

ACZISC



ATLANTIC COASTAL ZONE
INFORMATION STEERING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #70

Date: Wednesday and Thursday, 11-12 September 2013

Location: Industry Seminar Room, Marine Institute,
155 Ridge Road, St. John's, NL EI

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

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Additional contact information for ACZISC Members is available on the ACZISC's [website](#).

1. **WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS**

Andy Sherin, Director, ACZISC Secretariat, called ACZISC Meeting #70 to order at 0900 hrs on Wednesday, 11 September 2013. He welcomed members and guests. A roundtable introduction of all of the participants followed.

2. **AGENDA and MINUTES**

The provisional agenda for ACZISC Meeting #70 was approved. The draft minutes of ACZISC Meeting #69 (16-17 May 2013, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia) were reviewed and approved. The final [minutes](#) are posted online.

3. **STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS**

The action items from Meeting #69 were reviewed by Andy Sherin. All of the action items have been completed or are in progress.

4. **UPCOMING ACZISC MEETINGS**

The upcoming ACZISC meetings are scheduled for:

- **15-16 January 2014:** ACZISC Meeting #71, Fredericton, NB
- **7-8 May 2014:** ACZISC Meeting #72, Halifax, NS
- **17-18 September 2014:** ACZISC Meeting #73, Charlottetown, PEI
- **14-15 January 2015:** ACZISC Meeting #74, St. John's, NL

5. **PRESENTATION and DISCUSSION**

- **MPA Network Planning Strategy for the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelves Bioregion, Nadine Templeman, Oceans Program, DFO NL Region.**

The meeting presentations are posted [online](#).

6. **ACZISC ADMINISTRATION**

ACZISC MEMBERSHIP: No changes since the last meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT: The progress report follows the priorities, actions and strategies of the strategic plan, the ACZISC Secretariat encourages comments on what is included, targets, indicators used etc. The progress report was discussed. Google Analytics were presented and discussed.

ACZISC BUDGET, FINANCIAL REPORT: The ACZISC budget for April 2013 - March 2014 fiscal year was distributed and reviewed. Andy Sherin noted and thanked members who had already made contributions.

ACTION 70.1 *ACZISC Members to forward suggestions or comments the progress report to the ACZISC Secretariat.*

ACTION 70.2 *ACZISC Secretariat to request the Chair to call a meeting of the ACZISC Association Board of Directors.*

ACTION 70.3 *Members to expedite payment of their 2013-2014 contributions to the ACZISC.*

7. PRESENTATION and DISCUSSION

- **Coastal Explorers: A New Educational Initiative Involving Students in Real-Time Monitoring of the Marine Environment**, Chelsie Archibald, Oceans Learning Partnership.
- **COINAtlantic: Sharing Through Open Tools and Open Standards**, Andy Sherin, ACZISC Secretariat.

The meeting presentations are posted [online](#).

ACTION 70.4 *Members to try the [COINAtlantic Geocontent Generator](#) and [tutorial](#).*

ACTION 70.5 *A Members to try the new [COINAtlantic Search Utility](#) and [tutorial](#).*

8. ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES and UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS

Andy Sherin invited participants to provide an overview of programs and activities within their jurisdiction related to ICOM, geomatics and coastal mapping. He requested that notes be provided to the Secretariat to assist with the preparation of accurate minutes. Minutes will be posted in the [Meetings](#) section of the website.

ACTION 70.6 *Participants to email notes re their roundtable presentation to Alexi Baccardax Westcott at ACZISC@dal.ca.*

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA:

Joe Manning, Canadian Hydrographic Service, reported the following:

- The loading of the bathymetric data inventory into the CARIS Bathy Data Base (BDB) is continuing. All the data has been digitized and being normalized (horizontal and vertical datums) prior to loading.

Melissa Abbott, Oceans Biologist, Oceans, DFO-NL, reported the following:

- DFO-NL is working with the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, as well as other key Federal and Provincial regulators with a responsibility for coastal and ocean issues (Regional Oversight Committee on Oceans Management) on three priorities: Marine Network Planning, Aquatic Invasive Species, and Conflict Avoidance/Competing Needs.

