

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Roundtable and Presentations

ACZISC Meeting #48

Date: Wednesday and Thursday, 31 May – 1 June 2006

**Location: Bedford Institute of Oceanography
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia**

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***PLEASE NOTE: “Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada”
is a subset of the Minutes of ACZISC Meeting #48,
held on 31 May – 1 June 2006 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.***

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

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

PRESENTATIONS

The white paper reviewed and the presentations made at ACZISC Meeting #48 are available at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs.htm#ACZISC>:

- **COINAtlantic - Sustaining the Regional Access Point to Atlantic Canada's Coastal Geospatial Assets and Initiatives**, a white paper on Practical Steps Forward for COINAtlantic, by David McIlhagga, DM Solutions Group
- **Towards COINAtlantic** by Andy Sherin, Chair of the COINAtlantic Task Group
- **An Atlas of Human Activities for the Scotian Shelf: Reflections on the Past, Present and Future Possibilities** by Tracy Horsman and Heather Breeze, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region
- **Challenges of a Dynamic Ocean Use Atlas** by Norval Collins, CEF Consultants
- **Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management Initiative (GoSLIM)** by John Legault and Brad Firth, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gulf Region
- **Gulf of Maine EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP)** by Maxine Westhead and Jennifer Hackett, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region
- **The Ocean Technology Sector In Atlantic Canada** by Don Hogan, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)

ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES and UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: Darren Hicks, NL Department of Natural Resources, reported the following:

- The Energy Branch of the NL Department of Natural Resources is preparing an onshore well-site data layer to be used for natural resource development and policy decisions. Data logs for older well sites will also be available as a sub-layer. There are plans to make the data available online. Preliminary talks are taking place with the C-NLOPB about doing the same thing with nearshore and offshore well sites; this would require agreement from industry, particularly with regards to ensuring the confidentiality of business information. Electricity transmission data, etc. are also being considered.
- The New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) have recently passed resolutions on a number of issues, including oceans, the environment and energy – see <http://www.cap-cpma.ca/default.asp?mn=1.62.5.31>. NL remains the lead for the ECP for oceans; Mike Warren is the contact. A workplan is currently being developed.
- The NL Departments of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Environment and Conservation have received two years of funding to coordinate ocean related issues in the Province. Each Department was provided with funding for a position for both years, and additional dollars for administration - approximately \$100,000. These personnel will be involved in the OAP II, sustainable fisheries, resource development, etc.
- The 'Valuing Nature Conference: Stewardship and Conservation in Canada' is scheduled for 5-8 July 2006 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador - <http://www.stewardship2006.ca>.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Larry Hildebrand, Sustainable Communities and Ecosystems Division, reported the following:

- The EC reorganization is almost complete. The process was guided by the competitiveness and environmental sustainability framework. The Results-based Management and Accountability Framework (RMAF), a management tool for measuring and reporting outcomes, has been adopted.
- EC has a new Deputy Minister: Michael Horgan.
- Two new ACAP sites have been identified: Cartwright and Happy Valley-Goose Bay, both in Labrador. Two workshops will be held mid-June to start the 'building' process. The boundaries of the individual sites will be determined by the respective group.
- A three-day workshop was held recently by EC to define 'ecosystem approach'. Other federal departments are also coming up with definitions. The workshop conclusion was to 'adopt a definition' and move on.
- Larry briefed participants about the ACZISC at a recent EC workshop in Toronto on data and information management. The participants were interested in the ACZISC 'model'.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES COUNCIL ON THE SCIENCES / MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY: Grant Gardner, Associate Dean of Science, MUN, reported the following:

- The goal of APICS is the advancement of science and technology through education and public awareness and the promotion of scientific literacy, education and research. Information exchange amongst the universities is one of the priorities of APICS.
- Grant made a PPT presentation on ACZISC activities (provided by the Secretariat) to the APICS Council in April. The meeting was attended by the Deans of Science from several of the universities in Atlantic Canada. There are likely university faculty who would be interested in participating in ACZISC meetings, in particular the presentations and the roundtable portions.
- The Oceans Lecture Series referenced in previous ACZISC meetings will be going forward with support from DFO. The topics will relate to ICOM. The first lecture (and possibly a panel discussion/workshop) will likely be held this fall in St. John's.
- Coastal Zone Canada 2006 is scheduled for 14-18 August 2006 in Tuktoyaktuk, NT. The theme is *Arctic Change and Coastal Communities*. The paper abstracts submitted to the Conference are available at <http://www.czc06.ca>.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA: Tony Turner, GeoConnections Secretariat, reported the following:

