

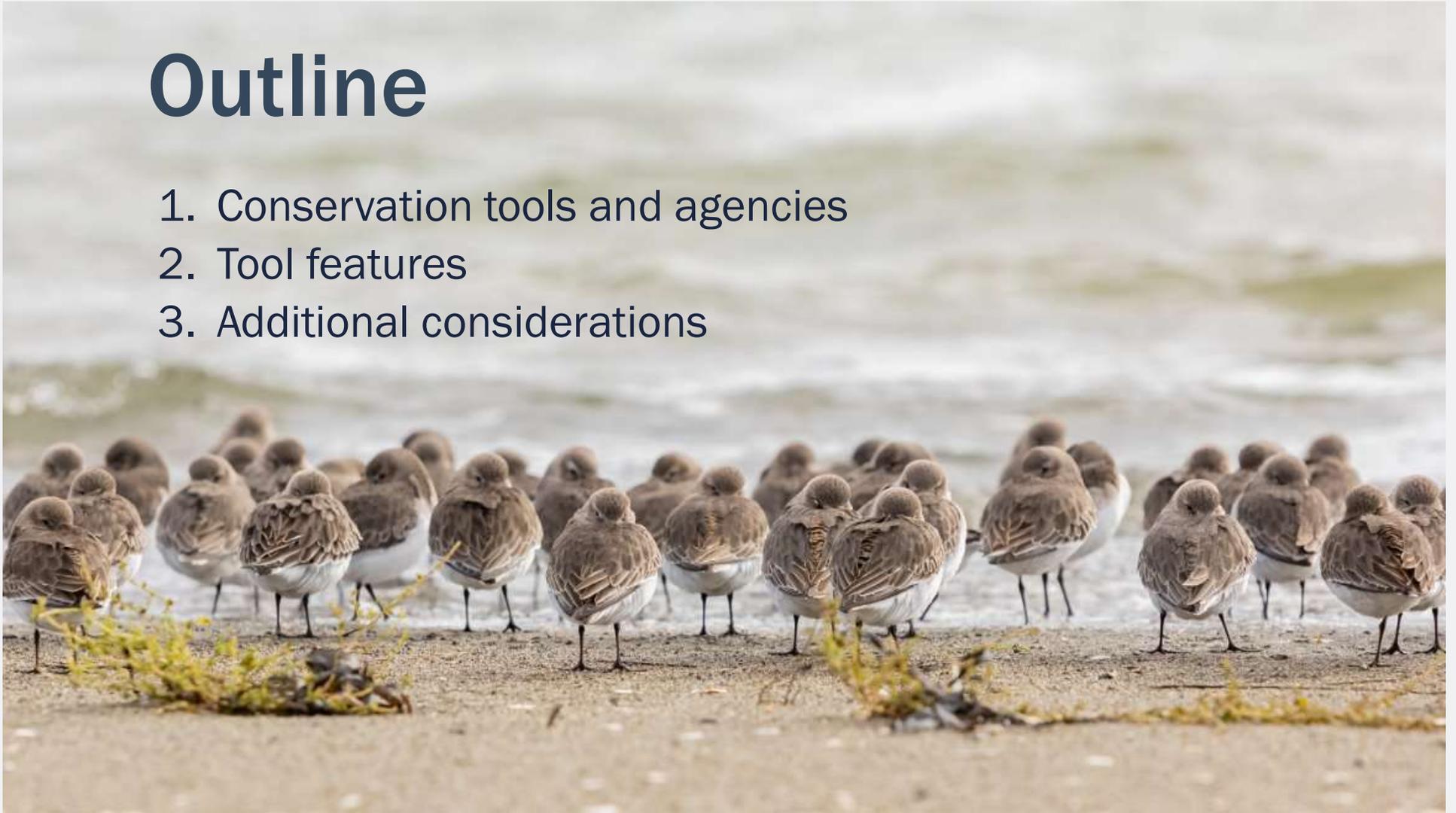
A scenic coastal landscape featuring a rocky shore in the foreground, a lone tree on a cliff to the right, and a forested hill in the background. The water is a vibrant blue-green, and the sky is clear and bright.

Comparison of Canada's marine conservation tools

December 9th, 2024

Outline

1. Conservation tools and agencies
2. Tool features
3. Additional considerations



Conservation tools and agencies

1. Oceans Act MPA – DFO
2. Marine refuges – DFO
3. National Marine Conservation Area – Parks Canada
4. Marine National Wildlife Area – ECCC



MPA establishment tool features

1. Objective/purpose
2. Legal framework
3. Establishment timelines
4. Role of provinces
5. Collaborative governance
6. Indigenous use
7. Co-designation – IPCAs
8. Establishment process



Objective/Purpose

Oceans Act MPA	Marine Refuge	NMCAR	mNWA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conserve unique habitats,• Conserve of marine areas of high biodiversity or biological productivity,• Conserve commercial and non-commercial fishery resources and their habitats,• Conserve marine areas for the purpose of maintaining ecological integrity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect vulnerable marine features and biodiversity,• Focus on areas critical for fish habitat, spawning, or feeding.• Can support broader biodiversity goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect and conserve representative marine areas for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of Canada and the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect and conserve wildlife and their habitat, including for migratory birds and species at risk, for the purposes of conservation, research, and interpretation.

