

ACZISC



ATLANTIC COASTAL ZONE
INFORMATION STEERING COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #75

Wednesday and Thursday, 20-21 May 2015
Rodd Moncton, 434 Main St., Moncton, NB

UPCOMING ACZISC MEETINGS

- **16-17 September 2015:** ACZISC Meeting #76, Halifax, NS
- **3-4 February 2016:** ACZISC Meeting #77, Charlottetown, PEI
- **11-12 May 2016:** ACZISC Meeting #78, St. John's, NL
- **21-22 September 2016:** ACZISC Meeting #79, Fredericton, NB

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

Name	Affiliation	Telephone #
Alexi Baccardax Westcott	ACZISC Secretariat	902-494-7162
Lenore Bajona	Director Data Management, Ocean Tracking Network, Dalhousie University	902-494-7893
Daniel Bryce	Coastal GIS Coordinator, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture	
Robert Capozzi ¹	New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government	506-453-8946
Angela Douglas ¹	Executive Director, Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability	902-218-2594
Mary Kennedy	OBIS Canada, DFO Volunteer	
Pascal Levesque	Oceans and Habitat Management Biologist, Gulf Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada	506-851-7409
Ray MacIsaac	Biologist, Oceans Management Program, Gulf Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada	506-851-6979

PARTICIPANTS (*continued*)

Name	Affiliation	Telephone #
Matt Mahoney	Environment Canada	506-364-5062
Andrew Moore	Project Manager, Federal Geospatial Platform Initiative, Earth Sciences Sector, Natural Resources Canada	613-694-2487
Dominique Poulin	Program Development and Innovation, National Environmental Emergencies Center, Environment Canada	514-496-1365
Monik Richard	Oceans and Habitat Management Senior Biologist, Oceans Management Section, Gulf Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada	506-851-6276
Emily Rideout	Coastal Secretariat, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture	902-247-3710
Andy Sherin	ACZISC Secretariat	902-494-6184

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 #75 to order at 0900 hrs on Wednesday, 20 May 2015. He welcomed members and guests. A roundtable introduction of all of the participants followed.

2. *AGENDA, MINUTES and STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS*

The provisional agenda for ACZISC Meeting #75 was approved. The draft minutes of ACZISC Meeting #74 (11 February 2015, St. John's, NL) were reviewed and approved. The final [minutes](#) are posted online.

3. *DATES of UPCOMING ACZISC MEETING*

- ACZISC Meeting #79 was scheduled for 21-22 September 2016 in Fredericton, NB.

4. **PRESENTATIONS and DISCUSSION**

- **The Federal Geospatial Platform - an Update**, Andrew Moore, Natural Resources Canada.
- **Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management Plan**, Ray MacIsaac, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Gulf Region.
- **Environmental Monitoring in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence**, Angela Douglas, Executive Director, Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability.
- **Update on New Brunswick Climate Change Adaptation Activities**, Robert Capozzi, Department of Environment and Local Government, Government of New Brunswick.

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

5. **COINATLANTIC TOOL UPDATES**

- The [COINAtlantic GeoContent Generator](#) has been updated with a few format. Steps are shown in tabs and the map window is always available. There is also an updated [tutorial](#).
- The ACZISC Secretariat, in collaboration with Dr. Norm Catto at the Department of Geography at Memorial University, conducted the project “Reducing vulnerability of coastal habitats to petroleum contamination on the Island of Newfoundland” through funding from the Environment Canada Atlantic Ecosystem Initiative. The project focused on seven communities on the Island of Newfoundland chosen based on previous studies. The objectives of the project were to identify vulnerable coastal habitats and petroleum contamination risks, and to investigate methods for reducing vulnerability. There are two COINAtlantic Search Utility theme URLs for this project that open up the relevant KML and WMS layers:
 - East: <http://www.marinebiodiversity.ca/coin/csu/?mapset=petroeast>
 - West: <http://www.marinebiodiversity.ca/coin/csu/?mapset=petrowest>
- The [COINAtlantic Data Accessibility Benchmark Organizational Self-Assessment Tool](#) is for use within organizations to develop a benchmark to monitor their progress in improving their policies and procedures for providing effective and easy access to the data and information held by them.

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

GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA

Emily Rideout, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture reported the following:

- Work on the Coastal Data Management Initiative is proceeding. Daniel Bryce (Coastal GIS Coordinator) has been extended until November to complete a data inventory across departments.
- The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has announced changes to the [Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act](#) regarding Aquaculture operations. Go to http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/proceedings/bills/fisheries_and_coastal_resources_act_amended_bill_95 for a detailed list of the changes.
- The Department of Energy has proposed new [Marine Renewable Energy Legislation](#) for the Bay of Fundy and Bras d'Or Lakes.

