

**Marine Protected area Planning Underway for
North Island, Central and North Coast**

The federal marine area planning process is currently underway on BC's Central and North Coast. It is critical that the BC marine based tourism industry provide as much information as possible to this planning process to ensure our voice is heard and documented. Federal marine protected areas can be both beneficial and detrimental to the tourism industry depending on the type of protected area designation under consideration.

Our role is to ensure your interests are collected, documented and represented in the planning process. While your participation is voluntary and confidential, without your input, your business interests will not be able to be considered. To provide credible information into the planning process, we need your help by obtaining information pertaining to your business interests. At present, tourism is under represented in the planning discussions. With your input, we can present which areas are significant for your business operations.

The information we gather will be catalogued and mapped along with other tour operators in each region. Providing us with relevant information supports our industry at the decision-making level and ensures that your business interests are recognized should any new designations be recommended.

To complete a survey or find out more information, please contact Robin Potter at robinpotter@gmail.com (604) 505-9066 or Scott Benton at scott.benton@wilderness-tourism.bc.ca (250) 388-3155. Robin Potter is a tourism consultant working under contract with the Wilderness Tourism Association of BC. Scott Benton is the executive Director of the Wilderness Tourism Association of BC.