



Last week during the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Conference (IMPAC5), Ministers Murray and Guilbeault announced key developments that continue the momentum toward Canada meeting its ambitious targets of conserving 25% of Canada's land and oceans by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

Ministers Murray and Guilbeault unveiled Canada's 2023 Marine Protected Area Protection Standard, which will provide greater consistency and clarity on prohibited activities in federal MPAs. It will help safeguard areas of our oceans that need protection from the potentially harmful effects of industrial activities. The MPA Protection Standard is founded on a whole-of-government approach and prohibits:

- Oil and gas exploration, development, and production
- Mineral exploration and exploitation
- Disposal of waste and other matter, dumping of fill, and deposit of deleterious drugs and pesticides
- Mobile, bottom contact, trawl, or dredge gear (trap-based fisheries are excluded).

Transport Canada will also be consulting with stakeholders on how to enhance restrictions on certain vessel discharges that occur within MPAs.

In addition to the Protection Standard announced, Canada also released new details on key areas where it is exploring marine conservation, in support of the ambitious target of conserving 25% of our oceans by 2025. This builds on further recent announcements that underscore Canada's commitment to advancing its targets, and include the Northern Shelf Bioregion Network Action Plan, a marine refuge at Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala – also known as Lull Bay and Hoeya Sound, and the collaborative management and upcoming pre-publication of the proposed regulations for the

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Tang.gwan - Һаҗхwiqak - Tsigis Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the "Canada Gazette, Part I" for a 30-day public comment period.

While proposed future sites are at different stages of readiness, the Government of Canada is working closely with key partners and stakeholders including provinces and territories, Indigenous governments, and organizations across the country, who understand the critical importance, now more than ever, of safeguarding our ocean for the future, while enabling sustainable economic development opportunities.

This MPA announcement is an important step toward the conservation and long-term protection of our marine ecosystems and furthers Canada's position as a world leader in marine conservation. Having well-understood standards will help boost conservation efforts while at the same time providing industries with the clarity it needs to create sustainable jobs in the marine sector.

As you might be aware, I had a 34-year career with Parks Canada prior to my first election in 2015. I am a strong advocate for protected areas in their many forms, from national parks and national marine conservation areas to Indigenous protected spaces to urban national parks, and so much more. That's why I'm thrilled our government is taking further action to protect our oceans, so that future generations can continue our tradition as a proud ocean nation and enjoy the many benefits of healthy marine ecosystems.



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Read more: [Protection Standard for Canada's Marine Protected Areas - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/articles/2019/05/2019-05-20-protection-standard-for-canada-s-marine-protected-areas.html)

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