



A Coastal Marine Strategy for British Columbia

Spring Howe Sound Community Forum
April 12, 2024

Gratefully delivered in the territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk^wx^wú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples

COASTAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF BC



Context

- B.C. is one of few maritime jurisdictions without a long-term vision for managing use of the coastal marine environment
 - Strategic policies have been set nationally - potentially overlooking the unique conditions that define this province
- Mandate to co-develop, complete and launch first ever Coastal Marine Strategy announced in 2020
- Strategy will have a 20-year outlook and focus on provincial accountabilities, look to complement federal opportunities
- Strategy will address priorities identified at a coast-wide scale

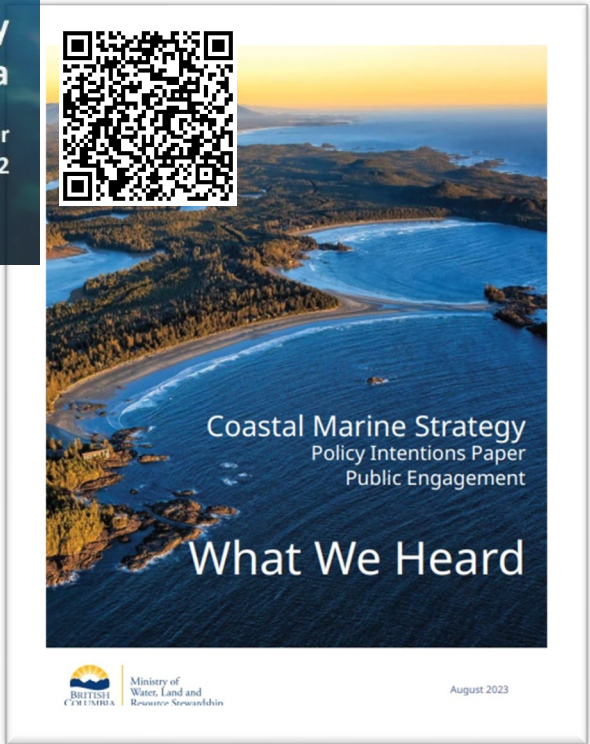
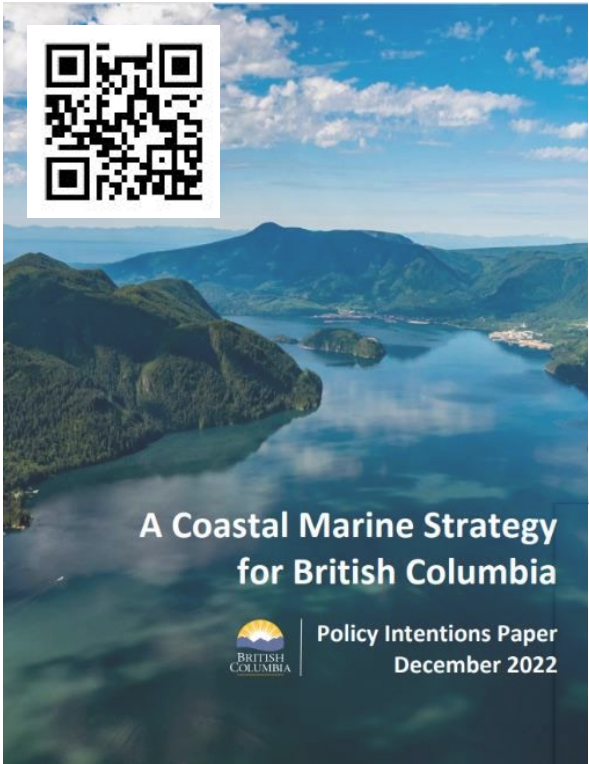


Co-development with Nations

- 65 coastal First Nations have engaged in the process in some way:
 - Leadership sessions in Jan/Feb 2022
 - Working sessions with technical advisors
 - Bilateral meetings
 - First Nations-B.C. writing team
 - Indigenous Youth and Young Professionals Summit (March 2023)
- Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and shíshálh nations and Metro Van and Sunshine Coast RDs have all engaged on the development of the Strategy in some way



Intentions paper and what we've heard



- First Nations interests, knowledge, worldviews guided co-development of Intentions Paper
- Some priorities we heard from First Nations, local governments, stakeholders, citizens:
 - Coordination across jurisdictions
 - A holistic approach to management
 - Indigenous rights and co-governance
 - Enacting and enforcing meaningful legislation
 - Balancing environmental protection and economic opportunities
 - Food sovereignty and security
 - Evidence-based decision-making, supported by better monitoring, mapping, data and research