- Opportunities:
 - In October 2005, GeoConnections released an announcement of opportunity under its new mandate for developing applications for 'communities of practice'. 235 letters of intent were received from which 40 were invited to submit proposals. 25 of these proposals will be funded in July 2006. 8 of the funded proposals are for projects that relate to the environment/sustainable development, including 6 which deal with watersheds/ freshwater.
 - Two Content projects (environment/sustainable development) are under way: one is with NatureServe Canada to web-enable species at risk occurrence data available from the Conservation Data Centres.
 - Directed funding will be provided for projects in each GeoConnections theme that contribute to the National Information System. The ACZISC has been asked to submit a proposal for COINAtlantic.
 - Upcoming opportunities (June or July 2006) include: applications for communities of practice; capacity building to prepare for using the CGDI; regional atlases; and directed innovation. Trevor Rankin (trankin@nrcan-mcan.gc.ca) is the contact for directed innovation.
 - For information on current and anticipated opportunities, access <http://www.geoconnections.org/CGDI.cfm/fuseaction/opportunities.welcome/gcs.cfm> or register for the monthly GeoConnections e-newsletter at <http://www.geoconnections.org/CGDI.cfm/fuseaction/subscribe.welcome/gcs.cfm>.

- Partnerships:
 - GeoConnections is continuing to work with GeoNOVA. Recent activities include joint workshops at Geomatics Atlantic, 5-8 June 2006 in Wolfville, NS - <http://www.geomaticsatlantic.com> and for the Department of Environment in November.
 - GeoConnections is continuing to develop MoUs with strategic partners. Discussions are currently taking place with the Canadian Boreal Initiative and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).
- Environment and Sustainable Development:
 - An Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (ESDAC) has been established. Its first meeting was held on 12 May. The group includes two 'ocean' members: Joe Arbour, DFO Maritimes and Michelle Patterson, WWF Pacific.
 - The GeoTec Event is scheduled for 18-21 June 2006 in Ottawa, ON. The Event will mark the 100th anniversary of the Atlas of Canada and will be co-located with the Association of Canadian Map Libraries, the Canadian Cartographic Association, and the International Cartographic Association - <http://www.geoplac.com/uploads/GeoTecEvent/htm/intro.asp>.

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

- Climate Change Program:
 - The final report from the project on Bras d'Or Lakes Sea level History and Coastal Sensitivity to Sea level Rise has been critically reviewed and will be released as a CD under the GSC open file system in the next few months.
 - Similarly the final report from the New Brunswick Sea Level Rise project is near completion - <http://atlantic-web1.ns.ec.gc.ca/slr>. Réal Daigle, the Project Manager, will be retiring at the end of the year. It was suggested that Réal be invited to make a presentation on the project at the ACZISC Meeting in Charlottetown this September.
 - The Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Network (C-CIARN) ended on 31 March. The C-CIARN Coastal Zone sector website - <http://c-ciarn.bio.ns.ca> - has been updated and should be accessible for at least the remainder of this year. The website includes a number of products/publications that were completed by the C-CIARN Coastal Zone office over the last couple of years.
- Geoscience for Ocean Management (GOM) Program:
 - The GOM program - http://ess.nrcan.gc.ca/2002_2006/gom/index_e.php - has entered a new 3-4 year phase to complete seabed mapping of the Bay of Fundy. Surveys initiated in collaboration with CHS will start at the west end of the Bay. The Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) contacts are Dick Pickrill (dick.pickrill@nrcan.gc.ca) or Brian Todd (brian.todd@nrcan.gc.ca). Results from the 2006 survey will be presented at the 7th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop, 25-27 October 2006 in St. Andrews, NB - <http://www.bofep.org/workshop2006.htm>.
 - Seabed mapping in collaboration with CHS is also continuing in Placentia Bay, NL this week. John Shaw (john.shaw@nrcan.gc.ca) is the main contact at GSC Atlantic.
 - Nearshore surveys are planned for the Eastern Shore of NS in late June using the new interferometric sonar system that provides shallow water seabed coverage.
 - Some monitoring of the seabed dumpsites in the Miramichi area of NB will continue this year. The main contact is Russell Parrott (rparrott@nrcan.gc.ca), GSC Atlantic.
 - Russell Parrott and Mike Parsons have also completed seabed mapping and geochemical analysis of sediments in the Issacs Harbour area of NS as part of the review of the proposed LNG facility.

