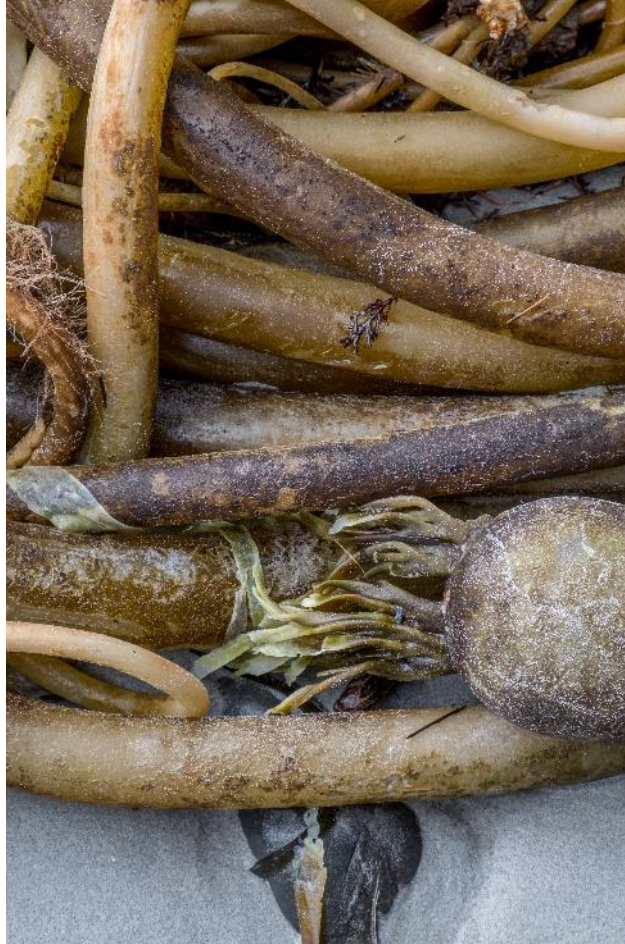




COASTAL MARINE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Update on Implementation Planning

June 5, 2025



Today

- Strategy Overview
- Scope and Content
- Current Context
- Initial implementation engagement
- Emerging opportunities
- Open Q&A



B.C. Coastal Marine Strategy

Strategy Overview

For the first time, we now have a shared vision and policies in place that:

- Aim to protect and enhance a broad spectrum of marine values over the next 20 years.
- Provide clarity and guidance for Provincial staff to engage in marine stewardship.
- Commit to ongoing collaboration with First Nations, and engagement with local government, and stakeholders.
- Bridge other government initiatives (e.g., BCSRIF, CCCW, MaPP/MPA Network).