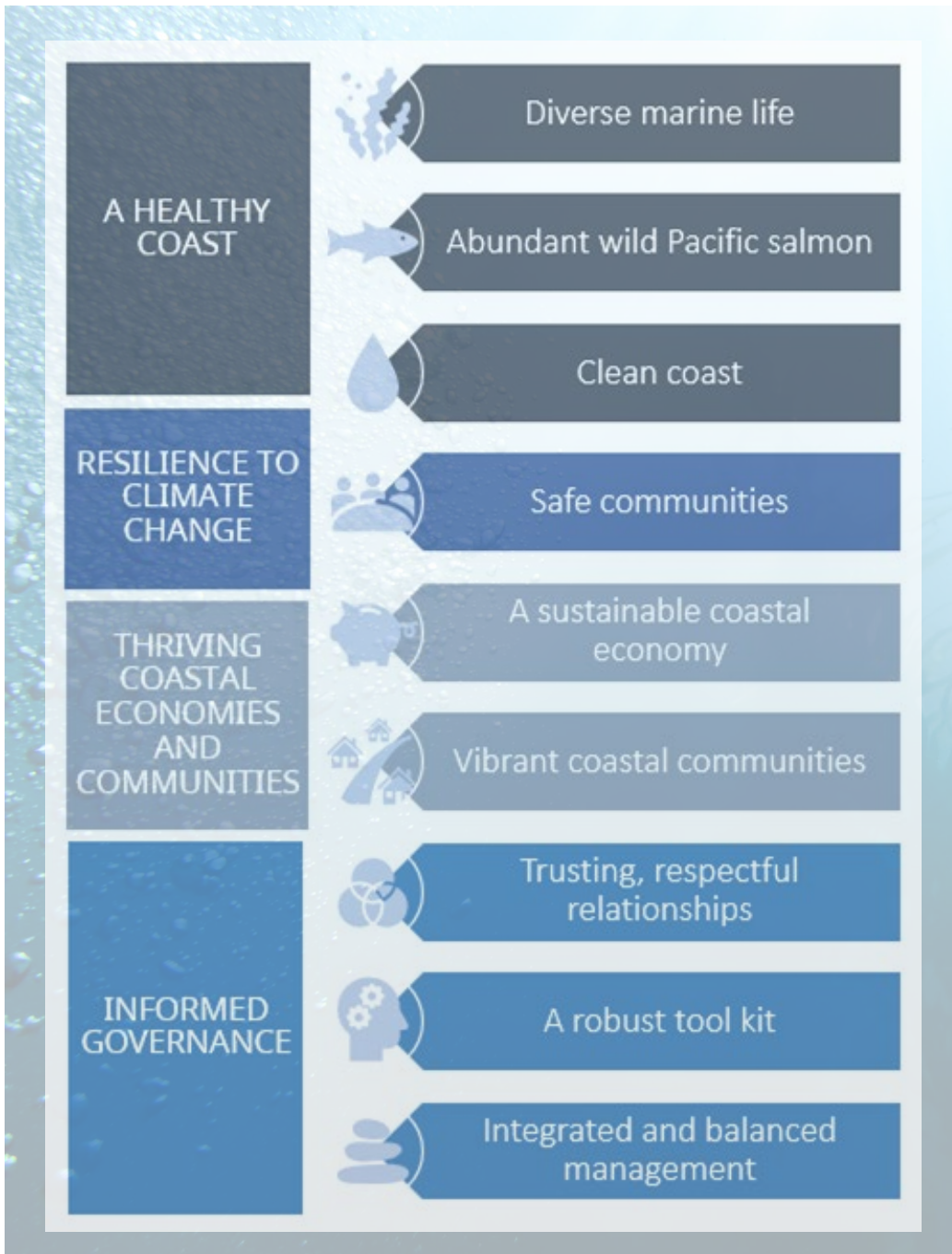


Developing the Strategy

- Mandate is to develop a comprehensive Strategy – requires balance across themes of ecosystem health, economic sustainability, community well-being
- Strategy will need to be responsive to what we've heard and feasible to implement now and into the future
- We will want to focus on actions that have the highest potential to create value – building on the work already underway
- Early demonstration of success will lay a solid foundation for long-term implementation

Draft Strategy Content

- Reflecting the priority interests of First Nations, other governments, stakeholders, and citizens, the draft Strategy:
 - Mirrors the intentions paper First Nations and B.C. developed together – we received strong support for the proposed policy direction
 - Supports Indigenous-led stewardship and self-determination
 - Builds on across-government commitments to help achieve environmental protection and sustainable development
 - Focuses on provincial areas of jurisdiction with consideration of issues under federal authority





Alignment with the Ocean Watch Report (OWR)

Ocean Watch Report	Coastal Marine Strategy potential actions
Action 1: Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish knowledge partnershipsUpdate and refresh spatial dataImprove understanding of climate risksMonitor coastal healthReflect oceans true value
Action 2: Protect and Restore	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protected and restore nearshore ecosystemsPrevent, clean up marine pollutionNurture coastal wealth and healthSupport recreation and adventure
Action 3: Educate and Engage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Help restore First Nations traditional (sea)food systemsAdvance First Nations self-determinationAdvance collaborative stewardshipEstablish knowledge partnerships

Alignment OWR, con't

Ocean Watch Report	Coastal Marine Strategy potential actions
Action 4: Legislation	Modernize policies and procedures Improve compliance
Action 6: Monitor	Establish knowledge partnerships Update and refresh spatial data Improve understanding of climate risks Monitor coastal health Reflect oceans true value
Action 7: GHG Reductions	Support First Nations climate action Improve understanding (e.g., climate capacity assessments) Shift to nature-based climate solutions



A faint, light-colored illustration of an octopus is visible in the background, with its tentacles extending across the page. The octopus is positioned behind the text, serving as a decorative element.

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