

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Roundtable and Presentations

ACZISC Meeting #57

Date: Wednesday and Thursday, 13-14 May 2009

Location: University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown PEI

PARTICIPANTS (¹ ACZISC member; ² Advisory Committee member; ³ Director, ACZISC Association)

Name	Affiliation	Tel. No.
Paul Boudreau	ACZISC Secretariat, COINAtlantic	902-494-7452
James Boxall	Dalhousie University, GIS Centre	902-494-6126
David Boyce	Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability and Canadian Heritage Rivers	902-962-2705
John Burka	Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences ¹ and Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI	902-566-0810
Michael Butler ²	ACZISC Secretariat and International Ocean Institute - Canada	902-494-1977
Kelly Cantelo	CZC 2010 and PEI Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development	902-368-5790
Susan Carbyn	Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, Agro Geomatics (for Rollin Andrew ¹)	902-679-5337
Roland Cormier ¹	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gulf Region Oceans and Science Branch	506-851-3338
Brad Fay ^{1,3}	Ocean Science and Technology Partnership and Interpretation Resources Inc.	902-477-0946
Nadine Gauvin ¹	Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability	506-858-4495
Diane Griffin	Nature Conservancy of Canada, PEI Office	902-569-2343
Jacques Grondin ¹	Natural Resources Canada, Surveyor General Branch	902-661-6766
Tim Hall ^{1,2}	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region, Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch	902-426-4116
Matthew Hardy ¹	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gulf Region Oceans and Science Branch	506-851-2278
Justin Huston ^{1,2}	Government of Nova Scotia, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	902-424-2996
Claudette LeBlanc	ACZISC Secretariat	902-494-1977
Mark MacKenzie	CARIS	506-458-8533

PARTICIPANTS (cont'd)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Tel. No.</i>
Mary Lynn McCourt	PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry	902-569-7598
Trevor Rankin	Natural Resources Canada, GeoConnections (for Tony Turner ¹)	613-992-4488
Brent Rowley ^{1, 2, 3}	EIT Group	902-420-1435
Bobbi Smith ¹	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	709-729-0650
Bob Taylor ¹	Natural Resources Canada, Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic	902-426-7736
Diane Tremblay	Environment Canada, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate	902-426-7966
Peter Wells ¹	Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, IOI-Canada and Dalhousie University	902-237-0600

***PLEASE NOTE: “Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada”
is a subset of the Minutes of ACZISC Meeting #57,
held on 13-14 May 2009 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.***

***To download the Minutes and Coastal Activity reports
of previous ACZISC meetings, access the ACZISC website at
<http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm>.***

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations were made – online at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm>:

- **Nature Conservancy of Canada - Identifying and Protecting Important Natural Areas in the Maritimes**, by Diane Griffin, Nature Conservancy
- **Prince Edward Island's Acquisition of LiDAR Data**, Mary Lynn McCourt, PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry
- **COINAtlantic Update**, by Paul Boudreau, ACZISC Secretariat
- **Regional Vulnerability Assessments from a Geospatial Perspective**, by Roland Cormier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gulf Region
- **Planning Update for the Coastal Zone Canada 2010 Conference**, by Kelly Cantelo, PEI Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development
- **Development of a Web Portal to Support ICOM Initiatives and State of the Environment Reporting in Atlantic Canada**, by Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes

ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES and UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: Bobbi Smith, Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA), reported the following:

