



## DFO Maritimes Region Update

Gulf of Maine Council - Coastal and Marine  
Spatial Planning (CMSP) Committee Web-Ex

May 16, 2017



## Outline

- National Oceans Priorities
  - Marine Conservation Targets
  - Oceans Protection Plan
  - Oceans Management
- Regional Oceans Plan
  - MPA Network Development
  - Environmental Response Planning
  - Marine Planning Tools
  - Governance



## Marine Conservation Targets (MCT)

Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard's Mandate Letter:

- Work with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to increase the proportion of Canada's marine and coastal areas that are protected to 5% percent by 2017 and to 10% by 2020.

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity:

- *By 2020 ...10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of **protected areas** and **other effective area-based conservation measures**, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.*



## MCT Five-Point Plan

### 1) **Finish What Was Started:**

- Advance work already underway in areas progressing towards establishment

### 2) **Protect Pristine Areas:**

- Establish new, large *Oceans Act* MPAs in offshore areas

### 3) **Protect Areas Under Pressure:**

- Establish additional *Oceans Act* MPAs in areas under pressure from human activities, for example where we are already advancing MPA network development

### 4) **Advance Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures:**

- Identify existing and establish new “other measures,” such as fisheries closures, particularly to protect sensitive sponge and coral concentrations

### 5) **Establish MPAs Faster:**

- Examine how the *Oceans Act* can be updated to facilitate the designation process for MPAs, without sacrificing science, or the public’s opportunity to provide input.

# \$1.5 Billion **National Oceans Protection Plan**

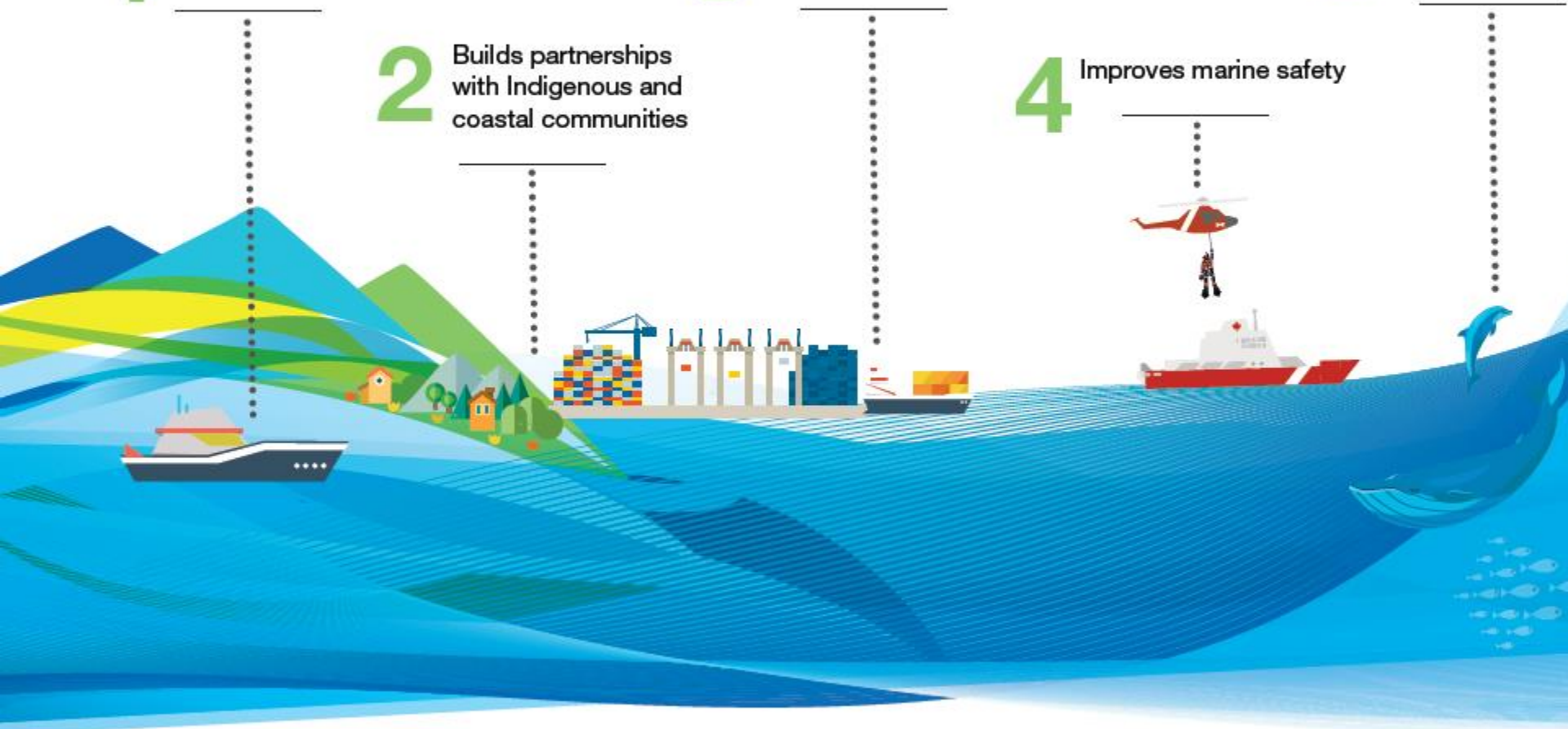
**1** Supports safe and clean marine shipping

