

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Roundtable and Presentations

ACZISC Meeting #54

Date: Wednesday and Thursday, 14-15 May 2008

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

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***PLEASE NOTE: “Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada”
is a subset of the Minutes of ACZISC Meeting #54,
held on 14-15 May 2008 in St. John’s, Newfoundland.***

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

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations (available online at aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm) were made:

- **Coastal and Ocean Policy Development: A Newfoundland and Labrador Perspective** by Patrick Shea, Provincial Coastal and Oceans Network
- **COINAtlantic Concept** by Paul Boudreau, ACZISC Secretariat
- **A Marine Cadastre** by Jacques Grondin, NRCan
- **SmartBay Project Assessment** by Don Hogan, ACOA NL
- **Academic Research and National Research Council Chairs in Atlantic Canada with a Focus on Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management** by Grant Gardner, Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (APICS).

ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES and UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: Patrick Shea, Fisheries and Aquaculture, reported the following:

- The Government of Newfoundland has committed to developing a provincial Coastal and Ocean Management Strategy and Policy Framework by 2009. Activities have focused on provincial networking via the Provincial Coastal and Oceans Network (PCON); federal and provincial cooperation; and two issue scans of coastal and ocean areas of Newfoundland and Labrador. The report of the first issue scan completed in October 2007 is available at www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2008/fishaq/0219n04.htm.
- PCON is co-chaired by the Departments of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Environment and Conservation. Eleven Departments with an interest and activities in CZM are represented.
- Mike Warren has been reassigned as Executive Director of Special Initiatives with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Brian Delaney has been appointed as the Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Planning.
- Management plans have been completed for both the Eastport MPA (www.eastportmpa.com/publications/Eastport_MPA6.pdf) and the Gilbert Bay MPA (www.gilbertbay.com/GB%20Management%20Plans%202007.pdf).
- The Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) was established in 1973. At their meetings, generally held annually, the Governors and Premiers discuss issues of common interest and concern, and enact policy resolutions. At their June 2007 meeting, two of the resolutions which were passed focused on oceans, and energy and the environment - www.negc.org/resolutions2007.html. The NEG/ECP Oceans Working Committee has been tasked to complete a long-term strategy to advance regional governance issues. The next NEG/ECP meeting is scheduled for September 2008.

- In partnership with DFO and the Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW) union, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture will be participating in activities to celebrate World Oceans Day.

Tim Hall suggested that a presentation on NEG/ECP activities at an upcoming ACZISC Meeting would be of interest. Patrick commented that the January 2009 ACZISC Meeting in Halifax would be good timing for a presentation.

Tammy Keats, Environment and Conservation, reported the following:

- A joint presentation is scheduled at the Coastal Zone Canada 2008 Conference from the NL Departments of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Environment and Conservation. The presentation will highlight the Government's collaborative approach to coastal and ocean management, including an overview of the coastal concerns identified through two issue scans of NL coastal areas, and of 'green crab' occurrence in Placentia Bay.
- The Climate Change Adaptation Workshop for Atlantic Canada, held on 8-9 May 2008 in Saint John, NB, was co-hosted by Natural Resources Canada, Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Directorate and the NB Department of Environment. The focus was on adaptation to climate change related to coastal areas, inland waters and infrastructure. The Workshop was an excellent opportunity to share ideas and experiences and to network. The presentations are available at www.gnb.ca/0009/0373/0004/0001-e.asp.
- The Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC), through Engineers Canada and Natural Resources Canada, developed a vulnerabilities assessment tool derived from standard risk management methodologies tailored to climate change impacts, also known as the PIEVC Protocol. The PIEVC Protocol was applied to four infrastructures in Placentia with a history of flooding: Breakwater, Backside Wall, Flood Plain, and Dunville Highway.

