

# National Marine Protected Areas Network Workshop – 2 November 2010

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Moving forward with bioregional network planning (focus on steps 1-5 of 8-step process)
- Informing technical guidelines

# THE FOUR PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

Development of Canada's MPA network is based on a regional implementation model and is made up of four phases as illustrated below.



NATIONAL  
SCALE OF INVOLVEMENT



BIOREGIONAL  
SCALE OF INVOLVEMENT



BIOREGIONAL/LOCAL  
SCALE OF INVOLVEMENT

## Phase I – National Framework and Inventory

- Over-arching policy direction for the establishment of Canada's network of MPAs.
- Engagement strategy to communicate the national framework to interested and affected parties.
- National inventory of all protected areas and other conservation tools with the potential to contribute to Canada's network of MPAs.

## Phase II – Best Practices

- Technical guidance based on best international practices to ensure national consistency in network design.

## Phase III – Bioregional MPA Network Design (2011-2014)

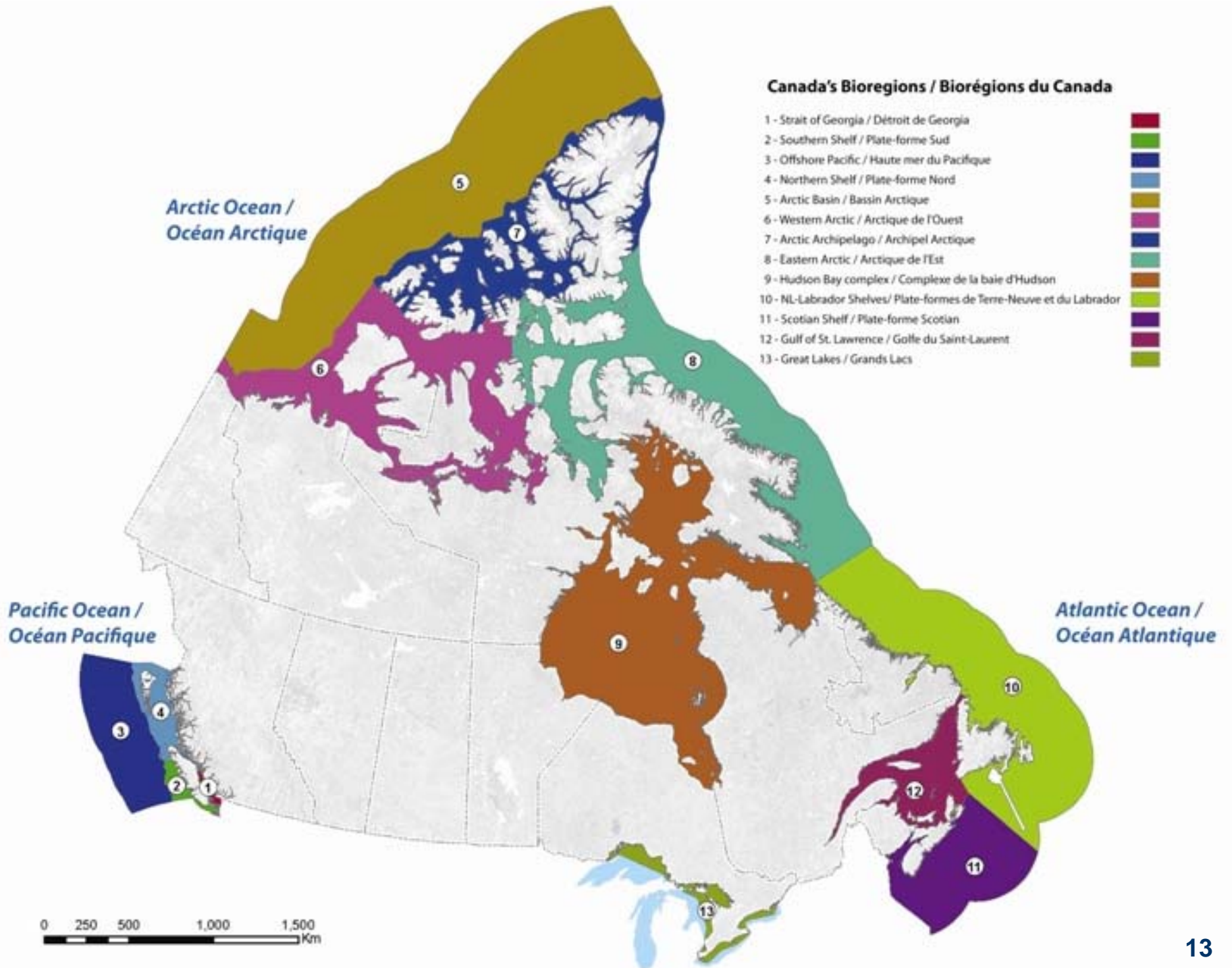
- Bioregional MPA network plan design by federal, provincial and territorial partners using integrated oceans management processes.