**3** Increases economic opportunities for Canadians

**5** Protects the marine environment

**2** Builds partnerships with Indigenous and coastal communities

**4** Improves marine safety



[canada.ca/oceans-protection-plan](https://canada.ca/oceans-protection-plan)

Canada



## Oceans Protection Plan (OPP)

- Objective is to support safe and clean marine shipping, build partnerships with Indigenous and coastal communities, improve marine safety and protect the marine environment.
  - State-of-the-art marine safety system
    - Vessel traffic monitoring and control
    - Incident preparedness and response
  - Preservation and restoration of marine ecosystem
    - Baseline and environmental effects monitoring
    - Marine stressors (e.g., ship noise and whales, cumulative impacts)
    - Coastal restoration fund
  - Indigenous partnerships
  - Stronger evidence base and **increased community participation/public awareness**
- Saint John Harbour and the approaches to the Bay of Fundy are a priority area.



## Oceans Management

- Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard's Mandate Letter:
  - Work with the provinces, territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders to better co-manage our three oceans.
- Preliminary funding (2 years) under Oceans Protection Plan:
  - National management strategy and governance development
  - Regional implementation pilot on marine spatial planning (Pacific Region)
  - Intent is to design and move forward with comprehensive national program
  - Key principles:
    - Federal coordination
    - Provincial and Indigenous participation
    - Bioregional implementation
    - Practical outputs (MSP)





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# A Regional Oceans Plan for the Scotian Shelf, Atlantic Coast and Bay of Fundy