- **Provincial Coastal and Ocean Network:** The last PCON meeting focused on Ocean Technology. Presentations were made by personnel from government, industry and academia, including an introduction to COINAtlantic by Paul Boudreau.
- **COINAtlantic:** Bobbi participated in the NGO Geomatics Capacity Building Workshop held on 7 March in St. John's and in the COINAtlantic 3rd Party Review. DFA is supportive of the COINAtlantic initiative and its further development for ICOM applications.
- **Coastal Management Areas:** Funding has been approved for a coordinator in 2009-2010 for the Placentia Bay Integrated Management Planning Committee.
- **Regional Oversight Committee:** The ROC has been re-engaged and is now referred to as the Regional Oversight Committee on Oceans Management (ROCOM). A ROCOM meeting will be held in October 2009.
- **New England Governors - Eastern Canadian Premiers:** NL DFA and the Governor's Office of Rhode Island are the co-chairs of the Oceans Working Committee. A face-to-face meeting of the Committee is being organized. Common regional issues for the five Canadian Provinces (NB, NL, NS, PEI and QC) are oceans observation, coastal hazards and renewable energy.
- DFA is finalizing a discussion paper in response to the Issues Scan of Selected Coastal and Ocean Areas of Newfoundland and Labrador. The document will be made available to ACZISC members.

- South Coast Risk Assessment: Bobbi participated in a meeting held in Placentia in April to review the South Coast Risk Assessment report and implementation plan. Invasive species, and in particular the green crab, and oil spills are of particular concern to stakeholders in the region.

GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA: Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, reported the following:

- Regional Adaptation Collaborative: The Province has released the 2009 Climate Change Action Plan and Energy Strategy. The Climate Change Action Plan has two main goals: reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and preparing for changes to the climate. The Plan requires that all NS provincial departments incorporate climate change in policies, programs, etc. by 2012. The Energy Strategy focuses on more renewable energy and greater energy efficiency. It also encourages growth in offshore and onshore energy activity.
- Coastal Management: Last year the NS Government adopted a Coastal Management Framework, which identifies six strategic activities to accelerate action on priority coastal issues: Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy; Coastal Web Portal; Public Education and Awareness; Coastal Research Network; Establishment of an MOU with the Federal Government on Coastal Management; and LiDAR Mapping.
 - o The Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy is to be in place by 2010. The first step in this process is the development of the “State of Nova Scotia’s Coast Report”, currently being finalized by CBCL Limited. The release of the final Report is planned for the late summer or fall.
 - o The State of Nova Scotia’s Coast Report covers key trends relating to the Province’s coastline including: natural; socio-economic; and built coastal environments – using State of Environment reporting methodology; and more detailed information on NS’ six priority issues: coastal development; water quality; sensitive coastal ecosystems and habitats; public coastal access; working waterfronts; sea-level rise and coastal storm events. The Report will also identify gaps in the information required for coastal management.
 - o Fisheries and Aquaculture is working with DFO on the MoU for coastal and ocean management. This activity is being coordinated via the Regional Committee on Ocean Management. It is also working in partnership with other agencies, including DFO Maritimes, Dalhousie University and possibly DFO Gulf, to establish the Coastal Research Network.
- Oceans Day 2009: This year’s annual Oceans Day celebration will take place on the Halifax Waterfront on Friday, 5 June.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA: Trevor Rankin, GeoConnections, reported the following:

- The GeoConnections program has been extended by one year; the new program end date is 31 March 2011. There is no change to the program mandate or budget. This extension will allow GeoConnections and its collaborators to continue contributing to the development and utilization of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI).
- The recent GeoConnections data publishing announcement of opportunity has closed and letters of interest are currently being assessed. Over 50 applications

were received. This call will likely be the last public announcement of opportunity for project funding from GeoConnections under its current mandate.

- It is expected that COINAtlantic will be featured in two GeoConnections communication items. The first is an article in “The Source” (NRCan's newsletter). GeoConnections was approached for this article following the March 2009 presentation on COINAtlantic to NRCan personnel in Ottawa. The second opportunity is a GeoConnections presentation to the NRCan/Earth Science Sector management committee. GeoConnections will be demonstrating projects that the program has supported and COINAtlantic is expected to be one of those.

