

# **COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA**

## **Presentations and Roundtable**

### **ACZISC Meeting #63**

**Date:** Wednesday and Thursday, 18-19 May 2011

**Location:** Room 224, Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre  
1350 Regent St, Fredericton, New Brunswick

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#### **PARTICIPANTS** (<sup>1</sup> ACZISC member; <sup>2</sup> Advisory Committee member; <sup>3</sup> Director, ACZISC Association)

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*Additional contact information for ACZISC Members is available [online](#).*

**PLEASE NOTE: “Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada”  
is a subset of the Minutes of ACZISC Meeting #63,  
held on 18-19 May 2011 in Fredericton, NB.**

**To download the Minutes and Coastal Activity reports  
of previous ACZISC meetings, access the ACZISC [website](#).**

## **COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA**

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Priorities: Preliminary Results from ACZISC Member Consultations Spring 2011** by Andy Sherin, ACZISC Secretariat Director.
- **Building Sustainable Coastal Communities in New Brunswick** by Jane Tims, Government of New Brunswick, Department of the Environment.
- **GeoNB: New Brunswick SDI** by Bernie Connors, Service New Brunswick.

The presentations are posted [online](#).

### **ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES and UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS**

**Chantal Gagnon** Shared a short report of the Hydrocarbon Conference in the Magdalene Islands, recently held on 8-9 April 2011. A lot of concern was voiced over exploration and possible exploitation of hydrocarbon resources in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The Old Harry oil field is in the middle of many invisible and disputed boundaries. Questions arose around lack of information on the ecosystem, they included: what are the keystone species of the Gulf of St. Lawrence? What is the species diversity? There were worries about the Atlantic Accord, and Corridor Resources Inc. applying for an exploration licence. There were concerns over whether this would be managed using integrated management. There was a general feeling that there is not enough information, that perhaps the information exists however there is not enough sharing of information. The Coalition-SGSL AGM will include workshop/presentations on this subject. See more information on the AGM in Chantal Gagnon’s roundtable report below.

**PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA:** Jean-Claude Vautour, Public Works and Government Services Canada, reported the following:

- **Hydrographic Group:** PWGSC is currently evaluating approximately 30 Small Craft Harbour sites along the Gulf of St. Lawrence coast following last winter severe storm damages. As assessments progress, remediation program is put in place which includes repair work to infrastructures and dredging of channel and harbours.

- **GIS Group:** Aerial photo project in Nfld: 130 DFO Small Craft Harbour sites flown in NL and Labrador. Sites ranged approximately from Burgeo on the south coast of NL up to Nain in Labrador. Only sites required by client were flown. A square area of 2 km x 2 km was captured at each location, centred on the infrastructure of interest. Resolution was 10 cm, natural colour. Mooring lines can easily be seen at this resolution, and with the clear water shoals are easily identified. Deliverable was an orthophoto, rectified to better than + 2 m horizontal. Comparisons of the data to known large scale infrastructure site plans show an agreement of usually better than 0.5 m. Of significant technical interest, local ground control was not required and not used to achieve this accuracy. This was achieved using high accuracy on-board GPS with Inertial Navigation Systems and digital imagery. The client is DFO SCH NL and they would have to be contacted regarding any distribution.

**FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA:** Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes Region, Oceans & Coastal Management Division, Ecosystem Management Branch, reported the following:

- State of the Scotian Shelf in Context and three theme papers will be online at <http://coinatlantic.ca/index.php/state-of-the-scotian-shelf> for the 3 June 2011 Oceans Day Celebrations in Halifax. The theme papers include: Ocean Noise; Species at Risk; and Tropic Structure. Future papers include: Climate Change; Marine Habitats and Communities; and Waste and Debris.
- Reminder of the “Marine Spatial Planning Tools and Techniques” workshop on June 1-2 2011. The workshop will be co-hosted by the World Wildlife Foundation and DFO Maritimes.
- The DFO Oceans program is undergoing an initial ‘evaluation’. We have been asked to identify key stakeholders who may wish to contribute and have submitted an initial list. For more information contact Tim Hall.

