allocation in the area and contribute to the Ministry's goals of increasing Crown land tenure decision-making efficiency, and identifying sustainable economic development opportunities. The Plan will not direct management of private lands and First Nation reserves, but may identify where marine environmental quality or uses are being affected by upland activities, or where marine and intertidal uses are affecting upland activities. The Plan is intended to consider the views and interests of the local communities and other interested parties in guiding the long-term sustainable use of the coastal land and resources of the Malaspina Complex area.

The Plan area includes all coastal waters and intertidal areas encompassed by the Malaspina and Gifford Peninsulas and the mainland (see Map 1). This includes Malaspina, Okeover, Lancelot and Theodosia Inlets.

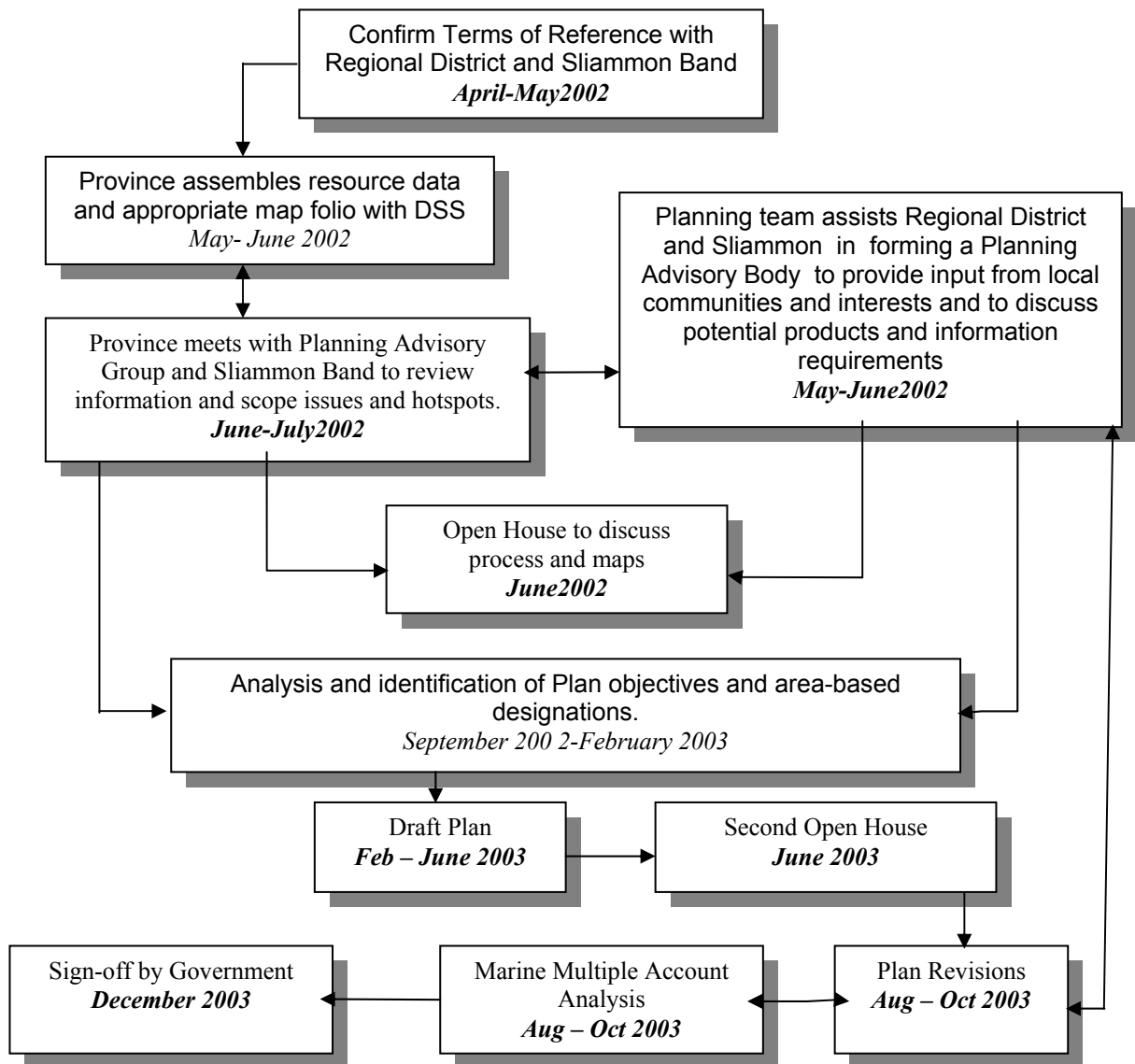
It is recognized that the Sliammon Band is currently involved in treaty negotiations and may have areas of interest within the plan area. However, the plan will not limit any treaty discussions that occur in the Plan area. The plan does not affect federal and provincial legislation (e.g. Provincial Parks). The MCCP recognizes and respects that the *Park Act* and the Desolation Sound Marine Park Management Plan set the direction for management within park areas. The plan recognizes the role of the Powell River Regional District in regional planning. Although the Plan may make comments regarding upland activities, it will not take the place of terrestrial land use planning undertaken by other jurisdictions such as the Regional District of Powell River, or First Nations.

