



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

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Your file / Votre référence

Our file
2011-505-00075

SEP 01 2011

To: Distribution

Re: Project Support Memorandum of Understanding – Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area

I am writing to advise of a decision taken by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to change our approach to completing the development of an Integrated Oceans Management Plan for the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA).

DFO is committed to the development of an Integrated Oceans Management Plan for the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) by December 2012. Developing a plan that is effective and feasible to implement is critical. It is also important that the plan be delivered efficiently to meet our timeline commitments.

To ensure that the PNCIMA plan is completed on schedule by December 2012, and that it results in a management framework that is sustainable and effective, a more focused plan will be developed. DFO is committed to a final plan that will focus on informing regulatory responsibilities and activities in the area, as well as identifying the key significant and sensitive areas through the existing science and other work. This new approach is more consistent with similar Large Ocean Management Area initiatives being undertaken by the Department in other regions of Canada.

In light of this new approach, I am providing the required 60 days notice that the Government of Canada, as represented by DFO, will withdraw as a party from the original Project Support Memorandum of Understanding signed on January 19, 2011 in accordance with Clause 6.4. Accordingly, DFO will not be signing on behalf of the Government of Canada the amended Project Support Memorandum of Understanding between Tides Canada, DFO, the Province of British Columbia, and the First Nations of the Pacific Coast as represented by the Coastal First Nations, North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society, and Nanwakolas Council.

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It is our intention to maintain the current Memorandum of Understanding on PNCIMA Collaborative Oceans Governance (Collaborative Governance MOU) as an overarching agreement with the signatories (Province of British Columbia, Coastal First Nations, North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society, Nanwakolas Council) as a framework to govern the development of a focused, sustainable and effective strategic plan, with your support. The Collaborative Governance MOU commits the signatories to work together to develop a plan. Both First Nations and the Province of British Columbia have been valuable partners in the planning process and we are committed to maintaining these important relationships.

In particular, we will continue our funding relationship with First Nations under DFO contribution programs and look forward to a productive working relationship. We look forward to the continued participation of the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. In addition, we will continue to work with the Steering Committee and the members of the Integrated Oceans Advisory Committee to develop the PNCIMA plan.

I appreciate your patience and support as the approach to PNCIMA planning is finalized. I look forward to upcoming discussions including the fall Steering Committee meeting to move forward with a revised planning process and work plan that will deliver a sustainable and effective PNCIMA plan.

Sincerely,



Susan Farlinger
Regional Director General
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