Bob Taylor, Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic, reported the following:

- Offshore Geoscience Program (OGP): The program, recently initiated, will operate until 2014. John Shaw is the manager. The OGP replaces the former Geoscience for Oceans Management (GOM) program.
 - o A number of OGP thrusts will focus on identifying marine hydro-carbon and renewable energy resources, facilitate their development and contribute to policy, regulation and environmental assessment of these activities.
 - For example, under the topic ‘landfall conditions in Atlantic Canada’, previously collected geoscience data along the coast of NL, NS and PEI will be examined to identify geohazards in relation to development such as pipelines and various types of cables from offshore to onland.
 - o CSS Hudson will be undertaking a geoscience expedition in the Bay of Fundy from 27 August to 9 September 2009 (HU 2009–039).
- Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change Program - 2006-2009:
 - o Activities related to the ‘Halifax Regional Municipality - LiDAR survey project’ include: continuing analysis and development of predicted sea level flood zones (this has not been presented yet to the HRM Council or the public); preparation of metadata; and planning on how to make the surveys available to other users. Gavin Manson is the contact.
 - o A few key coastal monitoring sites in NS were re-examined in the fall of 2008 and the data is being analysed to identify longer-term patterns of shoreline change.
 - o The GSCA provided expertise to DND marine surveys personnel (BIO) for a detailed sidescan sonar off Chezzetcook Inlet, NS. The results will be used by both agencies. This cooperative effort was incubated via ACZISC meetings.
- Other info:
 - o Gary Sonnichsen has accepted a 3-month assignment as the acting Senior Geoscience Advisor for the GSC in the Atlantic Canada Energy Office, located in St. John’s, NL.
 - o Gavin Manson (GSCA) is currently running a modelling experiment for the Rustico to Covehead area of PEI. He is trying to simulate the currents, waves and sediment transport captured in the fall of 1999 by several deployed instruments. Once a reasonably accurate model is running, he will study the impacts of decreasing sea ice and changing storminess on future storm waves and currents and ultimately on sediment transport rates. This research is being done for his PhD research at the University of Guelph.
 - o Robin Davidson-Arnott and Irené Delgado-Fernandez at the University of Guelph have been running a field experiment to investigate aeolian sand transport in the Greenwich dunes in PEI. The installation currently consists of

three pole mounted cameras looking west and east along the shore, and one seaward across the beach. The cameras take pictures hourly when there is adequate light. In addition to information on waves and sea ice, Irené has developed a technique to extract sand moisture content from the images to determine thresholds of aeolian transport. The camera system was to be removed this spring but the study has been extended for at least one more year.

Jacques Grondin, Surveyor General Branch, reported the following:

- A few years ago the Legal Surveys Division was renamed the Canada Centre for Cadastral Management (CCCM). A recent survey of the CCCM staff, clients and partners showed that they did not understand or identify with the new name. Therefore it was decided to yet again change the name to the Surveyor General Branch. It is felt that the new name and tag "Beyond Boundaries" will help with the recognition of the Branch's activities and its historical role. Cadastral Management remains a responsibility of the Branch. Jacques will look into scheduling a COINAtlantic presentation, with a focus on the marine cadastre, by Paul Boudreau to the NRCan senior management team.
- At a recent planning session, senior management of the Surveyor General Branch developed a strategic plan for the next 2 to 5 years.
 - o The new 5-year vision is: "The Surveyor General Branch is Canada's centre of excellence for legal boundary expertise and integrating land information". The primary outcome is: "Canadians rely on effective legal boundaries on Canada's land and ocean space for asserting sovereignty, protecting property rights and enabling economic development and good governance."
 - o One of seven of the intermediate outcomes is to have the "Coalition in place along with the funding required to implement a Marine Cadastral system for Canada." The action under this is to assign dedicated resources in order to achieve the 2-year outcome.
- Jacques is a member of a Marine Cadastre task force established by the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS). The Task Force is mandated to enable a contract to "develop a communication plan to promote the establishment of a Marine Cadastre for Canada and that Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) co-lead the creation and establishment of it". The ACLS Council has already approved the budget submitted by the Task Force for this initiative.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Matthew Hardy, DFO Gulf Region, Oceans and Habitat, reported the following:

- Most of the DFO Gulf initiatives reported at the last ACZISC meeting are ongoing. Of particular interest to the ACZISC is the work being undertaken through the Oceans Section and under the auspices of the Centre of Expertise on Coastal Management.
- A Geo-Spatial Risk Characterization Workshop was held on 17-18 September in Winnipeg. The Workshop was co-hosted by the Centre of Expertise for Coastal Management and the Centre of Expertise on Traditional Ecological Knowledge. DFO Gulf is currently acting on many of the recommendations listed at the end of the proceedings - <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/336523.pdf>.

