

MISSING PROTECTION

The Case of the
Commercial Fishing and Canada's Pacific Marine Protected Areas

WEST COAST VIEWS

Nicholas Nicoll

A mystery is brewing on Canada's West Coast.

Residents of Canada's Pacific coast have been suspicious for long time that the current system of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are really just "paper parks", offering little or no contribution to marine conservation and sustainable fisheries.

There are eleven different types of MPA on this coast and sta researchers were unable to find any consistency regarding what allowed to happen within them and what is not. Most locals believe that MPAs are areas where fishing is banned, yet preliminary surveys are showing that this is not the case.

In fact fishing closures seem to be the exception, not the rule. How can Canada claim to be living up to their international obligations?

Memo

CONFIDENTIAL

To: Inspector Storm
From: Chief Superintendent V.A. Lour

Re: Marine Protected Areas

Inspector:

Please check into the allegations in this article and get back to me A.S.A.P.

Respectfully,
Chief Superintendent V.A. Lour

Confidentially Chester--
I think there may be
something fishy going on.

Are these really all
marine protected areas??
What do they protect?

MPA - Marine Protected Area
NMCA - National Marine Conservation Area
MNWA - Marine National Wildlife Area
MBS - Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
CON - **PROVINCIAL CONSERVANCY**
ER - ~~Ecological Reserve~~
WMA - Wildlife mgmt area
PP - Provincial ~~Reserve~~ **PARK**
PA - ~~Protected Area~~
RA - Recreation Area
MP - **MARINE PARK**

→ MPA federal?
→ MPA Provincial?
→ MPA generic?





AUTHORIZATION TO INVESTIGATE

Form: LOS209

This form hereby authorizes Inspector C. Storm
to launch an investigation on behalf of the Living Oceans Society of Sointula and Vancouver, BC
into: Congruence between 161 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the closures to
29 commercial fisheries on Canada's Pacific Coast.

Background:
In 2008, investigators at Living Oceans Society conducted a careful review of the existing
161 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) on Canada's Pacific coast. They concluded that a
thorough investigation is warranted to determine whether these MPAs are protecting the
ocean ecosystem as they were established to do.

Scope of Investigation:
The boundaries of all 161 MPAs will be compared with the boundaries of closures for 29
commercial fisheries¹. The intent is to pinpoint which fisheries are permitted within which
MPAs.
The IUCN category assigned to each MPA by its Canadian manager will also be recorded. A
science report detailing methods and findings will be published online in 2010². See
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2010.10.010> for the complete report.

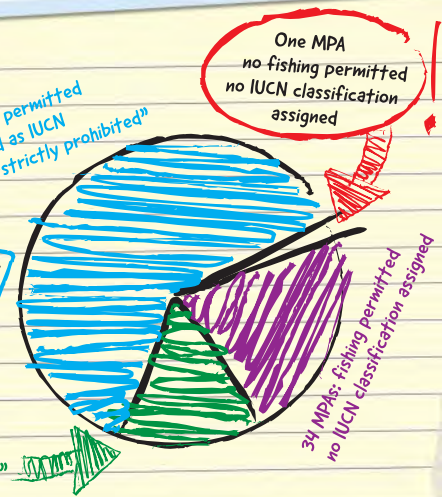
- Notes:
- 29 fisheries should be analyzed because they have year-round fishery closures:
Anchovy; Intertidal Clam; Crab; Eulachon; Euphausiid; Geoduck; Bottom Trawl
Groundfish; Midwater Trawl Groundfish; Halibut; Herring Food and Bait; Herring Roe;
Herring Spawn on Kelp; Herring Special Use; Octopus; Opal Squid; Prawn Trap;
Rockfish Hook and Line; Sablefish; Sardine; Scallop by Dive; Scallop by Trawl;
Schedule II Species; Sea Cucumber; Shrimp Trawl; Surfperch; Surf Smelt. Tuna; Green
Urchin; and Red Urchin.
 - Robb, C.K., Bodtker, K.M., Wright, K., Lash, J. Commercial Fisheries Closures in
Marine Protected Areas on Canada's Pacific Coast: The exception, not the rule.
Marine Policy 2011; 35(3): 309-316. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2010.10.010>



