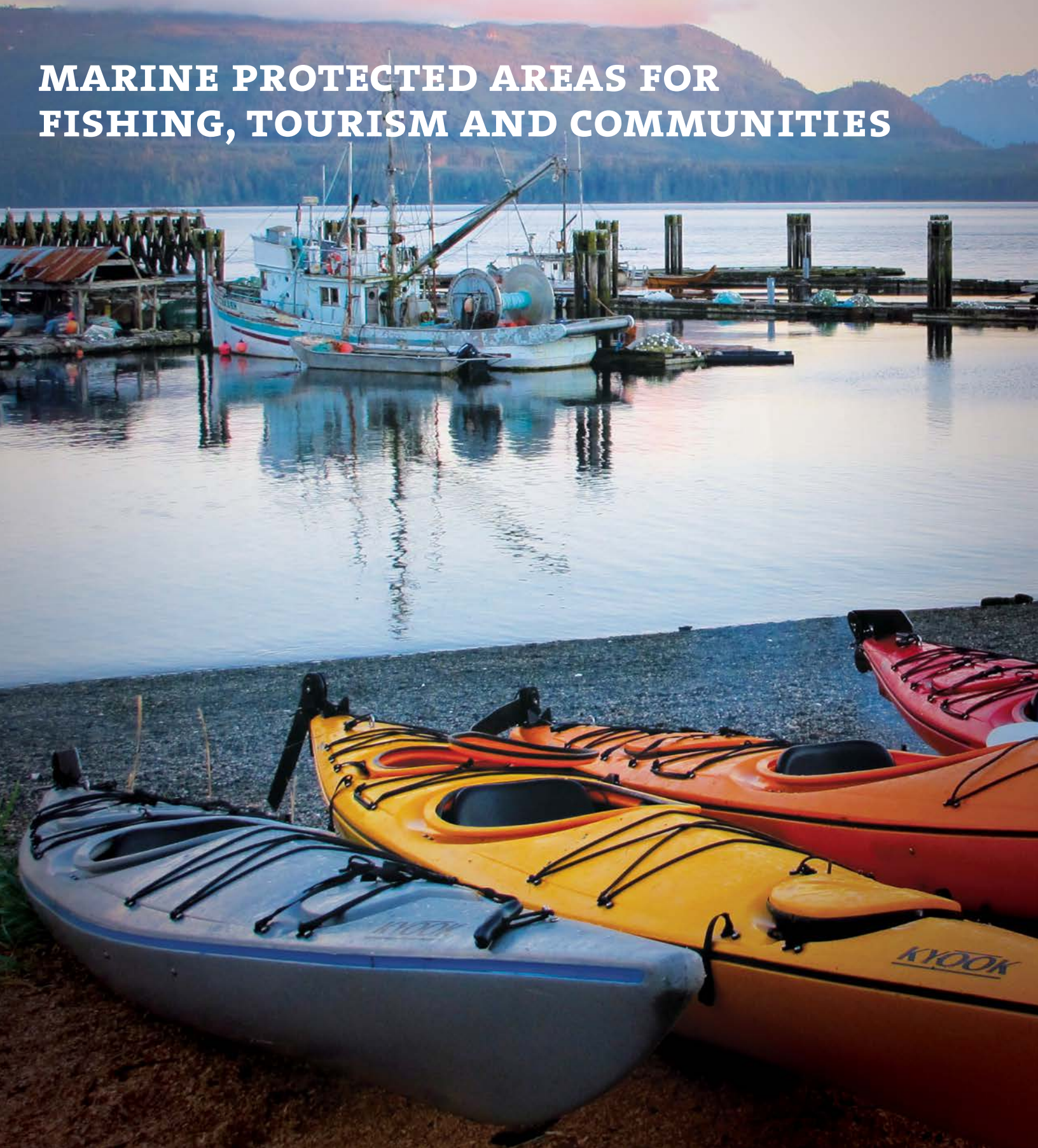


SAFEGUARDING B.C.'S COASTAL WATERS

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS FOR
FISHING, TOURISM AND COMMUNITIES