PARKS CANADA: Rob Thompson, Atlantic Service Centre, reported the following:

- The Atlantic Service Centre remains involved in the proposed National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) for the Magdalen Islands. The work is being led by the Québec Service Centre.
- A map showing Park Canada's 10 Atlantic marine regions used in the context of its national marine conservation areas program is available at http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/amnc-nmca/plan/atl_E.asp.

- No progress has been made re the proposed NMCA for southeast NL.
- The Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve, established in 2005, covers an area of about 9600 km². The Park includes mountains, fjords, river valleys and coastal areas, including intertidal zones. The area extends from Saglek Bay in the south to the northern tip of Labrador, and from the Québec/NL border to the Labrador Sea.
- All national parks in Atlantic Canada have a coastal component.

GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA: Ed Light, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs, reported the following:

- At this time GeoNOVA is putting emphasis on communicating Nova Scotia's corporate commitment to geomatics. GeoNOVA has developed several pamphlets, fact sheets and displays and provided copies to ACZISC members for review.
- GeoNOVA has agreed to participate in the recently launched Provincial Ocean Network initiative being lead by the NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- Metadata continues to be an emphasis for NS. GeoNOVA is finalizing a new search environment which will allow distributed search capabilities. At present the NS Geographic Data Catalogue is being prototyped to search on the main metadata catalogue and the cataloguing being provided by a remote server within the NS Department of Natural Resources. Future plans are to link further distributed searches to other z39.50 services.
- GeoNOVA is launching a new data exchange model this year and has been working with two client groups to establish agreements for data access. The new exchange model will seek stakeholders who will contribute data to the GeoNOVA Exchange and encourage others to access data via the Exchange (based upon the agreements put in place by the data originator). This exchange model is viewed as a way to improve data access for the end user and reducing the number of data agreements to access a wide variety of data.
- The NS Geomatics Centre is under new management. Bert Seely has retired after more than 35 years of service. Robert Caldwell will be acting manager of the Centre.
- GeoNOVA has issued an RFP for more geographic cataloguing (aka metadata), with a focus on working with municipal units to capture information related to their geographic data holdings.
- GeoNOVA will move forward on a review of the Province's geographic data Distribution and Pricing Policy. This fall GeoNOVA will co-host two workshops: one with GeoConnections, related to environmental sustainability, will seek data and technology opportunities. In the 2nd workshop GeoNOVA will partner with Statistics Canada to look at the use of statistical geography in decision-making.
- GeoNOVA would welcome the opportunity to give a presentation related to its direction, developments, etc. to the ACZISC.

Justin Huston, Agriculture and Fisheries, reported on the NS Provincial Ocean Network:

- Copies of a progress report were distributed (appended).
- In November 2005, the NS Deputy Ministers formally committed to strengthening provincial leadership and coordination on coastal management issues and initiatives, calling for the Provincial Oceans Network (PON) to lead the provincial government in developing a 'made in Nova Scotia' approach to coastal management.
- A two-prong approach was identified:
 - Improving inter-departmental information exchange and coordination on coastal and ocean management initiatives;
 - Defining the NS Government's vision, goals, and objectives regarding coastal management; and developing options and for a long-term management strategy.
- PON consists of representatives from 10 coastal-related departments: Fisheries and Aquaculture [Chair]; Intergovernmental Affairs; Energy; Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations/GeoNOVA; Tourism, Culture and Heritage; Natural Resources; Economic Development; Transportation and Public Works; Aboriginal Affairs; and Environment and Labour.

- To facilitate the work of PON, two positions were staffed in late April 2006:
 - PON Coordinator, Sean Weseloh McKeane, weselosw@gov.ns.ca - tel 902-424-5830
 - Coastal Strategist, David Mitchell, mitchedx@gov.ns.ca - tel 902-424-2894.