- Placentia Bay/Grand Banks Large Ocean Management Area Integrated Management Plan was released this past summer.

- The Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management Plan is currently being vetted by the Regional Director Generals of the three regions, hope to release to those involved in process and those that will participate in the various initiatives this Fall (2013).
- Laurentian Channel Area of Interest Advisory Committee: Final Consultation on the Regulatory Intent of the Laurentian Channel Area of Interest will be early November.
- DFO-NL have been working closely with the Province on the Coastal Management Area (CMA) files with assisting each of the five CMAs in NL, with a transition in leadership since the closure of Regional Economic Development Boards. This is one area that could benefit from further collaborative initiatives.
- Eastern Canadian Coral and Sponge Strategy is out for the second internal review in the five Regions (Newfoundland, Maritimes, Gulf, Quebec, Central and Artic) involved. Consultations for key stakeholders are planned for October/November 2013. The intention is to have the Strategy finalized and approved over winter 2014, then all Canadian Oceans will have Conservation Strategy's for Corals and Sponges in place.

GOVERNMENT OF Newfoundland and Labrador:

Melanie Irvine, Project Geologist, Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Natural Resources, reported the following:

- A province-wide coastal monitoring program has been established by the Geological Survey, Department of Natural Resources. The objectives of the program are to determine rates of coastal erosion, monitor changes in beach profiles and define areas that are at risk from coastal erosion, slope movement and coastal flooding. There are over 100 sites (104) which include beach and bluff environments. Sites were selected to ensure a geographic representation across the Province, to include different coastal environments, to include areas of concern and to build on previous research. Sites are being monitored using topographic surveys, and will be monitored over the long-term. Results are being analysed to calculate rates of coastal erosion and beach profile change. Data will be made available through the on-line Resource Atlas managed by the Geological Survey.
- There is a province wide hazard mapping program which provides information on geological hazards to municipalities in the Province. The aim of this program is to reduce the loss of life, and property, infrastructure damage and to protect environmental and culture areas in the Province that can result from damage caused by natural disasters.
- The Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador have collaborated with staff from Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve regarding coastal monitoring in the reserve. The Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador are also collaborating with the Geography Department at Memorial University regarding coastal monitoring in Labrador. As the coastal monitoring program develops, the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador aims to establish connections with communities and other stakeholders.
- Publication of interest: Irvine, M. 2013: Coastal monitoring in Newfoundland and Labrador: 2012 update. *In* Current Research, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey, Report 13-1, page 43-54. - http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/nr/mines/geoscience/publications/currentresearch/2013/Irvine_2013.pdf.
- We are always looking and open to collaborating with groups or communities who are interested in partnering in the coastal monitoring program.

ACZISC SECRETARIAT: Andy Sherin, reported the following:

- CoastGIS 2015 will be held in South Africa in 2015. 20 September 2013 is the deadline for submitting papers for a special issue of Marine Geodesy titled “Marine and Coastal Geographic Information Systems”.
- Digital Earth 2015 will be held in Halifax in October 2015.
- The Industry Canada ACZISC member has shared information about the “Build in Canada Innovation Program” which helps companies bridge the pre-commercialization gap by procuring and testing late stage innovative goods and services within the federal government before taking them to market - <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/initiatives-and-programs/build-in-canada-innovation-program-bcip/overview-of-bcip>.
- Andy also shared the presentation:
- **CanCoast: A National-scale Framework for Characterizing Canada’s Marine Coasts.** - Available at on the [ACZISC Meeting #70](#) website page.

Alexi Baccardax Westcott, reported the following:

- The Coastal Zone Canada 2014 Conference is scheduled for 15-19 June 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The conference theme is: Our Coasts: Legacies and Futures. 20 January 2014 is the extended deadline for submitting abstracts. See the conference website for more details - <http://www.czca-azcc.org/czc-zcc2014>.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY: Brad deYoung, Department of Physical Oceanography

- The European Union, The United States and Canada signed the “Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation” on 24 May 2013 at the Marine Institute, Galway, Ireland. The statement represents an agreement to join forces on Atlantic Ocean Research. The goal is to better understand the Atlantic Ocean and promote the sustainable management of its resources - http://www.marine.ie/NR/rdonlyres/A7986073-83DC-486C-B169-90DD6DD371DB/0/GalwayStatementonAtlanticOceanCooperation_Signed24thMay2013.pdf.

