

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Roundtable and Presentations

ACZISC Meeting #58

Date: Wednesday and Thursday, 23-24 September 2009

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

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

Name	Affiliation	Tel. No.
Tim Anderson	ACZISC Alumnus (formerly with DFO NL)	709-753-3769
Diana Baird	Northeast Avalon ACAP	709-726-9673
Kim Bittermann	NL Department of Environment and Conservation (for Tammy Keats ¹) - student	709-729-5932
Paul Boudreau	ACZISC Secretariat, COINAtlantic	902-494-7452
Michael Butler ²	ACZISC Secretariat and International Ocean Institute - Canada	902-494-1977
Ratana Chuenpagdee	Memorial University, Geography Department and International Ocean Institute - Canada	709-737-3157
Kevin Cooper	Public Safety Canada	709-772-5267
Geoff Coughlan	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, NL Region, Oceans and Habitat Management	709-772-3469
Cyr Couturier	Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences ¹ and Memorial University, Marine Institute	709-778-0609
Jennifer Dyke	Memorial University, Marine Institute - student	
Ray Finn ¹	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, NL Region, Oceans and Habitat Management	709-772-2442
Steve Forbes ¹	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Hydrographic Service – Atlantic	902-426-3497
Chantal Gagnon ¹	Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability	506-858-4495
Neil Gall	NL Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development	709-729-4682
Jacques Grondin ¹	Natural Resources Canada, Surveyor General Branch	902-661-6766
Natasha Gruzdyeva	Memorial University, Marine Institute - student	
Tim Hall ^{1,2}	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region, Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch	902-426-4116
Nicole Hynes ¹	NL Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	709-729-1140

PARTICIPANTS (cont'd)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Tel. No.</i>
Sigrid Kuehnemund	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, NL Region, Oceans and Habitat Management	709- 772-4516
Claudette LeBlanc	ACZISC Secretariat	902-494-1977
Emily MacDonald	Memorial University, Marine Institute - student	
Keith Mercer	Memorial University, Marine Institute	709-778-0608
Ian Murphy	Memorial University, Geography Department - student	
Peter Murphy	Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, Agri-Environment Services Branch	709-772-4604
Sarah O'Rourke	Memorial University, Marine Institute - student	
Gary Pardy	Memorial University, Marine Institute - student	
Kathryn Parlee	Environment Canada, Strategic Integration and Partnerships	902-426-1719
Wendy Pratt	Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, Agri-Environment Services Branch (for Rollin Andrew ¹)	902-896-0336
Flemming Rasmussen	National Defence, Formation Safety and Environment (for Carol Lee Giffin ¹ and Kyle Penney ¹)	902-721-8610
Katherine Rundquist	Memorial University, Marine Institute - student	
Natalie Shea	Natural Resources Canada, Atlantic Canada Energy Office - Atlantic (for Bob Taylor ¹)	709-772-5730
Bobbi Smith	NL Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture,	709-729-0650
Paul Snelgrove	Memorial University, Ocean Sciences Center	709-737-3440
Graham Thomas	Environment Canada, Environmental Emergencies	709-772-4285
Rob Thompson ¹	Parks Canada, Atlantic Service Centre	902-426-3445
Amy Tucker	Memorial University, Geography Department - student	
Tony Turner ¹	Natural Resources Canada, GeoConnections	613-992-1407

PLEASE NOTE: "Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada" is a subset of the Minutes of ACZISC Meeting #58, held on 23-24 September 2009 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 were made; they are online at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm>:

- **Coastal Connections - Community Interactions** by Ratana Chuenpagdee, Memorial University of Newfoundland and International Ocean Institute
- **Canadian Healthy Oceans Network (CHONe): Biodiversity Science for Sustainability of Canada's Three Oceans** by Paul Snelgrove, Memorial University
- **Newfoundland and Labrador's Ocean Technology Sector Strategy** by Neil Gall, NL Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development
- **COINAtlantic Update** by Paul Boudreau, ACZISC Secretariat
- **Towards a Marine Cadastre - For an Integrated Management System** by Jacques Grondin, Natural Resources Canada
- **Draft Recommendations re ACZISC's Web Presence** by Tim Hall, ACZISC ICOM Working Group co-chair

ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES and UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS

PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA: Kevin Cooper, NL Regional Office, reported the following:

- The Department is responsible for developing national policy, response systems and standards to reduce the impact of emergencies, including natural disasters. It works closely with emergency management organizations across Canada.
- Recently Public Safety Canada in NL has taken on a number of additional staff. The current compliment of staff will allow for greater involvement and participation in forums such as the ACZISC and other initiatives related to emergency management, infrastructure analysis and business continuity planning.
- In January of 2009 PSC co-chaired a very successful meeting with the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Oil Production-Storage Operators and Government Emergency Management Stakeholders. Major industry participants included Petro Canada, Exxon Mobile, Husky Energy, RCMP, Coast Guard, CSIS, DND and all three levels of government. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest in the areas of emergency management, marine security, and public safety-national security. Another meeting is planned for the late fall or early in 2010.
- In April 2009 PSC participated in a meeting of the Placentia Bay Security Group in Arnold's Cove, NL. This group is comprised of representatives from associated industries with operations in Placentia Bay, along with federal and provincial governments having jurisdiction or an interest in security related activities. The meetings provide an opportunity to network and share information of mutual interest, in particular information related to facility and marine security. PSC will continue its participation in meetings the Group.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Graham Thomas, Environmental Emergencies, reported the following:

- EC's Environmental Emergencies Program focuses on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- The Department has adopted a proactive approach with regard to emergency planning for 'big' oil spills.
- In the 1990s, the Environmental Emergencies Section began developing a computerized mapping system to display natural, cultural and man-made features vulnerable to oil spill. The web mapping application (E-MAP) is a warehouse of information; it allows queries and statistical analysis of data and display of graphical outputs. EC relies on partnerships to enhance E-MAP's capabilities and to obtain up-to-date environmental and logistical information.
- The COINAtlantic approach - *i.e.* a network of 'distributed data' - is of great interest.

Kathryn Parlee, Strategic Integration and Partnerships, reported the following:

- Climate Change Activities (contact: Gary Lines – gary.lines@ec.gc.ca)
 - o EC Atlantic Region is participating in the Atlantic Regional Adaptation Collaborative. It is anticipated that EC will be providing support to activities through access to climate change data and scenarios, as well as providing support for outreach.
 - o EC Atlantic Region will participate in the Canadian Institute of Planners Workshop entitled "Mainstreaming Climate Change Tools for Professional Planners", to be held in Sackville, NB in mid-October. The intent of the Workshop is to highlight a pilot project conducted in Nunavut and to discuss pilot study areas for Atlantic Canada.
 - o The Gulf of Maine's Climate Change Network (of which EC is a co-chair) will host a session on coastal adaptation during the RARGOM Science Symposium to be held in St. Andrew's, NB from 5-9 October. The objective of the meeting is to enable a networking and information exchange opportunity for Canadian and U.S. researchers and managers working on climate change adaptation on the coast. The event will focus on 2 themes: fed/prov/state/municipal perspectives on coastal adaptation and how to move forward; and programs for sharing lessons learned and accomplishments, and identifying next steps.
- Sable Island Activities (contact: Derek Fenton – fentond@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca):
 - o Funding has been provided under the Government of Canada's Health of the Oceans Initiative to undertake activities toward designating Sable Island as a National Wildlife Area (NWA).
 - o A Prospectus on a Sable Island NWA is being drafted. It will include an overview of how NWAs are established and managed and describe particular issues relevant to the designation process. Once the Prospectus has been finalized, it will be released for comment.
 - o The initial focus for consultations will be the Sable Island Stakeholder Advisory Committee, the Intergovernmental Committee on Sable Island and the Sable Island Federal Working Group.

NATIONAL DEFENCE CANADA: Flemming Rasmussen, Formation Safety and Environment, reported the following:

- DND has adopted a proactive approach for assessing the impacts of its activities.
- DND has made some progress and continues to pursue the deployment of a SLOCUM Glider (<http://www.webbresearch.com/slocumglider.aspx>) fitted with an acoustic sensor for the purpose of better understanding the acoustic environment in the areas where the Navy conducts operations.
- DND is specifically seeking to determine whether this type of technology can be used to identify the presence of marine mammals. A final operation area has not been selected

although DND is presently leaning towards either the commonly used military exercise areas immediately off of Halifax, or the waters in and around "The Gully".

