



Federal Oceans Recommendations 2015

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

In 2014, 86% of Canadians polled agreed that it is possible to maintain the health of the ocean and a vibrant economy together. (EKOS Research Associates)

Recommendations

1. By 2017 (Canada's 150th birthday), protect at least 5% of marine and coastal areas, and by 2020, meet Canada's international commitment of protecting at least 10% of marine and coastal areas, including the formal designation of the following candidate sites, as a matter of priority:
 - a. Hecate Strait glass sponge reefs MPA
 - b. Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA)
 - c. Anguniaqvia Niqiyuam (Darnley Bay) MPA
 - d. Tallurutiup Tariunga (Lancaster Sound) NMCA
 - e. Laurentian Channel MPA
 - f. St. Anns Bank MPA
 - g. St. Lawrence Estuary MPA
 - h. American Bank MPA
 - i. Shediac Valley MPA
 - j. Race Rocks MPA
 - k. Les Iles de la Madeleine NMCA/Quebec
 - l. Scott Islands marine National Wildlife Area
2. By 2020, develop and implement MPA network plans for five of Canada's marine bioregions (Beaufort Sea, Pacific North Coast, Newfoundland/Labrador Shelves, Scotian Shelf and Gulf of St. Lawrence), and develop and implement MPA network plans for the remaining eight marine bioregions by no later than 2025.
3. Each of Canada's marine bioregions should include at least 30% MPAs or MPA zones with strict protection (closed to all commercial fishing and non-renewable resource development).
4. By 2020 Canada should establish one large marine protected area with strict protection in each ocean (Pacific, Arctic, and Atlantic). Large means larger than the Lancaster Sound study area (48,000 km²).



Background

- MPAs help to mitigate the impacts of climate change by improving the resilience of ecosystems, and they are a key component in the recovery and management of species at risk. MPAs also contribute to economic development by helping fish stocks to recover and by boosting nature-based tourism.
- There are no minimum conservation standards for MPAs in Canada. Network planning is underway in each of the bioregions, but none of the regions has a completed network plan to date.

Polling and Costing

- In 2014, 79% of Canadians polled agreed that Canada should create something similar to the national parks system for the ocean, where large spaces in the ocean are protected from drilling and transportation. In 2012, 87% of Canadians polled stated that oceans matter to them personally because they provide habitat for marine animals and plants; 85% felt that oceans matter because they support human life and are a source of economic wealth and jobs.
- In addition to National Conservation Plan funding, the Green Budget Coalition estimates an investment of \$45-million ongoing annually to increase marine protection and to develop and implement the associated planning.

