

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into this day of March 2010 between:

Pacific Marine Analysis and Research Association
Suite 219, 199 W. Pender St.,
Vancouver, BC,
V6B 1S5

(Hereinafter referred to as “PacMARA”)

And

the GOVERNMENT of BRITISH COLUMBIA – GeoBC, Integrated Land Management Bureau
PO Box 9352 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9M2

(Hereinafter referred to as “GeoBC”)

(Hereinafter together referred to as the “Parties”).

WHEREAS The Integrated Land Management Bureau’s (ILMB) mission is to deliver leading edge, timely, client-friendly and responsive integrated natural resource information and related services that support a vibrant B.C. economy, healthy communities and a sustainable environment. GeoBC is a government agency, within ILMB, that has a mandate to provide British Columbians with access to integrated land and resource information services. Many of these services are provided to, or on behalf of provincial natural resource and economy ministries to public, corporate and private citizens.

WHEREAS PacMARA, a BC registered not-for-profit, charitable organization seeks to develop and encourage the use of cross-disciplinary marine science in ecosystem-based decision-making. PacMARA takes an impartial, non-advocacy approach, believing that access to data, rigorous science, and clear results are at the heart of sustainable oceans management. PacMARA works within a framework of knowledge and values essential for ecosystem-based integrated management and marine resource use and conservation planning.

The Parties have agreed to undertake discussions as detailed below;

PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”) between the Parties will serve as a basis for the development of mutually beneficial activities based on principles of cooperation, communication, trust, commitment and shared risk and benefit. It is a voluntary arrangement between the Parties and seeks to define the parameters of the partnership.

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is intended to acknowledge and encourage discussion that may lead to the development of a Joint Partnership Agreement between the Parties to better leverage GeoBC information services in support of coastal and marine spatial planning, conservation planning, and in identifying economic development opportunities in BC by improving access to coastal and marine information and more effectively leveraging research to address coastal and marine issues through evidence-based analysis and decision making. Such activities will help to address concerns about ocean health, hardship in coastal communities, and support innovation in addressing issues with climate change and in implementing clean energy alternatives.

Under this Memorandum, the Parties seek to explore areas of mutual interest, which may include:

1. "Opening-up" GeoBC to the coastal and marine community through shared custodianship of an Oceans/EBM window or portal and leveraging provincial data/information (e.g., the Marine Protected Area Decision Support Tool) for external development that delivers value (products or results) back to government.
2. Piloting "evidenced based" processes for resolution of oceans issues, in particular as it relates to developing effective strategies for the management of MPA's (e.g. Bowie Seamount).
3. Leveraging the currently under development MPA Decision Support Tool into processes developed in 2, above. This tool has been developed by the Integrated Land Management Bureau and other federal agency partners and is sponsored by the Canada/British Columbia Oceans Coordinating Committee (OCC).
4. Capacity building and knowledge sharing in the application of marine spatial analysis and planning tools (e.g. Marxan, MarZone, InVEST, and EBM related tools.)
5. Partnerships with the academic community with the goal of opening university information to the public domain – access and extension related activities.
6. Supporting the neo-geographer, leveraging Google Earth and other web tools enabled with GeoBC coastal and marine data as an outreach vehicle to support both public information use and collection.
7. Fostering information exchange, linkages and joint activities with other provincial, federal, and international initiatives (e.g. IUCN-WCPA/Google Oceans Portal, Pacific Coast Collaborative), including provincial support to meeting Canada's international reporting obligations.
8. Supporting PacMARA as a society dedicated to the application of science to the resolution of coastal, marine and oceans issues – scope to be determined.
9. Any other areas or activities in this field that may be deemed appropriate by the Parties.

GeoBC and PacMARA will work collaboratively to the mutual benefit of both Parties on these areas of mutual interest as opportunity and resources permit.

TERM

The term of this Memorandum will be for 36 months effective April 01, 2010, and ending 31 March 2012 unless terminated sooner as per the conditions of this Memorandum. Furthermore, with the concurrence of the Parties, this Memorandum is renewable for subsequent terms.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTNERS

Related to specific projects undertaken related to this Memorandum, the Parties will commit key staff to work with one another on assigned projects defined by the "Partnership" Steering Committee.

The parties signing this Memorandum or their appointed designates will serve as the lead representatives for the Parties.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The administrations of the Parties shall explore opportunities to negotiate the expense responsibility for any incremental expenditures resulting from any projects undertaken related to this Memorandum.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE PARTNERS


The current Executive structures of each of the Parties shall continue to be the policy-making bodies for the individual organizations. The current governance structures of each Party are not in any way affected by this agreement. Likewise, this Memorandum does not affect the existing management structures of their organizations.

TERMINATION

Any party may terminate this memorandum of understanding at any time by giving 90 days written notice to this effect.


GOVERNING LAW

This Memorandum shall be construed, performed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia, being fully understood this memorandum of understanding is voluntary and neither Party may bring legal action to enforce any provision herein or amendment thereto.



Dr. Mark Zacharias
Assistant Deputy Minister
GeoBC

March 15/10
Date



Mr. Henry Kucera
Executive Director
PacMARA

March 18/10
Date