- There are some budgetary and scheduling challenges that still have to be overcome.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA: Wendy Pratt and Peter Murphy, Agri-Environment Services Branch, reported the following:

- AAFC has identified climate change as a priority and the need for ongoing communication about the impacts of climate change and sea level rise on agriculture.
- Activities related to climate change within the Department focus on helping farmers to adapt their practices to reduce the impact of farming and to ensure that sustainable practices are utilized.
- Projects and areas of work include: aboiteaux and dykes; water quality impacts on watersheds; nutrient management plans; biodiversity; biomass; and irrigation scheduling.
- Within the Department's AESB Atlantic Region, there are 15 technical staff members located throughout the four Atlantic Provinces.

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

**Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management (GoSLIM):
Western Newfoundland and Southern Labrador (WNSL)**

- Social, Economic and Cultural Objectives: To date, the WNSL Social, Economic and Cultural Working Group has met four times to draft SEC objectives. A draft report is expected for review by the GOSLIM WNSL Sub-Committee in December 2009.
- Conservation Objectives: Prioritization of COs for Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas 9-10 has begun based on the methodology developed for Placentia Bay/Grand Banks. To date, approximately 25% of Phase I (Scoping of potential stressors) has been completed. This is scheduled for completion by December 2009.
- Coastal Management Areas:
 - o Bay of Islands: DFO continues to work closely with the ACAP Humber Arm Environmental Association on marine water quality issues in the Bay of Islands. Proposed initiatives for 2009-2010 include:
 - Coastal Issues Roundtable: to engage communities of the Bay of Islands in identifying coastal issues of shared concern, developing an action plan and creating partnerships necessary for implementation.
 - Trading Books for Boats Environmental Education Program: to increase the understanding of the Bay of Islands marine environment through a student-based marine science and monitoring program.
 - Surface contamination model: to provide environmental emergency responders, regulators and planners with a tool to project pathways of the movement and areas of shoreline contact for surface contaminant spills throughout the Humber Arm.

Note: Activities in Bay of Islands have relied heavily on support from Environment Canada in the past but as of September 2009 continuation of that support is uncertain.

- o Bay St. George/Port au Port Peninsula: The executive of the BSG/PAP Marine and Coastal Resources Steering Committee met in May 2009 to discuss the next steps for the area's Strategic Plan. The committee identified action items, which they viewed as priorities for the committee. The committee worked with a summer student to develop a presentation providing a social, cultural, economic and environmental profile of the area.
- o Northern Peninsula: The ICZM Steering Committee last met in late March 2009 to discuss next steps for the Strategic Plan and information collected regarding important marine areas. During the summer, the committee worked with a summer student to develop a best practices document for wastewater management.

Placentia Bay/Grand Banks Large Ocean Management Area

- Social, Economic and Cultural Objectives: Following meetings of the Integrated Management Plan and SEC working groups (part of the Placentia Bay/Grand Banks Large Ocean Management Area Committee), draft SEC strategic objectives have been developed and will be discussed and finalized by the working groups and LOMA Committee.
- Conservation Objectives: The assessment undertaken by DFO Oceans to examine threats to valued ecosystem components within the LOMA has been completed and will be examined at a workshop to be held in October.
- Area of Interest for Oceans Act MPA: Consultations were held with 22 groups between December 08 and April 09 on 5 EBSA sites, and a regional recommendation has been submitted to the Minister. Ministerial approval is still pending.
- Coastal Management Areas:
 - o Placentia Bay:
 - Action Plans are being developed and implemented in support of the management strategies identified to help achieve the goals of the Placentia Bay Integrated Management Planning Committee (PBIMPC). An action planning session will take place at the Committee's next meeting in early October.
 - Members of the PBIMPC met with DFO to encourage the Department to provide additional support to the Fish Food and Allied Workers (FFAW) regarding the union's efforts on Green Crab mitigation.
 - o Coast of Bays:
 - The Coastal Planning Committee of the Coast of Bays Corporation is planning an Ocean's Conference in early 2010 to bring together all users of the coastal and marine environment in the region. Stakeholders, including representatives of various government departments and agencies, will discuss matters of mutual interest and learn from each other with respect to utilization and development of the coastlines and bays.
 - The Coast of Bays Corporation has adopted the Committee's Integrated Management Plan for use in economic planning for the region. The Coast of Bays Region has also included the guidelines and principles of Integrated Management and Sustainable Development in its Strategic Economic Plan.

