



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Advancing High Arctic Basin Marine Protection

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Meeting

Arviat, NU

Sept. 12th, 2018

Canada 



Outline

- **Overview of Canada's commitments**
 - Marine Conservation Targets and the High Arctic
- **Recent DFO marine protection measures in the arctic**
 - Areas of Interest
 - MPA establishment
 - Marine refuges
- **Status of our MCT work in Nunavut**
- **Advancing additional offshore protection**
 - Offshore protection of high arctic ecologically important areas
- **Next Steps**



Canada's Commitments

- In 2010 Canada agreed to a Marine Conservation Target (MCT) under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (Aichi Target 11):
 - *by 2020, 10% of coastal and marine areas are conserved*
 - The targets apply to Canada – not to an ocean or on a bioregional basis.
- In October 2017, at the Our Oceans Conference in Malta, Minister LeBlanc stated “working with Indigenous and Northern partners, Canada will support and protect the future of the “last ice area” in the Arctic Ocean, where summer ice remains year round.”
- Federal departments with marine conservation measures that contribute to MCT include:
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
 - Parks Canada Agency (PCA)
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)



DFO MCT Five-Point Plan

1) **Finish What Was Started:**

- Advance work already underway in areas progressing towards establishment

2) **Protect Large Offshore 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 marine refuges, particularly to protect sensitive sponge and coral concentrations

5) **Establish MPAs Faster:**

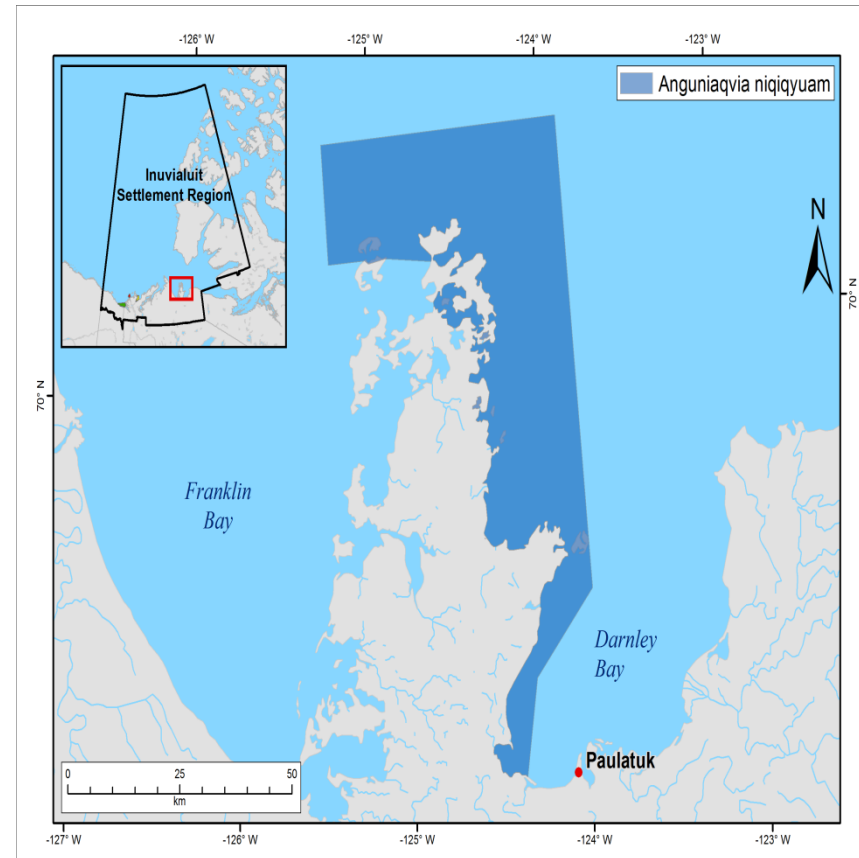
- Examine how the *Oceans Act* can be updated to facilitate the designation process for MPAs, without sacrificing science, or the public’s opportunity to provide input.



Finish What Was Started

Anguniaqvia niqiqyuam Marine Protected Area

- Area was identified for consideration as a MPA in 2008
- Renewed investment supported MPA establishment in the fall of 2016
- This is the first MPA that has a conservation objective based solely on Traditional Knowledge.

