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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

### **COASTAL PLAN IDENTIFIES GROWTH FOR COMMUNITY**

VICTORIA – A coastal plan that provides a framework for sustainable marine development and diversification for the Malaspina Okeover Inlet System and its local communities has been completed, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management George Abbott announced today.

The Malaspina Okeover Coastal Plan includes sustainable growth of aquaculture and tourism for First Nation and community residents by identifying areas that have the highest likelihood for success in the tenure application process. The plan area is located north of Powell River and includes Malaspina, Okeover and Theodosia Inlets.

“This plan provides an increased level of certainty to this area and is an important strategy for addressing conservation and sustainable economic development,” said Abbott. “The Malaspina Okeover Coastal Plan is a terrific example of government and communities coming together to strengthen and diversify the area with a plan that will benefit not only the people in surrounding communities, but all of British Columbia.”

The process included dialogue and information exchange with key interest groups and government agencies. The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) signed an agreement with Sliammon First Nation for its participation in the plan. The Powell River Regional District supported public consultation by chairing the public advisory committee.

“The plan recognizes that local residents are interested in identifying economic development opportunities while respecting the natural environment,” stated Powell River – Sunshine Coast MLA Harold Long. “This is why I’m particularly pleased that as part of plan implementation, MSRM is providing funds for a regional district study examining the feasibility of a passive wilderness area on the Coode Peninsula and Isbister Islands.”

“The plan reflects the hard work and dedication put forth by all participants over the last two years to accommodate the diverse interests in the planning area” said Colin Palmer, regional district director. The regional district will be involved in plan implementation and future reviews of the plan and its effectiveness. The plan sets out acceptable uses and activities, such as shellfish aquaculture to commercial recreation guiding in each of the seven sub areas in the region.

Malaspina Okeover is the sixth coastal plan completed in the last three years. It is available online at [www.gov.bc.ca/srm](http://www.gov.bc.ca/srm) under Land Use and Coastal Planning.

Media contact: Robert McConnell  
Public Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Sustainable Resource  
Management  
250 387-4962

Rob Paynter  
Coast and Marine Planning Branch  
250 356-5199

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