Marine Protected Areas

- Gilbert Bay MPA Science Monitoring results were presented in a teleconference call to the Gilbert Bay Steering Committee. The results of the Eastport MPA Monitoring were presented at a science feedback meeting in March.
- The report entitled "Assessing Marine Protected Areas as a conservation tool: a decade later, are we continuing to ensure the viability of the lobster population at Eastport, Newfoundland" has been published as a technical report.
- The Gilbert Bay and Eastport monitoring reports and the Proceedings of two MPA Regional Update and Science Workshops are nearing completion.
- DFO Oceans is requesting a Regional Advisory Process (RAP) for the Gilbert Bay cod monitoring.

Centre of Expertise Coldwater Coral and Sponge Reefs

- A Status Report on Coral and Sponge Conservation in Canada will be released in the next few weeks and will be published under the new NL Region Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Publication Series.
- A Gilbert Bay Steering Committee meeting will take place on 17 September in Williams Harbour and an Eastport Steering Committee meeting will take place on 24 September in Eastport.

Community-based Coastal Resource Inventory - Northern Labrador Phase III

- Species at Risk funding has been provided for the Northern Labrador Phase III inventory.
- Posters (both English and Inuktitut versions) are being produced that are specific to each of the five communities surveyed (Nain, Hopedale, Postville, Makkovik and Rigolet). A poster presentation will be made in each community.
- An atlas will be developed based on the survey data.

Governance

- Meetings of the executive level Regional Oversight Committee on Oceans Management (ROCOM) and the Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Committee on Oceans Management (CNLCOM) are being planned for later this fall.

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

- The DFO Oceans Program met in Ottawa in early September to review progress on the Health of the Oceans Initiative and to examine potential directions for the future. Overall there was satisfaction with the principles and direction of the program, but it was felt that an in-depth examination of certain aspects is required. Integrated Management, Marine Spatial Planning and Governance were areas of specific interest.
- DFO Maritimes Region has shortened its list of potential Areas of Interest on the Eastern Scotian Shelf to three. It is planning to begin public consultation on these in the very near future. The public consultation will run for a period of 60 days.
- In partnership with the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, DFO Maritimes is developing a State of the Environment Report for the Gulf of Maine. The concept is for this to be an online report consisting of a contextual overview and a series of theme papers outlining the current state of various components of the ecosystem. The SOER will fully integrate ecological and socio-economic factors.
- The Regional Committee on Coastal and Oceans Management (RCCOM) will be meeting in Halifax/Dartmouth on 24 November.
- The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) Initiative Stakeholder Advisory Committee will be meeting in Dartmouth on 14-15 October.

Steve Forbes, Canadian Hydrographic Service - Atlantic, reported the following:

- CHS Atlantic conducted multi-beam surveys in Voiseys Bay, Labrador and a revisory survey in Bras d'Or Lakes, Cape Breton for navigational purposes.
- A multi-beam survey was conducted in Northumberland Strait in support of Eco-system Science.
- CHS Atlantic participated in the NAFO Potential Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems Impacts of Deep Sea Fisheries (NEREIDA) on the Spanish vessel Miguel Oliver and supported the collection and quality assurance of the multi-beam data collected for this NAFO project. CHS will have full access to these datasets.
- CHS Atlantic is also in the process of upgrading the Permanent Water Level Network (PWLN) gauging infrastructure. Currently the three Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS) gauges in Nain, Labrador, St. John's, Newfoundland and Halifax, Nova Scotia have been upgraded with a high precision laser gauge and two redundant water level measuring systems in a redesigned well.
- CHS Atlantic is also collecting, on an opportunity basis, precise GPS vertical measurements in support of Continuous Vertical Datums for Canadian Marine Waters (CVDCW).
- Four new charts have been released in Northern Labrador and a new edition of chart 4117 was released in St. John, New Brunswick to reflect the new LNG facilities in that port.
- A meeting will be held in Ottawa in two weeks to discuss licensing and dissemination of CHS data.

