

In a world with limited resources for environmental issues ...

We can't afford redundancy

Where there is still so much about the oceans we don't know...

Collaboration helps us piece together the puzzle

In coastal communities, where so much is at stake...

Communication and coordination are key

WHO ARE WE?

PacMARA is a charitable organization of science and planning professionals dedicated to building and increasing capacity in marine and coastal planning in Canada and internationally. Our goal is to help promote sustainable prosperity through communication, coordination, and collaboration – *ultimately linking science with decision making.*

WHAT DO WE DO?

PacMARA provides facilitation, training, analysis, and support for the ocean planning community through a variety of methods such as conducting workshops, courses, symposia, and spatial planning research case studies (35+ in nine countries to date). Participants include cross-sector government agencies, NGOs, researchers, industries, and community groups.

WHY DO WE DO IT?

In a world where so many people, organizations, businesses, and agencies have increasing interests in marine resources, PacMARA helps bring the pieces together. Without adequate planning, even routine uses can seriously impact the ocean's ability to provide critical services such as food, coastal protection, economic opportunity, energy generation, cultural use, and recreation. National and regional planning around the world is helping people manage ocean uses to sustain these services for the coming decades. Government agencies, NGOs, researchers, industries, and stakeholders are gearing up to conduct ocean planning, and PacMARA counts itself as part of the solution by promoting pragmatic approaches to enhance informed planning through facilitated communication, coordination, and collaboration.

FEEDBACK RECEIVED

- [PacMARA's strategy roadmap] *"is a potential game-changer in terms of achieving greater buy-in from stakeholders."*
- *"Excellent course! I liked the mix of theory, tutorials, and case studies with hands-on training. I can't wait to try this for coastal Nova Scotia."* [Introduction to Marxan technical course]
- *"I appreciate the honest delivery and highlights about stakeholder engagement. I think scientists really need to hear this stuff! Thank you."* [Marxan for Managers workshop]
- *"The excellent speaker maintained interesting discussions. Great presentations!"* [Decision Support Tools for Decision Makers workshop]

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over the past ten years PacMARA has:

- **Enabled Good Practices:** We have hosted two international workshops to address the challenge of using marine spatial planning tools and to gather case studies and lessons learned, which have resulted in publication of the *Marxan Good Practices Handbook* and comprehensive user manual, both [available](#) in English and Spanish;
- **Built Capacity and Informed Planning:** We have established an international Marxan capacity building and [training program](#) with 13 trainers operating in English and Spanish, in partnership with the University of Queensland, to promote well-informed systematic spatial planning through 22 trainings to-date;
- **Facilitated Learning and Collaboration:** We have organized and led 13 [workshops](#) for senior representatives of multiple agencies to explain the role of decision support tools in marine spatial planning processes, including capabilities, components, recommended methodologies, socio-economic considerations, and stakeholder involvement;
- **Guided Decision Support Tool Use:** We have co-created the [Decision Guide](#) for selecting and using decision support tools for marine spatial planning (with the Center for Ocean Solutions, Stanford University) and an invited [training module](#) for selecting ecologically and biologically significant areas (with the Convention on Biological Diversity);
- **Furthered Ecosystem-based Management:** We have organized and facilitated three workshops and two working groups to collaboratively construct a strategy roadmap for ecosystem-based management (EBM) implementation (“[Charting a Course for Sustainable Prosperity](#)”), developed a set of principles describing the context, purpose, and process of EBM (“[the Sidney Consensus](#)”), and a [gap analysis](#) of marine EBM knowledge in BC;
- **Aided Spatial Planning Decisions:** We have analysed conservation and marine/terrestrial resource use options and identified potential use/interest overlaps, including (1) providing options for Environment Canada to recommend networks of protected areas, zones for resource extraction, and areas of indigenous use in the Territory of Nunavut, (2) assessing the proposed Marine National Wildlife Area in the Scott Islands, home of western Canada’s largest seabird colonies, by for the Province of British Columbia and Canadian Wildlife Service, and (3) facilitating and preparing a Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat report on the establishment of a science monitoring program for the [Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area](#) with Fisheries and Oceans Canada; and
- **Developed a Community of Practice:** We have engaged a large group of researchers, planners, managers, industry groups, stakeholders, and non-profit organizations in the Pacific Northwest around marine EBM implementation by organizing learning exchanges (funded by the Government of Canada, the Moore and Packard Foundations, and the University of British Columbia) and fostering the creation of an online EBM meta-database to better connect and inform planners, managers, researchers, and stakeholders in the region (in progress).

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