- The multi-sectoral workshop "Of Scales and Indices - Bridging the Land-Water Divide" was held in April in Moncton. The proceedings will be circulated to the ACZISC when completed.
- DFO Gulf is continuing its work on an oceans management risk analysis framework and the production of a Regional Vulnerability Atlas (refer to Roland Cormier's presentation at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm>).

Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes Region, Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch, reported the following:

- Federal-Provincial MoU: Through the Regional Committee on Ocean Management (RCOM), DFO Gulf and DFO Maritimes are in the process of developing an MoU on the implementation of ICOM in the Maritime Provinces. An initial MoU for Canada-NS will be developed this fiscal year and will serve as a model for NB and PEI which are following the development through the RCOM mechanisms.
- DFO Maritimes Areas of Interest: As part of the ongoing implementation of the Health of the Oceans (HOTO) initiative, DFO Maritimes is in the process of selecting an Area of Interest that will lead to the eventual designation of an MPA by 2012. The MPA will be located within the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) area but the analysis is within the context of a full conservation network for the Maritimes Region. Public consultations will take place from mid-June to September.
- State of the Environment Reporting: Dr. Jay Walmsley is working on developing an SOE reporting process for DFO Maritimes. A presentation was made to the Working Group of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and presentations are scheduled for the Council in June and for the ESSIM Stakeholder Advisory Council. ESSIM will be proceeding with a SOE report.
- Policy Review: DFO Maritimes is working on a policy review with the Marine Affairs Program and the Marine & Environmental Law Institute at Dalhousie University, Environment Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia. A Law School graduate student has been hired to carry out a literature review of Oceans Act critiques, legislated mechanisms for Marine Spatial Planning and federal/provincial/municipal mechanisms for ICOM. An expert review/workshop is planned for late summer. Financial contributions to the project are welcome.
- The Southwest NB Marine Resources Planning Initiative delivered a discussion paper in March which outlines a process for the establishment of an Integrated Management Plan for its geographic area. A joint federal-provincial review of the document is ongoing via RCOM.

The following notes were provided (post-meeting) by Geoff Coughlan DFO NL Region, Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch:

- Placentia Bay/Grand Banks Large Ocean Management Area (PB/GB LOMA):
 - o The 2nd meeting of the PB/GB LOMA was held on 20 November 2008.
 - o An Integrated Management Plan Working Group has been established to facilitate the development of the IM Plan for the LOMA. The first working session of the Working Group was held on 4 February 2009; the Working Group identified a vision, goals and associated considerations for objectives regarding Collaborative and Effective Governance, Healthy Ecosystems and Sustainable Use.