Grant Gardner, reported the following:

- Memorial University uses Yaffle as a research database and information database - see http://today.mun.ca/news.php?news_id=4401. For instance there are now 580 projects returned for the search ‘coastal zone’ - <http://www.yaffle.ca>.

Keith Mercer, reported the following:

- The Petty Harbour Mini Aquarium:
 - Seasonally displays local marine life, from the local bay.
 - Collect and release local animals, right back to where they were collected from at the end of the summer season.
 - Hands-on education with open tanks so visitors can get a closer look and a unique feel of their neighbours.
 - Learn more: <http://www.miniaqua.org>.

SCIENCE ATLANTIC: Matthew Rise, Memorial University, reported the following:

- Matthew Rise is a Canada Research Chair in Marine Biotechnology. He teaches in biology and in environmental sciences in the Department of Ocean Sciences at Memorial University. He is also part of the fisheries and aquaculture committee of Science Atlantic.
- The 2013 Aquaculture & Fisheries and Biology Conference was held 15-17 March 2013 at Acadia University - http://scienceatlantic.ca/ocs/afbe/public/conferences/1/schedConfs/2/program-en_US.pdf.
- 14-16 March 2014 is the next Aquaculture & Fisheries and Biology Conference to be held at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, NS - <http://scienceatlantic.ca/events>.

NAACAP: Myron King, reported the following:

- NAACAP's interaction with local municipalities to promote good watershed stewardship opportunities continues to be a part of the organization's focus mandate. Thematic watershed workshops were held in both in 2012 and 2013, with guest speakers from all three levels of government, academia and other NGOs. Attendance was good and included noted parties as well as concerned citizens and students. The proceedings reports are available on the NAACAP website.
- Development has exploded on the Avalon, and the need to identify and protect watershed and wetland areas, both coastal and inland is higher than ever. One of NAACAP's 2013 projects surrounds watershed vulnerability in a proposed development area.
- NAACAP is in its third year of executing a wetlands survey project identifying key wetlands around the Northeast Avalon (with municipal government inputs considered) and completing a detailed survey upon the wetlands. Yearly reports are shared with all municipalities and published on the NAACAP website.
- These projects did involve collaborations with other organizations; the workshops were aimed at collaborative interactions with government and key organizations / NGO, while the wetlands surveys utilized CCNL "Green Teams" to help with field work.
- **Project 1: Towards Healthy Wetlands on the Northeast Avalon Peninsula.**
 - Continuing from previous years, NAACAP's wetlands project aims to increase knowledge of the numerous wetland systems found on the Northeast Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland by monitoring various key characteristics such as water quality, vegetation composition and anthropogenic changes.
 - The field work component of project 1 is just completing and has been very successful. Staff will be working on analysis and reporting in the coming months.
- **Project 2: Impacts of Sod Farms on Watershed Health.**
 - This project will examine wetland areas surrounding sod farms on the Northeast Avalon with the intention of measuring any effects on the watershed from sod farm activities such as fertilization and pesticide/herbicide use. The project will also map habitat and biodiversity changes of these areas to help determine impacts (if any) from sod farming activities on the watersheds throughout the Northeast Avalon.
 - Chosen Northeast Avalon sod farm operations have been visited, and data / details gathered for project. Where possible, the sod farm operators themselves have been approached and invited to participate, with some success in this area.
- **Project 3: Vulnerability Assessment of a Watershed within a Proposed 2500 Acre Development.**
 - NAACAP will attempt to identify vulnerable areas along the South Brook Watershed in light of a large 2500 acre proposed development that will be located at its headwaters,

and to identify important high quality wetland/riverine areas that will preserve watershed function and health. NAACAP believes that in discovering such areas recommendations can be made for a proactive approach in development design and progress which could ultimately reduce any impacts to the watershed by the development.