CBCL: Mary Bishop, Environmental Services, reported the following:

- CBCL was the selected consultant to prepare a report identifying and describing the physical, biological and cultural features and the human uses of the Grand Banks Marine Region, with the objective of identifying preliminary Representative Marine Areas (RMAs).
- Representative Marine Areas are areas which portray the diversity of physical oceanographic, biological, geological features of a marine region, and secondarily, its historical and cultural features. An RMA should be in as natural a state as possible and should have experienced minimum modification by man. The study area covers the Grand Banks to the 200 mile limit and includes both Placentia and Conception Bays.
- Members of ACZISC were asked to identify relevant information sources or contacts for the following themes: physical, biological, cultural, coastal and marine uses, renewable resources, and non-renewable resources. Information should include marine and coastal tourism, harbours, marine transportation (navigation/shipping routes, transshipment points, and related infrastructure), population/coastal development, ocean dumping sites, national defence sites (testing ranges, dump sites), water quality (pollution sources/contamination sites), and any other coastal or marine use. Information can be provided to Mary Bishop by tel at 709-364-8623, or by email at maryb@cbcl.ca.

CEF Consultants: Norval Collins reported the following:

- CEF is preparing an environmental assessment of the SEIFish project, which is a research project led by DFO with support and funding from external and international research funds.
- The SEIFish project will track and monitor hundreds of individual fish for several weeks before, during and after seismic testing using a large-scale acoustic tracking array. In addition to examining fish movement and survival, the study will determine the short and long-term effects of seismic testing on fish hearing, assess the pathological effects of seismic testing on fish, and model the relevant features of the sound field as it relates to changes in fish behaviour and pathology. The project authority is Steven Campana, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Bedford Institute of Oceanography (tel 902-426-3233 - email campanas@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca).
- Public meetings concerning potential impacts of the project will be held in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia following preparation of a draft Scoping Report. Notices asking for concerns have been sent to various fisheries organizations and broader consultation will be carried out.
- Delay in receiving some background information has resulted in changes to the anticipated project schedule so specific dates for meetings or availability of the Scoping Report are not yet available.

OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP: Brad Fay, Interpretation Resources Inc, reported the following:

- Brad represents the ACZISC on the Ocean Science and Technology Partnership (OSTP) Board of Directors.
- The OSTP is a not-for-profit organization developed with support from Canada's Ocean Action Plan and with funding from the National Research Council, Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP). It is a Network of Networks in that its membership is comprised of groups or associations.
- The OSTP Board of Directors is currently undergoing 'renewal' and will be adopting a more focused mandate.
- The OSTP is considering holding a workshop in collaboration with the Ocean Management Research Network (OMRN).
- For additional information on the OSTP, access www.ostp-psto.ca or contact Brad Fay at bfay@hfx.eastlink.ca.

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

- DFO Oceans is responsible for leading and facilitating integrated management within two Large Ocean Management Areas (LOMAs) in the NL Region - Placentia Bay/Grand Banks and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
- Placentia Bay/Grand Banks LOMA (PB/GB LOMA): Efforts have focused on ecological/biological and social/cultural and economic elements.
 - o The stakeholder PB/GB LOMA Committee held its first meeting in December 2007.
 - o A Strategic Planning Session was held with stakeholders to discuss the Terms of Reference for the PB/GB LOMA Committee, as well as an outline of what an integrated management plan could look like for the LOMA.
 - o A Conservation Objectives workshop will be held on 20 May 2008.
 - o An Area of Interest for the establishment of a Marine Protected Area will be identified by the fall and will include at least a portion of one of the eleven Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas in the LOMA. Internal DFO

- consultations have begun. DFO will be engaging the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Parks Canada, Environment Canada, industry reps, etc.
 - A Social Economic and Cultural Overview and Assessment Report will be completed for the LOMA this year. A consultant has been engaged and bilaterals have begun with ACOA and the DFO National Headquarters.
 - Coastal Management Area (CMA) plans for Placentia Bay and Coast of Bays are close to being finalized.
- Gulf of St. Lawrence: DFO Oceans NL Region is responsible for the western Newfoundland/southern Labrador portion of the larger Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management (GOSLIM) initiative. Recent and upcoming activities include:
 - A western NL/southern Labrador GOSLIM Steering Committee has been formed. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 June 2008.
 - A consultant has been hired to conduct a Social Economic and Cultural Overview and Assessment Report for the western NL/southern Labrador portion of the LOMA
 - Work is still ongoing in the three CMAs in western Newfoundland to pursue local planning and management initiatives
 - The annual general meeting for the three CMAs was held on 2 February 2008. A significant topic of concern was consolidated waste management.
- Coldwater Coral Centre of Expertise: DFO Oceans NL Region submitted a proposal to house DFO's Coldwater Coral Centre of Expertise. No official announcement has been made but the Region has received some positive feedback regarding the proposal.
- Marine Protected Areas: The MPAs in Eastport and Gilbert Bay were the first Oceans Act MPAs with completed management plans. Efforts currently focus on scientific monitoring and enforcement of regulations.