ACZISC SECRETARIAT:

Andy Sherin, Director, reported the following:

- Andy attended CoastGIS 2015 on 21-24 April 2015 and ICAN 7 (International Coastal Atlas Network) 19-20 April 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa. At ICAN 7 a half day workshop was held on the [COINAtlantic Data Accessibility Self-Assessment Tool](#) (CDAST). The feedback from this workshop will be used to improve the tool. CDAST was also presented at the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Workshop that was part of CoastGIS 2015.
- The ACZISC in collaboration with Council for Science and Industrial Research (the South African equivalent to Canada's National Research Council) and the Joint Airborne Lidar Bathymetry Technical Center of Expertise / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held a workshop on LiDAR at CoastGIS 2015. Jennifer Wozencraft, Director, JALBTCE may be invited to be a resource person that the ACZISC Secretariat is organizing on remote sensing for coastal zone management under contract to DFO, Maritimes and hosted by the Regional Committee on Coastal and Ocean Management's Coordinating Committee.
- The National Research Council (Canada) is developing a tidal energy atlas for the west coast and I have linked them up with the West Coast Governors Alliance On Ocean Health which is an ICAN member.

- While in South Africa we visited several coastal locations. The field trip for CoastGIS was along Table Bay where we learned of the challenges that city had with erosion and property owners along the coast. We also visited the Woody Island section of the Addo Nature Reserve which has the largest dune field in Africa. I have written an article on our experiences of the South African coastline in the BIO Oceans Association Newsletter http://bedfordbasin.ca/newsletters/66_APR2015.pdf.
- Abstracts and presentations from CoastGIS 2015 will be put up on their website soon. The next CoastGIS will likely be in Estonia in 2017. ICAN 8 is likely going to be in Columbia.

Alexi Baccardax Westcott, Project Officer, reported the following:

- The Coastal Zone Canada Conference 2016 will be held in Toronto, Ontario in June 2016. There will be a CZC Association Newsletter released in summer 2015.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY:

Angela Douglas, Executive Director, reported the following:

- The coalition-SGSL is currently collaborating with several groups including ECW, ACZISC, DFO, Stantec, UNB, CARP, and KNWA.
- There is an upcoming Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability AGM in June 2015.
- The Coalition SGSL is looking for collaborators to be participants in the Eelgrass Monitoring Consortium, via SeagrassNet monitoring.
- Also see Angela's presentation [online](#).

OCEAN BIOGEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM:

Mary Kennedy, DFO Volunteer, reported the following:

- Mary shared a few online resources, and said that she would work with individuals who would like help with this resources:
 - The aim of the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) is to provide an authoritative and comprehensive list of names of marine organisms, including information on synonymy: <http://www.marinespecies.org>.
 - Lifewatch – for proper place names: <http://www.lifewatch.be>.
 - OceanTeacher - The objective of OceanTeacher is to provide training tools for Oceanographic Data and Information management: <http://www.oceanteacher.org>.
 - Also see Mary's presentation on the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) [online](#).

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA:

Ray MacIsaac, Gulf Region, reported the following:

- Wendy Watson Wright is the new (started 10 May 2015) Regional Director General for DFO Gulf Region.

Monik Richard, Gulf Region, reported the following:

- Basin Head Marine Protected Area is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this fall 2015. There will be an event on August 29th at 1 PM at the Basin Head Fisheries Museum in PEI. There will be cake, ecotours, and lectures. Partners are DFO Gulf Region, Government of Prince Edward Island and Souris Branch of PEI Wildlife Federation.

- Andy Sherin was the roundtable judge and Monik Richard was the winner.

7. COINATLANTIC WORKSHOP:

Atlantic Canada's Biological Data for Ecosystem Planning and Decision-making: Opening Access and Increasing Reuse

A. Attendance:

- Alexi Baccardax Westcott, Project Officer, ACZISC Secretariat
- Lenore Bajona, Data Manager, Ocean Tracking Network
- Angela Douglas, ED, Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability
- Mary Kennedy, DFO / OBIS Canada
- Matt Mahoney, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada
- Andy Sherin, Director, ACZISC Secretariat

B. Background:

The project associated with this workshop is an Environment Canada Atlantic Ecosystem Initiatives Project.

