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MPA Program(s) Description or Highlights:

- Three federal departments - Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Parks Canada are responsible for Canada's federal MPAs. Each department has a legislated mandate to establish and manage them. These federal MPAs, together with provincial, territorial and Indigenous-managed and OECMs form Canada's MPA/conservation network. Currently, 13.81% of Canada's marine estate is protected.
- Canada's federal MPA network is comprised of three core programs:
 1. Oceans Act Marine Protected Areas established by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to protect and conserve important fish and marine mammal habitats, endangered marine species, unique features and areas of high biological productivity or biodiversity.
 2. National Marine Conservation Areas established by Parks Canada to protect and conserve representative marine areas for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of Canada and the world.
 3. Marine National Wildlife Areas established by Environment and Climate Change Canada to protect and conserve habitat for a variety of wildlife including migratory birds and endangered species.

Key Program Challenges/Priorities:

- In 2019, the federal government committed to conserve 25% of Canada's oceans by 2025, and to advancing international support for 30% by 2030
- The Government of Canada is moving forward to apply new federal protection standards for marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) that were announced on April 25, 2019. In addition Parks Canada is revising its 1994 National Marine Conservation Areas Policy and developing regulations under the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act Policy and developing regulations under the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada, on behalf of the Government of Canada, is starting to work with international and national partners to plan for the upcoming 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress to be held in Vancouver, Canada on September 2021.
- Key areas of interest for Canada include: management of MPAs with indigenous partners; role of MPAs as a natural solution to climate change adaptation and mitigation; working in connected seascape.