

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Roundtable and Presentations

ACZISC Meeting #50

Date: Wednesday and Thursday, 24-25 January 2007

Location: Battery Hotel, St. John's, Newfoundland

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And eleven students of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) Advanced Diploma Programme, Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland

***PLEASE NOTE: "Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada"
is a subset of the Minutes of ACZISC Meeting #50,
held on 24-25 January 2007 in St. John's, Newfoundland.***

***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 following presentations (available online at aczisc.dal.ca/docs.htm#ACZISC) were scheduled:

- **Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management Policy Developments in Newfoundland and Labrador** by Patrick Shea, NL Fisheries and Aquaculture
- **SmartBay Update** by Don Hogan, ACOA and Neil Cater, CCMC
- **The GeoBase Initiative and the National Hydro Network Project** by Eric Loubier, Natural Resources Canada
- **Geo-Names – Marine Features** by Neil MacNaughton and Randy Hawkins, NL Department of Environment and Conservation
- **Progress on Large Ocean Management Areas in Newfoundland and Labrador** by Jason Simms, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, NL Region
- **Update on the MPA Program in Newfoundland and Labrador** by Annette Power, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, NL Region
- **One Ocean** by Maureen Murphy, One Ocean
- **COINAtlantic Status Report** by Andy Sherin, Natural Resources Canada.

ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES and UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS

CCMC: Clayton Burry, CCMC, reported the following:

- The Journal of Ocean Technology (JOT) is an independent quarterly periodical that caters to all segments of the global ocean technology community.
 - Its mission is to expand global knowledge and understanding of ocean technologies, to serve as the medium for publishing world-leading research and to promote innovation that contributes to responsible ocean exploitation and management. JOT is a publication of the CCMC.
 - JOT comprises special features, essays and peer reviewed technical papers. Participants were invited to submit items for publication in JOT.
 - Two issues have been published to date: the 1st focused on Canada's Arctic and the 2nd on Maritime Emergency Management. The themes of the upcoming issues are: The Container ship Market Explosion; Nutrition and Medicine from the Earth's Oceans; Ocean Tourism and Recreation; The Rise of Marine Simulation; Ocean Sovereignty; and Counting, Catching and Sustaining Fish Stocks.
 - Access www.journalofoceantechnology.com for details, including subscription rates and the publishing schedule.
- The Ocean Innovation 2007 Conference is scheduled for 21-23 October in Halifax, NS - see www.oceaninnovation.ca. The theme is "The Rise of Maritime

Simulation". The organizers are looking for people to participate in planning the Conference and organizing/hosting the associated workshops. For details, email cburry@ccmc.nf.ca.

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

- Provincial data and location of drilled petroleum wells are being compiled for public use in GIS layers; some data may not be shared due to confidentiality.
- A Provincial Energy Plan is soon to be released. It will include potential wind, wave or tidal energy projects in the coastal environment.
- Darren is working on a reporting procedure for the ACZISC meetings with regards to the Mines, Energy, Forestry, and Agriculture Divisions of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Coastal retreat information for Newfoundland will soon be available through the Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic website and the NL Department of Natural Resources website.
- The Energy Division is involved in the ESSIM, PB/GB, and GOSLIM LOMAs.

Tammy Keats, NL Department of Environment and Conservation, reported the following:

- The NL Provincial Coastal and Oceans Network (PCON) has been established. Eleven provincial departments are involved. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture are co-chairing PCON.
- DFA and DEC are co-leads in the development of the coastal and ocean strategy and policy framework.
- DEC is developing a new Sustainable Development Act for the Province. Public consultations have been completed and a "What we heard" document and Act are being prepared.
- The DEC Pollution Prevention Division is a member of the Atlantic Forum headed by the Shipping Federation and is collaborating with Transport Canada on a Risk Assessment Survey for the South Coast of Newfoundland.
- DEC is involved in several climate change initiatives that relate to coastal and ocean areas. A 'Vulnerabilities to Impacts of Climate Change Report' for provincial protected areas has been completed by Dr. Norm Catto of Memorial University. Dr Catto is also working on geological hazards mapping for selected coastal areas of the Province. Over the last year, the Marine Institute completed two reports on the potential use and feasibility of making biodiesel from marine feedstock.
- There are GIS mapping projects at a watershed scale underway within DEC's Water Resources Division (www.env.gov.nf.ca/env/Env/water_resources.asp) and Wildlife Division.

