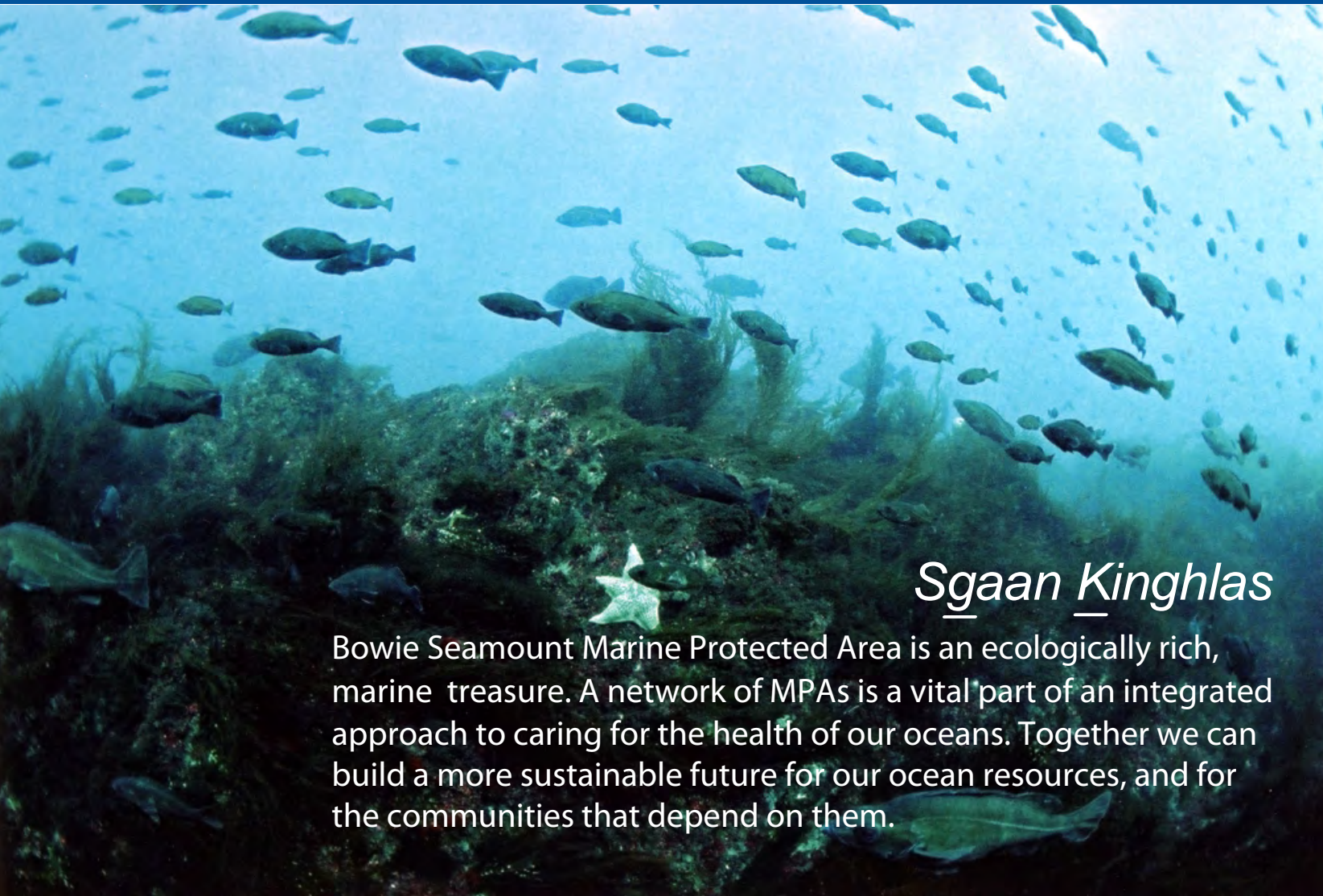




for a living planet®

Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area



Sgaan Kinghlas

Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area is an ecologically rich, marine treasure. A network of MPAs is a vital part of an integrated approach to caring for the health of our oceans. Together we can build a more sustainable future for our ocean resources, and for the communities that depend on them.