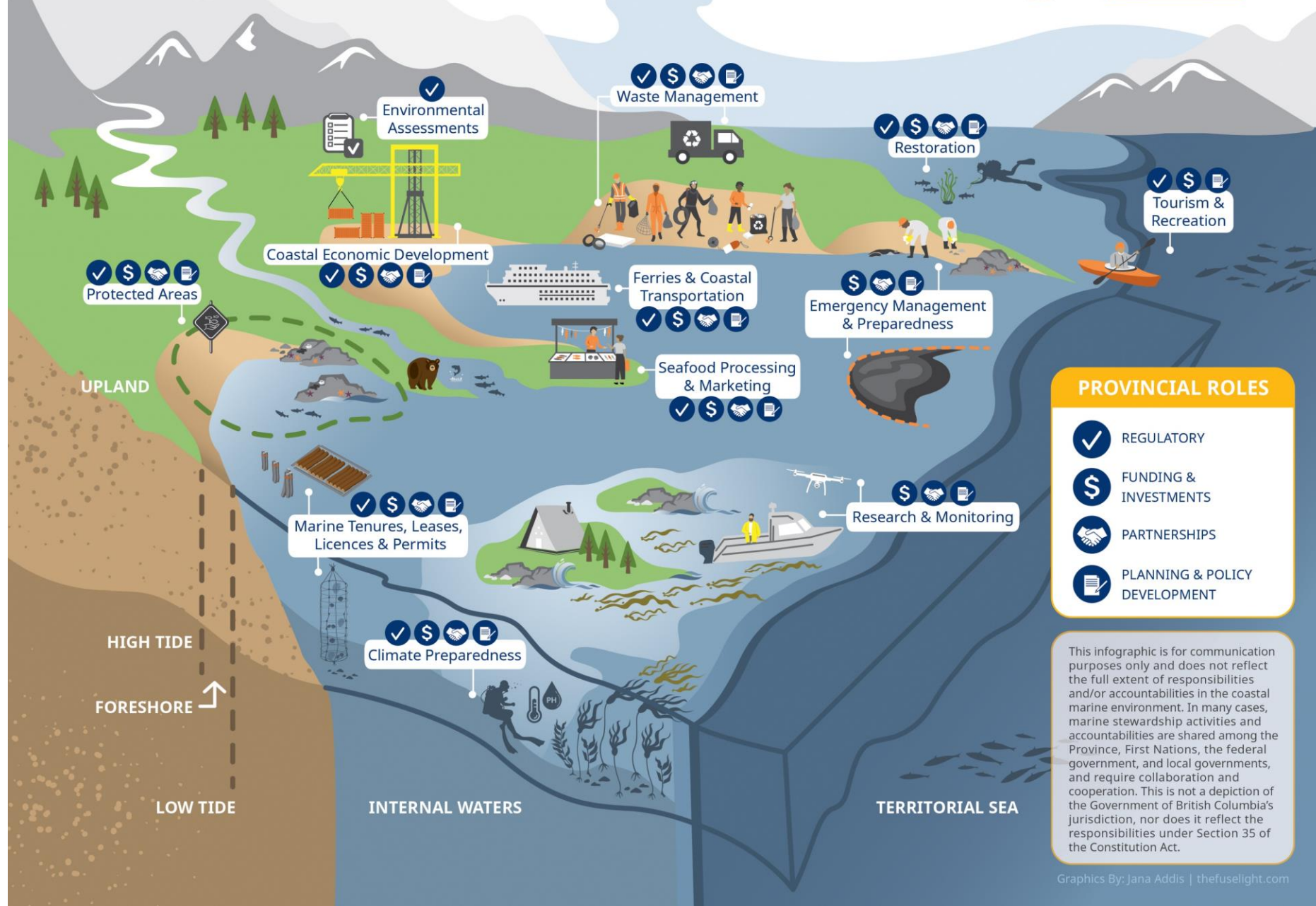
COASTAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF BC



Scope of the Strategy

- Applies across tidal waters throughout the BC Coast.
- Largely focuses on provincial roles in coastal marine stewardship.
- Leverages opportunities with Federal government while advocating on issues of shared provincial / First Nations interests.
- Reflects shared interests, developed through close collaboration, of the Province and First Nations on a "coast-wide" basis.

PROVINCIAL ROLES IN COASTAL MARINE STEWARDSHIP



Strategy Content



- Strategy sets out nine goals organized under four themes that together aim to achieve the strategy's vision.
- Actions and activities include:
 - **Existing initiatives underway** (e.g. BCSRIF, MaPP, and MPA Network Implementation).
 - Net new initiatives to be **implemented with existing resources** (e.g. exploring legislation); and,
 - Net new initiatives that will **require additional funding**.
- The Strategy's 20-year horizon means somethings will be done sooner and others later.



Shared Interests

First Nations' input and Public and Stakeholder feedback from Strategy development showed broad support for the vision and policy direction.

Key priorities that were emphasized included:

- Addressing marine pollution;
- Protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems; resilience to climate change;
- Advancing Indigenous self-determination;
- Creating meaningful legislation and policies; and,
- Supporting a thriving ocean economy.



Current Context

- A succession of intense wildfire seasons, natural disasters, drought, and political challenges have impacted the government.
- Government budgets are constrained with cost saving measures in place.
- Government primary focus is addressing needs for housing, healthcare, public safety, and responding to US economic threats.
- However, mandate letters do provide several means to pursue Strategy implementation.



