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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Canada joins Global Ocean Alliance: Advocates for protecting 30% of the world's ocean by 2030**

**Unceded Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, BC** - Today, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, announced that Canada has joined the United Kingdom and other countries in the Global Ocean Alliance. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - British Columbia (CPAWS-BC) applauds Canada's active role in the protection of at least 30 percent of the global ocean through the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based marine conservation measures by 2030.

In partnership with Indigenous Peoples, provinces and territories, and environmental and industry organizations, the Canadian government has made huge strides to protect almost 14 percent of our ocean. The bigger task remains to reach their goal of 25 percent ocean protection by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030.

"This is a pivotal moment for Canada as a global leader for ocean action" says Ross Jameson, Ocean Conservation Manager for CPAWS-BC. "We look forward to working with the Minister to help Canada reach 30 percent ocean protection by 2030 with effective marine protected areas in BC and beyond."

Decades of harmful human practices including overfishing, oil and gas activities, pollution (including noise, chemicals, and plastics), and physical disturbance such as ship strikes and bottom trawling threaten ocean life and human well-being. MPA's offer a natural solution to prevent further destruction and support a healthy ocean that will provide for us for generations to come.

By protecting entire ecosystems, MPAs can protect the full diversity of marine life and their habitats. MPAs can help depleted ocean life recover, and support sustainable fisheries. Kelp forests, eelgrass and other shoreline ecosystems can protect coastal communities and shorelines from erosion and sea-level rise.

BC has been at the forefront of establishing Canada's MPAs. The Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents MPA west of Vancouver Island was the first MPA created under the *Oceans Act* in 2003. The Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site is a prominent example of Indigenous-led, cooperatively managed MPAs in Canada.

We also have a large part to play in getting Canada to our 30 percent ocean protection by 2030 target with several MPAs in the planning process. The Offshore Pacific Area of Interest or Deepsea Oasis off the west coast of Vancouver Island will protect unique deep sea ecosystems and cover almost 2.5% of Canada's ocean. The proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve will safeguard important feeding waters for the critically endangered Southern Resident killer whales. Led by Indigenous communities, Canada's first MPA network along BC's north and central coasts will protect whales and other migrating ocean animals while also ensuring healthy coastal communities for generations.

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**Resources:**

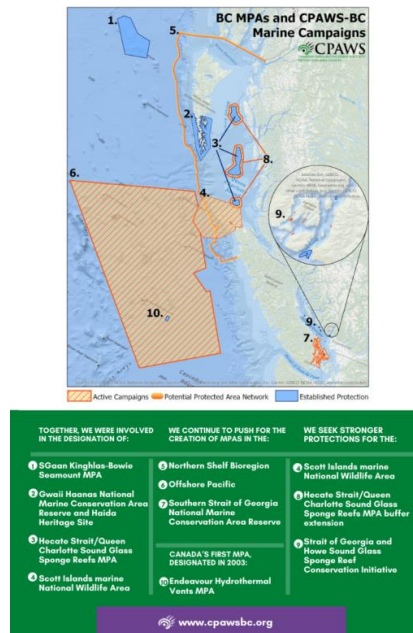
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. (July 9 2020). CPAWs Celebrates Canada Joining the Global Ocean Alliance [Press Release] Retrieved from: <https://cpaws.org/cpaws-celebrates-canada-joining-global-ocean-alliance/>

[\*BC's Marine Protected Areas\*](#). Map by Jacob Chila, GIS Analyst, Ocean Program, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - British Columbia. 2020.

[\*Explore Canada's Marine Protected Areas\*](#). Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, 2020.

Duarte, C.M., Agusti, S., Barbier, E. et al. Rebuilding marine life. *Nature* 580, 39–51 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2146-7>

## B.C.'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Map by Jacob Chila, GIS Analyst, Ocean Program, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - British Columbia

### About CPAWS-BC:

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – British Columbia Chapter (CPAWS-BC) protects wilderness in every corner of BC and deep into the ocean. CPAWS-BC supports the creation of large, well-managed, connected protected areas where native plants and animals thrive, now and forever; and where people and communities can live off the land and ocean without impacting the ability of future generations to do the same.

In the past 50+ years, CPAWS has played a lead role in protecting over half a million square kilometres – an area bigger than New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador put together.