Bill Drost, DFO Gulf Region, PEI Area Office, reported that DFO PEI would soon be undertaking an integrated planning process for Malpeque Bay to look at the potential for more shellfish aquaculture.

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

- The Species at Risk (SAR) management program has been moved to the Oceans and Habitat Branch within DFO. This will provide stability for the program and enhance collaborative implementation of the Species at Risk Act. Examples of SAR initiatives include: a multi-species recovery plan for the Bay of Fundy; the Northern Bottlenose Whale Recovery Strategy; and the development of a GIS-based decision support tool for the Bay of Fundy.
- The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) Plan will be released this summer. There are plans to hold the 4th ESSIM Forum Workshop this fall.
- The Province of NS and DFO will be sponsoring an Oceans Day celebration at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax on Friday, June 6th.
- With regard to the ongoing Health of the Oceans (HOTO) initiative, DFO (the Bedford Institute of Oceanography and the St. Andrews Biological Station) and NOAA are preparing an Ecosystem Overview of the Gulf of Maine. This is expected to be completed this year. The other major thrust of HOTO is the identification of new potential MPA Areas of Interest (AOIs). As part of the ESSIM process, sites on the Scotian Shelf are being considered, including timelines. It is anticipated that potential AOIs will be announced later this fall.

- The focus of a new Major Projects Management Office is to coordinate federal environmental impact assessments (EIAs), led by NRCan. DFO will be conducting national assessments to formulate a position in each Region in order to conduct consultations with aboriginals.
- In preparation for the review of the oil and gas moratorium on Georges Bank, DFO will be completing a scientific overview for the area.

Tom Rowsell, Canadian Hydrographic Service - Atlantic, reported the following:

- CHS is continuing to conduct multibeam bathymetric surveys in a number of locations including Labrador, the South coast of Newfoundland and the Bay of Fundy.
- Surveys have been conducted in Northern Labrador for a new navigation route. Eleven new navigational charts will be produced to replace several older inaccurate ones. An accurate shoreline for these products was developed as a joint initiative between CHS and the NL Provincial Government. Charted areas include the water adjacent to the new Torngat Mountains National Park region.
- This summer will be the 3rd year that multibeam data and water column backscatter data are collected in the Bay of Fundy, in collaboration with the GSC Atlantic. The data is being used for various applications.
- Seabed mapping is being done for the Minas Basin to assist with the design of the proposed tidal energy project.
- More ecosystem mapping is being carried out in support of DFO's initiatives.
- Various Chart revisory surveys will be conducted in Atlantic Canada this summer.
- A new traffic separation scheme for Chedabucto Bay to the Strait of Canso has been established. Ongoing updated charting incorporates this information.
- CHS is still in the process of hiring 4-6 hydrographers for both the Dartmouth and St. John's offices.
- CHS has just completed its first year of digital data distribution to the public, having bought back its rights from Nautical Data International for the distribution of CHS electronic charts and data. Relevant policies are being revised and updated by CHS HQ in Ottawa.
- The UN Law of the Sea project is being managed jointly by NRCan and CHS. Mapping activities are planned for both the eastern and western Arctic.

ACZISC ALUMNUS: Tim Anderson (formerly with DFO) reported the following:

- During the winter of 2008, Tim provided technical direction to an aboriginal consulting company that was contracted by DFO to undertake a pilot community-based coastal resource inventory in northern Labrador. This project was jointly sponsored by the Nunatsiavut Government and DFO.
 - o Extensive information was collected from residents of the communities of Nain and Rigolet and the results will eventually be incorporated into the regional Community Coastal Resource Inventory (CCRI) program.
 - o The last phase of the regional CCRI program will be the completion of coastal inventory projects in the other four communities in northern Labrador.

