Canada's oceans
A natural resource, a national treasure

Oceans Management in Canada

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Canada

Outline

- Context
- Oceans Management in Canada
  - Achievements and lessons learned
- Canada's renewed commitments to Oceans Management
- Approach to achieve these commitments
- Contributions to an Ecosystem Approach

Geographic context

Legal and Policy Context

- *Oceans Act* (1996)
  - "…conservation, based on ecosystem approach, is of fundamental importance to maintaining biological diversity and productivity in the marine environment." (Preamble)
- Canada's Oceans Strategy (2002)
  - "To ensure healthy, safe and prosperous oceans for the benefit of current and future generations of Canadians" (Strategy Goal)
- Integrated Management (IM) Policy and Operational Framework (2002)
  - "IM planning requires the design of ecosystem-based and socio-economic objectives, related to management actions, measurable indicators"

Oceans Management efforts to date

Oceans Management in Canada is based on an Ecosystem Approach

- Marine bioregional units
- Oceans governance bodies
- Biophysical, socio-economic and cultural overviews
- Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas and Species
- Human Use Analyses and Activity Maps
- Oceans Management Plans
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Network of MPAs

Lessons learned…

- Adopt a marine bioregional approach to ocean planning and management
- Need enhanced understanding of potential impacts from human use activities
- Integrated ecosystem assessments are needed to better understand the ecosystem as a whole
- Agreements on ecosystem “thresholds or limits” are needed
- Transition from a species by species approach to Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
- Marine spaces (conservation and activities) need to be defined in area of high human uses

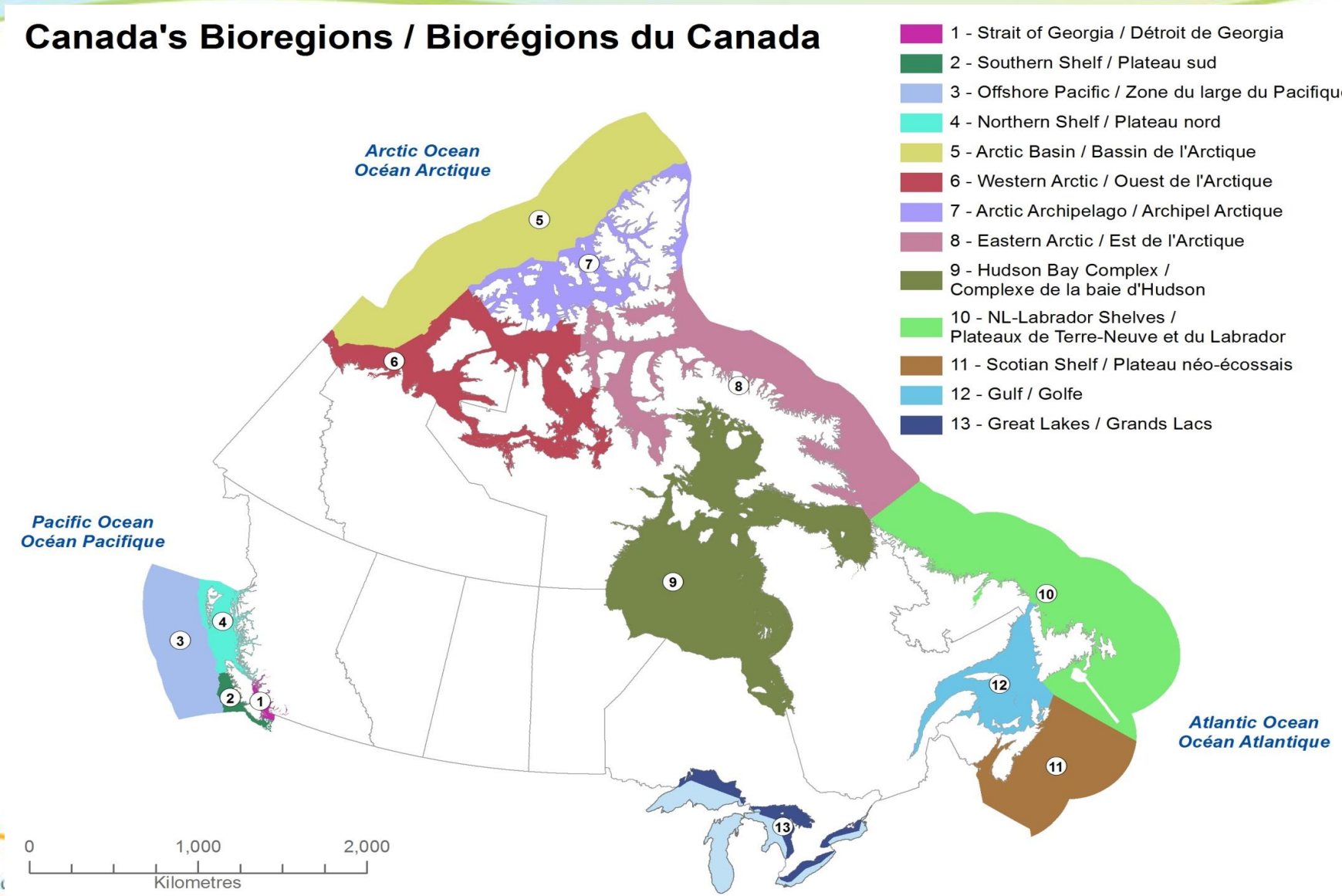
Canada's renewed commitments to Oceans Management