- Workshop Agenda available here:
http://coinatlantic.ca/documents/aczisc_meeting_agenda/75agenda.pdf
- Project page: <http://coinatlantic.ca/index.php/atlantic-marine-biological-data-partnership>

C. Project Summary:

The project will prepare a State of Biological Data Accessibility to for significant habitats such as estuaries in Bay of Fundy, and Bras D'Or. Partial baseline environmental conditions for selected areas will be assessed using species observations from these locations that are loaded in the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). Biological data gaps to making this assessment will be documented. Key objectives of this project are to establish an Atlantic Marine Biological Data Partnership and to submit existing data held by participating organizations into OBIS. Best practices from OBIS, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) will be observed. Data accessibility will be enabled through the establishment of the Atlantic Marine Biological Data Partnership and coordination provided by the ACZISC Secretariat. To support the State of Biological Data Accessibility Report custom geospatial products will be developed from the data already held in OBIS and the new data submitted by participating organizations through this project. Work leading the State of Biological Data Accessibility Report will develop the partnerships required to conduct specific case studies for selected estuarine habitats and species of interest in future years.

D. Objectives of the Project:

- Prepare a State of Biological Data Accessibility concentrating on the Bay of Fundy and the Bras D'Or Lakes and the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence;
- Establish the Atlantic Marine Biological Data Partnership;
- Load species occurrence / abundance data held by project partners into OBIS with a focus on estuarine species
- Develop customized geospatial products / tools to support loading data and displaying the data from OBIS.
- Identify new members of the partnership
- Develop case studies in ecosystem based management that utilizes the data loaded into OBIS.

ACTION: Add Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence to the final EC agreement

ACTION: Plan a workshop after summer data gathering in final work plan

E. Budget:

- \$70K for one year from AEI \$20K from ESDC and NS
- Expenditures
 - Project management and Communication \$12K
 - Data Management assistance \$14K
 - Workshop/travel \$10K
 - Data uploading assistance students x4 \$33K
 - Development of geospatial products \$13K

ACTION: Increase workshop / travel budget to accommodate extra workshop added above.

F. Presentations and Discussion:

- Mary Kennedy gave a presentation on OBIS – see presentation [online](#).
- Andy Sherin displayed the custom CSU maps of seabirds and marine mammals developed for the AEI Petroleum Vulnerability Project from OBIS as examples of the types of data products that could be developed for the new AEI Project.

CONSIDERATION: Matt suggested that the standard bird codes (4 letter code) would be better to use in the legend for seabird than scientific name or common name. The codes should be able to be added in OBIS.

G. Partnership Discussion:

- What do we want to accomplish from the partnership/ what would be of use/benefit for partners?
 - Help identify data
 - Attract additional people to be aware of OTN and others biological data initiatives
 - Good PR
 - Providing a service to those who do not have time to do this (data management/ sharing)
 - Have an external place to share information for others to download
 - The partnership can facilitate data preparation and upload to OBIS, provide training, doing some quality control
 - Improved training for groups

ACTION: Andy will write up a one page of the objectives of the partnership

CONSIDERATION: The area of interest for the partnership will be- Atlantic Provinces plus the EEZ: i.e. West - longitude of the NB/ Maine boundary, North - Cape Chidley, top of Labrador and South and East Canada's EEZ.

H. Roundtable on Possible Datasets:

- Matt CWS has shorebird dataset volunteer (ACSS), eastern water fowl surveys (points and coastal blocks), and a colonies database. Was involved in a project where these four data sets were analyzed to summarize hotspots into 5 km hotspots.

- Angela has a list of about 15 contacts that she will contact to see if they have data that could go to OBIS.
- Bruce Hatcher – publications and data in the Bras d’Or looking at what is available have students focus on some to try and upload. Also the biosphere reserve.
- Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
- Ocean Tracking Network Connections
- Atlantic Reference Centre
- Acadia University

I. Next steps:

- Finalize the survey and send out (Angela’s list, AEI etc.)
- Post for the student positions (share Bruce’s ad with Angela and others).
- Decide on training dates. Mary is away 8-10 June and 20-30 June.
- Establish four separate Gmail addresses for the students.
- Add a fall 2015 workshop to the final work plan to discuss results of the summer’s data gathering and propose case studies for future years of the project proposal.
- Final workshop (winter 2016) will focus on finalizing the products/ reports.
- Send data survey to participants.
- Ask participants to fill out the COINAtlantic Data Accessibility Self-Assessment Tool Survey.
- Geospatial products: Geospatial representation/ output of what was put into the OBIS database through the project.
- Determine the need for letters of agreement with partners.
- Communication plan – promotional wording on our websites and for others (partners/ participants) to put on their own.
- Monthly conference call; first conference call after the July 1st holiday.
- Start a drop box.