## REGIONAL OCEANS PLAN

SCOTIAN SHELF | ATLANTIC COAST | BAY OF FUNDY



Fisheries and Oceans  
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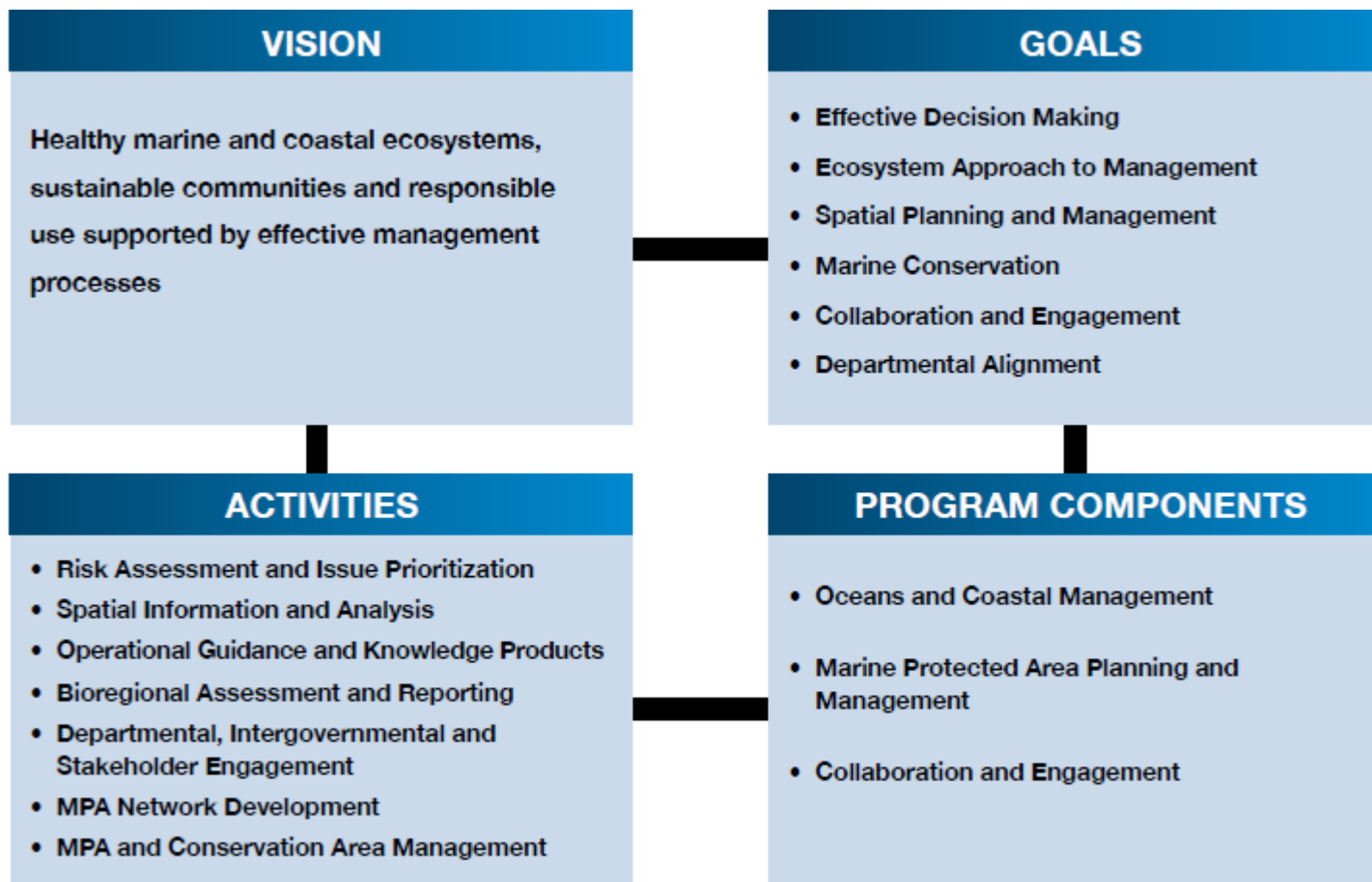
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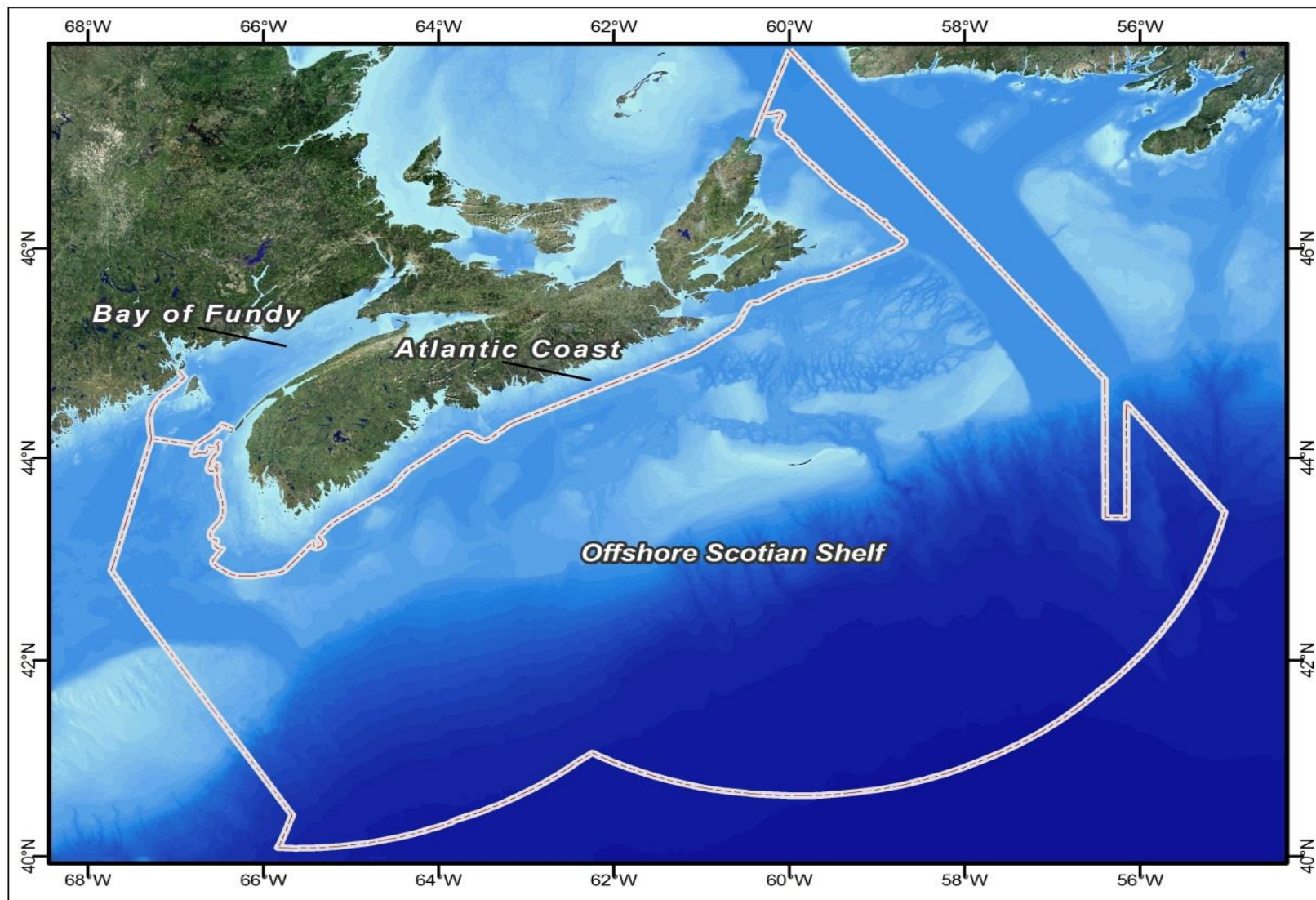
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## Regional Oceans Plan Structure

