

The Province of British Columbia is committed to developing a comprehensive Coastal Marine Strategy with First Nations, to better govern and protect coastal and marine values.

The marine waters surrounding British Columbia are home to an impressive diversity of animals and plants. The province's islands, bays, inlets and estuaries are central to our coastal landscape and cultural fabric. The coastal marine environment is vital to our health and well-being, and we must make sure it is cared for so that future generations can enjoy the enormous benefits it provides.

We are in the early stages of developing British Columbia's first province-wide coastal marine policy. It will outline a shared vision for healthy coastal marine ecosystems, community well-being, and a sustainable ocean economy. This starts with the release of an **Intentions Paper** that outlines what we want to do and why. The paper presents a vision for protecting the ecological, cultural, and economic benefits provided by the coastal marine environment.



2022-2023

Intentions Paper

Describes the vision and policy concepts under consideration.

2023-2024

Coastal Marine Strategy

Describes specific short, medium, and long-term measurable actions the provincial government will take to look after coastal-marine values.

2024-2044

Implementation

Better outcomes for the environment, communities, and the economy will be achieved over a 20-year horizon.

The Coastal Marine Strategy will focus on areas closer to shore, where estuaries, kelp beds, eelgrass meadows, rocky shorelines, and sandy beaches support an abundance and diversity of marine life. The strategy will concentrate on activities, uses and values that the Province is accountable for.

Provide your feedback

We invite you to read the Intentions Paper and provide your insights and suggestions. We are particularly keen to receive feedback on strategic focus areas including:

- The vision and outcome statements that will define the framework of the Coastal Marine Strategy;
- The priority opportunities and challenges the Coastal Marine Strategy should address.

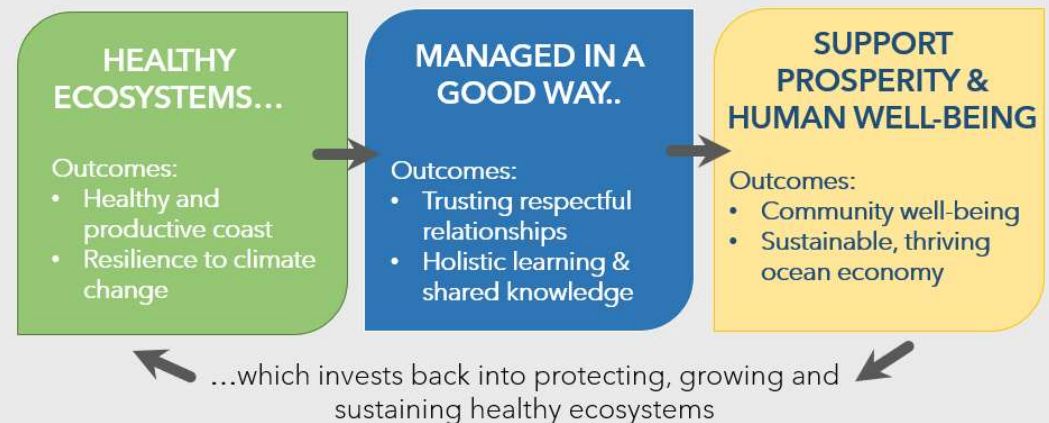
There will be additional opportunities to provide comments on the draft Coastal Marine Strategy, which is expected to be released in late 2023.

Vision for the Future

As stewards of coastal ecosystems on behalf of current and future generations, we aim to nurture healthy and productive ecosystems. We will manage them together in a good way to support sustainable prosperity and human health and well-being, while investing back into the ecosystems that sustain us all.

Coastal Marine Strategy

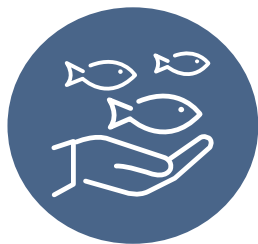
Well-being not just from the coast but also for the coast



First Nations and Coastal Marine Management

The Province is developing the Coastal Marine Strategy with coastal First Nations who have an unparalleled, deep-rooted relationship with the sea. To move forward with reconciliation, it is essential that First Nations' needs, values and worldviews are incorporated into coastal marine policy, and that opportunities for shared decision making are identified.

6 outcomes and **30** policy intentions lay out ways we can improve the health and stewardship of coastal marine environments, mitigate and adapt to climate change, nurture a sustainable blue economy, foster resilience in coastal communities, and create opportunities to advance reconciliation with First Nations



1. A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE COAST

A healthy and productive coast that sustains ecosystems with abundant fisheries and marine wildlife is the foundation from which all our other aspirations for the coast evolve. We intend to:

- Boost efforts to recover wild salmon
- Monitor coastal ecosystem health
- Prevent and clean up marine pollution
- Protect and restore nearshore habitat
- Help recover southern resident killer whales and other marine species at risk



2. RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Sea-level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, warming seas, and extreme weather events are impacting ecosystems and communities. We must work together to build resiliency to climate change. We intend to:

- Keep communities safe from harmful climate risks
- Support seafood harvesters, producers and innovators
- Shift to nature-based solutions for coastal protection
- Develop an ocean acidification and hypoxia action plan
- Protect and restore kelp beds, eelgrass meadows, and other blue carbon sinks



3. TRUSTING, RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Responsible governance starts with respect: for the natural environment, for the connections between people and place, and for the management and stewardship responsibilities of all parties who share a role in taking care of the ocean. We intend to:

- Respect and uphold First Nations rights
- Engage British Columbians in coastal marine management
- Advance collaborative stewardship
- Evaluate the need for comprehensive coastal zone legislation



4. HOLISTIC LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

We all share goals for stewardship of coastal marine values. These goals can only be achieved when we co-create and share all forms of knowledge in a respectful way. We intend to work in partnership with others to:

- Weave traditional knowledge with western science
- Assess the value of the ocean
- Enhance marine spatial data
- Improve availability of marine and coastal information



5. COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

The ocean underpins the cultural, social and economic fabric of coastal communities up and down the coast of B.C. These communities undergo continuous change, and how well they thrive will depend in part on employment opportunities, adequate coastal infrastructure, access to resources, and good planning. We intend to:

- Create jobs and support steady, rewarding employment
- Build a diverse coastal workforce
- Support First Nations' cultural revitalization and resilience
- Improve capacity of communities to respond to change
- Develop and implement marine use plans
- Improve access to nature in a respectful way



6. A SUSTAINABLE, THRIVING OCEAN ECONOMY

B.C.'s ocean economy represents about 8% of provincial GDP (\$21 billion annually), with tourism and recreation, transportation, coastal forestry, and seafood sectors contributing more than 80%. Emerging sectors, like the conservation-based economy, hold great promise. Realizing the full potential of the ocean demands responsible, sustainable approaches. We intend to:

- Invest in a diverse coastal and marine economy
- Co-develop enduring fiscal relations with First Nations
- Support the marine fisheries economy
- Advance sustainable aquaculture
- Support regenerative marine tourism
- Manage cumulative effects