D. PLAN PRODUCTS

1. The Plan area will be divided into planning units that identify key attributes, existing and acceptable uses and activities, associated management provisions and overall management emphasis for each of the units.
2. The Plan will be used by provincial tenuring agencies to guide future allocation and use of Crown foreshore and nearshore areas.
3. Where feasible, the Plan will identify localised areas for a range of potential coastal economic development opportunities including commercial recreation, community uses, aquaculture and public recreational uses.
4. The Plan may identify critical marine habitat and marine sensitive areas that warrant additional consideration for further assessment under the proposed federal-provincial Marine Protected Areas Strategy.
5. The Plan may identify issues significant to management of existing parks and make related recommendations to the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
6. The Plan may provide guidance for navigation, transportation, marine resource management, research, monitoring and management responsibilities, based on the specific interests of federal agencies and First Nations collaborating in the development of the plan.
7. To enhance economic development opportunities, the MCCP may address potential co-operative management arrangements with First Nations, local government and small businesses for the administration, management and uses of foreshore and nearshore land.

The attached Table of Contents provides a general outline of the products that are anticipated by the coastal Plan.

E. PLANNING PROCESS



Two Public Open Houses will be held in Powell River, one at the beginning of the planning process and one at the end. The first will be to present information and answer questions about the process and the second to present and answer questions on draft plan products and solicit feedback for plan editing. Individual stakeholders, such as aquaculture and tourism associations, will be contacted by the Province and will be maintained on a mailing list to update participants on the plan and process.

F. PARTICIPATION

The following list of stakeholders has been initially developed as a basis for participation and feedback on the Malaspina Complex Coastal Plan. Throughout the planning process, additional organisations or associations may be included as required.

Council of BC Yacht Clubs
 Coastal Tourism Operators Association
 Alliance for Responsible Shellfish Farming
 Sea Kayak Groups and Companies
 Active Malaspina Mariculture Association
 BC Shellfish Growers Association
 Okeover Ratepayers Association
 Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society
 Marine Resource Management Advisory Committee
 Okeover Tourism Business Association
 Forest Companies
 Okeover Harbour Authority
 Vessel Owners Association
 Underwater Harvesters
 Malaspina Community Residents Association
 Commercial Fishers (Area C Clam Harvesters Advisory Committee and Pacific Prawn Fishers Association)

In addition to providing individual stakeholder groups with an opportunity to provide input to the process, the planning team also anticipates establishment of a local advisory body to assist in obtaining public and community feedback (see planning process chart). The local advisory body will include representatives of key stakeholder groups and will function as a forum for discussion and feedback to the Regional District and the Sliammon First Nation regarding draft plan products. The Regional District and Sliammon First Nation, with assistance from the planning team, will play a key role in establishing the advisory body. The advisory body may include one representative from each of the following groups to be appointed by the members of each group:

Marine vessels/yachts/boats	Kayakers
Upland owners/ratepayers	Hikers
Mariculturists	Tourism operators
Forest Companies	Commercial Fishing industry

The Regional District and the Sliammon First Nation will co-chair the advisory group. In addition to its individual members liaising with their specific groups, the co-chairs will report the results of advisory group discussions to the Planning Team, Regional District, Sliammon First Nation and the Okeover Roundtable, as a broader forum of interests.

A portion of the Sliammon First Nation traditional territory is included in the plan area. The planning team will meet separately with the Sliammon First Nation with respect to its participation in, and feedback to, the planning process. The process may be altered to reflect specific arrangements developed with the Sliammon First Nation. The final draft plan will be forwarded to the Sliammon First Nation for its direct review and comment.

G. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Malaspina Complex Coastal Planning project will be jointly managed by the Coast Region and the Coast and Marine Planning Branch, and supported by Decision Support Services Division of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will provide advice to the plan and the Powell River Regional District and Sliammon First Nation will play a collaborative role in development of the plan.

Other government agencies expected to participate at key points throughout the process include:

- Land and Water British Columbia Inc. (formerly BC Assets and Lands Corporation);
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries;
- Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (including BC Parks);
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (includes input from Canadian Coast Guard);
- Canadian Wildlife Service; and
- Powell River Regional District.