Sean Weseloh McKeane, Provincial Oceans Network Secretariat, reported the following:

- NS Fisheries and Aquaculture, in collaboration with the ACZISC, DFO and Dalhousie University's Marine Affairs Program, have organized an exhibit on the Halifax waterfront to celebrate the International Oceans Day on 8 June. More displays are welcome.
- Sean was a member of the Sustainable Coastal Strategy Committee of the Tourism Industry Association of NS (TIANS) which developed the NS Strategy for Sustainable Coastal Tourism Development released on 25 May. Participants were asked to comment on the draft Strategy available at <http://www.nstourismvision.com/vision/coastalstrategy.php>.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA: Susan Carbyn, National Land and Water Information Service, reported the following:

- The National Land and Water Information Service (NLWIS) has been created to integrate land, soil, water, climate and biodiversity data from different sources using GIS technology and to make it available on the internet. Phase 1 of the NLWIS Project was completed on 31 March 2006 with the launch of the Single Window. NLWIS currently has over 20 applications available and can be viewed at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/nlwis>. The website is divided into 4 main categories: Maps, Data, Expertise and Tools. Applications include Agri-Environmental Indicators for the National Agri-Environmental Health Analysis and Reporting Program, Average Crop Heat Units, Crop Condition Assessment, etc. Copies of a background document that lists all of the applications and a short description of each were distributed (attached).
- In Phase 2, a new architecture and infrastructure are being constructed to deliver the Service. Work has also begun on Phase 3 where new applications will be developed on the new system. Phase 4, which is scheduled to begin next year, will incorporate collaborator and partner data into more advanced and complex applications. At the end of the project, in approximately 3 years, the National Land and Water Information Service will be fully functional offering a wide range of access to maps, data, tools and expertise to improve land use decision-making across Canada.
- Provincial working groups are being established across the country to identify and understand issues and continuing business requirements workshops are being held to ensure that project development is relative and on target with client needs.
- AAGC would welcome the opportunity to give another presentation to ACZISC members on NLWIS, including its support of the Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial Management Practices, *i.e.* the WEBs initiative. There are 2 WEBs projects situated within the Atlantic Canada (Thomas Brook, Berwick, NS and Black Brook near Grand Falls in northwest NB).

HEALTH CANADA: Jane Macdonald, Safe Environments Program, reported that HC is reorganizing in the Atlantic region. Priorities are being identified. Simon d'Entremont is the new RDG, Atlantic.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: John Legault, Oceans and Habitat, DFO Gulf Region reported the following:

- Ecosystem Overview Reports (EOR) are being completed for a numbers of bays and watersheds in eastern NB in preparation for possible integrated management initiatives. A major EOR is being prepared for the Northumberland Strait.
- DFO presently supports a Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) where volunteer groups around the Gulf conduct regular beach seines at selected sites and inventory the biota captured. This is the 4th year of this activity. New groups are added every year.
- The Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability is initiating a data collection exercise to test the availability of some sustainability indicators. Eight community groups

will be searching several online databases to obtain this data. To facilitate this process, DFO is working with the Collectivité ingénieuse de la Péninsule acadienne (CIPA) - <http://www.cipanb.ca>, a "smart community initiative" of Industry Canada, to establish an internet-based data collection and exchange website. This will allow users to input their own data and look at the data collected by others to compare results. Users can also exchange photos. This will enable users to become more aware of environmental conditions around the region and will facilitate action.

- The Southern Gulf Coalition held its annual general meeting and a workshop on Sustainable and Renewable Energy on 11-13 May 2006 in Miramichi, NB. The Workshop presentations will be available online at <http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/energyworkshop/modules/presentations/>.

Brad Firth, Oceans and Habitat, DFO Gulf Region reported on the Bay-by-Bay Aquaculture Site planning initiative carried out in conjunction with the Government of NB. The purpose of this initiative is to speed up the approval process for site applications. Data gathered from several agencies is assessed to determine if a proposed site is suitable. Tabusintac Bay and Richibucto Bay are the test sites. Plans are to apply the system to the entire east coast of NB.

