

Update: Pacific Region Area of Interest *Race Rocks*

Groundfish Forum
Nanaimo Convention Centre, Sept 28, 2010





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Presentation Outline

Canada's oceans
A natural resource, a national treasure

- Background Information
- Issues
- Links to other processes
- Current status
- Next steps

History of the Race Rocks MPA Process



Background Information

- The Race Rocks Pilot Marine Protected Area proposal was approved by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in 1998 as one of four Pilot MPA's on Canada's Pacific coast.
- The proposal is to formally designate under the Oceans Act the waters surrounding Race Rocks.
- Objective is to provide long-term comprehensive protection of the diverse species and to maintain biological productivity of the ecosystem.

Background Information

- The Race Rocks Pilot Marine Protected Area proposal was submitted in 2000 into the regulatory process but was challenged at the Gazette 1 phase for lack of consultation with local First Nations.
- This challenge prevented the regulation from going forward and consultations were restarted with First Nations shortly after that in 2003.
- Broader public consultations restarted recently in Sept. 2009.

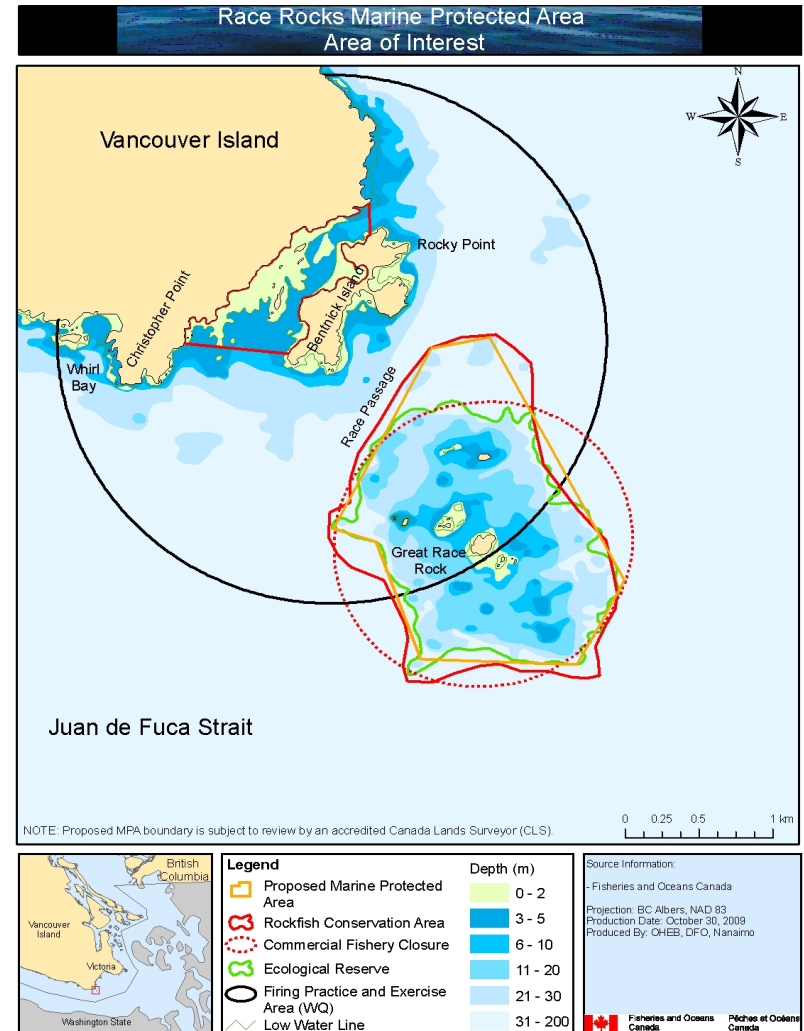
Background Information

Race Rocks Proposed MPA

- Diverse species
- Rare and endangered species
- High productivity

Key users

- Marine mammal viewing
- Education (Pearson College)
- Dive community



Background Information

- The main island, the small islets and the submerged lands belong to BC and were designated as an Ecological Reserve in 1980.
- Many commercial fisheries were excluded from the immediate area within the Ecological Reserve.
- The area became a Rockfish Conservation Area in 2005.