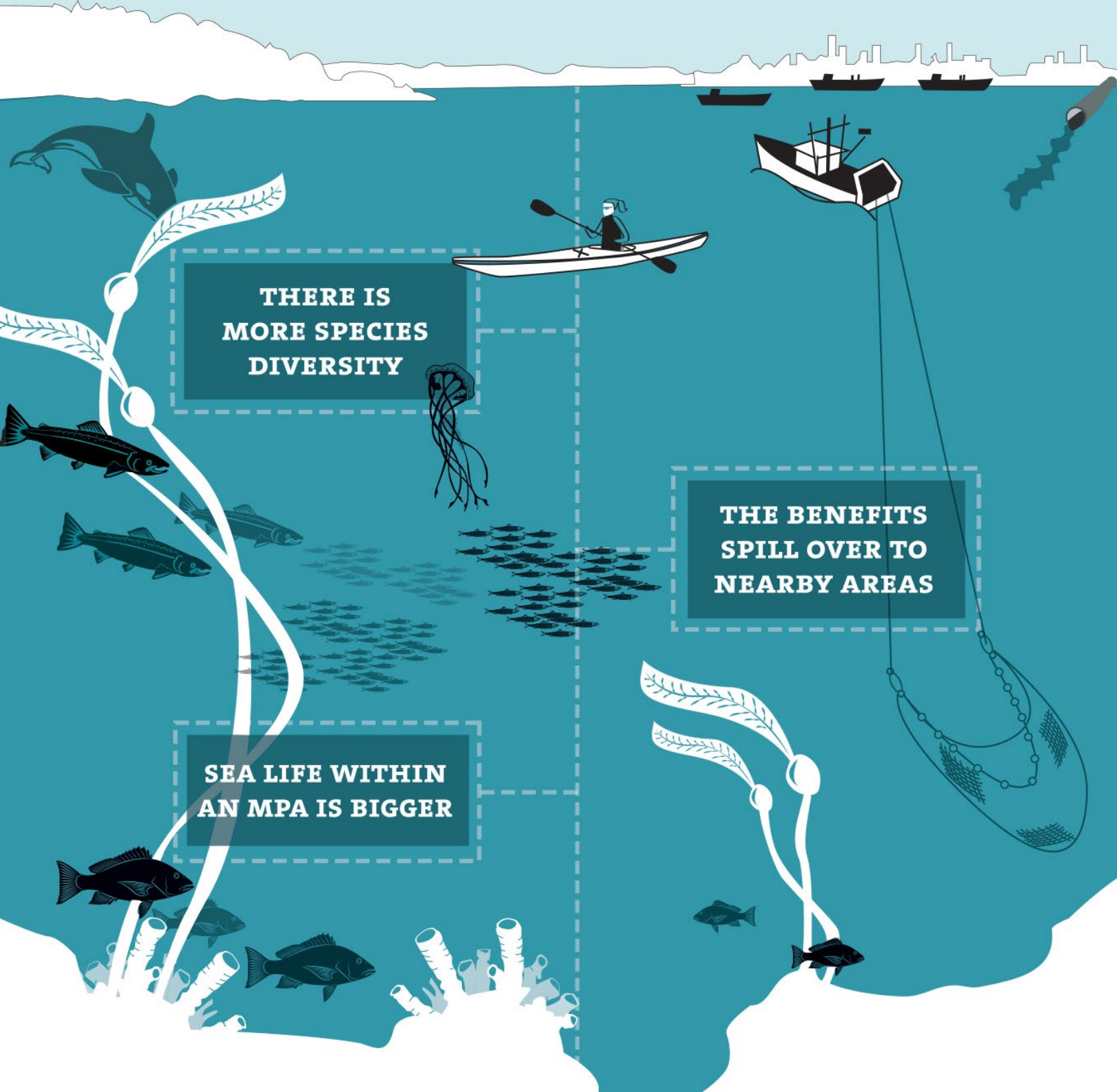


PROTECTED

WHAT IS AN MPA?

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are regions in which human activity is placed under restrictions in the interest of protecting the marine environment and any relevant cultural or historical values.

NOT PROTECTED



THERE IS MORE SPECIES DIVERSITY

THE BENEFITS SPILL OVER TO NEARBY AREAS

SEA LIFE WITHIN AN MPA IS BIGGER



Photo: Jeff Gunn via Flickr

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Charting the course to a healthy, productive economy

Ocean-related sectors have a direct impact of \$5.7 billion on B.C.'s GDP. Protecting important marine areas increases the overall productivity and resiliency of oceans, so we can continue to benefit from them for generations.

