



Canada's Approach to Oceans Management & Current Status on Ocean Noise Initiatives

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Mandate

- Key commitments under the *Oceans Act* and Canada's Ocean Strategy are to lead and facilitate:
 - the implementation of plans for the integrated management of activities affecting marine waters
 - the creation of a national system of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's)
 - the development of Marine Environmental Quality (MEQ) guidelines and regulations
- Goal: to ensure healthy, safe and prosperous oceans for the benefit of current and future generations of Canadians

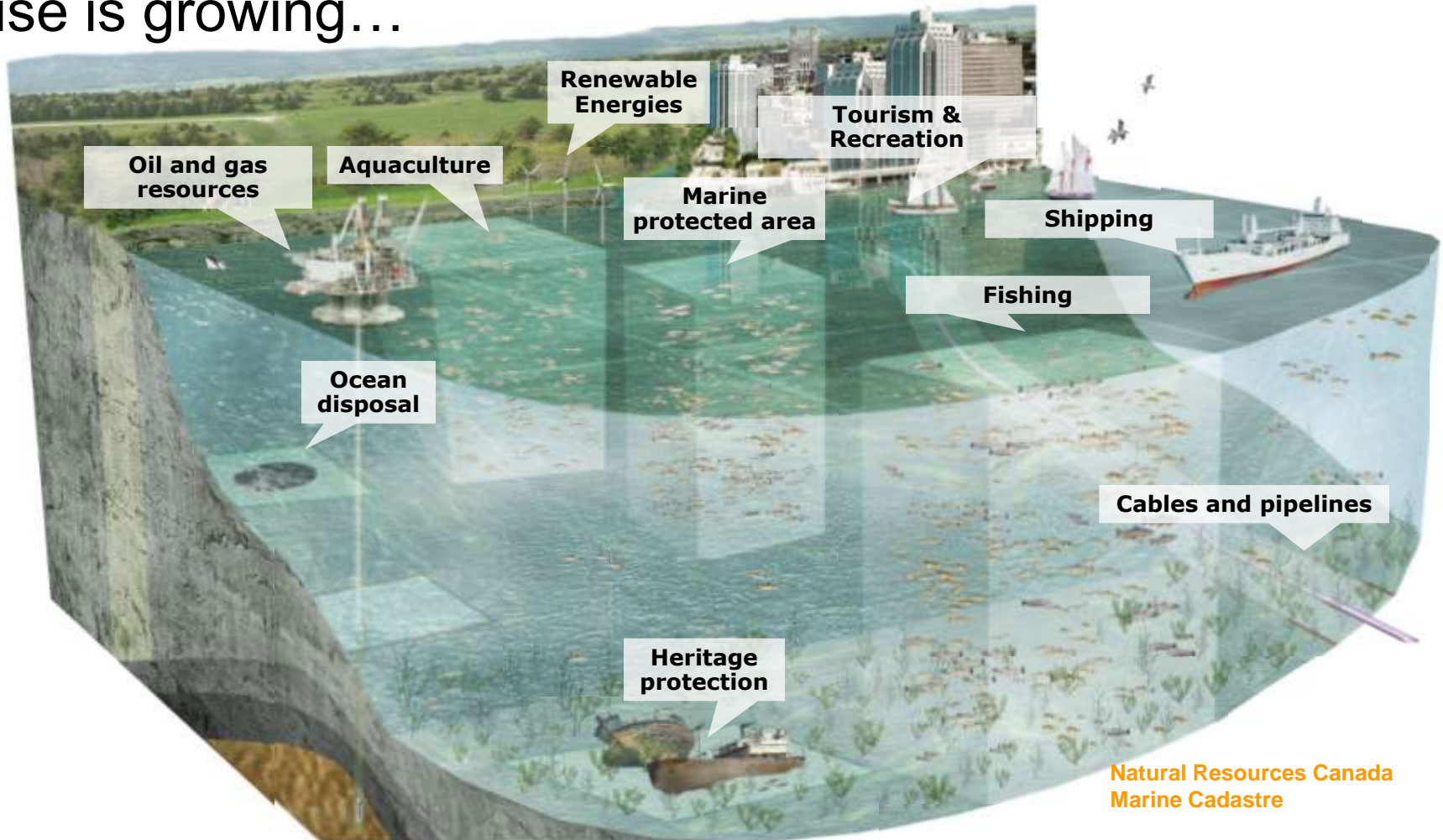


To date Canada's Oceans program has supported:

- Completion of broad based ecological and socio-economic overviews and assessments for Large Ocean Management Areas (e.g., PNCIMA) and other priority marine ecosystems
- Identification of ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs)
- Designation of 8 Ocean Act MPAs and the development of a National Framework for Canada's Network of MPAs
- Development of integrated oceans management plans and associated federal-provincial and stakeholder governance structures
- Collaboration of federal, provincial and territorial regulators to resolve conflicts between ocean users
- Development of the code of practice for mitigating seismic sound in the marine environment and pathways of effects models for marine renewable energy



However, challenges remain and the complexity of ocean use is growing...