Patrick Shea, NL Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, reported the following:

- The Regional Oversight Committee (ROC), established in December 2005, will oversee and ensure the effective delivery of the Oceans Action Plan - Phase 1 through interdepartmental, intergovernmental and stakeholder engagement. The Committee's scope of work will include all OAP-related activities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The Canada-Newfoundland Labrador Committee on Oceans Management (CNLCOM) is the 'work engine' for the ROC. It has been tasked with developing a structure for moving forward with integrated oceans management

- PCON is a network of individuals from provincial departments with an interest in coastal and oceans management. It is used as a mechanism for information sharing, cooperation and collaboration with regard to coastal/marine management issues. PCON will help to ensure that NL's interests are addressed in decision-making.
- A scoping document on a Coastal and Ocean Strategic Plan has been approved by PCON; it has been sent to stakeholders for feedback. An issues scan document is also being prepared. Both documents will be completed by the end of March. They will be posted on the web.
- The 'Resource Policy Division' has being restructured to the 'Sustainable Fisheries Resources and Oceans Policy Division'.

Christa Ramsay, NL Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, added that the Department would have some involvement in International Oceans Day (8 June).

Neil MacNaughton, Surveys and Mapping, NL Department of Environment and Conservation, reported the following:

- On-line Mapping Services: These are continually being developed. The requirement for users to register on the MapsNL portal (www.MapsNL.ca) was recently discontinued. However, users have to identify themselves in one of the following user types: personal, educational, government or industry. MapsNL provides an OGC-compliant Map Viewer and several applications, including Towns and Roads, an Air Photo Index and Electoral Boundaries. A PDF document is available that contains metadata about the web mapping services.
- Medium-scale Base Mapping: Since 2001, the Surveys and Mapping Division (SMD) has been creating mapping products to support the Forest Inventory Program. The work is cost-shared with forestry interests and other partners including NL Hydro and CHS. Currently about 25% of the land mass of the Island of Newfoundland is completed and aerial photography has been obtained for an additional 10%. The photography is black/white at 1:30,000, which renders mapping products with accuracies in the order of 1:10,000. The products are: a digital elevation model (DEM) and 5 metre contours; 3-D vector drainage line mapping; and ortho-rectified imagery. Future partnerships will include Smart Bay. The products will be posted as web mapping services when resources become available.
- Shoreline Mapping in Northern Labrador: The 4-year project to improve accuracy of the shoreline mapping is concluding. The project involved: placement of ground control targets; aerial photography at 1:40,000 with onboard GPS and IMU data being recorded; and 3-D vector of the drainage (large areas of the coast, including inland waters, were mapped since large blocks of photography were used in the aerial triangulation). Parks Canada, a partner in the project, will be provided with photography and mapping for the Torngat National Park Reserve.
- Geographical Names Automation: The background of the official naming of geographical features and places are covered in the PPT posted on the ACZISC website at aczisc.dal.ca/50GeoNames.pdf. Randy Hawkins (SMD) and Garry Smith (CHS) have been collaborating for two years on names and their placement in marine regions around the Province. They are leading a task group of the Geographical Names Board of Canada to develop guidelines for line and area delineation of features to which names apply. All computer work to data has been based on point locations.

- Wall Maps and Book of Maps: Wall maps of Newfoundland at 1:500,000 and Labrador at 1:1,000,000 are ready to print. A Book of Maps for Newfoundland at 1:250,000 is being completed.