An investment that pays

Protected ocean ecosystems provide resiliency against climate and other environmental changes, filter and cycle waste and nutrients, and provide homes to the marine species that feed and sustain our communities.

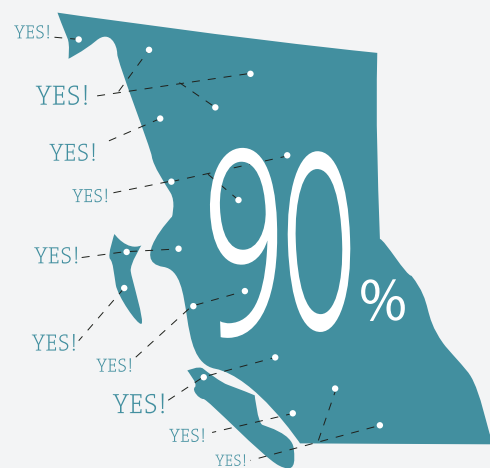
Safeguarding more than the environment

Protecting marine ecosystems can sustain fisheries, save billions of dollars in compensation after disasters, and attract tourists and recreationists who account for \$1.8 billion of B.C.'s annual GDP.

British Columbians want marine protection

Ninety per cent of British Columbians support the creation of more MPAs in which industrial activities are prohibited. Scientists and communities have been recommending MPAs for decades, and have explained how to set them up to maximize effectiveness.

WHO WANTS MPAs?



Across regions, community sizes, ages and education levels, over 90% of British Columbians want MPAs.¹⁹

WHAT'S NEEDED NOW

Commit an adequate budget to establish a marine protected area network in British Columbia by 2020.

KEEPING OCEANS, CULTURES AND ECONOMIES HEALTHY

Photo: Jodi Stark



Canada's Pacific coastal waters are full of ecological and cultural treasures

— towering sponge reefs made of tiny needles of glass, places where whales and seabirds feed and raise their young, salmon jumping year after year, and corridors of some of the world's great ocean migrations, to name a few.

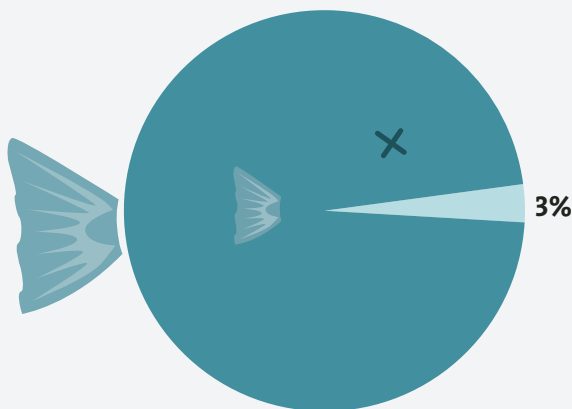
Past experience shows that lack of protection can leave this wealth in danger of damage and loss from human activities—and seriously threaten our thriving tourism industry.¹

Less than three per cent of the Canadian Pacific is within protected areas.³ All but one existing MPA in B.C. are open to commercial harvesting.²⁵

Protected species also do better outside MPAs

It's well known that MPAs promote the survival, growth, reproduction and diversity of species, particularly those that are usually harvested.^{9,12,17} Properly designed MPAs also increase productivity in adjacent areas, because safeguarded adults and young may move to other areas.^{5,11,13,17,20,26}

Larger MPAs perform better, as do those that prohibit extraction. Even a small amount of extraction can lessen MPA benefits.^{17,27}



LESS THAN 3%
OF CANADA'S
PACIFIC
— IS WITHIN —
PROTECTED
AREAS³

All but one existing MPA in B.C. are open to commercial harvesting.²⁵



Photo: Andy M. Taylor via Flickr

When we protect ocean ecosystems, they protect us

Ocean ecosystems filter our wastes and help keep oceans clean, sequester the carbon we put into the atmosphere (mitigating our contributions to climate change), cycle nutrients that form the basis of the food web and provide homes to the animals we like to see, and those we like to eat. Coastal ecosystems buffer our properties and communities against the impacts of extreme weather events.