Links to Other Marine Conservation Processes

- Not in PNCIMA
- Was started before many of the current initiatives
- Attempting to coordinate remaining consultations with other processes.
- Once established it will contribute to the Pacific network goals

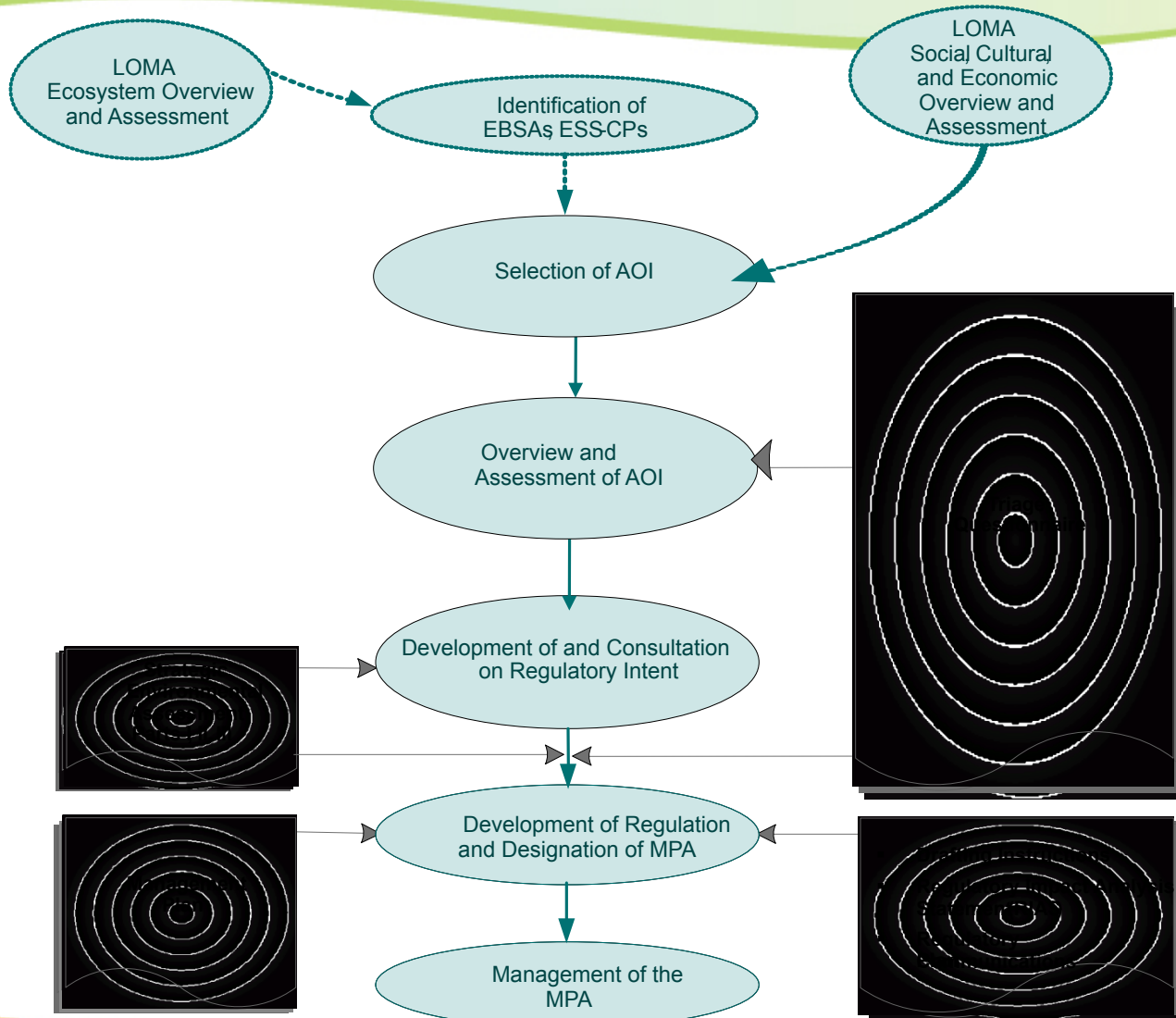
Current Status

- Consultations with stakeholders are well underway
 - Public advisory board includes major stakeholders, BC, other Departments and other sectors of DFO.
 - 4 meetings since September 2009
- Consultations with local First Nations are progressing
 - MOU was signed last spring agreeing to work towards the MPA
 - Discussion continues on plans to move forward on the MPA

Current Status

- On schedule to complete consultations in spring 2011
- Proposed official designation by late 2011 or early 2012

Next Steps



Next Steps

- Complete stakeholder and public consultations
- Complete agreement and consultations with local First Nations
- Complete a draft Management Plan
- Finalize regulatory documents for Ottawa

For more information

Glen Rasmussen
ICZM Coordinator – South Coast
(250) 754-0358
Glen.Rasmussen@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Gabrielle Kosmider
Oceans Program Advisor –
South Coast
(250) 754-0360
Gabrielle.Kosmider@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Hilary Ibey
Marine Planning & MPA Specialist –
Vancouver
(604) 666-2873
Hilary.Ibey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