Tim Anderson, DFO NL Region, Oceans and Habitat Management Branch, reported the following:

- The 2nd meeting of the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) on Oceans Management was held in February. This federal/provincial senior management committee continues to provide direction on OAP Phase I implementation. Specific issues being addressed include stakeholder engagement, opportunities for collaboration, etc.
- A Canada/Newfoundland and Labrador Committee on Oceans Management has been established. This federal/provincial committee will receive direction from the ROC and develop materials/options, etc. as requested.
- DFO and WWF-Canada recently signed a Collaborative Agreement aimed at enhancing collaboration on oceans management between the two agencies. Appended to the Agreement is Annex 1 that documents specific activities in Newfoundland and Labrador. Ray Finn indicated that he would provide a copy of the Agreement for distribution to participants.
- DFO is in the process of developing an Oceans website (which will replace the former OPATS - Oceans Program Activity Tracking System - website). The new website, known presently as Seascape, is undergoing review within the Department.
- An Ocean Science and Technology Partnership (OSTP) workshop is scheduled for June 2nd in St. John's. Participants will include federal/provincial representatives and industry stakeholders.

Dick MacDougall, Canadian Hydrographic Service - Atlantic, reported on the following:

- CCGS Matthew, currently in Placentia Bay, will be in Halifax for the Canadian Hydrographic Conference (5-9 June in Halifax - <http://www.chc2006.ca>). The Matthew will be open to the public on Oceans Day. Its planned schedule is: return to Placentia Bay after the Conference; survey submerged beaches off Cape Freels, NL for DFO Science (John Anderson); charting in the approaches to Cartwright, Labrador; survey Makkovic Bank for NRCan; work on corridors into Ports of Refuge in Northern Labrador; and hopefully return to do some mapping in the Northumberland Strait to support DFO Gulf Region.
- The Creed will be working in the Bay of Fundy this year. CHS and NRCan have pooled their shiptime to map in support of the Geoscience for Ocean Management program and the Oceans Action Plan Phase I. NRCan has committed to deliver 100 map sheets under OAO I: bathymetry, backscatter, sediments and habitat.
- In January NRCan sponsored and funded a NRCan/DFO workshop on Benthic Mapping. DFO has since set up a working group to focus research on Ecosystem Mapping.
- It is difficult to map the "white strip", *i.e.* water bordering the coast up to 10 metres in depth, with traditional technology such as multibeam. Innovative technology is needed to map these areas. This mapping is required for seamless land/sea terrain models for which there

are many uses, including emergency preparedness, e.g., tsunami/storm surge modelling and inundation mapping.

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

- NRCan and CHS returned from the high Arctic in early May after carrying out a seismic survey to determine if the Lomonosov Ridge is a prolongation of the continental shelf. This survey was a joint Canada-Denmark expedition and the cost was cost shared 50-50 with Denmark.
- A \$2 million contract for a bathymetric survey on the Grand Banks will be awarded soon.
- CHS is planning to do a test seismic survey in the western Arctic in August-September on the Louis St-Laurent.

Joe Arbour, DFO Maritimes Region, Oceans and Habitat Branch, reported on the Regional Committee on Ocean Management (RCOM). Although the Committee was started in NS, there are plans to transform RCOM into the regional committee for implementation of the Oceans Action Plan – Phase II. A workshop was held last week with NB and PEI representatives to discuss dynamics, etc.

Richard Eisner, Innovation Office, DFO Maritimes Region, reported the following:

- Ocean Technology Sector:

- In FY 2005-2006, the Ocean Science and Technology Partnership (OSTP) was established to provide a voice for the Oceans Science and Technology community. The OSTP will assist with linking ocean science researchers and technology innovators from government, industry, coastal communities and regional organizations.
- DFO has had a number of workshops on ocean instruments to review its capacity and to promote partnerships.
- NRCan, on behalf of the federal science-based departments and agencies at BIO and at the request of the OSTP, organized a workshop to develop ideas for Ocean Science and Technology pilot projects.

- Ocean Data Management:

- The workshop 'Using Metadata Standards to Achieve Data Interoperability' is scheduled for 13-14 June 2006 at BIO in Dartmouth, NS.
- Implementation will begin for the project 'Developing integrated Geospatial Tools Needed by Coastal and Ocean Managers in the Transboundary Gulf of Maine Region'.
- Efforts are ongoing to establish the Institute of Coastal Marine Sciences, a joint Initiative of the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, UNB and the St. Andrews Biological Station.