## Phase IV – Implementation (over time)

- Bioregional action plans implemented through MPA designation processes and other management measures. Includes prioritization, consultation, designation (in context of IOM) as resources allow.

### Canada's Bioregions / Biorégions du Canada

- 1 - Strait of Georgia / Détroit de Georgia
- 2 - Southern Shelf / Plate-forme Sud
- 3 - Offshore Pacific / Haute mer du Pacifique
- 4 - Northern Shelf / Plate-forme Nord
- 5 - Arctic Basin / Bassin Arctique
- 6 - Western Arctic / Arctique de l'Ouest
- 7 - Arctic Archipelago / Archipel Arctique
- 8 - Eastern Arctic / Arctique de l'Est
- 9 - Hudson Bay complex / Complexe de la baie d'Hudson
- 10 - NL-Labrador Shelves / Plate-formes de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador
- 11 - Scotian Shelf / Plate-forme Scotian
- 12 - Gulf of St. Lawrence / Golfe du Saint-Laurent
- 13 - Great Lakes / Grands Lacs



# EIGHT-STEP PLANNING PROCESS FOR BIOREGIONAL MPA NETWORKS

The graphic below illustrates the planning process for bioregional MPA networks. Steps 1 and 2 are preparatory, steps 3 to 6 develop the bioregional action plan, and steps 7 and 8 implement the action plan.

## FPT bioregional network planning team will:

- 1 Identify and involve stakeholders and others**  
Stakeholders, Aboriginal peoples, non-government organizations and other interested parties are involved in the planning process from the onset and throughout, building on existing governance structures and processes.
- 2 Compile ecological and socio-economic data**  
Available scientific, traditional ecological and community information for the bioregion (for example, ecosystem and species status reports, research studies, and reports from consultation sessions) is compiled, analyzed and mapped.
- 3 Establish network objectives for each bioregion**  
Network planners for each bioregion (identified in Step 1) determine objectives for the bioregional network that are consistent with national goals.
- 4 Set specific conservation targets and apply design principles**  
Conservation targets and internationally recognized network design principles and best practices influence how the network is configured within the planning area.

- 5 Review existing areas and perform gap analysis**  
Existing protected areas are reviewed and a gap analysis performed. Potential economic and social impacts are considered in the determination of where new MPAs or other conservation tools are needed in order to achieve the objectives of the bioregional network identified in Step 2 above.
- 6 Identify jurisdictions to establish priority areas**  
Bioregional network planners and partners identify which network gaps their individual mandates allow them to address and draft a bioregional network action plan for moving forward.
- 7 Undertake site-specific planning and implementation**  
Bioregional network planners and partners develop new MPAs according to the bioregional network action plan and their individual priorities and resources.
- 8 Manage and monitor the MPA network**  
As the network evolves, ongoing monitoring evaluates whether management practices are adequate for achieving network goals and objectives.

# Discussion topics & outcomes

## Step 1) Identify and Involve Stakeholders

- Moving beyond LOMAs: Governance models and options for including in technical guidelines
  - Importance of inclusive and transparent process
  - Building from LOMA governance structures
  - Decision bodies (partner agencies), advisory bodies (stakeholders, ENGOs), public fora, web-based information sharing...

## Step 2) Compile ecological and socio-economic data, geo-referenced for mapping

- Increased awareness of data needs and sources:
  - Presentation on BC Marine Conservation Analysis by Living Oceans Society
    - 3 year, 1 million dollar, multi-agency (ENGO-Govt) project
    - Atlas of ecological features + human uses for marine planning
    - Role of Marxan in providing scenarios for discussion

## Step 3) Set network objectives for bioregion – consistent with national network goals

- Process for taking an inclusive team approach to setting bioregional MPA network objectives (Pacific example):
  - Bottom-up setting of strategic objectives, consistent with national framework goals, for all 4 Pacific bioregions
  - Need for more specific, measurable objectives at the bioregional level of MPA network planning

## Step 3, cont.) Incorporating representativity (representation) in MPA network design

- Recommended approach for the representativity component of bioregional networks:
  - DFO Science advice re. what the representativity property is meant to achieve (represent the full range of ecosystems within an MPA network planning area), why it is important (insurance policy, natural control, heritage value), and necessary qualities (large size, adequate protection, contiguous & relatively intact)
  - PC NMCA program's contribution of representativity (to protect outstanding natural areas + to represent each of 29 marine areas) – must have public outreach



Steps 4 and 5) Set conservation targets, apply CBD design principles, review existing protected areas, perform gap analysis...

- What is an MPA in the context of MPA network?
  - Need more rigorous criteria for screening potential MPAs and for distinguishing between network MPAs and contributory areas, especially with respect to fisheries closures
  - Applications for reporting purposes and to understand their role in network planning

## Next steps

- Proceeding with bioregional network planning – preliminary work planning for 2011-2012:
- As a minimum, bioregional network planners should be able to proceed with steps 1-3 in next fiscal year
- Aim to have a minimum of two bioregional action plans in place by 2012