Well-designed MPAs make ocean ecosystems more diverse and better able to recover and adapt if temperatures or other environmental conditions change.²

The Canadian government has acknowledged that MPAs provide resiliency against climate change.^{9,10} If ecosystems are protected in multiple places, when some areas are lost due to catastrophic events, others will remain to help recovery.

“If properly established, MPAs offer a viable additional management tool to help stem the decline of fisheries at risk, rehabilitate those that have collapsed, and contribute to the sustainability of future fisheries.”²⁷



Photo: Mike Telford

MPAs PROTECT MORE THAN THE ENVIRONMENT

The marine component of industry spending made up \$11.1 billion of B.C.'s GDP in 2005,

\$5.7 billion of which had direct impacts on GDP.^{8,11} Preserving the marine environment means protecting British Columbian economic values and resources.

Safeguarding fish stocks protects B.C. jobs

Protecting migration routes and habitats for adults and young leads to higher productivity and enhanced recruitment of commercially valuable fish species.^{3,23,27}

Economic analyses have demonstrated that MPAs are a cost-effective way to improve yields, protect stocks and sustain fisheries. They can buffer the high annual variability of catches and reduce the risk of collapse with little cost to total yield and profits.^{22,28}

B.C.'s wilderness is an economic driver

Of all ocean sectors, the ocean recreation sector had the greatest direct impact on B.C.'s GDP (\$1.8 billion) and generated the most employment (32,200 person-years) in 2005.¹¹ Nature-based tourism and recreation opportunities increase around MPAs.²¹ In some cases, just the increased market benefits from activities such as tourism are enough to warrant the creation of a protected area.⁴ These benefits include local employment, particularly when tourism and recreation are designed to feed directly into local communities.

“Do you realize that marine tourism and recreation provide over 100,000 jobs along the B.C. coast? Marine protected areas are good for tourism; we need a healthy environment to have sustainable jobs.”

Randy Burke,
Managing Director,
Bluewater Adventures



Photo: Adriana McM via Flickr

Photo: Jodi Stark

Healthy ocean ecosystems protect our cities, towns and livelihoods

Kelp and eelgrass beds, reefs, coastal wetlands and sand dunes buffer the effects of extreme weather and can save lives and money. Protecting the coastal and marine ecosystems that once characterized the east coast of the U.S. could have lessened the \$65 billion bill brought on by Hurricane Sandy.²⁴ Although the eastern U.S. coast is not ecologically similar to Canada's Pacific coast, the area where the *Exxon Valdez* spill occurred is similar to much of the B.C. coast.¹⁵ It resulted in \$2 billion in damages and gravely affected the livelihoods of 32,000 fishermen, Aboriginal people, landowners and others—costs and consequences that could have been avoided with greater protection against spills.¹⁸

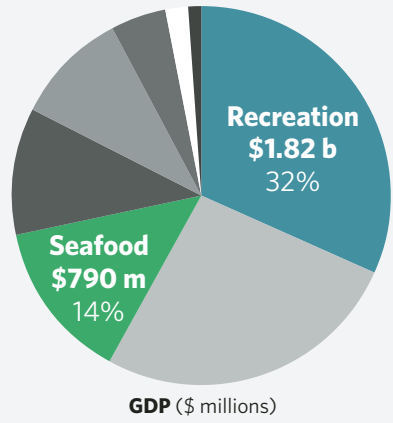
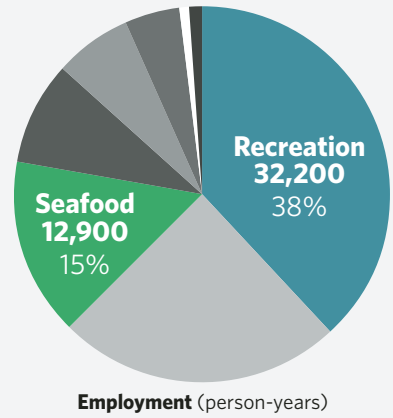
We can enhance the economic benefits of MPAs

Economic benefits of MPAs can be even greater by implementing these techniques:^{14,23}

- Protect areas that commercially valuable species need to grow and reproduce before they move into adjacent areas.
- Achieve greater cost-efficiency per unit area by establishing larger MPAs in a timely manner.
- Reduce management and enforcement costs and complexities by establishing large no-take reserves.