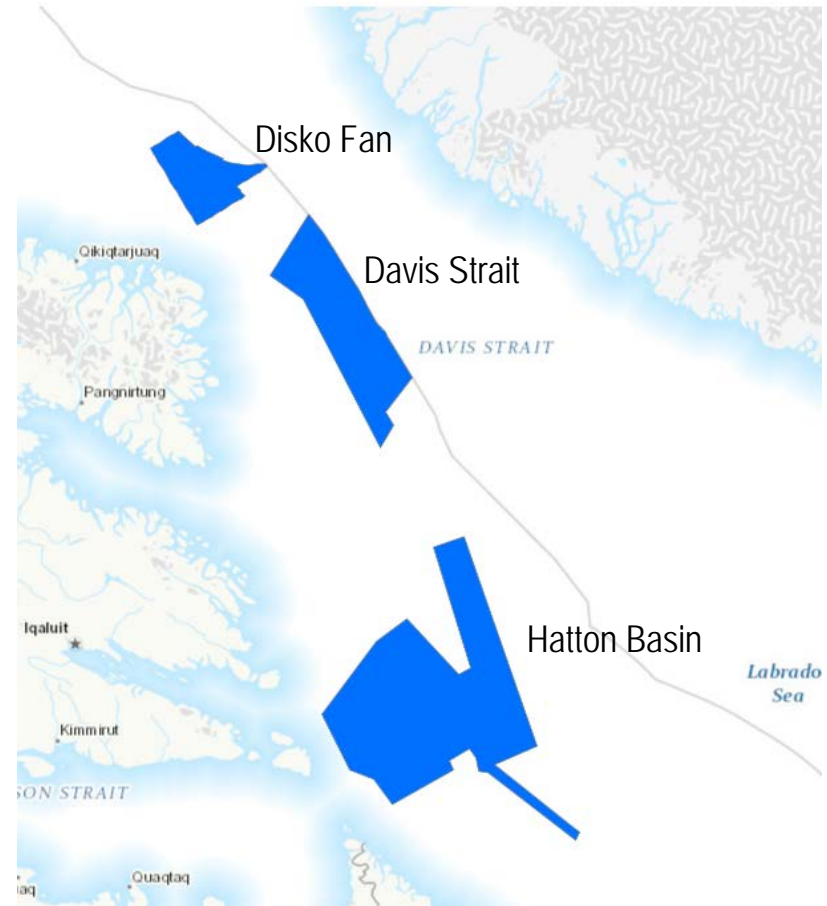




Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures

Three new Marine Refuges (announced December, 2017)

- Bottom contact fishing gear closures under the *Fisheries Act* with the objective to conserve sensitive benthic areas (corals, sponges and sea pens)
- Additional fishing restrictions in Disko Fan Marine Refuge to minimize impacts on winter food source and overwintering habitat for Narwhal





DFO Marine Protected Area Efforts in Nunavut

- *Nunavut Agreement* provides foundation and context for DFO efforts to advance marine protection within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA)
 - Recommendations to come from Inuit and partners, DFO to support priorities and goals as identified by Designated Inuit Organization boards and communities
 - Collaborative effort to identify suitable candidate areas for protection.
 - All harvesting rights under the *Nunavut Agreement* would be preserved in a marine protected area
- Area Of Interest (AOI) Working Group established in 2016
 - Members include: Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Fisheries and Oceans Canada representatives.
 - Completed multi-stakeholder workshop and community consultations.
 - Reviewed available information, identified potential AOIs for *Oceans Act* MPA establishment in Nunavut.
 - Recommendation packages provided to each RIA for consideration and Board AOI recommendations.



Next Steps for Marine Protection in Nunavut Settlement Area

- Continue working closely with co-management partners; Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Regional Inuit Associations, the Government of Nunavut, communities across all three NU regions
 - Support RIA to review potential AOIs and provided AOI recommendations
 - If an AOI is selected, advance to next phases of the MPA process
- Continued support for whole of government approach to establishment of Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (TI-NMCA)



Advancing Offshore Arctic Basin Marine Protection

Why is this area important?

- A Globally, nationally and regionally unique area due to the presence of multi-year pack ice.
- This pack ice will potentially provide a safe haven for ice dependent and culturally significant species (e.g. polar bears) as it is where the summer sea ice is expected to last the longest.
- WWF-Canada, ArcticNet and other organizations have been collecting scientific and traditional knowledge about the area for years, leading to calls for its protection.