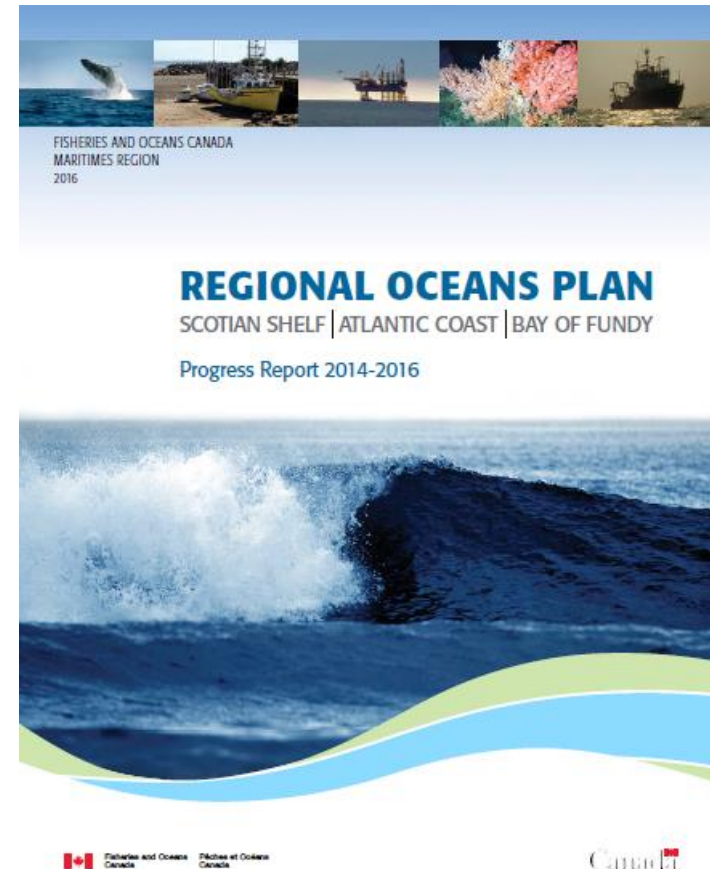






## 2014-17 Implementation Priorities

- MPA Network Development
- MPA Establishment, Management and Monitoring
- Environmental Preparedness and Response Planning
- Implementing Oceans and Coastal Management Measures Using a Risk-Based Approach