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

- Don attended the 'Climate Change Adaptation Workshop for Atlantic Canada', held on 8-9 May in Saint John, NB. Speakers included: Robert Tremblay with the Insurance Bureau of Canada, who noted that the insurance industry is now facing one major environmental event every 7 years, versus one every 40 years as in the

recent past; and Dr. Norm Catto from the Memorial University Department of Geography, who gave an overview of the Atlantic chapter of the NRCan commissioned 'From Impacts to Adaptation: Canada in a Changing Climate 2007' (see adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/assess/2007/index_e.php). Output from the Workshop, *i.e.* identification of priority adaptation issues in Atlantic Canada, will be submitted to the Atlantic Premiers at their June meeting in Wolfville, NS.

- The ACOA NL office is engaged with MUN's Marine Institute (School of Ocean Technology) and DFO (Operational Oceanography) and others to undertake an assessment of the most appropriate way to enhance ocean observing activities for NL's coast. A paper is being prepared by MI's Randy Gillespie and a fact finding mission is planned for the fall of 2008.

EARTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES NL: Bob Leeman, EIT NL, reported the following:

- EIT NL was involved with the Marine Institute and the CCMC in the development and production of the Newfoundland and Labrador Seabed Atlas – www.seabed-atlas-nl.ca. The purpose of the Atlas is to serve as the basis for a better understanding of the benthic habitat in NL waters.
- The Atlas contains: bathymetry; surficial geology; survey track plots; bottom grab samples; photographs; and multibeam image mosaics for demonstration sites.

MARINE INSTITUTE, MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY: Keith Mercer reported the following:

- The CCMC has been integrated into the School of Ocean Technology at the Marine Institute. It will be responsible for applied research and development and industrial outreach.
- The Advanced Diploma in Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management is offered at the Marine Institute. The program focuses on the bio-ecological, socio-economic, cultural and technological elements of coastal zone development and management - www.mi.mun.ca/program%20pages/index.htm.
- Over the years, the Marine Institute has formed a number of partnerships - both in Canada and internationally - with industry, community colleges, and federal and provincial development agencies, including Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
- In Northern Canada where there is a growing requirement for integrated management, the Marine Institute is continuing its partnership with the Arctic College in Iqaluit, Nunavut for a 13-week student exchange program.
- Ocean Net's (www.oceannet.ca) primary mandate is to instill an ocean conservation ethic. The program is aimed at youth between 8 and 12 years of age.

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

- **ACAP Economic Impact:**
 - o EC recently commissioned Gardner Pinfold Consulting Economists of Halifax to update a study previously conducted for the period 1997-2001 on the economic impact of the 14 Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) organizations throughout Atlantic Canada.
 - o Examining the 6 fiscal years 2001-2002 to 2006-2007, the consultants found that the ACAP organizations are important generators of economic activity through the delivery and administration of their organizations. During this period, EC contributed a total of about \$7M and the ACAP organizations spent

- o a total of \$21.7M to implement and administer their projects. This resulted in a total employment impact of 700 person-years, or over 100 person-years (PYs) annually. Direct employment is 473 PYs and 227 PYs of spin-off employment.
- o The ACAP organizations also generated a total GDP impact of \$35.5M over this 6-year period and a taxation impact of \$13M, split on a 55/45 basis between federal and provincial governments respectively.
- o All impacts have increased from the earlier analysis (1997-2001); total employment is up by 20% and total GDP is up by 30%.
- o The study also examined what the overall cost of the ACAP program would be if EC had operated the initiatives as full departmental responsibilities. The data shows that it would have cost the Department at least ten times more (\$79M) to achieve the same environmental outcomes. These data are valuable in demonstrating the benefits of a community-based ICOM program to economically-oriented decision makers.
- **Coastal Zone Canada Conferences:**
 - o The Coastal Zone Canada Association will host its 8th Conference on 25-29 May 2008 on the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. CZC 2008 will be preceded by a Youth Forum (23-24 May) at the Vancouver Aquarium – www.czca-azcc.org/html/conferences/czc08_papers.html.
 - o Under the theme of 'Managing Our Oceans and Coasts for a Sustainable and Prosperous Future', the program of papers, workshops and theme-based sessions will explore topics central to Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management in Canada and globally.
 - o Featured keynote speakers include Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Co-chair and Head of Secretariat of the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands who will report on the 4th Global Conference recently convened in Hanoi, Vietnam; and DFO Deputy Minister Michelle d'Auray, who will provide a federal perspective on ICOM in Canada.
 - o A Conference resolution and call for action will be issued at the close of the Conference and promoted to key decision makers throughout government, the private sector and NGO community.