DFO permits fishing in MPAs
classified by IUCN as
"STRICTLY PROTECTED"

17 MPAs: fishing permitted
but classified as IUCN
"some fishing may be allowed"

109 MPAs: fishing permitted
but classified as IUCN
"strictly prohibited"



...ask Penelope

Dear Penny:
I'm confused. Can I fish in a MPA?
~E. Morey

Dear Mr. Morey:
Fishing is allowed in some MPAs. A
MPA that is closed to fishing becomes
a refuge where species can survive and
multiply. In Canada's Pacific, we have
one small MPA, Whytecliff Park,
which is completely closed to fishing.
There are also parts of three others,
Porteau Cove Park and Porteau Cove
Recreation Area and the larger Sgaan
Kinghlas-Bowie Marine Protected
Area, that are partially closed to
commercial fisheries. Although
individually, these no-take areas are an
accomplishment, together they add up
to less than 1 percent of the Canadian
Pacific ocean.

Dear Penny:
Aren't all the MPAs in Canada's
Pacific supposed to be closed to
commercial fishing??
~Confused in Comox

Dear Confused:
Canada has adopted the International
Union for the Conservation of Nature
(IUCN) system for classifying
protected areas. According to this
system, 109 MPAs are "strictly

protected" which means that fisheries
should not occur. Our investigation
found that some fisheries are
permitted in almost all of these MPAs.

Dear Penny:
Why is fishing permitted in MPAs that
are supposed to be closed?
~Incensed in Tofino

Dear Incensed:
Most evidence points to a lack of
coordination between the government
agency responsible for fisheries
management and those responsible for
MPA designations. When a
government agency establishes a
MPA, they need Fisheries and Oceans
Canada to close some or all fishing
within the boundaries. More often than
not, this coordination does not happen
and the MPAs fail to make it into the
fisheries management plans.

Dear Penny:
What's the big deal if someone does
fish in a MPA??
~Big Al

Dear Al:
While not all MPAs need to be
completely closed to fisheries
(no-take), the benefits of no-take
MPAs include more and larger fish¹
which is good for the ocean and good
for fishermen.

Dear Penny:
The fuss over fishing and MPAs seems
made up to me. Does anyone actually
fish in MPAs anyway?
~Love my Rockfish

Dear Love:
The public does not have access to the
information showing where fishermen
fish, so there is no way to know for
sure. BUT, if fishing is not prohibited,
then fishermen are allowed to fish
there. The only way to ensure a MPA is
strictly protected is to prohibit fishing
within the MPA boundaries.



CANADA SIGNS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

AP ~ Staff writer
Canada has signed international agreements that
commit us to building a network of MPAs by 2020¹.
International consensus recommends that such a
network should ensure 20-30 percent of each marine
and coastal region be in "strictly protected" areas².
Canada classifies protected areas using the Interna-
tional Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
system. According to this system, fishing should be
prohibited in all areas designated as "strictly
protected". Currently 109 of Canada's 161 Pacific
MPAs are classified as "strictly protected" using the
IUCN system³.

Area 3: Pa
Reserve



Commercial Fisheries

Commercial fisheries are an important part of our
coastal economy and culture. For generations
commercial fishermen have been seeking out the
best fishing grounds for salmon, halibut, ground
fish, crabs, shrimp and other species. Each fishery
has an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan
(IFMP) that outlines when, where and how fisher-
men can fish. Every fishery has closures—areas
where fishing is not allowed—to protect spawning
areas, critical habitat, or to avoid contaminated
areas.

*Fisheries management plans
don't always show existing MPAs.*

- CBD 2010.
- IUCN 2005.
- Categories I-III from IUCN-WCPA's recently revised Guidelines
for applying protected area management categories. Number of
MPAs designated as 'strictly protected' was updated based on this
revision and differs from that reported in Robb, C.K., Bodtker,
K.M., Wright, K., Lash, J. Commercial Fisheries Closures in
Marine Protected Areas on Canada's Pacific Coast: The
exception, not the rule. Marine Policy 2011; 35(3): 309-316.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2010.10.010>.
- Mosquera et al. 2000; Halpern 2003; Micheli et al. 2004; Lester &
Halpern 2007; Di Franco et al. 2009; Stewart et al. 2009.