- A Social, Cultural and Economic Working Group (SEC WG) has been established to develop SEC Objectives. The first working session was held on 31 March 2009.
- PB/GB LOMA Coastal Management Areas:
 - Meetings of the Placentia Bay Integrated Management Planning Committee (PBIMPC) were held in October, February and April. The PBIMPC has recently received funding from the Province for action planning with regard to the CMA integrated management plan. A subcommittee has been established to deal with the green crab aquatic invasive species issue.
 - Coast of Bays committee meetings were held in October and December. A coastal management conference is being planned for October 2009. The conference will contribute to implementing the CMA integrated management plan and will enhance relationship building and capacity development.
- Area of Interest (AOI) for an Oceans Act Marine Protected Area: With regard to the NL AOI regional selection process for the PB/GB LOMA, consultations with 22 groups (28 sessions in all) were conducted between December 2008 and April 2009. A recommendation has been submitted to the Minister, based on ecological and feasibility (selection) criteria developed by DFO NHQ, criteria as identified in Section 35 (1) of the *Oceans Act*, and feedback received during the formal consultation sessions and comments submitted to DFO. The Region is waiting for approval before moving forward with an AOI. An announcement is expected within the next few weeks.
- Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management (GOSLIM) - Western NL: The final report and trends analysis was completed in March 2009 for the Western Newfoundland and Southern Labrador (WNSL) Social Economic Cultural Overview and Assessment (SECOA). The translation is expected to be completed by the end of June. The next steps are to: (1) summarize the results for presentation to the GOSLIM WNSL Sub-Committee and (2) a discussion of social-culture and economic objectives for the NL portion of GOSLIM. The results of this discussion will then contribute to similar Gulf-wide SECOA.
- GOSLIM Coastal Management Areas:
 - Great Northern Peninsula: In January to March 2009, the Northern Peninsula Integrated Coastal Zone Management Steering Committee completed a series of meetings with stakeholders to identify and map important marine areas in their area.
 - Bay of Islands: DFO continues to work closely with the ACAP Humber Arm Environmental Association to address marine water quality in the Bay. Most of the funding for the ACAP programs comes from Environment Canada but as of March 2009 continuation of funding is uncertain. This and other ACAP organizations may have to seek alternate sources of funding.
 - Bay St. George/Port au Port Peninsula (BSG/PAP): In January-March 2009 the BSG/PAP Marine and Coastal Resources Steering Committee completed work on a multi-year strategic/action plan for the area. The Committee is currently in the process of determining how the plan will be presented to the various stakeholder groups that contributed to it and the priority areas the Committee will focus on.
 - Coastal Management Areas (CMAs) Annual Meeting: DFO hosted a meeting of all five CMAs in NL on 7 April 2009 in Corner Brook. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity to share information on CMA initiatives

undertaken in 2008-2009; and to discuss some of the common issues that have been identified for Integrated Management planning in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- Marine Protected Areas – Eastport and Gilbert Bay: Upcoming monitoring and public awareness activities include:
 - o Monitoring in Gilbert Bay will start in the first week of June (collection of cod eggs, measuring and tagging adults). The at-sea-sampling program has started and quality assessments are being conducted on lobster populations at Eastport. Data from last year has been added to databases for each MPA.
 - o Coordinators will be getting ready for public awareness activities.
 - o The MPA Management Plan review/renewal is underway, including ongoing consultations with the DFO Science Branch regarding future management plan revisions.
 - o The Community of Practice for MPA practitioners is meeting monthly via teleconferences.
 - o Preparatory work for Gilbert Bay Sewage outfall monitoring is scheduled for August.
 - o Public awareness packages for each MPA (placemats, regional MPA brochure, posters, etc) are being prepared in conjunction with the Steering Committee and Coordinator.
- Northern Labrador Community-Based Coastal Resource Inventory (CCRI): Interviews and mapping are now completed for Postville, Makkovik and Hopedale. The next step will be to consolidate this information with the pilot phase material from Nain and Rigolet. Resource atlases, a project report and public outreach materials will be produced.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA: Susan Carbyn, Agro Geomatics, reported the following:

- The National Land and Water Information Service (NLWIS), a four-year major crown project, came to end on 31 March 2009.
- The Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB), a new branch in the Department, is an integration of three components: Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), the Agri-Environmental Policy Bureau (AEPB) and NLWIS. Rollin Andrew is the Technical Director for the Atlantic Region. Rick Butts, the Director General, is based in Fredericton.
- There is a need to communicate more effectively on how agriculture is affected by climate change and, in particular, on the impacts of sea level rise on watersheds and on agriculture in the coastalshed areas. It is hoped that having AESB representation in Atlantic Canada will give more priority within the Department to these types of issues.
- The Department is developing a new model for working collaboratively with other departments and agencies.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY: Nadine Gauvin, SGSLCS, reported the following:

- The Coalition will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in Emerald, PEI with a wine and cheese social following its Annual General Meeting – which is being held at 6:30 pm on 11 June 2009. The AGM guest speaker is Dr. Nagarajan of UPEI who will present on the sustainability issues and challenges of the last 10 years.

