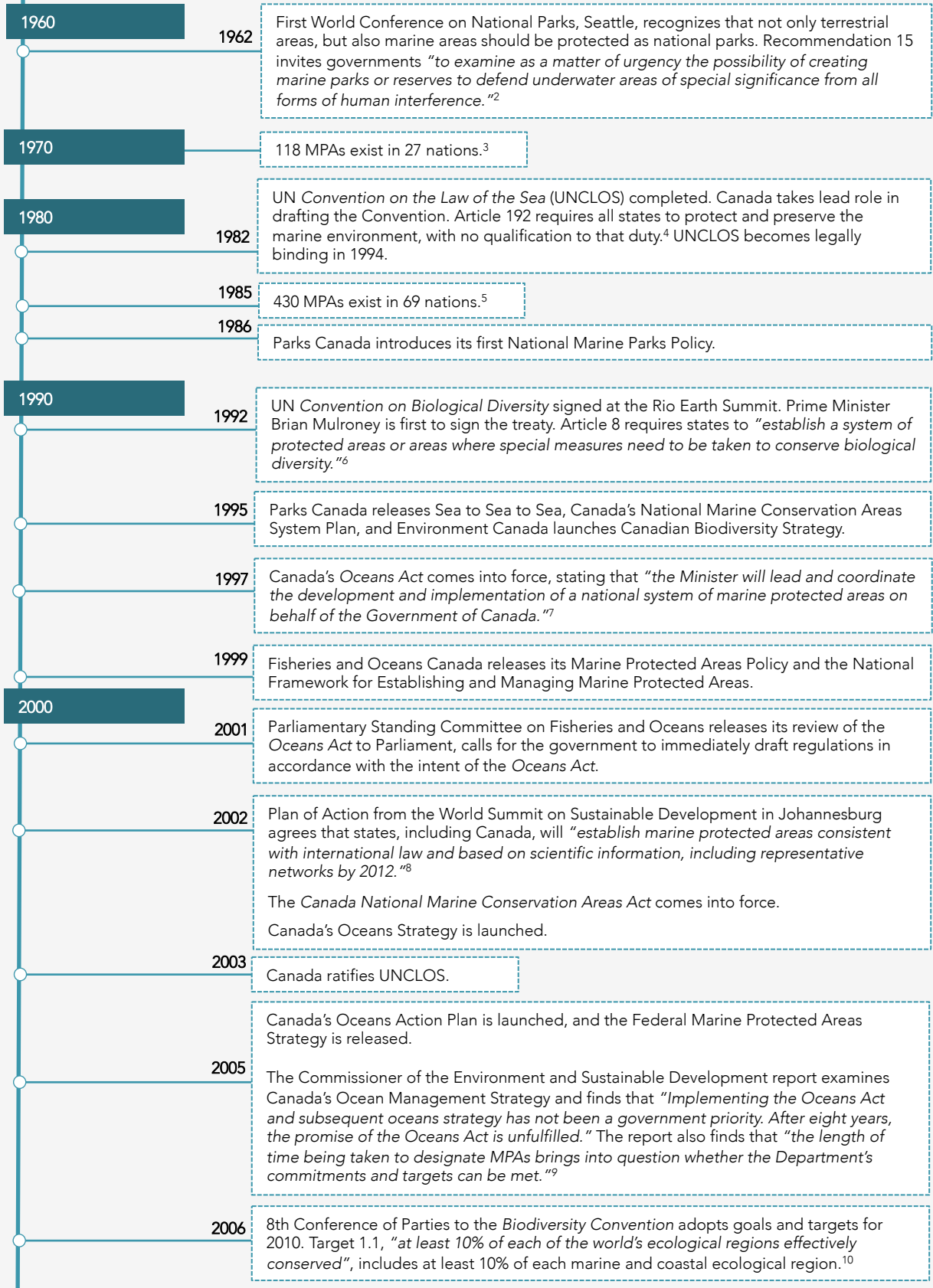


Since time immemorial

Indigenous peoples have governed and managed areas in the sea.