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: Nicole Hynes and Bobbi Smith, Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA), reported the following:

- The Department is continuing its development of a Provincial Coastal and Ocean Strategy and Framework. A Discussion Paper has been drafted and is awaiting executive sign-off. We hope to have it available within the next few months, and will inform the ACZISC when it is available to the public for comments.
- The Provincial Coastal and Oceans Network (PCON) met recently (14 September) to provide an update on activities within provincial departments.
- An update of activities of the Coastal Management Areas (CMAs) and LOMA sub-committees in which the Department has been involved was given by DFO earlier in the roundtable. Regional representatives for DFA sit on these committees. The Placentia Bay Integrated Management Planning Committee will be meeting on 15-16 October in St. Bride's.
- The New England Governors-Eastern Canadian Provinces (NEG-ECP) held its first face to face meeting in Boston this past July, but with minimal participation. No decisions were made at this meeting. The annual report was finalized and distributed to the Secretariat prior to the annual NEG-ECP Conference (14-15 September). 'Oceans' was not on the agenda as no new resolutions were passed. DFA is awaiting direction on the status of the Oceans working group.
- The Marine Protected Areas Technical Experts Committee (under the CCFAM's Oceans Task Group) is developing a framework for an MPA Network. The next meeting (2 November) will focus on communications. A joint DFO/Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) workshop on 'Bridging Terrestrial and Marine Network Planning' is being held in early November. An update will be provided at the next ACZISC meeting.
- The Regional Oversight Committee on Oceans Management (ROCOM), which consists of higher level fed/prov officials (DMs), will be meeting prior to years end (31 December).
- The Canada-NL Committee on Oceans Management (CNLCOM) is ROCOM's working level committee. CNLCOM will be meeting late this fall.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA: Jacques Grondin, Surveyor General Branch, reported the following:

- Pursuant to the *Canada Lands Surveys Act*, NRCan is responsible for the survey system that supports all property and land management regimes in Canada's offshore area.
- The Surveyor General Branch is taking the lead with regards to the implementation of a multi-purpose Marine Cadastre of Canada's ocean space, as a core element of coastal and ocean governance.
- A person has been assigned to work full time on this initiative. A detailed report is being prepared, based on literature review.
- The Marine Cadastre would support DFO's Oceans Strategy.
- Jacques distributed a few copies of a poster produced in 2004 on Offshore Property Rights (primarily federal) in Canada. He suggested that participants email him to request a copy.

Tony Turner, GeoConnections, reported the following:

- The year 2009 marks the 10th year of the GeoConnections funding and partnership program that began in 1999. The first six years focused on the technology, tools, and standards to enhance the online interoperability of geospatial data. Since 2005 the program has focused on increasing the use of these technologies, tools, and standards among four user communities – public health, public safety, environment and sustainable development, and matters of importance to aboriginal communities. To this end approximately 250 projects have been funded (over 30 in Atlantic Canada) to improve capacity, create data standards, publish data as web services, prepare regional atlases, and develop online mapping applications. Since 2007 there has been a particular

emphasis on developing multi-agency systems in all communities. These initiatives are:

- o Integrated Landscape Management (ILM), under the Environment theme
- o Multi-agency Situational Awareness System (MASAS), under the Public Safety theme
- o Geospatial Foundation for Public Health, under the Public Health theme
- o First Nations Information Support Services, under the Aboriginal theme.

Information about these initiatives can be found on the GeoConnections website at

<http://www.geoconnections.org>.