H. APPROVALS

The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management will approve the final plan. The Terms of Reference for the Malaspina Complex Coastal Plan are approved by the undersigned.

APPROVED
Wally Eamer, Director
Coast Region
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Date: _____

APPROVED
John Bones, Director
Coast and Marine Planning Branch
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Date: _____

APPROVED
David Johns, Assistant Deputy Minister
Resource Management Division
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Date: _____


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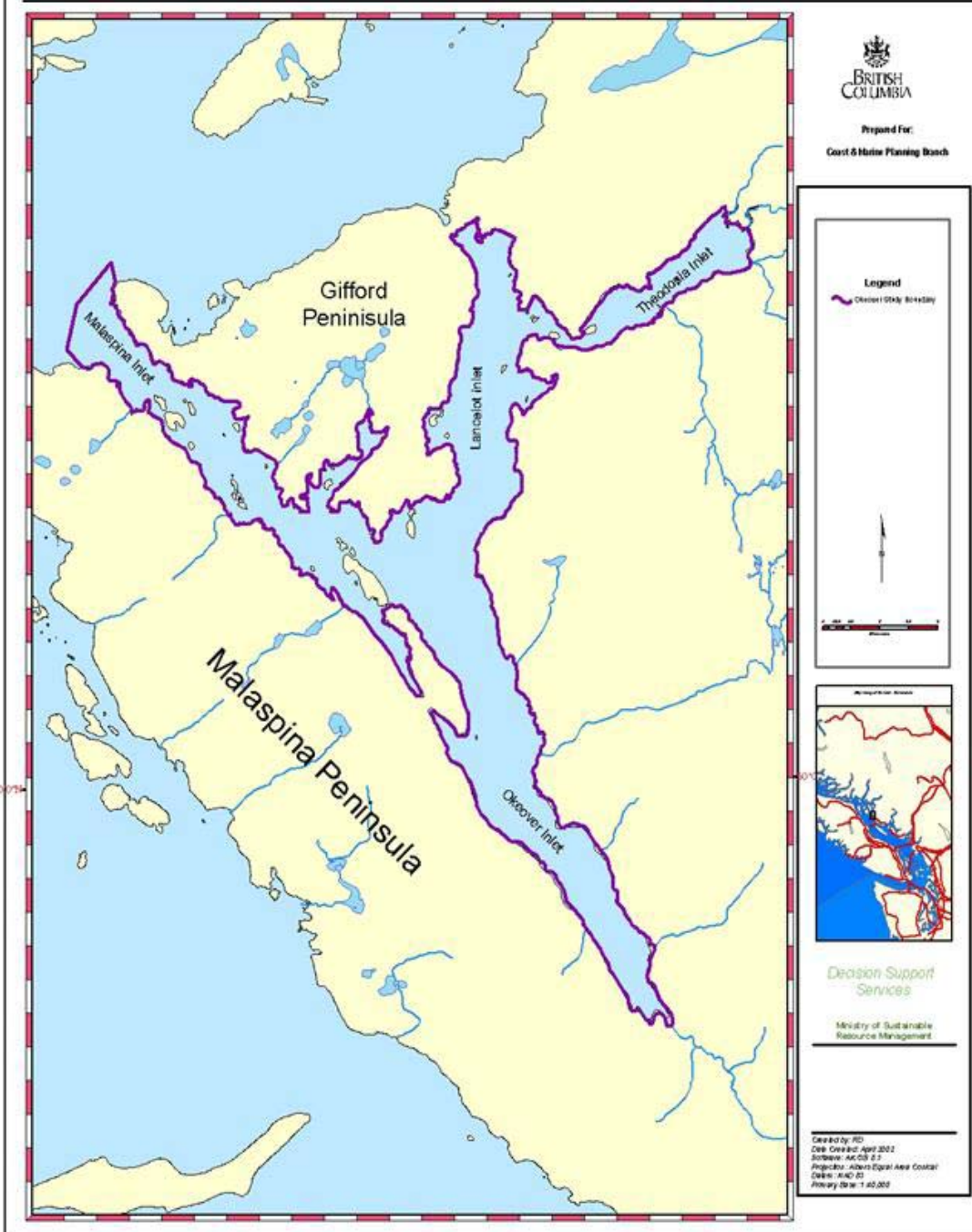
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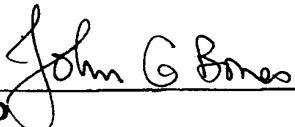
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APPROVED
Wally Eamer, Director
Coast Region
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Date: 04/06/05



APPROVED
John Bones, Director
Coast and Marine Planning Branch
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Date: June 5/02



APPROVED
David Johns, Assistant Deputy Minister
Resource Management Division
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Date: August 8, 2002