C-CIARN: Ryan Hennessey, C-CIARN Coastal Zone Office, reported the following:

- The Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN) - Coastal Zone Office is up and running again after an 8-month hiatus. Ryan Hennessey has replaced Kathryn Parlee as the Office Coordinator. Kathryn is now with Environment Canada.
- The C-CIARN CZ Office is focusing on re-establishing contact with its membership and continuing to draw attention to climate change impacts and adaptation in the coastal zone of Canada.
- A report entitled “Taking Action on Adaptation in Canada's Coastal Zone: Recommendations for Achieving Effective and Tangible Results” highlights the accomplishments and issues of the past five years – see c-ciarn.bio.ns.ca/documents/CZReport06-1_e.pdf. To obtain a hard-copy, email Ryan at rhennes@nrcan.gc.ca.
- C-CIARN Coastal Zone will be participating in two upcoming workshops:
 - “Six Years in the Mud”, a workshop on salt marsh restoration in Atlantic Canada hosted by the Ecology Action Centre on 1-2 February in Halifax, NS - www.ecologyaction.ca/coastal_issues/saltworkshop.html.
 - “Managing Climate Change Risks for Natural Resources in Atlantic Canada”, an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and C-CIARN co-hosted workshop on 14-15 March in Moncton, NB – www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/drought/Moncton_livesite/atlantic_workshop/atl_index_e.html.
- C-CIARN is also actively engaged in a number of adaptation related projects, including preparing a poster relating to climate change and adaptation in the Canadian coastal zone.
- Efforts are being made to scope projects and to identify potential partners.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Ray Finn, DFO NL Region, Oceans and Habitat Management Branch, reported the following:

- Discussions are ongoing with the province of NS and NL with regards to the boundary line between the Eastern Scotia Shelf and the Placentia Bay/Scotian Shelf LOMAs. The current line is a NAFO boundary. NL is favouring the NL/NS provincial boundary established by an Arbitration Tribunal in March 2002.
- A Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) was established in December 2005. ROC’s mandate is to oversee and ensure the effective delivery of the Oceans Action Plan through interdepartmental, intergovernmental and stakeholder engagement. Consultations re LOMAs were held with key stakeholders last summer. A stakeholder forum is planned for March.
- A number of science projects and reports will be completed before the end of March 2007. These will be useful to address biological issues. Socio-economic and cultural issues will also be considered.
- Significant decisions are anticipated over the next few weeks with regards to the Oceans Prosperity Agenda, the successor of the Oceans Action Plan.
- Governance associated with the LOMAs is being addressed. A steering committee of RDGs has been established for GOSLIM. DFO Québec Region is taking the leadership role.
- Steve Snow has been appointed A/Division Manager Oceans of the Oceans and Habitat Management Branch.

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

- The 6th International SAMPAA (Science and Management of Marine Protected Areas Association) Conference is scheduled for 21-27 May 2007 at Acadia University in Wolfville, NS. 28 February is the deadline for submitting abstracts - see www.sampaa.org. The Branch will be sponsoring a special session on establishing boundaries in MPAs at the Conference. This will draw upon the experience of the Gully MPA and the Musquash Estuary Area of Interest, as well as the work of Dr. Samson Machiria Ng'ang'a. The session will feature national and international presenters.
- The final draft of the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Ocean Management (ESSIM) Plan (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/324431.pdf) has been discussed by the ESSIM Stakeholder Advisory Council and the Regional Committee on Ocean Management. Based on these discussions, letters are being written to the DFO Minister for recognition under the Oceans Act. The 4th ESSIM Forum Workshop is tentatively scheduled for the end of March.
- An announcement designating the Musquash Estuary as an MPA is expected soon.
- Various Divisions within the Oceans and Habitat Branch have been working closely with the Province of NS to review the potential of tidal power in the Bay of Fundy. One of the areas being considered, the Minas Basin, is also an area of interest for the development of an integrated management initiative.
- The DFO Habitat Management group is developing a risk assessment tool using GIS with regards to Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon and the Species at Risk (SARA).
- Carol Ann Rose, the Regional Director Oceans and Habitat will be retiring this spring.