Evolution of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Globally and in Canada¹



2010

10th Conference of the Parties to the *Biodiversity Convention* finalizes the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, which includes the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Target 11 states: *"By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes."*¹¹

Federal Sustainable Development Strategy is tabled in Parliament, includes MPA targets and implementation strategies.

2011

National Framework for Canada's Network of Marine Protected Areas is released.

2012

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) is held; Canada commits to protecting and restoring the health, productivity, and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, and to maintain their biodiversity.

The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development report examines marine protected areas, highlighting slow rates of designation and the range of permitted activities in MPAs: *"At the current rate of progress, it will take many decades for Canada to establish a fully functioning MPA network."*¹²

2014

National Conservation Plan is released, including budgeting for \$37 million over five years to strengthen marine and coastal conservation.

World Parks Congress, Sydney issues the "Promise of Sydney" document. Recommendation 1: *"Urgently increase the ocean area that is effectively and equitably managed in ecologically representative and well-connected systems of MPAs or other effective conservation measures. This network should target protection of both biodiversity and ecosystem services and should include at least 30% of each marine habitat. The ultimate aim is to create a fully sustainable ocean, at least 30% of which has no extractive activities."*¹³

2015

UN adopts Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 14 on oceans requires states to: *"[c]onserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development."*¹⁴ To attain this goal, the UN has established 7 targets including the protection of over 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020.

Prime Minister Trudeau issues Mandate Letter to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard which includes the following: *"Work with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to increase the proportion of Canada's marine and coastal areas that are protected – to five percent by 2017, and ten percent by 2020 – supported by new investments in community consultation and science" and "work with the provinces, territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders to better co-manage our three oceans."*¹⁵

2016

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Barack Obama issue the U.S.-Canada Joint Statement on Climate, Energy, and Arctic Leadership which states that the two countries will *"take concrete steps to achieve and substantially surpass the 17% and 10% targets in the coming years."*¹⁶

The 2016-2019 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy is tabled in Parliament, reiterating the marine protection targets from Aichi commitments, setting short-term milestones (5% coastal and marine areas protected by 2017), introducing a five-point action plan to meet the targets.

2017

House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development issues the report "Taking Action Today: Establishing Protected Areas for Canada's Future" with 36 recommendations meant to rapidly increase the extent and quality of our protected spaces. The report emphasizes the need for strong and effective laws that compel action for meaningful marine conservation.

Approximately 15,000 MPAs exist around the world, compared to approximately 200,000 protected areas on land.¹⁷

(1) This timeline captures key events and does not cover all marine protection treaties, laws or events. It focuses on those related to key developments in marine protection, and the adoption of numerical and timebound targets. (2) Alexander B. Adams, ed. First World Conference on National Parks, Proceedings of a Conference Organized by The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Sponsored by United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, United States National Park Service, Natural Resources Council of America, Seattle, Washington, June 30-July 7, 1962. (3) De Silva, M. E., E. M. Gately, and I. Desilvestre. A bibliographic listing of coastal and marine protected areas: a global survey. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Technical report, 1986. (4) UNCLOS, 1833 UNTS 3; 21 ILM 1261 (1982). (5) De Silva, M. E., E. M. Gately, and I. Desilvestre. 1986. (6) United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf> (7) Oceans Act (S.C. 1996, c. 31), s. 35 (2). (8) United Nations, 2002. Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002. WSSD Plan of Action - para 32 (c). (9) Office of the Auditor General of Canada, Report to the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to the House of Commons, 2005. (10) UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/VIII/15 (15 June 2006). (11) UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/X/2, *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*. (12) Office of the Auditor General of Canada, Report to the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to the House of Commons, 2012. (13) IUCN World Parks Congress 2014. The Promise of Sydney. www.worldparkscongress.org/about/promise_of_sydney.html (14) United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14> (15) Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Mandate Letter. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/minister-fisheries-oceans-and-canadian-coast-guard-mandate-letter> (16) U.S.-Canada Joint Statement on Climate, Energy, and Arctic Leadership. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/03/10/us-canada-joint-statement-climate-energy-and-arctic-leadership> (17) Protected Planet Report, 2016. <https://www.protectedplanet.net/c/protected-planet-report-2016>