- The GeoConnections program has been extended for 1 year and will end on 31 March 2011. For fiscal year 2010-2011, it is expected that the program will be allotted roughly half of its typical annual budget and will have reduced staffing. Activities will relate to completing various agreements and contracts and analysing the results and impact of the program. There is every expectation that the core elements of the CGDI, such as the Discovery Portal, will remain intact in addition to other related programs such as GeoBase and GeoGratis. Currently the GeoConnections Policy team is developing a framework for the evolution and sustainability of the CGDI, recognizing that geomatics has evolved in the ten years of GeoConnections, as evidenced by services such as Google Earth™, and the widespread use of GPS. The framework will focus on the core elements of the infrastructure.
- GeoConnections is preparing a budget video to demonstrate the breadth of impact of its funding among user communities. COINAtlantic is one of five projects that are being highlighted in the video. GeoConnections was pleased to host a workshop on 16 October in Ottawa called 'Positioning Canada's Information Infrastructure for Effective Watershed, Coastal and Oceans Management'. The workshop was well attended and the input has provided useful information to help COINAtlantic strategically position itself for ongoing sustainability. Key advice included the need to clearly state what COINAtlantic requires and to link COINAtlantic as a solution to a clearly defined management issue. Essentially this means identifying a compelling issue of importance to senior managers in departments such as DFO, NRCan and EC and making a convincing case that COINAtlantic is an essential tool to help address the issue and is therefore worthy of ongoing support.

Natalie Shea, Atlantic Canada Energy Office, Geological Survey of Canada – Atlantic, reported the following on behalf of Bob Taylor:

- Atlantic Canada Energy Office: Natalie Shea has taken the position of Senior Geoscience Advisor for the GSC in the Atlantic Canada Energy Office in St. John's, NL. The role of the Office is to engage energy related collaborative research.
- Offshore Geoscience Program (OGP):
 - o The OGP replaces the former Geoscience for Ocean Management (GOM) program; it will operate until 2014.
 - o The Program has a number of thrusts to identify marine hydro-carbon and renewable energy resources to facilitate their development and contribute to policy, regulation and environmental assessment of these activities.
- Bay of Fundy:
 - o A recently completed Cruise Report focuses on the geoscience expedition to the Bay of Fundy from 27 August to 9 September 2009 (HU 2009-039) (contact: Brian Todd - brian.todd@nrcan.gc.ca).
 - o As part of a joint project between GSC and CHS, a month-long multibeam bathymetric survey to collect data in unsurveyed areas in the Bay of Fundy will be starting in early October. The survey will also look for any changes in the shape of the seafloor in areas where large erosional troughs have been detected on previous surveys. The CCGS Matthew and hydrographic launches will be used to provide data in both nearshore and deeper water areas. This represents the 4th and final year of multibeam bathymetric

surveys in the Bay of Fundy. To date about 15,000 sq km of the Bay have been surveyed (contact: Russell Parrott – russell.parrott@nrcan.gc.ca).

- Newfoundland-Labrador:

- o A series of five seafloor terrain and five backscatter maps have been completed for the Placentia Bay area and should be on display at the provincial open house on 5 November 2009 in St. John's, NL (contact: John Shaw - john.shaw@nrcan.gc.ca).
- o Surficial geological mapping continues on the Grand Bank; a survey from CCGS Hudson collected some new data in Trinity Bay and NE Grand Bank (contact: Ned King – edward.king@nrcan.gc.ca).
- o The GSC continued seabed mapping programs offshore Labrador in the Makkovik Bank vicinity to help determine whether it is safe and cost-effective to install seabed facilities to extract gas from known offshore discoveries. The seabed mapping has been focusing to date on determining the frequency and severity of seabed scour by icebergs. In 2009, GSC and CHS successfully collected 2700 km² of multibeam data, a significant addition to data collected in 2006, 2007 and 2008 (contact: Gary Sonnichsen - gary.sonnichsen@nrcan.gc.ca).
- o A mega-scale submarine landslide was discovered off NE Newfoundland. The slide, measuring almost 7 km by 4 km, is in ~300 m of water NE of Fogo Island. The plan is to visit the site and collect cores to try and date it next year (contact: John Shaw - john.shaw@nrcan.gc.ca).
- o Under the topic landfall conditions in Atlantic Canada, previously collected geoscience data along NL, NS and PEI will be summarized to highlight geohazards to development such as pipelines and various types of cables from offshore to on land (contact: John Shaw - john.shaw@nrcan.gc.ca).

- Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change Program:

- o A brief survey was made of key monitoring sites in NS to assess the impacts of Hurricane Bill. Results suggest less negative impacts than either Hurricane Juan or post-tropical Storm Noel but severe wave conditions impacted the nearshore areas and carried large volumes of sea kelp onshore following the storm (contact: Bob Taylor – bob.taylor@nrcan.gc.ca).