PHOTO Ruth Joy



PHOTO K. Bodtker



Healthy Oceans
Healthy Communities

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS Marine
protected areas (MPAs) are places on
the ocean that are set aside to allow
nature to take its course without
human disruption. This means that
coral forests remain intact and provide
critical habitat for rockfish, current-
swept passages continue to support
the rainbow of sea stars and sponges
that cover the rocky walls, and areas of
sand and gravel provide habitat for the
sand lance which, in turn, feed tufted
puffins. Moreover, research from
around the world has proven that
MPAs are important tools in fisheries
management because when areas are
protected from fishing, they produce
more and bigger fish¹ which can help
sustain the region's fish stocks. In
other words, a plan to use our ocean
sustainably means a plan that includes
marine protected areas.

There are eleven different types of
MPAs on the Pacific Coast of Canada.
Different types of MPAs are established
and managed by different government
agencies and each type has different
management objectives. Not all MPA
types are intended to provide the same
level of protection and not all intend
to prohibit fishing.

A special type of protected area is a
no-take MPA or marine reserve in
which all fishing is prohibited.²
No-take MPAs provide refuge for many
species of fish and produce signifi-
cantly more and larger fish¹ than MPAs
that allow fishing.



Harbour Seal ©Gary Davis



Sea Star ©Jessie Paloposki



Marine Protected Areas are home to a wide variety of species, both
familiar and exotic. Sponges provide habitat for other species.

1% of Canada's land surface is part of
a national network of MPAs on
unlike most other countries, less
space is protected. The
frustration is that the
percentage of the
peninsula is less than the
NE extension of the Malachian

- Notes
- Mosquera et al. 2000; Halpern 2003; Micheli et al. 2004;
Lester & Halpern 2007; Di Franco et al. 2009; Stewart et al.
2009.
 - World Commission on Protected Areas 2007.

Mariposa Folk Festival, see folk festivals.
Maritime Provinces PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,
NOVA SCOTIA and NEW BRUNSWICK cover
134, 584 km²—just a little more than

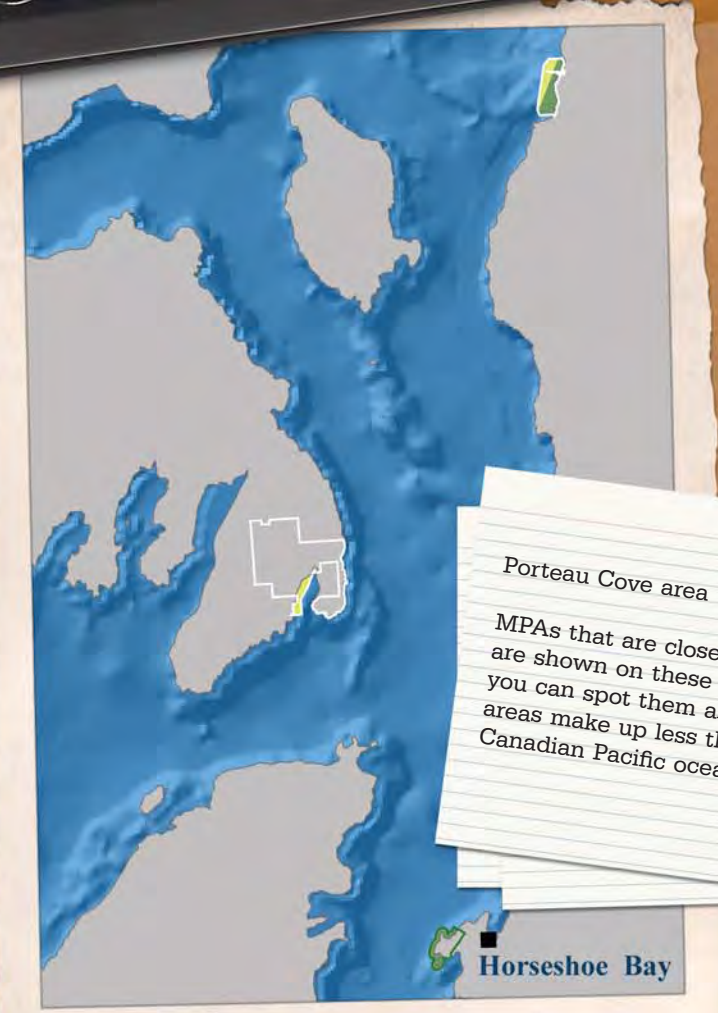
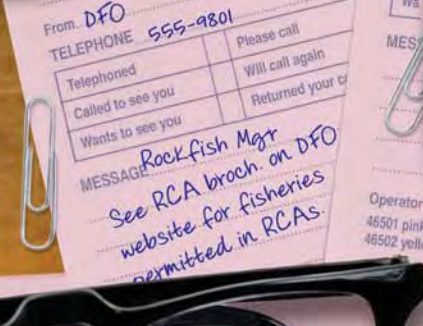




Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents MPA
- has species found nowhere else on the planet.
- species include:
- Ammothea veranae (Vent spider)
- Sericosura venticol



Vent Spider



Area 1: Porteau Cove Area

MAP AREA 1

Porteau Cove area

MPAs that are closed to all commercial fisheries are shown on these maps in dark green (see if you can spot them all). These "strictly protected" areas make up less than one percent of the Canadian Pacific ocean.

Bowie Seamount

Pacific Ocean

Memo

To: Inspector Storm
From: C. Coldwater

Re: Scott Islands area
Map Area 2

These three provincial ecological reserves and one provincial park should be "strictly protected" according to their IUCN category. Between five and 14 fisheries are permitted within their bounds. Better coordination between the province and the federal government is required to close them to fisheries.

Coral



Area 2: SCOTT ISLANDS AREA

Enwari Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve.

We are hopeful that it will contribute to increased protection through additional no-take zones.

Not on map - designated after study completed

Legend

- PROTECTED AREAS
- Federal
 - Provincial
 - Municipal
- NO. OF FISHERIES PERMITTED (out of 29)
- 0
 - 1 - 4
 - 5 - 8
 - 9 - 13
 - 14 - 17
 - 18 - 21



Area 3: Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

MAP AREA 3

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

- IUCN category II - means 'STRICTLY PROTECTED'
- analysis shows 3 - 18 different fisheries permitted here

How could this be?

- Coordination between federal agencies lacking...



Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

no management plan available for this park

MESSAGE

Date: Tues Time: 12:35

To: Insp Storm

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

From: Dept. Fish & Oceans
TELEPHONE 555-8702

Telephoned: ☒ Please call

Called to see you: ☒ Will call again

Wants to see you: ☒ Returned your call

MESSAGE: Bowie Seamount MPA officially designated. Regs registered in Gazette Apr 17/08. Of 3 zones, one is open to sablefish fishery only.

Operator: 46501 pink 46502 yellow

MESSAGE

YOU WERE OUT

Please call

Will call again

Returned your call

Fisheries should NOT be permitted in Chehalis Bay Ecological Reserve - thought we'd closed them all

No record of closures found

Inspector Chester Storm
Oceans Society
Box 320
Sointula, BC
CANADA

need to ask DFO for more spatial data

New Management Plan for Coast

A new management plan is being developed for the Pacific North Coast called PNCIMA. This will provide an opportunity for existing and future MPAs to be more effective when their management is integrated with that of other ocean uses such as fisheries. Bodies responsible for developing the plan include:

for your fine dining adventure!
Jennifer's Grill
Call 555-1212

Washington

300 400 km



PHOTO Gary Davis

AREA 1 PORTEAU

PAC RIM NAT PRK AREA 3

AREA 2 SCOTT IS.

Port Hardy

Sointula

Vancouver Island

Vancouver

Victoria



RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Form: LOS331

In the matter of the investigation undertaken by Inspector Chester Storm
on behalf of the Living Oceans Society of Sointula and Vancouver, BC ++
into: Congruence between 161 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the closures to
29 commercial fisheries on Canada's Pacific Coast.

