



A Coastal Marine Strategy for British Columbia

BC Young Fishermen's Network Gathering

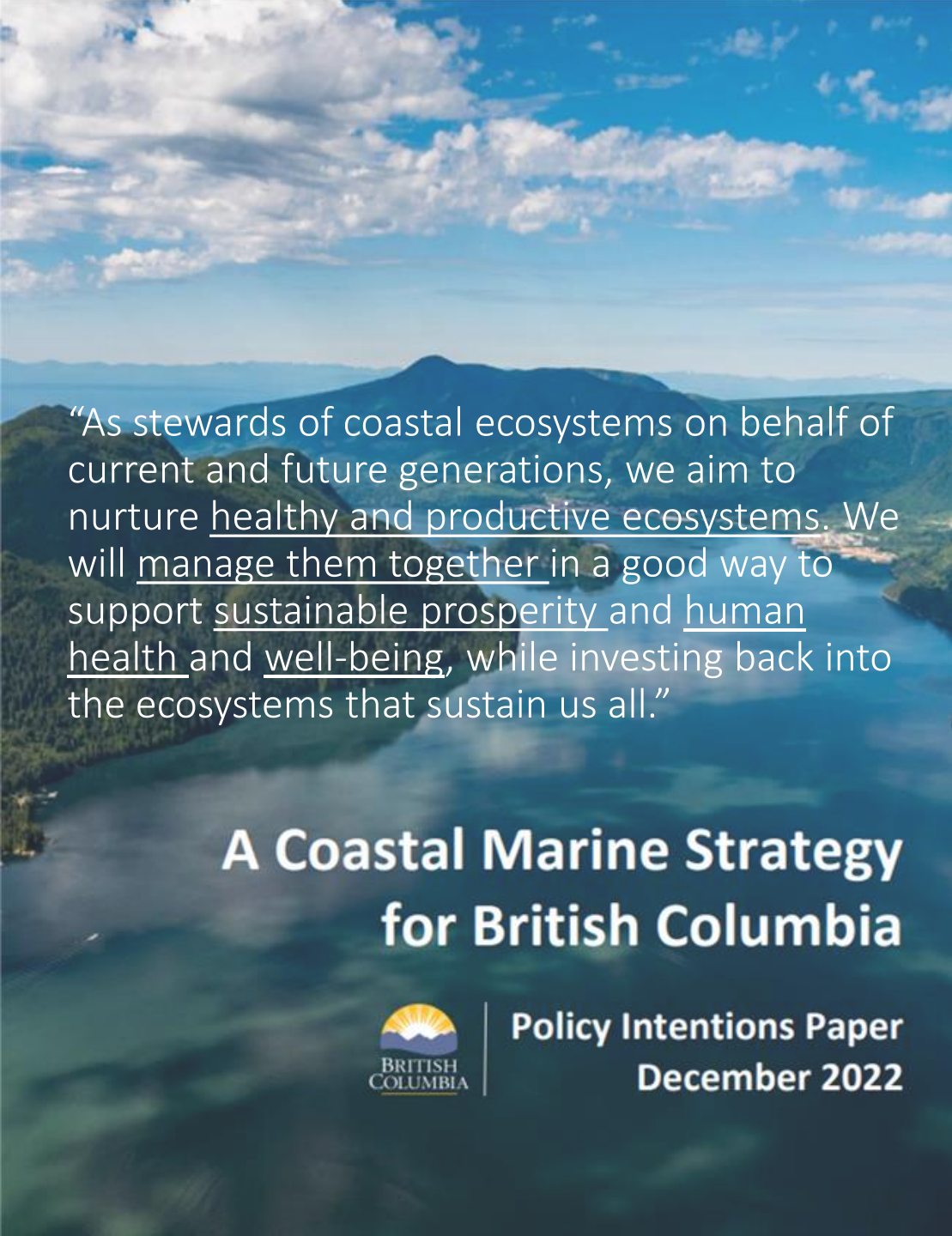
Campbell River, March 24, 2023

Stephen Hextall



Provincial Role

- Province holds considerable authority over the marine and coastal zone
- Province also manages activities on the land base that can impact the health of coastal habitats and species, like estuaries and wild salmon
- New Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship responsible for taking care of the coastal marine environment and collaborating with others to protect fish and fish habitats



“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.”