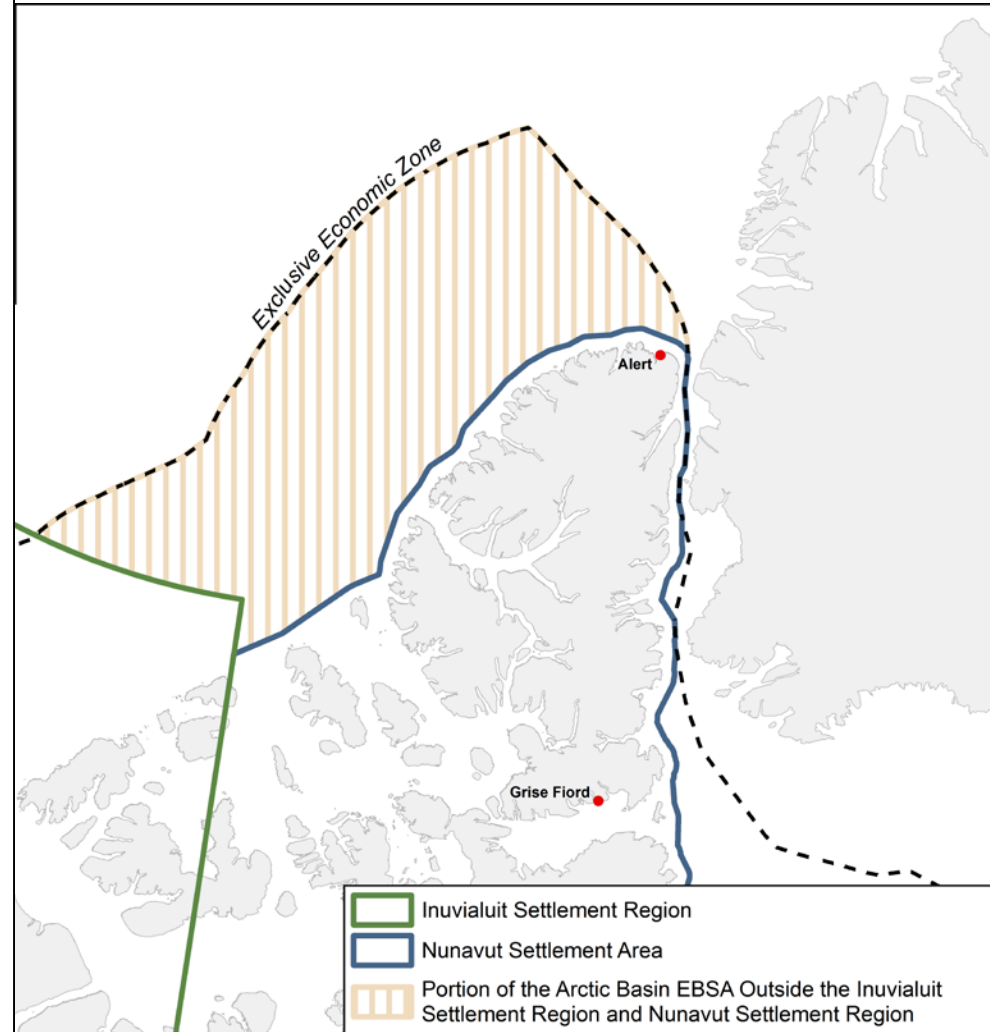




Phase 1 – Explore option for Interim Protection

Why interim protection?

- Interim protection allows for additional time to collect information from community members, the Government of Nunavut and others. Starting in the spring of 2018 DFO began a multi-year High Arctic Science expedition which will also provide critical information for this process.
- Sea ice cover is decreasing in the arctic which is leading to an increase in marine activities including a growing interest in international shipping in the high arctic
- Interim protection will confirm Canada's interest in the protection of this important area