- The Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) is now underway for its fourth season. Three summer students will be hired again this summer, one for each Maritime Province, to work with the 21 participating community organizations. The project consists of monitoring for fish biodiversity and invasive species by beach-seining in local estuaries.
- The Coalition has applied for funding from Environment Canada to initiate the project “Coastal Erosion Monitoring and Awareness for Improved Decision-making”. The project consists of partnering with four community groups to monitor their coastlines for erosion. The groups are from Bonaventure, QC; Cocagne, NB; Cheticamp, NS and Montague, PEI.
- Status of Women Canada recently approved funding for a second project, “Women in Coastal Communities - Using easy tools to better understand finances”. The focus of the project is to provide women with effective tools so their communities will become more socially sustainable. The Coalition will partner with four local associations having expertise in women’s issues. Training sessions will take place in various communities throughout the Southern Gulf in early fall.
- The Coalition submitted a Letter of Interest in response to GeoConnections announcement of funding for publishing thematic data. This activity would align well with the Coalition’s new strategic goals.
- The Coalition collaborated with the ACZISC/COINAtlantic, CoastalCURA, Environment Canada and CoGS’ Applied Geomatics Research Group to develop and deliver a series of one-day introduction to geomatics training sessions that were held in March across the Atlantic Provinces.
- For more information on all Coalition activities, see <http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca>.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES COUNCIL ON THE SCIENCES and UPEI: John Burka, Atlantic Veterinary College, reported the following:

- Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences:
 - o The goal of APICS is to advance science and technology through education and public awareness and to promote scientific literacy, education and research throughout the region - <http://apics.dal.ca>.
 - o The APICS 39th Undergraduate Biology and the 19th Aquaculture and Fisheries Conferences were held in Truro, NS on 6-8 March 2009. There were a number of presentations on Bay of Fundy species, such as striped bass, Atlantic sturgeon, and Atlantic salmon, as well as on invasive species, particularly tunicates, on PEI. The keynote speakers were Debbie Martin-Robichaud, St. Andrews Biological Station, on developing halibut aquaculture, and Roland Cusack, NS Aquatic Animal Health Veterinarian, on the role of biological sciences in enhancing aquatic animal health and fish farming. The next conferences will be held at UNB in March 2010.
 - o APICS is undergoing a review as to how it could be more effective in integrating science awareness and opportunities in Atlantic Canada, including: How can we meet our constituents’ needs better? and How can we broaden our membership among science based organizations and industries?
- UPEI Research Programs on Coastal Regions:
 - o UPEI (<http://www.upei.ca>) is short-listed for a Canada Excellence in Research Chair due to its excellence in aquatic epidemiology and fish health research.
 - o Research at AVC continues on finfish and shellfish health, sea lice, invasive species, fish welfare, and environmental toxicology.

- Researchers in the Biology Department have been studying marine and estuarian habitats. Specific programs by Canada Research Chairs Michael van den Heuvel, Russ Kerr, and Crawford Revie continue to build programs involving watershed ecology integrity, discovery of marine natural products, and population health/epi-informatics of fish diseases, respectively.

OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP: Brad Fay reported the following:

- The OSTP is a network of networks - <http://www.ostp-psto.ca>. The ACZISC is a member of the OSTP and Brad is the ACZISC representative on the OSTP Board.
- The OSTP is an independent, federally incorporated, non-profit corporation developed with the support of the Oceans Action Plan.
- The OSTP was formed to provide a voice for the oceans science and technology community. The OSTP is currently reviewing its focus. 'Ocean observation' has been identified as a major topic of interest.
- A Workshop on "Moving Forward on a National Strategy for Managing and Sharing Ocean and Inland Water Information", organized by the OSTP, the Ocean Management Research Network and the ACZISC, was held in Ottawa in early March. Outcomes of the Workshop include a document on the role of the OSTP, currently being completed, and a proposal for an inventory of ocean observation systems in Canada, submitted to the Canadian Space Agency.
- Industry Canada is completing an inventory of ocean technology agencies.