The following was reported on behalf of John Legault, Oceans and Science Branch, DFO Gulf Region:

- DFO Science has completed its review of the Ecosystem Overview for the Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management (GOSLIM) initiative and has identified Ecological and Biological Significant Areas (EBSA) and Ecological Significant Species (ESS). It will soon be finalizing the GOSLIM Conservation Objectives (or Ecosystem Objectives - EOs) for the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This phase will be completed at a workshop at the end of February in Montréal.
- The EBSAs, ESSs and EOs will provide the basis to further establish, in collaboration with DFO's federal and provincial partners, Coastal Management Areas (CMAs), *i.e.* coastal and nearshore sub-ecosystem areas nested within a Large Ocean Management Area (LOMA). The EBSAs, ESS and EOs will be used to direct resource management strategies in the CMAs, their associated estuaries and watersheds to ensure the protection of the ecosystem function / components and economic development and sustainable resource use.
- Extensive jurisdictional discussion and harmonization will be required to achieve this. To this end, a Regional Committee on Oceans Management (RCOM), comprised of DMs and DGs from the provincial and multiple federal government departments, was established to oversee the oceans-related activities in the Atlantic Provinces. Sub-committee working groups are being established to coordinate activities in the Southern Gulf, the Bay of Fundy and the Eastern Scotian Shelf.
- As DFO proceeds with the development of Integrated Management (IM) initiatives throughout the Southern Gulf and the GOSLIM area, it is incorporating the Ecological Risk Analysis process into the IM Framework. Risk analysis is used

extensively in food safety and population health throughout the world; its use for ecological applications was developed by the US EPA. The process lends itself to the focused development of management and mitigation strategies and bringing the "right" people to the table to deal with community issues and goals. It emphasizes the identification of goals and the impediments to reaching those goals as opposed to simply identifying a prioritized list of issues. By knowing what you want to do and where you want to be and what it is that prevents you from getting there helps to remove emotions and perceptions from the issues and deals with data and facts only. A presentation on how DFO is using this internally and externally within its IM initiatives could be made at a future ACZISC meeting.

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

- GeoConnections: This is a national partnership / funding program to enable the discovery of, access to, use and sharing of geospatial data in an internet environment in support of decision-making. During November and December 2006, GeoConnections accepted a number of projects under competitive Announcements of Opportunity (AOs) in the following categories (no. of Environment and Sustainable Development projects in brackets): Thematic Data (6); Regional Atlases (5), Applications for Decision-making (8), Business Cases and User Requirements (5).
- In addition GeoConnections has directly funded, or is about to fund the following projects that may be of interest to ACZISC.
 - NatureServe Canada: to pilot test with web-enabling of national and provincial (ON and BC) species at risk data.
 - Federal Biodiversity Information Partnership (FBIP): user needs study to determine user requirements for federal biodiversity information.
 - In total over 30 Environment and Sustainable Development (E-SD) projects are currently being funded, more than in any other thematic area.
 - The Gulf of Maine Council for the Marine Environment project began in the autumn of 2006. The focus is on marine contaminants and developing integrated geospatial tools to support ocean and coastal planning in the transboundary zone. Indicator aspects of the project are being coordinated by Environment Canada (Kathryn Parlee).
- Upcoming Announcement of Opportunity (AO):
 - Planning is underway for the next funding opportunity expected to be announced early in the 2007/08 fiscal year. It is expected to be an "integrated" AO, with the goal of linking activities associated with strategic planning, capacity building, user requirements, applications development, thematic content and standards into a cohesive multi-phase project that leads to maximum leveraging of CGDI data, services and technologies.
 - Only a small number of E-SD projects are expected to be funded under this opportunity. The primary focus will be on other thematic areas where user readiness is a greater issue.
 - 2007/08 funding for E-SD activities is expected to be strategic in nature, especially focusing on a) an evolving relationship with Environment Canada (Ottawa) which is leading a national effort to develop an integrated land management modeling capacity, and b) directed funding (*i.e.* non-competitive) for projects to advance the new focus area (see below).
- Environment and Sustainable Development focus area: Future partnership / funding opportunities for E-SD are expected to focus on proponents who are

providing integrated solutions associated with legislative and regulatory requirements related to ecosystem planning and environmental assessment. In particular influencing provincial land use planning processes will be a priority. Federally-led projects will be limited to regions under federal jurisdiction, especially the north and marine areas.