Case Results

1. According to the IUCN classification, 68 percent (109 of 161) of the MPAs on Canada's Pacific Coast should not allow fishing, yet most do.
2. The size and level of protection within Canada's Pacific MPAs do not meet Canada's international commitments.
3. Our government agencies are not coordinating their efforts to make effective MPAs. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for where and when fisheries occur, while several different levels of government (municipal, provincial and federal) designate MPAs.

Recommendations

Living Oceans Society will coordinate efforts to call upon Fisheries and Oceans Canada to:

1. Implement fisheries closures in all MPAs currently classified as "strictly protected".
2. Ensure that 20-30 percent of each habitat type is effectively protected in MPAs.
3. Utilize integrated management processes like the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) process, to coordinate planning between government ministries, Integrated Fisheries Management Plans and conservation efforts.

Chester Bottom line... does any of this matter?

remember Halpern 2003?

YES!!

Research from around the world has proven that MPAs are important tools for ocean health and for fisheries management. A plan to use our ocean sustainably means a plan that includes marine protected areas. Recommend urgent follow-up.

Seven Seafood Restaurants

Take-Out Menu (Sources)

Appetizers

- 1 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). COP 10-Report of the tenth meeting of the conference of the parties, 2010. Available from <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-10/official/cop-10-27-en.pdf>
- 2 Di Franco, A., Bussotti, S., Navone, A., Panzalis, P., and Guidetti, P. Evaluating effects of total and partial restrictions to fishing on Mediterranean rocky-reef fish assemblages. Marine Ecology Progress Series. 2009; 387:275-285.
- 3 Halpern BS. The impact of marine reserves: Do reserves work and does reserve size matter? Ecological Applications 2003; 13 (Supplement: Marine Reserves): 117-137.
- 4 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories. CNPPA with the assistance of WCMC. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. 1994; +261 pp.
- 5 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Benefits Beyond Boundaries. Proceedings of the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. 2005; 306. Available from <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2005-007.pdf>
- 6 Lester, S.E. and Halpern, B.S. Biological responses in marine no-take reserves versus partially protected areas. Marine Ecology Progress Series. 2008; 367:49-56

Hot Pot

- 7 Micheli F, Halpern BS, Botsford LW, Warner RR. Trajectories and correlates of community change in no-take marine reserves. Ecological Applications 2004; 14 (6): 1709-1723.
- 8 Mosquera I, Côté IM, Jennings S, Reynolds JD. Conservation benefits of marine reserves for fish populations. Animal Conservation 2000; 4: 321-332.
- * 9 Robb, C.K., Bodtger, K.M., Wright, K., Lash, J. Commercial Fisheries Closures in Marine Protected Areas on Canada's Pacific Coast: The exception, not the rule. Marine Policy 2011; 35(3): 309-316. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2010.10.010>.
- 10 Stewart GB, Kaiser MJ, Côté IM, Halpern BS, Lester SE, Bayliss HR, Pullin AS. 'Temperate marine reserves: global ecological effects and guidelines for future networks'. Conservation Letters 2009; 2 (6): 243-253.

Rice

- 11 World Commission on Protected Areas - International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks: A guide for developing national and regional capacity for building MPA networks. Non-technical summary report. Washington, D.C.: WCPA/IUCN, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Nature Conservancy 2007; 118 p.

* House specialty.

POST CARD

MAY BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

ADDRESS ONLY ON THIS SIDE

Sir/Madam
As a citizen of a nation surrounded by three oceans, I am distressed that fishing is allowed in almost all of Canada's Pacific MPAs, including those classified as strictly protected. I implore you to implement the appropriate fishing closures ...for the health of our oceans now and in the future.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Communications Branch
200 Kent Street
13th Floor, Station 13E-2.8
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6



Healthy Oceans. Healthy Communities.

About LOS

Living Oceans Society grew out of Sointula, a fishing village on the Central Coast of B.C. Fishing had been a way of life in Sointula until changes in available resources forced more and more residents to give it up. Living Oceans was founded in 1998 with the idea that we need to protect some areas of the ocean as safe havens if we hope to continue depending on marine food webs for food and employment. We believe that people are part of the environment. We support and encourage sustainable commercial fishing, ecosystem based management and marine planning processes where people from coastal communities can have their say.

Contact LOS

Living Oceans Society

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