BAY OF FUNDY ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY and IOI-CANADA: Peter Wells, the BoFEP President, reported the following:

- The 8th BoFEP Science Workshop is scheduled for 26-29 May 2009, in Wolfville. The theme is "Resource Development and Its Implications in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine". The Workshop includes a session on ICOM Data Management - <http://www.bofep.org/workshop2009.htm>.
- Peter is involved in a research project funded by SSHRC. Some of the questions to be investigated are: What is the fate of environmental information published in either print or digital formats? Do scientific reports reach readers when and where it matters? Do any of these publications influence public policy decisions?
- The Gulfwatch program is the major activity of the Contaminants Monitoring Committee of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. Since 1993, Gulfwatch has measured contaminants in blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) to assess the types and concentration of contaminants in coastal waters of the Gulf of Maine - <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/gulfwatch>.
- Peter is the incoming editor of the journal of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science. The proceedings are published quarterly.
- IOI-Canada's 29th annual training programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management is taking place from 20 May to 17 July 2009 at Dalhousie University. Peter is the leader for the Ocean Sciences module.
- The Gulf of Maine Symposium - Advancing Ecosystem Research for the Future of the Gulf is scheduled for 4-9 October 2009 in St. Andrews, NB - <http://www.rargom.org/Symposium2009>.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY: James Boxall, GIS Centre, reported the following:

- The GIS Centre provides campus-wide support for Geographic Information Systems research and teaching - <http://www.library.dal.ca/MAGIC/GIS-2>.
- The GIS Centre is collaborating with the ACZISC and COINAtlantic, including the hosting of the COINAtlantic website. James is a member of the COINAtlantic Management Committee.
- There is a 'renewed' interest in coastal and ocean research at Dalhousie. Examples include legal frameworks for government intervention in coastal management; and marine life and ocean conditions and how they are impacted by climate change.
- 'Geomatics Atlantic' will take place on 9-12 June 2009 in Wolfville, NS - <http://www.geomaticsatlantic.com>, in conjunction with the meetings of the Canadian Cartographic Association and the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives.

ACZISC ALUMNUS: David Boyce reported the following:

- David is currently the chair of the Regional Advisory Committee on Oil Spill Response under Transport Canada. The Committee is, in part, tasked to reflect the public's concerns and to receive public input. The Committee is dealing with a number of issues but one of the more pressing is the increase in vessel traffic due to oil and gas activity and shipping in the Maritimes. The next meeting of the Committee will be in late October in Moncton and will coincide with the annual Regional Environmental Emergencies Team (REET) meeting.
- The 2009 Canadian Heritage Rivers Conference will take place next month in Ottawa with Parks Canada as the host agency - <http://www.riversconference.ca>. PEI will be hosting the next triennial conference in 2012 in Charlottetown. David is the PEI representative on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board.
- David works for the Canadian Agro-Sustainability Partnership (CASP), a not-for-profit organization based in Charlottetown - <http://caspinc.com>. CASP conducts projects in developing and in-transition countries in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and environmental work. Currently CASP is working with two local companies producing green energy products to assist them with marketing internationally. One company called Pellagri Energy produces a burner that can burn agricultural waste residues such as hay and straw.

CARIS: Mark MacKenzie, CARIS, reported the following:

- CARIS offers technologies in the geomatics field and, in particular, in relation to managing large, dense datasets such as bathymetry and LiDAR data, as well as web mapping solutions - <http://www.caris.com>. The technologies lend themselves well to the coastal zone management field.
- CARIS is looking for partners within the coastal zone sector to apply its technologies to real world CZM projects. It is interested in carrying out pilot projects that would be beneficial to the partners and help build CARIS' experience in the sector.
- Mark is interested in participating in the ACZISC as a geomatics and web technology resource.