Legal Framework + Timelines

Oceans Act MPA	Marine Refuge	NMCA	mNWA
Established under the <i>Oceans Act</i> , which empowers the DFO to designate specific areas as MPAs.	Established under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> , which gives the DFO the authority to regulate fishing activities to protect sensitive ecosystems or species.	Established under the National Marine Conservation Areas Act, which gives Parks Canada little authority to prohibit other Federal Activities <i>and</i> requires the Province to relinquish all rights in an NMCA.	Established under the <i>Canada Wildlife Act</i> , which in theory gives the Minister broad discretion to prohibit activities. In practice, ECCC works closely with other agencies and the relevant legislation (e.g., <i>Fisheries Act</i>)
5+ years	6mo - 2 years	5+ years	2 - 5 years

Role of Provinces

Oceans Act MPA	Marine Refuge	NMCA	mNWA
Oceans Act MPAs do not impact Provincial authorities or activities.	Marine refuges do not impact Provincial authorities or activities.	<p>Work collaboratively with Provinces during establishment phase.</p> <p>The Act requires the Province to relinquish all rights in an NMCA; however, have found ways around this requirement.</p>	Work collaboratively with the Province to address provincially regulated activities that could impact the conservation objectives.

Collaborative Governance

Oceans Act MPA	Marine Refuge	NMCAR	mNWA
Yes, but...	Yes, but...	Yes	Yes

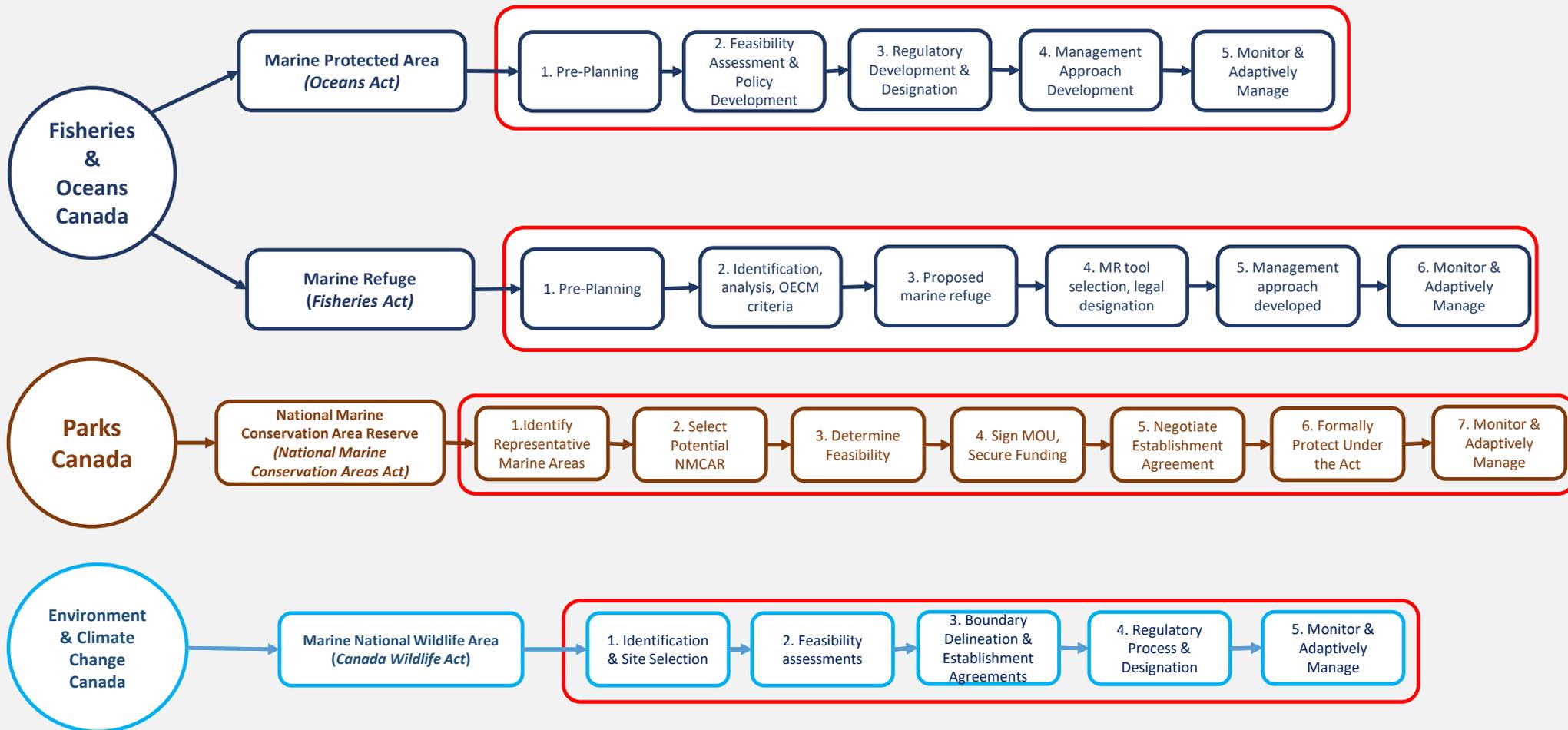
Indigenous Use

Oceans Act MPA	Marine Refuge	NMCAR	mNWA
Depends upon outcome of risk assessment	Depends upon outcome of risk assessment	Supported and aligns with tool objectives	Supported and aligns with tool objectives

Co-designation – IPCAs

Oceans Act MPA	Marine Refuge	NMCA	mNWA
Examples of co-designation: SGáan Kínghlas-Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area; however, DFO has not worked to integrate different tools in a meaningful way.	Examples of co-designation: Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala IPCA; however, DFO has not worked to integrate different tools in a meaningful way.	Multiple emerging examples. Gwaii Haanas NMCAR and Haida Heritage Site is global best practice. Parks Canada promotes co-designation processes with Nations.	Multiple emerging examples. Edézhíe National Wildlife Area and Dehcho Protected Area is modelled on Gwaii Haanas. ECCC promotes co-designation processes with Nations.

Establishment Process



 Stakeholder and / or public engagement

Additional considerations

- Agency culture + mandate