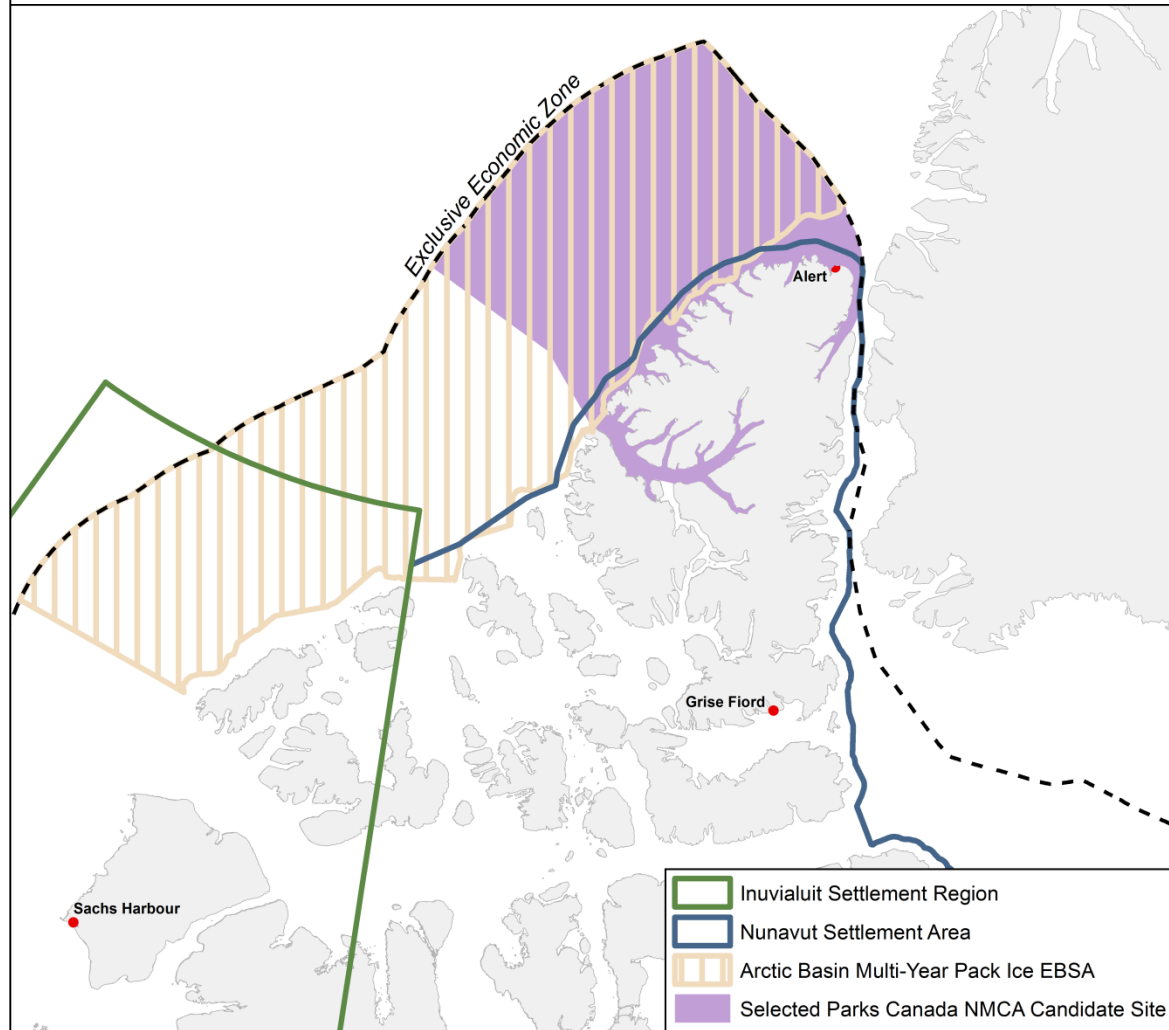




Phase 2 – Consider long-term protection options

Considerations

- Seek support for protection from key partners
- Use results of current DFO science expedition to study the multi-year ice ecosystem in the High Arctic to inform protection needs
- Explore the scope and scale of potential protection
- Work with partners to determine appropriate conservation tools