A Coastal Marine Strategy for British Columbia



Policy Intentions Paper
December 2022

Ministry Responsibilities

- Goal 3: B.C. is a global leader in the stewardship of marine and coastal values for environmental protection, economic development and reconciliation
 - Key objectives:
 1. Address fish species declines
 2. Develop a Coastal Marine Strategy (CMS) to promote healthy marine ecosystems and coastal communities
- CMS now under development; it is expected to guide coastal marine management for 20 years, including actions that expand on existing initiatives and present new ideas and concepts

CMS Outcomes



A HEALTHY AND
PRODUCTIVE COAST (5)



HOLISTIC LEARNING AND
KNOWLEDGE SHARING (4)



RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE
CHANGE (5)



COMMUNITY WELL-BEING (6)



TRUSTING, RESPECTFUL
RELATIONSHIPS (4)



A SUSTAINABLE, THRIVING
OCEAN ECONOMY (6)

There are (30) intentions – several of which could **support the fisheries sector**.

(Brackets indicate number of policy intentions by outcome; the intentions paper includes many details not covered today – please visit <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/> to download a copy)



\$285.7 million

Salmon revitalization BCSRIF



\$100 million

Watershed health

A HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE COAST

Boost efforts to revitalize wild salmon populations

- Invest in the restoration of critical salmonid habitats that have been lost or degraded
- Increase monitoring effort

Monitor coastal ecosystem health

- Shore up provincial monitoring of habitats critical for maintaining biodiversity
- Monitor ecological, socio-economic benefits of marine protected areas
- Monitor effects of climate change on nearshore ecosystems



RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Support seafood harvesters, producers, and innovators – e.g.,

- Enhance understanding of how marine resources are changing to help take advantage of future opportunities and increase the resilience of fishing communities
- Support a transition away from severely impacted fisheries to more resilient species
- Support the use of technology and technological innovation to improve productivity and profitability

Develop an ocean acidification and hypoxia plan

Protect and restore kelp beds, eelgrass meadows, and other blue carbon sinks





TRUSTING, RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Engage British Columbians in coastal marine management

- Offer and invest in participatory structures that bring a diversity of voices and interests into marine management and stewardship discussions
- Consider how we can better support locally driven initiatives

Advance collaborative stewardship

- Improve collaboration with the federal government, particularly where harmonized approaches to stewardship are required
- Improve coordination and alignment with neighbouring jurisdictions



49,000
Transportation

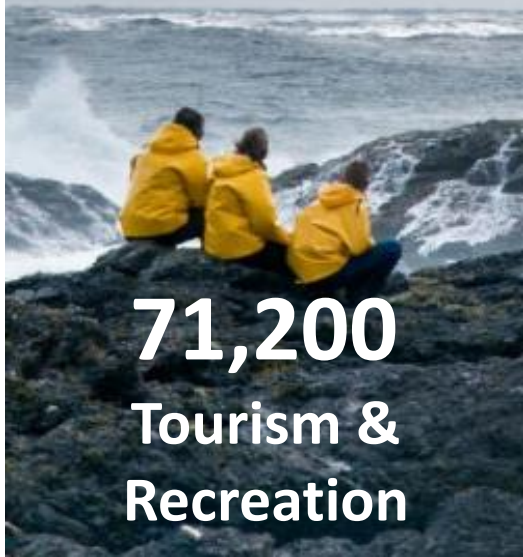


35,100
Coastal Forestry



14,700
Seafood

Number of people employed
(direct, indirect, induced
figures)