- Increasing the proportion of Canada's marine and coastal areas that is protected to 5% by 2017, and 10% by 2020
- Working with the provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders to better co-manage our three oceans
- Using scientific evidence and the precautionary principle, and taking into account climate change, when making decisions affecting fish stocks and ecosystem management
- Examining the implications of climate change on Arctic marine ecosystems
- Improving marine safety and transportation

Marine Conservation Targets
(5% by 2017, 10% by 2020)

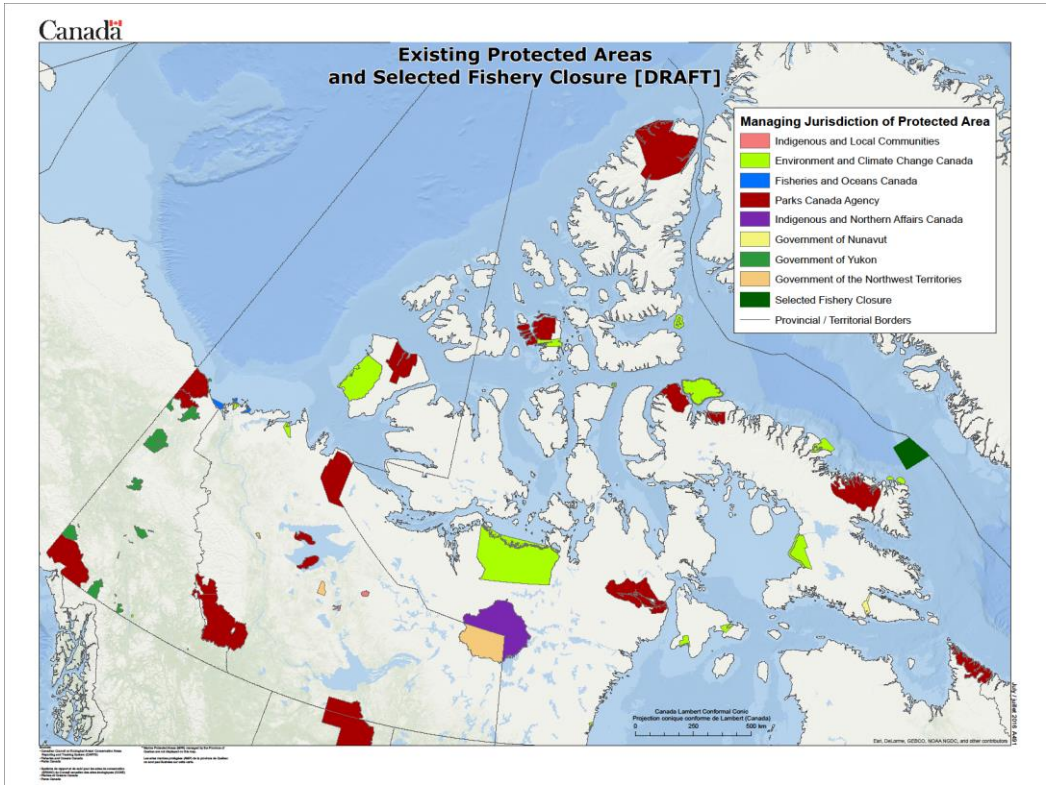
- Finalize establishment of existing *Oceans Act* MPA's, pursue new opportunities for new Area of Interest
- Support other federal partners towards Ocean conservation designation
  - Establishment of National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs);
- Identify and establish other effective area-based conservation measures
  - Fisheries closures, Critical Habitat for Species at Risk etc.
  - Other relevant spatial conservation measures (e.g. conservation areas in Land Use plans)
- Legislative amendments to promote the identification, analysis and establishment of new sites

Adoption of a Bio-regional Planning Framework



Advancing Marine Conservation in Canada's Arctic

- Consultation with Inuit and Inuvialuit partners to identify Conservation Priorities for MPA Network planning
- Design will maximise conservation efforts with smallest spatial coverage, emphasize connectivity and strategic planning



Science and climate change

- Continue ongoing research and monitoring to understand the potential impacts from human activities and from climate change on Arctic marine ecosystems
- Conduct research to address ongoing and emerging issues such as ocean acidification (OA) and rising sea levels
- Collaborate with the US on research into biological impacts of OA, especially on commercial species of shared interest
- Conduct hydrographic surveys to ensure safe navigation

Better co-managing Canadas' oceans…

- DFO is pursuing a policy agenda that will look at:
  - Marine Spatial Planning (domestic and international)
  - Collaborative governance models (accomplishments and lessons learned)
  - Enhanced integration of traditional knowledge and marine and terrestrial planning tools and products

Improving marine safety in the Arctic

- Significant concerns from co-management partners on marine safety and impacts of contaminants in Arctic waters

- Targeted ecological and biological research and risk assessments to inform marine planning in the Arctic along potential marine transportation corridors

Contribution EA in the Arctic

- Establishing new MPAs, NMCAs and other effective area-based conservation measures will enhance the existing ecological foundation
- Working with co-management partners in the conservation process will promote integration of traditional knowledge, socio-economic, cultural and ecological values of Arctic residents
- Advancing science knowledge of climate change will enhance our understanding of cumulative impacts and identify additional mitigation and adaptation measures

Questions?

Thank you, merci, nakurmiik

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