APICS, COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION AND MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY:

Grant Gardner reported the following:

- The Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (APICS) is a non-profit association of universities, colleges, government labs and other institutions in Atlantic Canada. Its goal is the advancement of science and technology through education and public awareness and the promotion of scientific literacy, education and research throughout the region - www.apics.dal.ca.
- As such, APICS provides an excellent conduit between the ACZISC and the academic community. The presentation on the academic research and the NRC Chairs in Atlantic Canada with a focus on ICOM, made earlier during the meeting, will be posted on the ACZISC website at aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm.
- The Province of Newfoundland has recently announced that it will provide approximately \$1M in funding in support of the Canadian Health of the Oceans Network of Excellence (CHONE). This national network will involve 5 universities and 47 researchers from Atlantic Canada and focus on a better understanding of ecosystem health. The contact is Dr. Paul Snelgrove, Memorial University - psnelgro@mun.ca.
- The Government of PEI has announced that the Province is collaborating with the Coastal Zone Canada Association to organize and host Coastal Zone Canada

2010 on 25-29 July 2010 in Charlottetown, PEI. The Youth Forum will be held on 24-25 July. The theme of the 2010 Conference is 'Healthy Oceans - Strong Coastal Communities'. Grant invited participants to suggest sub-themes for the 2010 event.

NATIONAL DEFENCE: Flemming Rasmussen, MARLANT Formation Environment, reported the following:

- The 3rd revision to the MARLANT Maritime Operations Area Management Plan was completed in March 2008. Work is now underway to interpret the data from the Management Plan's Performance Indicator/Performance Measurement component to ascertain whether DND's implementation of the ocean and mitigation measures meet sustainable use/development targets.
- The marine mammal/reptile protection initiative is continuing. MARLANT will implement a revised Marine Mammal recognition and reporting syllabus with east-coast ships before year-end. DND is also continuing to liaise with DFO officials in NS and Nfld on marine mammal issues and Environmental Assessments.
- Having captured data for numerous years on resources expended during training activities, DND will correlate the disposal of these items with DFO's 1970-present annual sediment monitoring data illustrated in DFO's "Scotian Shelf: An Atlas of Human Activities".

CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY: Julie Huntington, CPAWS NL, reported the following:

- The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) is a national non-profit membership-based conservation group that works to preserve the diversity of habitats and their species. CPAWS has thirteen chapters across Canada, including NL, NB and NS in Atlantic Canada.
- CPAWS has reviewed Canada's international commitment to establishing a network of MPAs by 2012, and has identified opportunities for reaching the goal. The report entitled "Challenges and Opportunities in Progress towards Canada's Commitment to a National Network of MPAs by 2012" is available at cpaws.org/news/archive/2008/04/neptune-goes-to-ottawa-sea-god.php.
- CPAWS-NL is undertaking a project focused on identifying sensitive areas in the Province – 56 of which have been identified on the coast. The sites are being surveyed and mapped. The results will be available in June.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA: Jacques Grondin, Natural Resources Canada, Canada Centre for Cadastral Management, reported on a Marine Cadastre for Canada:

- Governance in the marine area requires the administration of the rights and interests of a multitude of stakeholders that often pursue divergent but yet sanctioned objectives.
- A good governance system of the marine region involves a legal infrastructure and an effective integrated management system for the registration and dissemination of the rights and interests that will facilitate both the management of the thematic information and the associated limits or boundaries. A Marine Cadastre would address this need.
- The Canada Centre for Cadastral Management (CCCM) is the custodian of the survey system within Canada's offshore region and is engaged in promoting and establishing a Marine Cadastre. The CCMC is a member of the ACZISC within this context and contributes, among other things, to the initiatives of COINAtlantic - the Coastal and Ocean Information Network for Atlantic Canada.