Initial Implementation Engagement

- Implementation engagement has been completed with each of the three steams:
 - Nations working with FNFC met February 24th and 25th in person in Victoria, with additional virtual meetings on March 3rd and 4th.
 - Modern Treaty Nations - March 6th in person in Victoria
 - Marine Plan Partnership - May 28th virtual.



Update on Implementation Work

Initial prioritization focused on:

- Understanding our respective constraints and opportunities with respect to marine stewardship.
- Noting where our priorities align and differ.
- Shortlist of opportunities underdevelopment. Will outline:
 - Ongoing initiatives
 - Shared near term priorities (< 3 years or foundational)
 - Deferred activities (> 3 years or pending funding)
- Implementation planning and initial implementation work will continue to use the three streams of engagement.



Emerging Opportunities

Results from early the initial implementation engagement point to opportunities for:

Action 2: Protect and restore nearshore ecosystems

Activities that support this action:

- Collaboratively implementing the Canada-BC-First Nations plan for a Marine Protected Area network in the Northern Bio-shelf Region



Emerging Opportunities

Action 4: Improve Salmon Survival

Activities that support this action:

- Recognize wild Pacific salmon as a priority marine feature when licensing marine activity...
- Report on provincially-lead conservation actions and outcomes every five years.
- Habitat protection and restoration through the BCSRIF program.
- Maintain support for Canada's Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative.



Emerging Opportunities

Action 5: Prevent Marine Pollution

Activities that support this action:

- Develop changes to marine tenure licence application requirements and adopt best management practices to prevent pollution from marine tenures. Focus will be on investigating ways to prevent polystyrene pollution and will focus on the following tenures: private moorage, boathouses, marinas, float homes



Emerging Opportunities

Action 13: Support commercial harvesters

Activities that support this action:

Increase participation with the federal government in managing fisheries and advocate for:

- Introduction of Atlantic-type fisheries policies (such as owner-operator and fleet separation) to restore and strengthen the economic viability of B.C.'s harvesting sector, attract and retain new entrants from diverse backgrounds, support robust food systems and improve the distribution of benefits to local and First Nations economies and communities.
- Addressing socioeconomic and fish stock data needs to inform better decision-making.
- Greater transparency of science, data and decision-making.
- Enhanced First Nations presence and participation in international fisheries treaty negotiations and transboundary issues.



Emerging Opportunities

Action 14: Help restore First Nations traditional seafood systems

Activities that support this action:

- Advance shellfish harvest reopening (by supporting Indigenous stewardship, improving sanitary conditions, and supporting testing) along the coast, prioritizing First Nations community access.
- Co-create a “Healthy Shellfish Initiative” with First Nations partners, modelled off successful programs and pollution correction legislation in Washington State. Set specific goals for remediation, in partnership with others. Identify pilot projects that can inform a coast-wide program flexible enough to meet distinct needs
- Advocate for changes to the federal Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program, including more funding to support increased water quality testing and pollution remediation.



Emerging Opportunities

Action 19: Modernize policies and procedures

Activities that support this action:

- Assess the information needed and develop a proposal for coastal marine legislation, in partnership with First Nations. As appropriate, proceed through the legislative stages.
- Update, as required, provincial policies, best management practices and authorization requirements for tenures tied to activities in the coastal marine environment
- Streamline authorization processes for activities that promote ecosystem health (such as First Nations Sea gardens and ecological restoration).



Emerging Opportunities

Action 24: Plan for the Future

Activities that support this action:

- Continue implementing existing integrated marine plans and address the challenges that have made it difficult to achieve some key ecosystem-based management objectives.
- Participate in efforts to update marine plans in response to changing conditions and lessons learned.
- Work with other governments and industry to collaboratively develop a plan for vessel anchorages to address the concerns of First Nations, local governments and communities regarding ship vessel noise and light pollution, discharge and habitat disturbance.



Next Steps

- This spring:
 - Finalize First Nations engagement summaries; and,
 - Develop a coastwide summary.
- Share drafts with Nations over the summer and seek internal input on shortlisted actions.
- Confirm actions in early fall, schedule update meetings with Local Gov and Stakeholders, and begin new implementation work.

Open Q & A