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

- Following his presentation on the National Marine Conservation Areas of Canada at the January 2009 meeting of the ACZISC at BIO, Rob was asked by Peter Wells to make a keynote presentation at the BoFEP Workshop (26-29 May 2009, Wolfville, NS). The presentation on NMCAs at BoFEP was well received and generated good discussion with the participants, including representatives of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS).
- Rob participated in a briefing session with Wesley Clerveaux, Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, from the Turks and Caicos Islands. Wesley was a participant in the IOI-Canada 2009 Ocean Governance Training Programme. Information was subsequently forwarded to Wesley.
- Senior level federal and provincial decisions are required prior to a feasibility study being initiated for a possible national marine conservation area in the South Coast Fjords region on the south coast of Newfoundland.
- Discussions are continuing at a senior level between Parks Canada and Québec to confirm an approach that will enable continued progress toward a possible marine protected area near les Iles-de-la-Madeleine.
- The Feasibility Study Steering Committee has submitted recommendations on the feasibility of establishing a national park in the Mealy Mountains area of Labrador. These recommendations were submitted to the federal and provincial ministers in 2008. We are awaiting their response to the recommendations.

- The final study report prepared for Parks Canada on representative marine areas located in the Grand Banks Marine Region is now available. Four preliminary areas are recommended by the consultant for further consideration by Parks Canada: the South Coast of the Burin Peninsula and Southwest Placentia Bay; Northwestern Conception Bay; South Grand Bank; and the Virgin Rocks. Parks Canada will be evaluating the results of the study. None of the areas have yet been confirmed by Parks Canada. Copies of the report can be made available to participants on CD.
- Parks Canada has expressed interest in being a signatory to the Canada/NS MOU on coastal and ocean management in Nova Scotia.
- Over the summer there was considerable media coverage in New Brunswick on the subject of Fundy National Park expansion along the Fundy coast.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY: Chantal Gagnon, SGSLCS, reported the following:

- Chantal was recently appointed Executive Director of the Coalition. Nadine Gauvin, the Executive Director for the previous five years, is now working for Parks Canada at the Fundy National Park. Nadine sends her greetings.
- The Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) has just finished. The Coalition was able to hire three students, but was not able to provide any funds to the community groups to assist with the monitoring. A large amount of data was collected this summer.
- The Coastal Erosion monitoring project has commenced with the participation of four communities: Carleton, QC; Cocagne, NB; Antigonish, NS; and Souris, PEI. The project consists of helping communities build their capacity and knowledge of coastal erosion monitoring and vigilance.
- The Coalition's 2nd project with Status of Women Canada 'Women in Coastal Communities - Using easy tools to better understand finances' has also begun. The Coalition is partnering with four local associations with expertise in women's issues for training sessions. The focus is on providing women with effective tools to enable their communities to become more socially sustainable. The session in Antigonish, NS has already been held; the others will take place in Shediac, NB on 3 October and in PEI on 16 October.
- The Coalition is involved as a community partner in a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) application for a research project on climate change adaptation and governance in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence region.
- The Coalition will also be represented at the OMRN conference in Ottawa on 22-24 October.
- The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Coalition will be held in conjunction with the Coastal Zone Canada Conference in Charlottetown in July 2010. The theme of the AGM is 'Youth engagement in sustainability'.
- The Coalition will be conducting a survey to evaluate the effectiveness of its current governance structure in order to better meet the needs of its members.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT: Ratana Chuenpagdee reported the following:

- One of Ratana's current research project is entitled 'Reconceptualizing Ecosystem Complexity'. The research focuses on the human perspective and is tied to several aspects, including historical, biological and cultural. Placentia Bay is proposed as a study site.

NORTHEAST AVALON ACAP: Diana Baird provided the following (post-meeting):

- Northeast Avalon ACAP recently released a booklet entitled 'Freshwater Joys', a "how-to" guidebook for shoreline residents to help them maintain a healthy waterfront and protect

water quality. Topics include: the importance of shorelines; shoreline erosion; caring for your lawn and garden; co-existing with wildlife; tips for home; vehicle maintenance; septic systems, wells and docks; and contacts and resources. Further information on the handbook is available on the Northeast Avalon ACAP website at <http://www.naacap.ca>.