Direct impacts of ocean sectors on B.C.'s GDP and employment (2005)¹¹

The **indirect** and **induced** impacts of the ocean recreation sector contribute an additional \$1.8 billion to B.C.'s GDP as well as 28,000 person-years of employment.



Sector	(person-years, GDP)
Ocean recreation	(32200, \$1.82 b)
Ocean transport	(20700, \$1.51 b)
Seafood	(12900, \$790 m)
Public sector	(7440, \$612 m)
Ocean high tech	(5730, \$565 m)

Sector	(person-years, GDP)
Marine construction*	(3820, \$268 m)
Forestry	(910, \$108 m)
NGO sector	(730, \$54 m)
Total	(84430, \$5.73 b)

*includes ship & boat-building industries

BRITISH COLUMBIANS WANT MARINE PROTECTION



Photo: Jackie Hildering, The Marine Detective

British Columbians surveyed over many years have consistently expressed the need for MPAs.^{19,29}

Across regions, community sizes, ages and education levels, British Columbians want to prohibit industrial activities and strictly regulate commercial harvests in more than half of our coastal waters.¹⁹

Major ocean sectors already plan an MPA network in Canada's Pacific waters

The establishment of MPAs is a major component of ongoing marine planning initiatives managed collaboratively by the Canadian, B.C. and First Nations governments. B.C.'s major ocean sectors participate in these initiatives.³¹

Federal-provincial MPA strategies have also been prepared.³ These multi-party efforts to establish an MPA network need support from all levels of government.

Fisheries Union supports MPAs

2002 statement from B.C.'s United Fisheries and Allied Workers' Union:

WHEREAS there is increasing evidence that a properly designed network of marine protected areas (MPAs) can help rebuild depleted stocks, prevent the depletion of healthy stocks and protect fish habitat, and

WHEREAS there is increasing momentum within government to move ahead with the establishment of MPAs and

WHEREAS incorporating the knowledge of fishermen is the best guarantee that MPAs will work to benefit fishermen.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this convention of the UFAWU-CAW endorse in principle the establishment of a network of MPAs with core no-take zones.⁶

Local-led push created B.C.'s only no-take MPA

The community of West Vancouver initiated dialogue with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to establish Whytecliff Park as a no-take MPA in 1993.

To date, this community-demanded park has stricter regulations on extraction than any MPA established by the federal or provincial governments.¹⁶ The success of this no-take marine park, which attracts divers from far and wide with almost no negative impact on fisheries, demonstrates how community input can drive a successful outcome for multiple marine users.



Photo: Degan Walters

**THE VAST MAJORITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIANS
WANT MORE THAN 30% OF B.C.'S
WATERS PROTECTED**

Vision Critical conducted a poll on behalf of the David Suzuki Foundation in 2013 of a representative sample of more than 800 B.C. residents. After learning how much of the ocean was legally protected in California and planned for protection in Australia, 80 per cent of respondents said that more than 30 per cent of B.C.'s coastal waters should have environmental protection.

WHAT'S NEEDED NOW

Commit adequate budgets to establish a marine protected area network in British Columbia by 2020



Photo: Heidi Hudson

ACTIONS

1. **Establish an effective MPA network** by 2020 that protects at least 30 per cent of the marine environment and includes no-take zones
2. **Assign full-time MPA management staff** empowered to implement appropriate fishery closures. These staff must also have specific budgets to:
 - a. Prepare, implement and enforce management plans
 - b. Develop and implement monitoring systems
 - c. Develop plans for alternative income generation and sustainability
 - d. Engage and establish partnerships with First Nations and local communities
3. **Provide interim protection** for candidate MPAs
4. **Support** community-based MPA initiatives
5. **Encourage community participation** in enforcement and monitoring
6. **Develop implementation agreements** between federal, provincial and First Nations governments that integrate the MPA network with the Marine Planning Partnership for the North Pacific Coast and the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area Initiative

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32. Canada made this commitment under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Canada made an international
commitment to build a network
of marine protected areas along
the B.C. coast by 2020.³²**

**It's time to invest in that
commitment to our prosperity.**

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