Current Priorities & Next Steps

- Moving towards a more target-based program that focuses on the development of standards and guidelines to improve or maintain Marine Environmental Quality (MEQ)
 - Development of risk assessment methodology
 - Conducting threat analyses, e.g., identification of hot spot areas, development of pathways of effects models
- Continue MPA Network design and apply a risk-based approach to identify priority gaps in marine protection
- Have focused collaboration with key regulators and stakeholders to address high risk ocean issues



Ocean Noise – Current Status

- The *Statement of Canadian Practice with Respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment* was completed in 2008
 - Ongoing research is being conducted
 - The *Statement* will be amended, if warranted, when new scientific knowledge and/or improved mitigation technologies and practices are available
- Noise disturbance was identified as a potential stressor in the recent validation of pathways of effects models for marine renewable energy
 - A strategic science plan for MRE is being developed
- Shipping noise has been identified as an issue requiring further attention
 - A science workshop will likely be held in the 2012-13 fiscal year
- Will continue to work with partners and stakeholders to identify other key ocean noise issues



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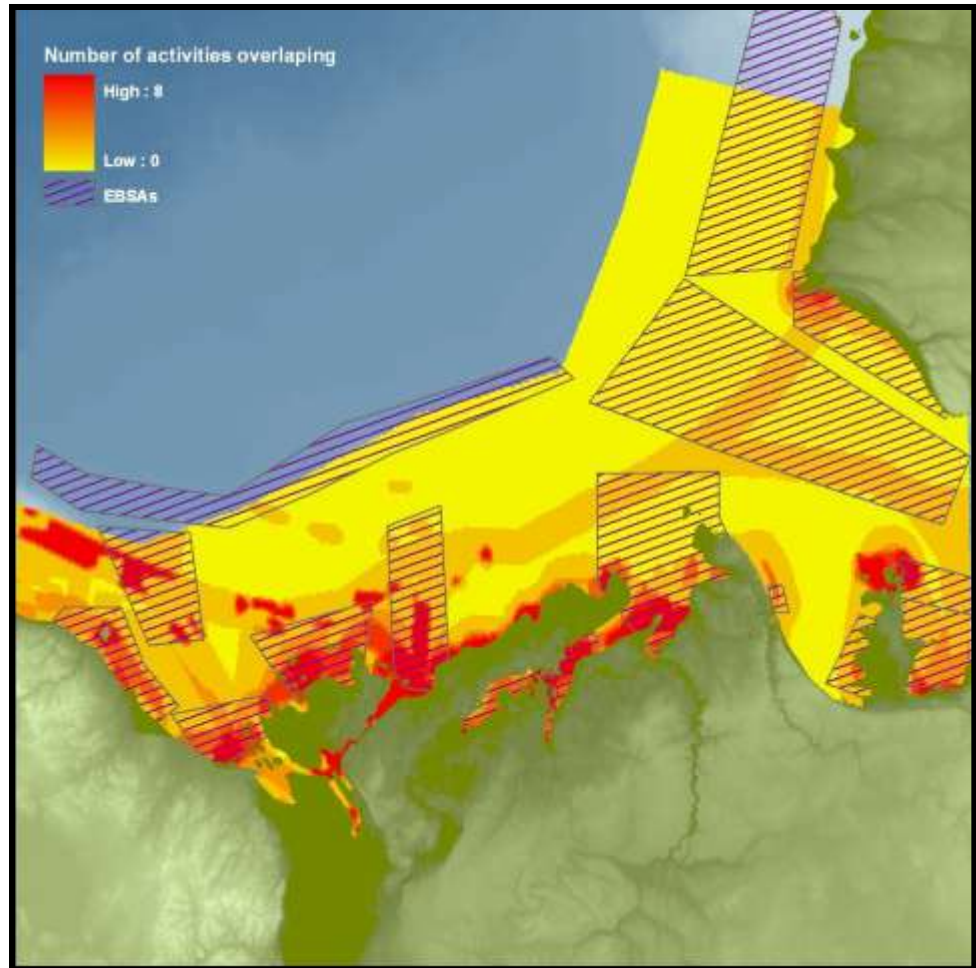
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Appendix A: Identifying Hot Spot Areas

- Overlay of human uses (e.g. oil and gas, marine transportation routes) and specific ecosystem features potentially at risk from human pressures (e.g., ecologically and biologically significant areas, ecologically significant species, critical habitat etc.)





Appendix B: Framework for a Pathway of Effects Model- Marine Renewable Energy