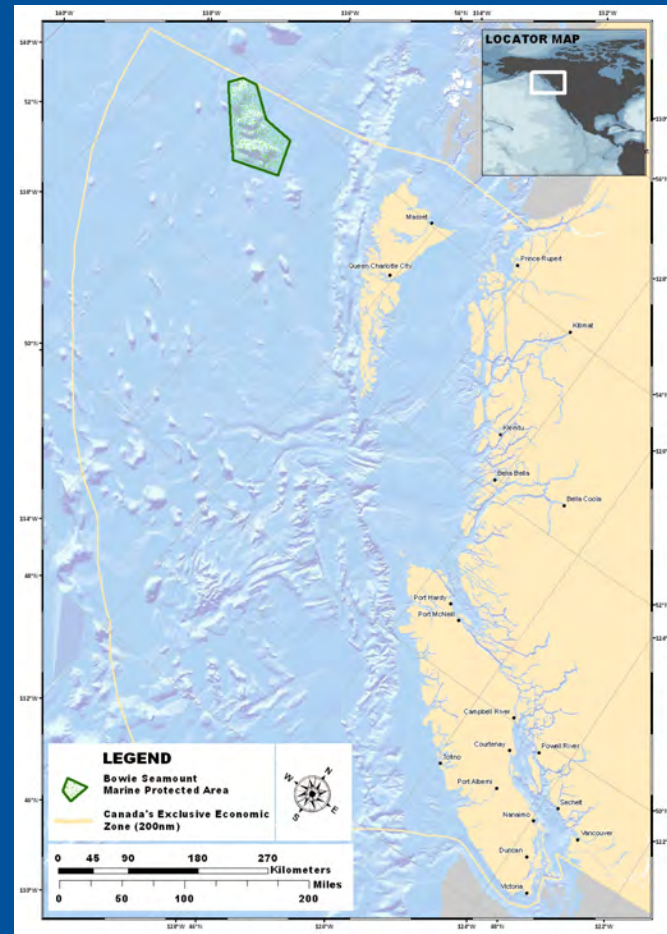
Subsea mountains

Seamounts are underwater mountains that rise up from the ocean floor. They are hotspots of species diversity, with an astounding abundance of marine life amidst the open ocean.

Bowie Seamount may be among the most productive seamounts in the Northeast Pacific. Ocean currents draw nutrient rich water to the surface which feeds the diversity of marine communities found on this seamount. Sea stars, anemones, sponges, and many species of fish including halibut, rockfish, and sablefish, thrive here. These ecologically rich “undersea islands” may also be essential stopping points for some migratory animals, such as birds, whales and large fishes. Orca, humpback, and Northern right whales all visit, as do Stellar sea lions and a variety of seabirds.

The Bowie Seamount chain is located 180 kilometres west of Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands), in the Northeast Pacific. The Haida call this seamount “Sgaan Kinghlas”, which means “Supernatural Being Looking Outward.”

While most seamounts are hundreds of metres below sea level, Bowie Seamount rises to within 24 metres of the surface.



Fragile ecosystems at risk

Seamounts are particularly vulnerable to over exploitation. Though Bowie Seamount has large populations of fish, these may have been easily depleted as remote seamounts are slow to be restocked by fish from coastal areas.

Marine Protected Areas

Officially designated in April 2008, Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area is an example of how collaboration between governments, First Nations, coastal communities, resource users, and environmental organizations can lead to significant conservation gains.

MPAs can boost fish size and numbers, and contribute to the health of our oceans by helping protect and restore ecosystem functions. A network of MPAs on the Pacific Coast is a vital part of an integrated approach to caring for our oceans. Together we can build a more sustainable future for our ocean resources, and for the communities that depend on them.

To learn more about our work in the Pacific Region, please contact WWF at:

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WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity;
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; and
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

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Bottom:
Summit of Bowie seamount: © Neil McDaniel / WWF-Canada

Back cover:

Map of Bowie seamount marine protected area: © Hussein Alidina / WWF-Canada



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