- Jacques presented a PPT of how a marine could be used to manage competing uses within Canada's ocean environment - see aczisc.dal.ca/54Cadastre.pdf.

The following notes were provided by Bob Taylor, Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic (GSCA):

- Geoscience for Oceans Management Program: In 2006, the GSCA and the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS), in conjunction with researchers from UNB, commenced a three-year program to map the Bay of Fundy. To date about 10,000 km² of multibeam bathymetry have been collected. Additional bathymetry and sub-bottom profiler data will be collected in 2008, during a 30-day survey using the CCGS Frederick G Creed which will concentrate on the area near Grand Manan Island. In addition there will be a 60-day survey using the CCGS Matthew and two hydrographic launches in the middle and upper portions of the Bay. Bottom current and sediment transport measurements are planned for 2008 and benthic and sampling surveys for 2009. Also, where possible, the airborne terrestrial Lidar surveys completed by the Centre of Geographic Sciences will be merged with the multibeam bathymetry for the Nova Scotia shore. The GSCA contact is Russ Parrott - tel 902-426-7059.
- Other recent contributions by GSCA/NRCan to coastal and marine studies of relevance to ACZISC include:
 - o Nearshore Mapping:
 - Together with DFO, the GSCA has contributed to the geology framework for the new Inshore Scotian Shelf Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report (EOAR), (Bundy *et al.*, 2008).
 - Three "A-series" maps of Lunenburg Bay are nearing completion. These present bathymetry; seabed acoustic backscatter strength; and geology (bedrock and surficial). The maps are based on multibeam bathymetry, backscatter strength and limited geophysics and sampling. The area typifies the Harbour, Bay and, to some degree, the headland geology of much of the Atlantic shore of Nova Scotia.
 - A new map series of the inner shelf bathymetry, slope and a seabed rugosity classification has been produced for the area from Bonavista Bay, around the Avalon Peninsula, and to Fortune Bay, from the coast to between 15 and 40 km offshore.
 - o Halifax Harbour, Nova Scotia:
 - NRCan and DFO are both collaborators on the proposal "Monitoring of the remediation of Halifax Harbour after 250 years of contamination", led by Dave Scott (Dalhousie University). Mike Parsons and a student will be examining the impacts of sewage treatment on metal concentrations in the Harbour sediments. The objective is to combine analyses of inorganic and organic contaminants in the sediments with foraminiferal studies to document changes in ecosystem quality as a result of sewage treatment.
 - The GSC Bulletin on the Surficial Geology of Halifax Harbour is in press in Ottawa. It is the culmination of almost two decades of research in Halifax Harbour.
 - The GSCA (Schafer) and Dalhousie University (Medioli) have been working on two Chezzetcook cores to resolve past onshore-directed storm events using a foram transport model. The report is being revised for submission to a journal.
 - The GSCA continues to work with the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) in the analysis of the terrestrial airborne Lidar data collected in 2007 and the

analysis of 25-years of shoreline monitoring surveys. These efforts are a contribution to a coastal management plan for HRM.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY: The following notes were provided by Nadine Gauvin, SGSLCS:

