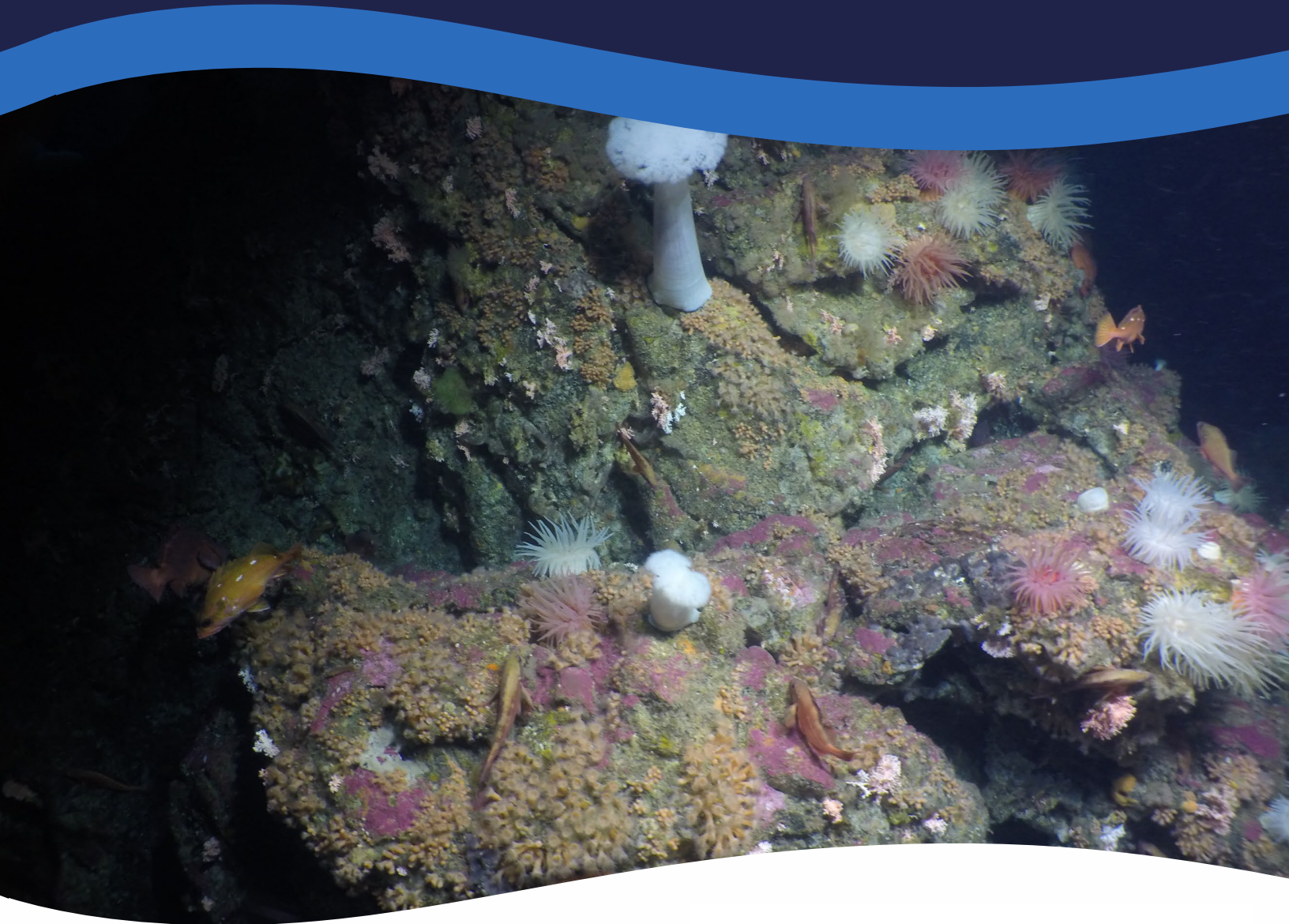


March 17, 2023

# COMMENTS ON DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR TANG.GWAN – ҲАҶХВИҚАК – TSIGIS MARINE PROTECTED AREA



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Cc: Hilary Ibey, Manager, National Marine Conservation Program (Operations)  
Marine Planning and Conservation

RE: Canada Gazette Part 1, Vol. 157, No. 7: Tang.gwan – Һаçxwıqak – Tsigis Marine Protected Area Regulations

Dear Ms. Hillier,

Oceana Canada appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the draft regulations prescribed to the proposed Tang.gwan – Һаçxwıqak – Tsigis Marine Protected Area (MPA). As a participant in the Offshore Pacific Advisory Committee, we have reviewed the design and regulatory intent through their development and are confident that regulations published in the Canada Gazette Part 1 will provide the necessary protection for these important seamount and hydrothermal vent ecosystems.

We find the spatial zoning scheme to be appropriate with respect to the General, Union Seamount and Dellwood Seamount zones, and the vertical management of fishing activities within these zones to be well-defined. The prohibition of bottom-contact fishing throughout the MPA and the clear inclusion of the subsoil to a depth of 1000 m will ensure that the sensitive fauna and biogenic habitat features across the entire MPA are protected.

We are encouraged that Fisheries and Oceans Canada continues to finalize a memorandum of understanding on the future planning, operations, management, and use of the MPA with those First Nations who have inherent rights and interests in the area of the MPA. We urge the Canadian government to strive towards the implementation of a robust MPA co-management plan with First Nations.

Following the public consultation process, we strongly recommend that the Canadian Government publish the finalized regulations in Canada Gazette Part II so this critical habitat can be fully protected as soon as possible. The announcement of the MPA at the International Marine Protected Areas Congress signaled to the world that Canada is moving forward on protecting the health of our oceans. The final designation of this MPA will reinforce meaningful marine protection for future generations and stand as a model for collaborative MPA development.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations for the Tang.gwan – Һаҗхwiqak – Tsigis MPA. We look forward to celebrating the final designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Rangeley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Rangeley, Ph.D.  
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