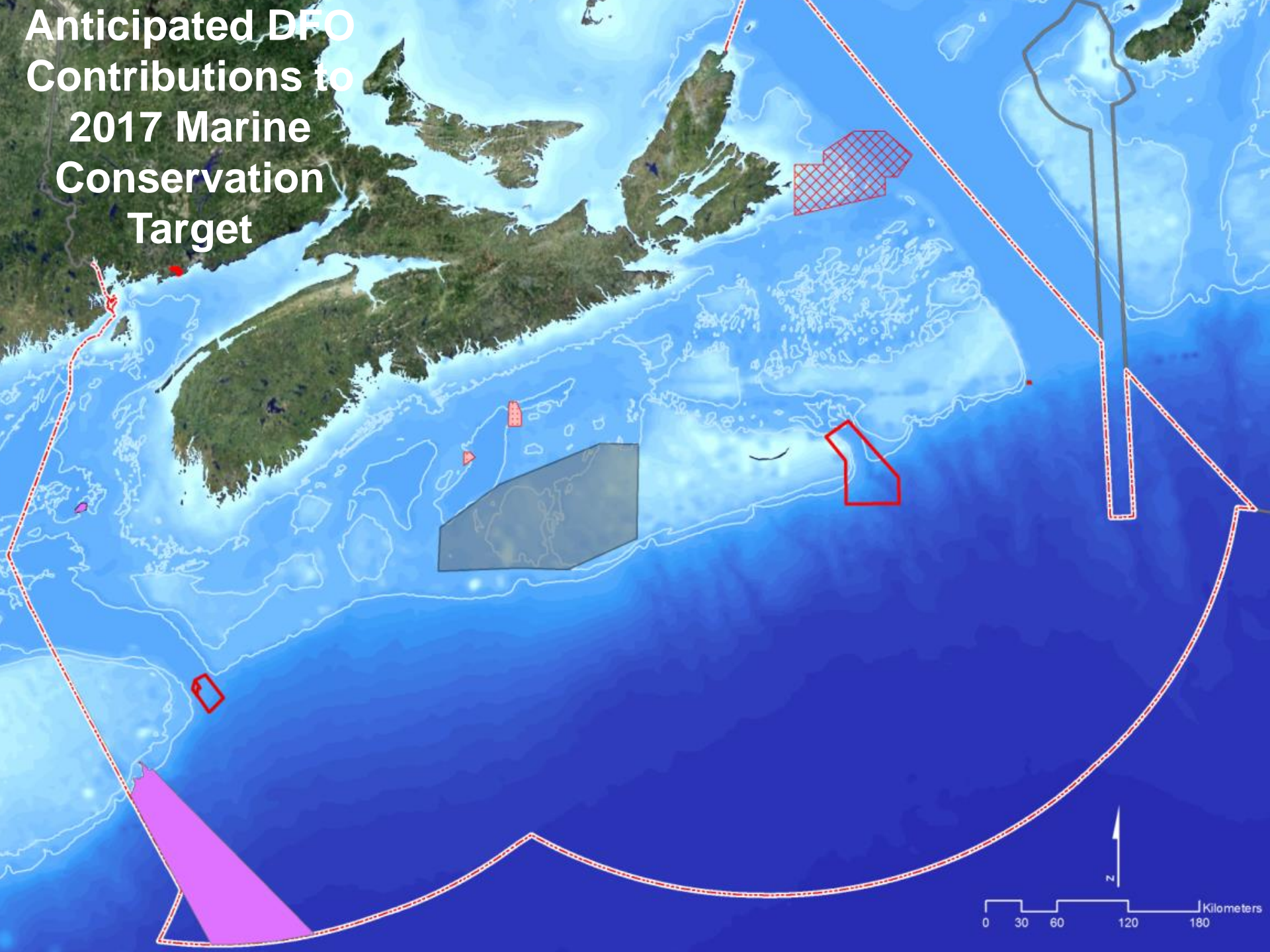


## Marine Protected Area Network Development (MCT)

- Regional contributions to the 2017 interim national target of 5% marine protection on track (see regional map):
  - St. Anns Bank MPA designation expected soon
  - Adjustments to Western/Emerald Banks Conservation Area (the Haddock Box) completed by summer (Resource Management lead)
- Bioregional network development process proceeding well:
  - Draft bioregional network design nearing completion (coastal and offshore)
  - Targeted engagement on draft design with provincial, Indigenous and key stakeholders during summer
  - General public release in fall, followed by full year of consultation
  - Two new Oceans Act Areas of Interest (AOI) to be identified as part of network and for designation in 2020
  - Additional “Other Effective Measures” under Fisheries Act expected



