



# Aichi Target 11:

## Our Achievements and the Importance of Fisheries Management Measures

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## Our Marine Conservation Targets Plan

- In 2016, the Government of Canada launched its five-point plan for achieving 10% marine and coastal protection by 2020.
- Five point plan:
  1. Finish what was started;
  2. Protect large offshore areas;
  3. Protect areas under pressure where marine protected area (MPA) network development is occurring;
  4. Advancing “Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures”; and
  5. Establishing *Oceans Act* MPAs more effectively and with interim protection where needed.



## Developing OECM Criteria & Guidance

- To support the development of a science-based framework for identifying marine OECMs in Canada:
  - Formal science advice was sought on the characteristic and factors of a measure that would contribute to biodiversity outcomes.
  - National operational guidance and criteria for marine OECMs was developed.
- Our OECM criteria requires that area-based management measure meet **all five criteria** to be identified as a marine OECM:
  1. Has a clearly defined geographic location that is spatially defined;
  2. Includes ecological components of interest, including an important habitat and species;
  3. Has conservation or stock management objectives;
  4. Has a long-term duration of implementation; and
  5. Effectively conserves the ecological components of interest from existing and foreseeable pressures.
- More than 1,000 existing fisheries area closures were inventoried.
- By the end of 2017, approximately 51 fisheries area closures met criteria.



## Next Steps for Canada

- As we continue to work towards the 10% target by 2020, we will use our criteria to identify and establish new OECMs.
- We will work with our international and Canadian partners to seek alignment between DFO's criteria and the CBD's voluntary guidance.
- We intend to strengthen our OECMs by:
  - Exploring options for monitoring to determine effectiveness of these measures
  - Proposing amendments to the *Fisheries Act* to create biodiversity regulations in support of a long-term protection approach
- We will work with our partners to address emerging threats as they arise.
- Our OECMs are being integrated as complementary measures to protected areas in the context of MPA network development.



# Contact Information

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- Further information can be found at

- <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/oeabcm-amcepz/index-eng.html>

**Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures: Creating Marine Refuges in Canada**

The term "other effective area-based conservation measures" was created in 2010 at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). All parties, including Canada, agreed to an international conservation target known as Aichi Target 11 which states that 10 % of coastal and marine areas will be conserved by 2020 through systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures ("other measures").

**Domestically, the Government of Canada has committed to increasing the protection of marine and coastal areas to 5% by 2017 and 10% by 2020.**

The Government of Canada has developed science-based guidance in advance of the finalization of international guidance to provide a framework from which to determine which marine area-based management measures should count towards Canada's 2017 target and beyond. Fisheries and Oceans Canada's guidance incorporates science advice provided through the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, and has considered emerging guidance from the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Final guidance will be developed and endorsed by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2016.

Some of Canada's current fisheries management measures that provide marine refuges to fish, mammals and habitat have qualified to contribute to Canada's marine conservation targets.

The operational guidance for identifying "other effective area-based conservation measures" in Canada's marine environment can be found here: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/oeabcm-amcepz/guida-nc-eng.html>

**Fisheries and Oceans Canada's guidance identifies five criteria that an area-based conservation management measure must meet to be characterized as a marine "other measure".**

**Measures must have:**

- 1. A clearly defined geographic location**  
The measure must be in a spatially defined area.
- 2. Conservation or stock management objectives**  
The measure must have a conservation or a stock management objective that directly relates to at least one species of regional importance or habitat that is important to biodiversity conservation.
- 3. Presence of ecological components of interest**  
The measure must include at least two ecological components of interest: a habitat important to biodiversity conservation as well as a species of regional importance that uses that habitat.
- 4. Long-term duration of implementation**  
The measure must either be entrenched in legislation or regulation, or there must be clear evidence that the measure is intended for the long term.
- 5. The ecological components of interest are effectively conserved**  
No human activities that are incompatible with conservation of the ecological components of interest may occur or be foreseeable within the defined geographic location.