**Geoff Coughlan**, DFO Newfoundland and Labrador Region, Ecosystem Management Branch, reported the following:

**Placentia Bay/Grand Banks (PB/GB) Large Ocean Management Area (LOMA)**

- Work has been continuing on the Integrated Management (IM) Plan for the Placentia Bay/Grand Banks LOMA. IM Plan Working Group (WG) Workshop held a March 2, 2011 with a focus on prioritization under the Sustainable Use goal as well as management strategy finalization and priority setting under the Collaborative and Effective Governance goal.
- A draft of the PB/GB LOMA IM Plan is being finalized and will soon be distributed to the WG and LOMA Committee for comment.
- Work is continuing for the development of a PB/GB LOMA website. This is being undertaken by the Marine Institute School of Ocean Technology (operators of SmartBay) with funding support from ACOA and the NL Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (all LOMA Committee members). DFO Oceans, as the planning office for the IM process will play an active role in facilitating the provision of content for the site. The site will contain general background information on the IM process and can serve as a hub for information on the PB/GB LOMA including industry activity, research, governmental and non-governmental initiatives/information etc.
- The results of the risk analysis for ecosystem components in the PB/GB LOMA has been published (Oceans, Habitat, and Species at Risk Series) and can be accessed

on line including the detailed working notes which provide the scores and supporting rationales for individual factors and elements <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/libraries-bibliotheques/toc-tdm/342998-eng.htm>

### **Placentia Bay and Coast of Bays Coastal Management Areas**

- The Placentia Bay Integrated Management Planning Committee met on 3 March 2011 and discussed upcoming activities, including a possible two day Annual General Meeting that numerous presenters and the public will be invited to this fall. There is another upcoming meeting on 26 May 2011, which will likely focus on connections between the committee and local regional economic development boards. The PBIMPC website has recently been updated and can be seen at <http://www.smartbay.ca/pbimc.php>.
- The Coast of Bays Coastal Management Area Planning Committee had a meeting on 14 April 2011 and discussed upcoming activities, including the drafting of a funding proposal for the development of a Coastal Communities Resources Inventory. It was also discussed that this inventory could possibly include local knowledge about sensitive marine areas. The committee continues to keep the lines of communication open between the various sectors in the area, notably fisheries and aquaculture

### **Laurentian Channel Area of Interest (AOI) for Marine Protected Area (MPA) Establishment**

- The inaugural meeting of the Laurentian Channel (AOI) Advisory Committee was held on 29 March 2011. The Laurentian Channel MPA Advisory Committee was established to provide advice to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada with respect to the development, implementation, and monitoring of the proposed Laurentian Channel MPA. Information on the regulatory MPA process, human activities, and species profiles were presented at this meeting.
- The Advisory Committee will be asking for feedback on the various Conservation Priorities. Information collected will be used to inform the process of determining which Conservation Priorities will be advanced for further consideration in the Laurentian Channel AOI. Oceans staff will review the results at the next Advisory Committee meeting and will also use the feedback to inform the mapping layers necessary to initiate discussions regarding potential boundaries. The next Advisory Committee meeting is planned to take place in the later part of June.
- The use of AOIs to establish new MPAs is a national initiative with all Regions currently at different stages in the process. NL Region is working closely with the Maritimes Region in developing their AOI.

### **Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management (GOSLIM)**

- The GOSLIM review of vulnerabilities of ecosystem components in the Gulf of St. Lawrence from an oceans management perspective is completed and a final report expected to be completed over the summer months.
- A Synopsis of the Social, Economic and Cultural Overview of the Gulf of St. Lawrence has now been published in the NL Region Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Publication series.