# Anticipated DFO Contributions to 2017 Marine Conservation Target





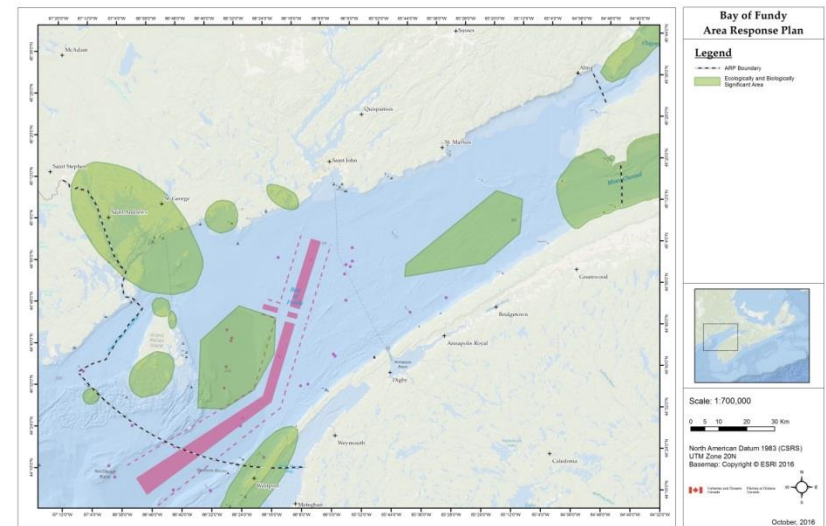
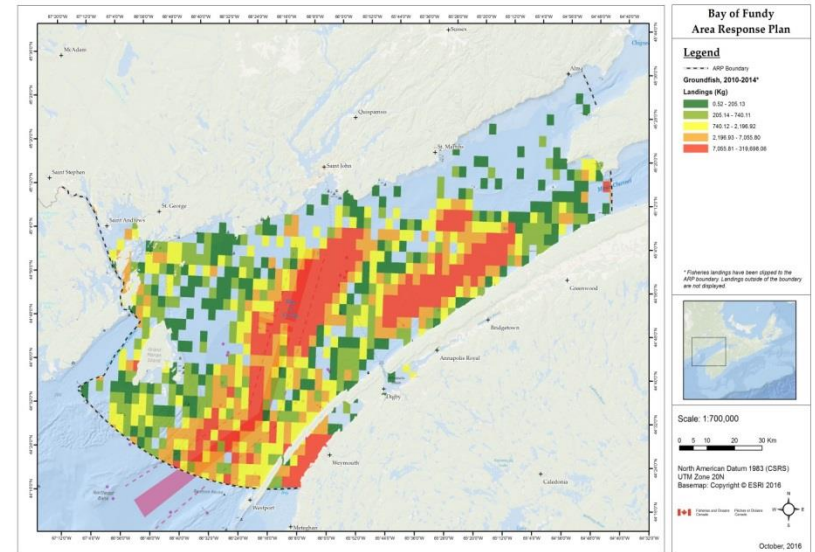
## Environmental Response Planning (OPP)

- Area response planning (ARP):
  - Support Area Task Force in finalizing draft plans and methodologies, including public and stakeholder engagement process
  - Complete information and map products for Bay of Fundy and Chedabucto Bay pilot areas (work with Science and ECCC)
  - Complete external contracts and G&C agreements
    - Coastal fisheries
    - Lidar
    - ATK
  - Support transition to Regional Response Planning (RRP)
    - Advance existing and new activities, including gap filling (e.g., ATK for NB side of Bay of Fundy)
- Regional response coordination
  - CANUSLANT



# Marine Planning Tools

- Marine information, mapping and decision support
- EBSA site assessments and profiles
- Marine stressors/environmental quality:
  - Establish capacity and support program definition and scope
  - Initial focus on marine noise and whales, but will be broadened
  - Cumulative impacts







## Governance

- First Nations and Indigenous Groups
  - Mi'kmaq
  - Maliseet
  - Passamaquoddy
- Federal
  - Re-organize regional federal coordination table
- Provincial
  - Current focus on MCT implementation; potential re-integration with federal table in future
- Stakeholder
  - SW New Brunswick Marine Advisory Committee