- The Coalition has prepared and officially adopted a new five-year Strategic Plan (2008-2013). The Plan focuses on four main priorities (see www.coalition-sgsl.ca/news.php?news=25), including building a regional sustainability atlas. A business plan has been developed for this project which will employ existing tools such as Google Earth. The Strategic Plan and Business Plan were developed with funding from GeoConnections.
- The research project 'Climate change adaptation strategies for medicine gatherers in two Mi'kmaq communities of New-Brunswick' is complete; the report is available at coalition-sgsl.ca/webcura/files/358.pdf. The project was sponsored by Natural Resources Canada's Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program (CCIAP).
- In March 2008, the Coalition was awarded a grant from the Status of Women Canada to undertake the project 'Women in Coastal Communities - Securing a healthy, economic future'. The project consists of hosting 8 learning sessions this fall in the four provinces of the Southern Gulf and is targeted at improving the economic situation of low-income women.
- Mountain Equipment Co-op has recently awarded funding to the Coalition for the project 'Conserving Aquatic Ecosystems through Capacity-Building with 21 ENGOs'. The project will support the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP). Three summer students have recently been hired by the Coalition to coordinate CAMP in each of the three Maritime Provinces.
- The Coalition's AGM is being held on the campus of the Université de Moncton on 5 June. The guest speaker is Claudette Bradshaw who will present the recommendations from the 'Blueprint for Action Report - Building a Foundation for Self-Sufficiency'. The regular quarterly Steering Committee meeting will take place the following day on 6 June.

GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK: The following notes were provided by Russell Henry, Agriculture and Aquaculture, and Fisheries:

- Integrated Marine Planning:
 - o The Province of NB and DFO are continuing their collaborative effort to develop a marine resources plan for the Southwestern Bay of Fundy. This initiative is chaired by Susan Farquharson and oversight is provided by a steering committee of stakeholders.
 - o Via a series of public meetings over the winter, the public has provided overall comments/concerns on the process and objectives of the plan and on the accuracy of the resource information provided by the steering committee.
 - o A strategy document addressing how the plan will be developed and how it will address the public issues is now in preparation for presentation to governments and the public in the fall.
 - o NB is co-chair of the Maritimes Regional Committee on Oceans Management (RCOM) and coordinating committee in 2008.
 - o The Maritimes RCOM has approved the Province's management framework for collaboration, consultation, and coordination among provincial and federal departments.

- Meetings of the various committees are being scheduled to address options and identify the work required to ensure adequate implementation of the outcome of the Southwestern Bay of Fundy Marine Resources Planning Initiative. This process should develop a template for other initiatives in the Province.
- The Maritimes RCOM coordinating committee hosted a roundtable in Moncton to discuss the appropriate attributes and sources of data for developing a Social, Economic and Cultural Overview and Assessment report (SECOA) within marine planning initiatives.
- The Maritimes RCOM coordinating committee has been requested to provide advice on an integrated management planning process for the Northumberland Strait. Recommendations are forthcoming.
- Tidal Energy:
 - NB, in collaboration with NS, has been actively engaged in the SEA process for tidal energy projects in the Bay of Fundy.
 - Public consultations, coordinated by the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP), were held in April. The SEA report is expected by the end of June.
 - NB, Québec, NL, NS and PEI, and led by NL, continue to develop a workplan in response to the Ocean Resolution of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers. An initial meeting was held in PEI this spring. The provinces are making an attempt to avoid duplication of efforts by working through existing marine collaboration networks, e.g., the Gulf of Marine Council. A draft workplan is expected by the end of June.
- Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment:
 - NB continues to be an active member of the Gulf of Maine Council and is supportive of the Council's Ecosystem Indicators Partnership. The outcome of this work should provide marine planning initiatives with practical tools for ongoing ecosystem monitoring and contribute to the state of the oceans/coastal reporting.
 - The Province attended the integration workshop hosted by DFO and the Gulf of Maine Council. With reduced programming budgets and staff it was suggested that the regional bodies assess the need for better integration of ongoing regional programs. An expected outcome of the workshop was the need to identify areas of overlap, assess methods to reduce duplication and develop efficient means to promote ecosystem-based management throughout the Northeastern region of Canada and the US. An overview and preliminary assessment of ongoing large regional programs were discussed. An additional meeting is planned in conjunction with the June meetings of the Gulf of Maine Council.
- Oceans Task Group:
 - NB, as a member of the Canada's Oceans Task Group, is supporting provincial requests for a more collaborative approach to the development and delivery of the federal oceans agenda.
 - The new federal priority of DFO under their new Health of the Oceans mandate is the development of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The Province supports the concept of MPAs but only within the context of the Integrated Planning Process and as tool for marine/coastal planning.