Andy Sherin reported the following on behalf of Bob Taylor, Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic:

- The Geological Survey of Canada has established a website for Canadian Marine Multibeam Bathymetric Data at gdr.nrcan.gc.ca/multibath.
- Seabed mapping data collection in Placentia Bay is complete; the most recent data is being processed.
- Multibeam mapping of the Bay of Fundy is ongoing. Terrestrial LIDAR is also being acquired to produce a seamless land/sea elevation model.
- The LIDAR survey in Halifax has been delayed until the spring of 2007.
- Current activities include: NRCan Secure Canada Energy Supply Program; a Resource Assessment of the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Program Manager: Martin Fowler in Calgary - Martin.Fowler@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca), and studies to support a Resource Assessment on the Labrador Shelf (Project Leader: Sonya Dehler at BIO - Sonya.Dehler@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca).
- New ESS Programs under consideration include: Land Use Characterization for Impacts Assessment, Knowledge and Tools for Land Use Trend Analysis, Secured Consistent EO Data for Land Cover Applications, and Integration into Decision-Support Models.
- CoastGIS 2007, the 8th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Mapping for Coastal Zone Management, is scheduled for 8-10 October 2007 in Santander, Spain. 1 March is the deadline for submitting abstracts - www.coastgis07.com.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Kathryn Parlee, Sustainable Communities and Ecosystems Division, reported the following:

- Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP): Building on a series of workshops that focused on developing ecosystem indicators applicable to the northeast coast region from New York to Nova Scotia, leaders from the Gulf of Maine region, with support of the Gulf of Maine Council, formed the Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP). EC currently sits as a co-chair on the ESIP Steering Committee. ESIP is developing indicators for the Gulf of Maine region and integrating regional data for a new web-based reporting system for marine ecosystem monitoring. Regional practitioners have been convened into working groups focused on six indicator themes: coastal development, contaminants and pathogens, eutrophication, aquatic habitat, fisheries and aquaculture, and climate change. At present, efforts are focused on a project that has received funding from GeoConnections. The project involves developing a geospatial application for coastal management and decision-making in the Gulf of Maine to help understand the status and trends identified with ecosystem data. The current focus is on compiling information within the contaminants and nutrients themes, where more easily accessible data currently exists. For information, access www.gulfofmaine.org/esip/.
- New Brunswick Coastal Joint Action Group: The NBC JAG is a new multi-stakeholder group established to address issues which impact the sustainability of coastal communities in NB. A formation meeting was held in June 2006 with a subsequent meeting held in November 2006. The preliminary purpose as defined

by the group is to collect data and provide information and data where needed, discuss solutions and actions related to identified priorities, and identify resources (financial and human) to accomplish results outlined by the NBC JAG workplan. A 3rd meeting being held in January 2007 will focus on more clearly defining the role and niche for the group, as well as defining short and long-term outcomes and outputs. EC currently sits as a member on this committee. For information, access www.ecwinc.org/Programs/Coastal/C4.htm.

- ACAP Labrador: Two new ACAP sites have been identified for Labrador - south coast and central. Both sites are in the early stages of organizing. Once a Board of Directors and Executive Director are in place, the groups will begin the process of identifying priority issues and partners. Information on other ACAP site activities is available in the winter edition of the ACAP Newsletter Ebb and Flow available at atlantic-web1.ns.ec.gc.ca/community/acap/default.asp?lang=En&n=085FF7FC-1. For more information on ACAP, email Colleen McNeil at Colleen.NcNeil@ec.gc.ca.
- Impacts of Sea-Level Rise and Climate Change on the Coastal Zone of Southeastern New Brunswick: The final project report is now available. Following the upcoming retirement of the Réal Daigle (Project Manager), information on the project or hard-copies of the report can be obtained from either Gary Lines (Gary.Lines@ec.gc.ca) or Kyle McKenzie (Kyle.McKenzie@ec.gc.ca). Digital copies of the report are available at adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/projdb/final_coastal_e.php.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY: Grant Gardner, Memorial University, reported that Memorial University is involved both in teaching ICM and participating in ICM projects around the world. In addition several faculty members are doing research related to ICM. Two examples are:

- Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee, Canada Research Chair in Natural Resource Sustainability and Community Development, Department of Geography: research interests include interdisciplinary research that addresses issues related to interconnectivity and interdependency between natural and human systems. Her main research topics are fisheries and ocean governance, resource sustainability and community development, integrated coastal management, ecosystem-based management, decision-making tools, and communicating sciences to policy makers and general public –see www.mun.ca/geog/people/faculty/rchuenpagdee.php.
- Dr. Norm Catto, Department of Geography: research interests include assessing storm and wave impacts on shorelines around Newfoundland; assessing impacts and adaptations to climate change and variation in the Atlantic region and on provincial parks and natural areas; integrated natural hazard assessment of selected NL communities; assessing sensitivity, exposure and vulnerability of coastlines to petroleum contamination – see www.mun.ca/geog/people/faculty/ncatto.php.

Joy Blundon, Marine Institute, commented that both the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) Program and the Marine Environmental Program offered courses in ICM and ocean related matters. She thanked the ACZISC for the opportunity to have the ICOM students participate in the meeting.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY:

Nadine Gauvin, SGSLCS, reported the following:

- The Coalition is a grouping of partners whose common vision is a future where the Southern Gulf is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.
- As with the ACZISC and other NGOs, the Coalition is struggling to improve its financial capacity and diversify its sources of revenue. The Coalition has charitable status.
- The Coalition is presently conducting an exercise to identify all relevant provincial and federal priority strategies with respect to the Coalition's mandate in order to better align future Coalition activities.
- In an effort to become more efficient and streamline efforts, the Coalition will focus on the following five priority areas in its 2007-2008 workplan:
 - Governance: The Coalition will work to be more inclusive and increase the participation of its members. The Coalition's governance structure is being revisited in order to better represent all four provinces in the Southern Gulf: NB, NS, PEI and QC. A meeting will be held on 26 February in Antigonish with NS community groups to discuss ideas on how to achieve this.
 - Online Southern Gulf Regional Atlas: A proposal submitted to GeoConnections was rejected last fall. However, with partners including DFO Gulf Region and La Collectivité ingénieuse de la Péninsule acadienne (CIPA), the Coalition is keen to move this project forward to allow community groups to post their monitoring data online and conduct preliminary analysis. The atlas will also serve as a valuable tool for decision-makers.
 - Sustainability Indicators: The 3rd phase of the indicators project is being planned. This will involve the participation of four community groups, located in the Southern Gulf, in populating three key indicators. Localized monitoring programs are being planned for sedimentation.
 - Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP): The Coalition is being considered by DFO Gulf Region to take over the CAMP coordinating role. This project involves the participation of 19 community groups in conducting beach seining during the summer months to determine the ecosystem health of their estuaries.
 - Annual Workshop: Nadine invited Justin Huston, chair of the 2007 Workshop/AGM Working Group, to brief participants on the event.

Justin reported that the Coalition would be holding its annual workshop on 24-26 May in Stellarton, NS. The theme is "Planning for Sustainability: From Vision to Action at the Community Level". The Workshop will offer an opportunity for communities and stakeholders across Atlantic Canada and Québec to share ideas and tools that help to enhance sustainability in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence region. The focus will be on municipal and community efforts to incorporate social, economic and environmental sustainability practices into local-level planning and decision-making. Chris Maser (www.chrismaser.com), a world-renowned community sustainability expert, will be speaking at the event. For information, access www.coalition-sgsl.ca.

GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA: Justin Huston, Agriculture and Fisheries, reported the following:

- In December 2006, Voluntary Planning's Heritage Strategy Task Force released its report entitled "Our Heritage Future: A Shared Responsibility", with 59 recommendations regarding cultural and natural heritage in NS. Of interest to the ACZISC is that a number of recommendations directly and indirectly relate to

recognizing and protecting the coastal zone. Specifically, pages 43-44 and recommendation # 46 of the report state: "Develop a coastal management plan to protect Nova Scotia's coastline and ensure that public access is not lost to private land ownership or development." The report is available at www.gov.ns.ca/vp/Task_Force/Task_Force_Reports/Heritage_Final_Report_En.pdf.

- A NS Strategy for Sustainable Coastal Tourism Development is being developed. The final report is due this spring.
- NS is developing a streamlined regulatory process for offshore renewable energy projects such as tidal power generation. Since early 2006, the Departments of Energy and Natural Resources have been co-chairing an interdepartmental committee investigating provincial potential for offshore renewable energy and options for a regulatory approach. In November 2006, the Department of Energy led a delegation visit to the UK to meet with government staff, industry associations and economic development agencies. The delegation included representatives from the NS Departments of Energy, Environment and Labour, Natural Resources as well as Environment Canada, the Mayor of Parrsboro, a Mi'kmaq Chief and a fishing industry representative. The delegation obtained valuable resource materials including guidelines and requirements for the regulatory consent processes and strategic environmental assessment and lessons learned from the UK's offshore wind and wave energy experience. In early January 2007, the interdepartmental committee reported to Executive Council on the regulatory process and recommendations to proceed with offshore renewable energy. Outcomes will be reported at the next ACZISC meeting.
- The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is releasing its Action Plan for 2007-2012 on 1 February 2007. The Action Plan describes the goals, outcomes and activities that the Council will pursue through its committees and partnerships over the next five years. It focuses on key issues that Council members - representing federal, state, and provincial governments; non-government organizations; and business interests - identified as priorities for which they have pledged support and that require or benefit significantly from regional collaboration. The Action Plan is available at www.gulfofmaine.org/actionplan/.

ACOA: Don Hogan, ACOA, reported the following:

- Atlantic Innovation Fund: ACOA continues to invest considerable funds in ocean technology research, development and commercialization, most recently in areas of: fish tracking technologies; seafloor instrumentation; marine simulation; satellite data processing; and iceberg profiling. Details on these and other AIF projects funded throughout Atlantic Canada are available at www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/e/media/press/search.shtml. Type in "Atlantic Innovation Fund" (without quotation marks) in the query box. Note that the year has to be specified for previous years' projects funded under AIF.
- Geomatics Atlantic 2007 Conference: The Conference will take place at the Marine Institute, Memorial University, St. John's, NL, on 4-5 June 2007 with workshops on 6 June - www.cig-nl.net. The Conference theme is 'Coastal and Marine Geomatics'. Technical sessions (to be confirmed) will include: ocean observation; fisheries geomatics; coastal zone management; marine cadastre; and offshore oil and gas. Expressions of interest in sponsoring events, hosting a workshop or presenting a paper are being sought.
- Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) Conference: The CMOS Conference is scheduled for 28 May - 1 June 2007 in St. John's, NL. The

theme is 'Air, Ocean, Earth and Ice on the Rock'. The event is hosted by the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographical Society, the Canadian Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society. Access www.cmos2007.ca for details.

- SmartBay Initiative: The SmartBay portal (www.smartbay.ca) was released by CCMC in August 2006. Efforts continue to further develop this integrated management initiative funded through the DFO-led Oceans Action Plan (Phase I). A PPT presentation describing the progress and future prospects for SmartBay was circulated at the ACZISC meeting – see aczisc.dal.ca/50SmartBay.pdf.

GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK: The following was reported on behalf of Marianne Janowicz, NB Department of Environment:

- Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Initiative:
 - The process started about two years ago when fishermen in the Strait approached DFO with regards to significant decreases in their lobster catches. They were concerned that the Confederation Bridge might be impacting the lobster population. DFO responded by creating a Steering Committee of stakeholders to identify a way to resolving the questions of the fishers. Public consultation was undertaken in 2005 to identify the issues of the stakeholders in NB, NS and PEI.
 - One of the main issues identified was the sense that the ecology of the Strait had or was changing. DFO commissioned AMEC Earth and Environmental to produce an Ecosystem Overview Assessment Report (EOAR), expected to be finalized in February 2007. As part of the EOAR process, working groups were formed of stakeholders and experts on: marine environmental quality, physical environment, and biota and governance. Each of these working groups reviewed and commented on the sections of the EOAR relevant to their respective topics.
 - The Steering Committee is now developing the message that will go to the Minister of Fisheries about the next steps. This has been a very rewarding exercise because of the cross section of stakeholders involved and the clear articulation of the issues of concern early in the project. From the NB Department of Environment perspective, the acknowledgment of provincial authority on sewage and effluent has been key to the Department's participation.
- National Programme of Action (NPA): The NPA Atlantic Team recently published an annual report that indicates the activities and progress over the past year. The Team is presently developing its 2007-2011 Action Plan with emphasis on 2007-2008 and two categories of activities:
 - Contaminants, with a focus on pollution prevention and control of land-based sources: sewage, persistent organic pollutants, radionuclides, heavy metals, oils/hydrocarbons, nutrients, contaminated sediments, and litter.
 - Physical alteration and destruction of habitat, with a focus on protection of marine habitat: shoreline construction/alteration, inter-tidal and sub-tidal alteration, mineral and sediment extraction/alteration, wetland and saltmarsh alteration, marine waters and coastal watershed alteration, and biological alteration.
- The Atlantic Team's Management of Contaminated Dredge Material Working Group has hired a contractor to assess the present management framework for dredge disposal in Atlantic Canada: to identify conflicts, constraints, inconsistencies, and omissions within the framework; to recommend improvements to current dredged material management practices that could be implemented readily within the current regulatory and policy framework; and to identify

opportunities to harmonize and/or modify regulations and policies in order to ensure that, after considering environmental, social and economic factors, dredged materials are properly managed. This project will be completed at the end of March 2007. ACZISC member agencies with responsibilities for activities related to dredging will be contacted by the contractor for information. It is hoped that the project report will lead to a better working relationship between the agencies regarding dredge material management and a more efficient process.

OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP: The following was reported on behalf of Brad Fay, who represents the ACZISC on the OSTP:

- The OSTP was established with the support of Canada's Oceans Action Plan in 2005 as an independent, federally incorporated, non-profit corporation (www.ostp-psto.ca). It was formed to provide a voice for the oceans science and technology community and as a resource to promote and oversee the implementation of an oceans science and technology sectoral strategy.
- The OSTP currently represents seven national and regional networks: CCMC (national); Oceans Advance (NL - provincial); Ocean Management Research Network (national); ACZISC (regional); NS Ocean Technology Council (provincial); Technopole maritime du Québec (provincial); and COINPacific (BC - provincial). These networks represent user and supplier industries, academia, government laboratories, communities, institutes, and NGOs.
- Recent OSTP activities include:
 - Participation in the Oceans Innovation 2006 Conference, 23-27 October 2006, St. John's NL
 - Board of Directors meetings
 - Completed draft of OSTP Strategy document
 - Completed draft of Executive Summary of OSTP Strategy document
 - Meeting with Larry Murray, DM, DFO to present highlights of OSTP Strategy document.
- Upcoming OSTP activities include:
 - Meeting with the DM Interdepartmental Committee on Oceans to present the OSTP Strategy document - Ottawa, February 2007
 - Series of cross-country workshops to discuss the Oceans Observation Study and the OSTP Strategy document: 26 Feb in St John's; 27 Feb in Halifax; 28 Feb in Toronto; 1 March in Rimouski; 2 March in Ottawa; and 6 March in Victoria.
 - Complete OSTP deliverables by 31 March 2007.
- For information, email Brad Fay at bfay@hfx.eastlink.ca.