- International Initiatives:

- The International Ocean Biodiversity Information System (IOBIS) is 3 years ahead of its goal on a number of records in its ten-year workplan. There are annually over two million hits on the IOBIS website - <http://www.iobis.org>.
- The 'Ocean Biodiversity Informatics 2007 Conference' is being planned for 26-28 November 2007 at BIO.

Mike Butler distributed CD copies of the Directory of Canadian organizations involved in ocean science and technology, prepared for the Ocean Science and Technology Partnership (OSTP) by the CCMC. The Directory has a user interface capable of displaying records, multiple field search functions and help files. It will also be posted on the OSTP website - <http://www.ostp-psto.ca>. Geoff Lewis stated that a number of companies were not included in the Directory. This was mainly due to time constraints – i.e. the deadline for feedback/input into the 1st edition of the Directory was limited to allow sufficient time to produce it for distribution on CD at Oceanology International 2006 (21-23 March 2006 in London, UK). Feedback on the Directory and additional company information should be directed to Adam Dutton - adutton@ccmc.nf.ca.

INDUSTRY CANADA: Geoff Lewis, Energy and Environment Industries Branch, reported the following:

- Canada has entered into a partnership agreement with the organizers of the Oceans 2006 MTS/IEEE Conference scheduled for 18-21 September 2006 in Boston, Massachusetts - <http://www.oceans06mtsieeboston.org>. There will be a Canadian Pavilion at the Conference as well as some provincial stands and other initiatives. Steering Committee members include Paul LaCroix of the Ocean Science and Technology Partnership (OSTP). The reps from Atlantic Canada are Jim King of the NS Oceans Council, a sub-group of the Aerospace and Defense Industries Association of NS (ADIANS), and Randy Gillespie of CCMC. Richard Eisner has supported DFO's participation in the Conference.
- The NS Energy R&D Forum held on 24-25 May 2006 included several interesting presentations on the marine environment, ocean energy and other topics of interest to ACZISC members. The presentations will be available online at <http://ns.energyresearch.ca/index.cfm?ID=2900>.
- IC will be participating in Ocean Innovation 2006, scheduled for 25-27 October 2006 in St. John's, NL - <http://www.oceaninnovation.ca>.
- IC has also had recent changes in senior management. The new Director for the Marine Directorate has not yet been selected.

PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA: Michel Goguen, Real Property Services, reported the following:

- Progress is being made with the 'Way Forward', an initiative led by PWGSC to improve the delivery of services at reduced cost (<http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/b2k5/text/index-e.html>). Areas of focus include: procurement, property management, and information technology.
- PWGSC is making significant progress with commodity management and is working to strengthen the government's procurement process, e.g., travel and courier services. Standing Offers for commonly purchased goods and services will be mandatory.
- IM/IT is being reorganized in the federal government. To kick-start this initiative, seven departments and agencies, including PWGSC, will transfer specific IT services currently administered by each individual department or agency to a single IT Shared Services environment.
- An announcement of direction for Real Property will be made by the PWGSC DM on 4 June.
- Current geomatics activities at PWGSC include:
 - A multibeam system is being purchased: multi-transducer, single-beam
 - The Department will be participating in next week's Canadian Hydrographic Conference in Halifax.

ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY: Don Hogan, ACOA NL, reported the following:

- The Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF) is a program designed to strengthen the economy of Atlantic Canada by accelerating the development of knowledge-based industry - <http://www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/e/financial/aif/>. ACOA will be issuing calls for letters of intent and project proposals at 6 month intervals – each for a total of \$60 million split between the four Atlantic Provinces. Eligible applicants include universities, research institutions and private sector businesses. Proposals that involve partnerships among these groups are encouraged. Federal and provincial departments, including government research laboratories and institutes, are not eligible for funding. The applications are reviewed by sector teams.
- A Biomass Workshop is being organized for September in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation (CCFI) at MUN. The focus will be on ocean technology in support of biomass measurement and monitoring.
- The NEG/ECP are promoting ocean observing systems. ACOA is documenting current ocean observing activities in the Northwest Atlantic. This will be shared with the ACZISC.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY PhD PROGRAM: Colleen Mercer Clarke, doctoral candidate in interdisciplinary studies (colleen.mercerclarke@dal.ca), gave a brief outline of her research interests and data requirements:

- The research initiative is focussed on the identification of indicators of coastal ecosystem health through an examination of the relationships between land use in watersheds and environmental and socio-economic conditions in receiving coastal embayments.
- Colleen asked the ACZISC members for assistance in the identification of sources and acquisition of related data on watershed use and coastal environmental quality, including socio-economic information. Data accessibility remains an issue for most graduate students and researchers, as the cost of data acquisition may be prohibitive, and gaining access to coastal data continues to be a challenge.