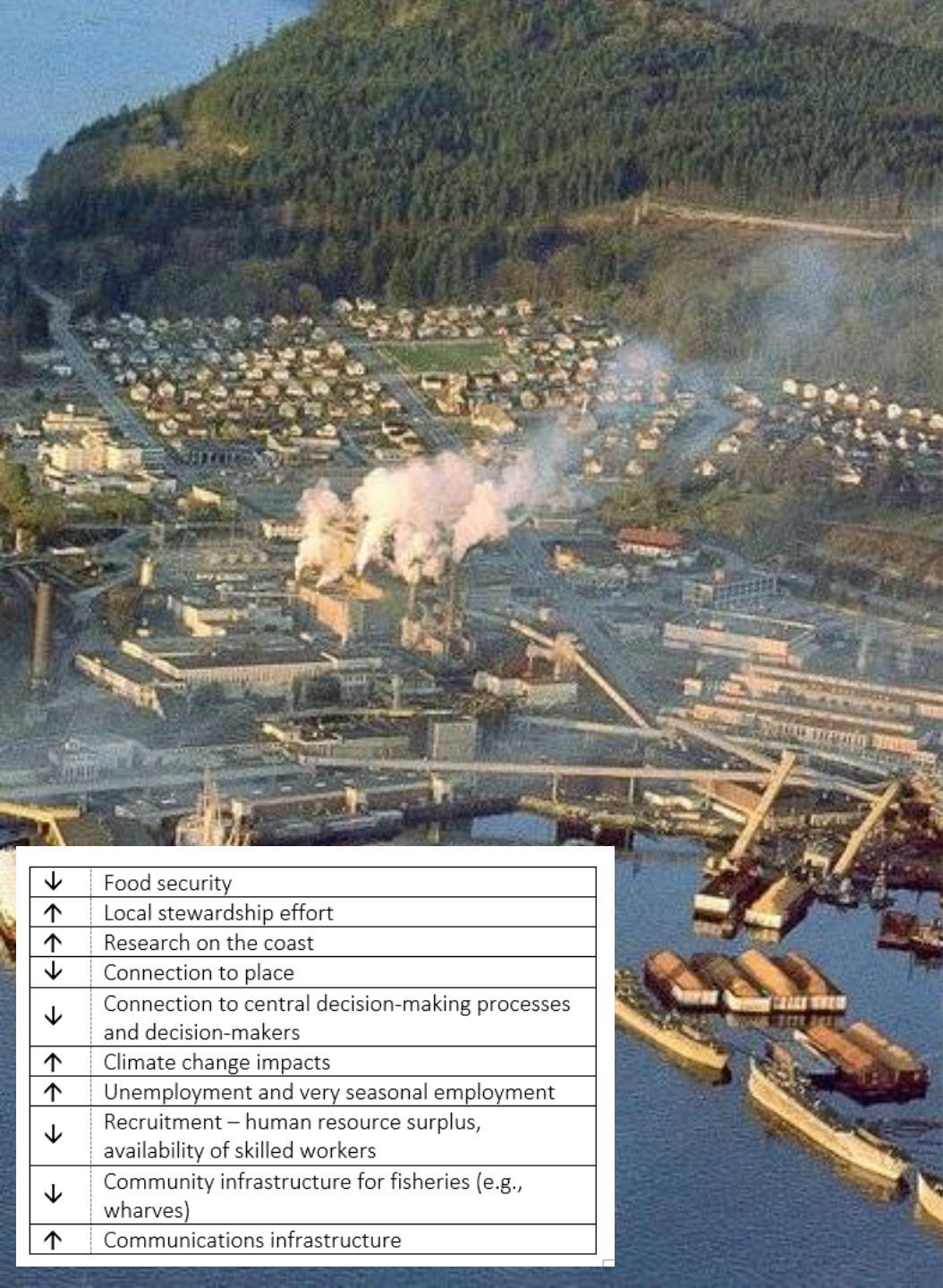


71,200
Tourism &
Recreation

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Create jobs and support steady, rewarding employment – e.g.,

- Support workforce planning
- Support capacity building, training, and innovation in new and existing industries
- Facilitate the transition of workers to emerging jobs and growth areas
- Help to create a positive perception of the ocean sector and the opportunities it presents to youth and those seeking opportunities to “upskill”



COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Build a diverse coastal workforce

- Increase and diversify participation in B.C.'s ocean economy
- Conduct a gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) to help determine what actions are needed to make space for everyone

Improve capacity of communities to respond to change

- Identify bridges and barriers to improving the well-being of coastal communities
- Identify specific actions that will help coastal communities thrive

Support efforts to understand how coastal community well-being is changing

↓	Food security
↑	Local stewardship effort
↑	Research on the coast
↓	Connection to place
↓	Connection to central decision-making processes and decision-makers
↑	Climate change impacts
↑	Unemployment and very seasonal employment
↓	Recruitment – human resource surplus, availability of skilled workers
↓	Community infrastructure for fisheries (e.g., wharves)
↑	Communications infrastructure

A SUSTAINABLE, THRIVING OCEAN ECONOMY

Support the marine fisheries economy – e.g.,

- Amplify participation with the federal government in managing and conserving fisheries
- Secure fair domestic allocations of stocks managed under international treaty
- Provide support to fishers to adapt to regulatory change
- Facilitate harmonization of labeling requirements across federal and provincial governments
- Boost processing and marketing of high-value seafood products for increased profit margins and ensure equitable eligibility and share of federal programs
- Assess fisheries-related infrastructure needs



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.

Engagement

- **We want to hear from youth** - e.g.,
 - What are future generations most worried about?
 - What actions should government take first?
 - What are the barriers to participating in the ocean economy? How can they be addressed?
- Public engagement is open until April 14th
- Feedback received will help to refine the intentions and identify priorities for near-term implementation
- BC is aiming to have the CMS finalized early 2024





Contact Us

Email members of the CMS Team at any time

Charlie Short, Executive Director

Charles.Short@gov.bc.ca

Kristin Worsley, Director

Kristin.Worsley@gov.bc.ca

Karen Topelko, Sr. Marine Resource Specialist

Karen.Topelko@gov.bc.ca

A photograph of two beavers in a small wooden boat on a body of water. The beaver on the right has its mouth wide open, showing its teeth and tongue. The beaver on the left is looking towards the other. The water is slightly rippled.

Open Dialogue