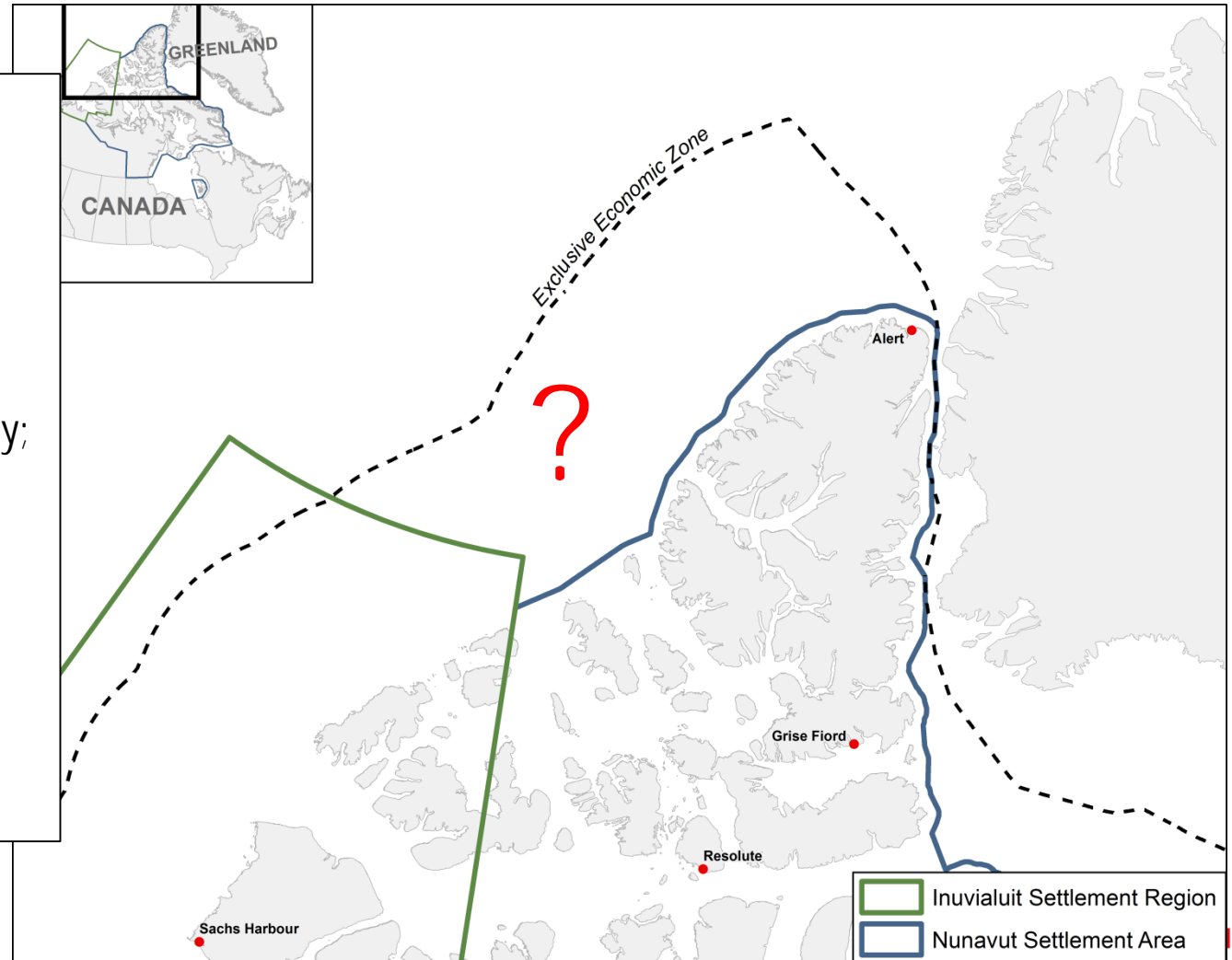


Phase 3 – Implement

To Be Determined

Will depend on:

- Support from our partners;
- Resources and capacity;
- The assessment of protection tools;
- Results of scientific expedition and
- Other considerations





Next Steps

In Nunavut

- Continue to work with co-management partners to consider options and attain support for advancing marine protection in Nunavut
- Continue to provide support to the whole of government approach to TI-NMCA
- Continue work to advance the Western Arctic Bioregion MPA Network (Kitikmeot Region) and support other marine planning initiatives
- Support advancement of Hudson Bay Consortium and Pikialasorsuaq Commission Recommendations



Next Steps

In the High Arctic Offshore

- Collect and compile existing ecological (including science and IQ) and socio-economic information
- Engage stakeholders/partners and seek feedback
- Work with Parks Canada to further review options for interim protection and advance the site assessment process