- Field work for this project is completed, and GIS analysis incorporating a vulnerability theme has begun.

- **Project 4:** (Joint research project) – NAACAP / Memorial University of Newfoundland under the Harris Centre RBC Water Research and Outreach Fund.

- Profiling regional watershed management on the Northeast Avalon: Integrating practices for drinking water quality.

- This project will profile regional conditions bearing on drinking water management for seven rapidly expanding municipalities within the Northeast Avalon (NEA) Region.

Researchers will study the players, policies and practices conditioning the management of NEA drinking water and watersheds more generally, to produce a “State of the Region” report. Findings will also be presented in a series of topical maps developed using an ESRI geographic information system (GIS) platform.

- NAACAP is always keeping an eye open for opportunities to collaborate with others on projects. NAACAP core projects are planned in late fall, and this year a local near-coast or ocean project to work on for 2014 could be identified. Invitations to collaborate on projects of like-interest are always welcomed.

10. COINATLANTIC WORKSHOP

- **Workshop Title:** *Designing Products for the Newfoundland Coastal Characterization Information Service.*

- The “*Exploring Information Accessibility Policy Best Practices for Coastal Adaptation*” project is being led by the ACZISC Secretariat with funding from Natural Resources Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Andy Sherin, Director of the ACZISC Secretariat gave a short description of the project as an introduction. The main focus of today’s workshop the portion of the project focusing on a case study involving the development of a Newfoundland Coastal Characterization web based Information Service.

11. REVIEW OF THE FIRST WORKSHOP

- The first workshop for this project was held in Dartmouth, NS at the ACZISC Meeting #68, in January 2013. The workshop was titled “*Current Realities & Future Vision*”. Andy Sherin gave a presentation that reviews some of the work to date.

- **Towards a Benchmark for Data and Information Accessibility**, Andy Sherin, ACZISC Secretariat.

This presentation is posted [online](#).

12. RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT: Best Practices for Data and Information Accessibility

- Andy Sherin presented a short progress report from Bronwyn DesLauriers who has been contracted to do research regarding policy best practices for data and information accessibility.

13. PRESENTATION and DISCUSSION

- **Coastal Erosion in Newfoundland: Short-term and Long-term Assessment**, Norm Catto, Memorial University.

This presentation is posted [online](#).

- During Norm Catto's presentation he discussed his 2011 report titled "[Coastal Erosion in Newfoundland](#)" available on the COINAtlantic website.

14. DESIGNING PRODUCTS: Coastal Characterization

- Andy Sherin displayed the CanCoast coastline for the Island Of Newfoundland on ArcGIS Explorer along with the coastal characterization, while turning the 27 categories of characterization on and off. A company in Québec was contracted to digitize the coastal characterization points and did a good job. An additional contract segmented the CanCoast vector coastline to turn the points into lines. The method used creates several artifacts that are being addressed. In all 69 000 line segments were created with the point distribution (coastal characterization) assigned to them. Andy Sherin also displayed the Coastal Vulnerability Indicators for the island of Newfoundland.

- The focus for this session is to determine what the web mapping service products for this work should look like in the end. For instance, what symbols and colors should be used for each coastal characterization category? Also, is there other information / layers that should be added to the web mapping service? A discussion on this subject was held.

ACTION 70.7 *Determine symbology to be used to display the coastal characterization; distribute the draft to participants for comment prior to finalization.*

ACTION 70.8 *Determine what additional layers to include in the final web mapping service.*

ACTION 70.9 *Make final determinations about where coastal characterization line segments begin and end.*

15. DESIGNING PRODUCTS: Erosion and Oil Spill Indices

- Andy Sherin displayed the coastal vulnerability and oil spill indices using ARCGIS.com. He explained that a decision needed to be made on the colors and sizes of symbols used. Currently the oil spill indices were displayed as grey to black in color. Andy suggested using a web feature service and asked what should be included in the metadata record. A discussion followed on how to display the indices.

ACTION 70.10 *Determine the feasibility of adding coastal pictures to the online product.*

16. ADJOURNMENT

- ACZISC Meeting #70 adjourned at 1200 hrs on Thursday, 12 September 2013.