Progress Report on the Nova Scotia Provincial Oceans Network May 2006

Background

- November 2005: Deputy Ministers formally committed to strengthening provincial leadership and coordination on coastal management issues and initiatives, calling for the Provincial Oceans Network (PON) to lead the provincial government in developing a '*made in Nova Scotia*' approach to coastal management.
- Two-prong approach:
 - Improving inter-departmental information exchange and coordination on coastal and ocean management initiatives;
 - Defining NS Government's vision, goals, and objectives regarding coastal management; and developing options and recommendations for a long-term management strategy.
- PON consists of representatives from 10 coastal related departments:
 - Fisheries and Aquaculture [Chair]
 - Intergovernmental Affairs
 - Energy
 - Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations/GeoNOVA
 - Tourism, Culture and Heritage
 - Natural Resources
 - Economic Development
 - Transportation and Public Works
 - Aboriginal Affairs
 - Environment and Labour.
- PON was established in 2002. However, it remained largely inactive until 2005 due to lack of direction/utility. New Terms of Reference were developed in 2006 to reflect new advisory role in addition to its original networking focus. PON meets monthly, or as required.
- Letter of Agreement signed December 2005 between DFO and NS Fisheries and Aquaculture provided funding to Government of Nova Scotia to assist in:
 - Contributing to ongoing involvement in coastal and ocean management initiatives
 - Providing provincial input into Phase II of the OAP and Treasury Board submission
 - Developing a formal federal/provincial agreement on coastal management.
- To facilitate the work of PON, two positions were staffed in late April 2006:
 - PON Coordinator, Sean Weseloh McKeane, weselosw@gov.ns.ca - tel 902-424-5830
 - Coastal Strategist, David Mitchell, mitchedx@gov.ns.ca - tel 902-424-2894.

Work Underway [anticipated completion date]

Project Charter [June 2006]

- Provides a consolidated overview of the project, including why it is being conducted, who is involved and in what capacity, and the general approach and timeline that exists for the project
- Contains information about the project terms of initiation and planning, scope, objectives, deliverables, risks, and issues
- Articulates roles, responsibilities, accountabilities, and activities of the team members.

Work Plan [June 2006]

- Establishes processes, timelines, deliverables, resources, etc. to ensure options and recommendations for a coastal management strategy will be presented to Deputy Ministers in February 2007.

Definition of Key Coastal Management Terms [May 2006, ongoing]

- Provides clarity and common understanding of key provincial and federal definitions.

Priority Issues for Integrated Coastal Management [June/July 2006]

- Establishes criteria for screening issues (*i.e.* cross-cutting, requiring coordinated approach, gap in existing management, linked to existing provincial priorities, etc.)
- Identifies issues' economic, social, environmental, institutional relevance
- Issue-based (*e.g.*, sea-level rise) and process-based (*e.g.*, federal/provincial jurisdiction).

Input into Oceans Action Plan Phase II [June 2006]

- High-level priorities for the Government of Nova Scotia
- Where possible, identifies specific focus areas (*e.g.*, information exchange, industry and community capacity building, etc.).

Review of the draft ESSIM Management Plan [August 2006]

- Coordinates comprehensive, multi-departmental review – unified government voice vs. individual departments
- Will serve as a model for information exchange and developing provincial positions relative to other ICM initiatives.

Coastal Initiatives and Organizations [ongoing]

- Lists coastal initiatives and organizations in Nova Scotia
- Outlines: history/context; mandate/focus; lead NS Department (if any); participation of provincial/federal departments, NGO/community, aboriginal; mechanism (if any) for NS government coordination/info exchange.

Researching Approaches in Other Jurisdictions [ongoing]

- Examines comparable state/provincial-level governments
- Compiles lessons learned and best management practices regarding coordinated and strategic approaches to coastal management
- Research and analysis initiated by Raul Hernandez, Dalhousie Marine Affairs Intern.