**GOSLIM Coastal Management Areas:** NL Region currently supports Ecosystem health initiatives in three coastal areas:

- Bay St. George/Port au Port Peninsula:
  - The Bay St. George/Port au Port peninsula 'Significant Coastal and Marine Areas Atlas' is in its final stages of development and will be available for viewing on the Long Range Regional Economic Development Board website in the coming months.
  - The Long Range Regional Economic Development Board is in the final stages of developing their new website which will include a focus on Coastal area.
  - The Bay St. George/Port au Port Peninsula Marine and Coastal Resources Steering Committee is scheduled to meet on May 24th to review the progress of their 2009 Strategic Plan and identify priorities for the current year.
- Northern Peninsula:
  - The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Steering Committee last met on 15 March 2011. Dr. Barbara Neis and Dr. David Schneider both of Memorial University provided an overview on different aspects of lobster research in Newfoundland and Labrador. Dr. Neis reported on "Opportunities for Sustainable Livelihoods in the Southwest Coast Lobster Fishery" [http://www.curra.ca/documents/Sustainable\\_Lobster\\_Fishery\\_Report\\_December\\_21\\_2010\\_Final\\_for\\_Web.pdf](http://www.curra.ca/documents/Sustainable_Lobster_Fishery_Report_December_21_2010_Final_for_Web.pdf); and Dr. Schneider reported on the success of V-notching, the Eastport MPA and a Slot fishery. These research initiatives are supported through the Community-University Research for Recovery Alliance (CURRA) <http://www.curra.ca/>.
  - The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Steering Committee discussed the need to communicate research results to lobster harvesters and the potential to apply such research to areas along the Northern Peninsula. The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet again on 17 May 2011.
  - Parks Canada, in collaboration with the Bonne Bay Marine Station and the Community-University Research for Recovery Alliance (CURRA), will be implementing the Gros Morne Beach Watch program during May 2011. Volunteers will select a section of beach to monitor throughout May to November. Through the Gros Morne Beach Watch program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Oceans Division is working with Parks Canada to further promote the Capelin Observers Network <http://www.qc.dfo-mpo.qc.ca/signaler-report/roc-con/capelan-capelin-eng.asp> within Gros Morne National Park.
- Bay of Islands:
  - Smart Basin – In 2010-11 Fisheries and Oceans supported the first phase of a knowledge mobilization initiative for Bay of Islands and the Humber Valley Region (i.e. the Humber Basin) being led by a multi-stakeholder working group. The Humber Basin area serves a broad range of users including boaters, fishers, industry, cruise ships, First Nations, and community groups. They each have specific requirements with respect to how they make decisions concerning their activities in the Basin. The knowledge mobilization initiative will collect real-time information on a broad range of parameters using latest technology and make it available to users through a publicly accessible web portal. The initial consultation phase of the project to determine if there is support for the idea and what parameters would need to be collected has now been completed. Based on the favourable response of the consultations, it is expected that proposals would be developed in 2011-12.

- On 9 June 2011 Fisheries and Oceans Canada will participate in the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP), Humber Arm - Coastal Matters Speakers Series in Corner Brook by giving a public presentation on Aquatic Invasive Species within the Newfoundland and Labrador Region. The monthly Coastal Matters Speakers Series provides speakers with the opportunity to present on various coastal and environmental topics. ACAP, Humber Arm has scheduled presenters for every day from 6-10 June during Environment Week.

### **Marine Protected Areas**

- Gilbert Bay MPA and Eastport MPA:
  - A Science led Regional Assessment Process (RAP) on indicators, strategies, and monitoring protocols for the Eastport MPAs took place on 27 January 2011. Management Plans and Monitoring Protocol for both MPAs are being revised based on advice from Science and local stakeholders.
- MPA Network:
  - The draft [National Framework for Canada's Network of Marine Protected Areas](#) is currently under final review following extensive regional and national consultations. This document will provide strategic direction for the design of a national network of MPAs and sets the stage for bioregional network planning and regional engagement.

### **The Coldwater Coral and Sponge Reefs Center of Expertise**

- Update on Coral/Sponge Conservation Strategy for NL/Eastern Arctic:
  - 30 key government, Aboriginal, industry, and ENGOs were contacted regarding the pending strategy, as a result 18 information sessions have been held to date.
  - The Regional Coral/Sponge WG (NL/C&A Region) chaired by the CoE manager is currently working on the third draft.
  - The strategy will be submitted for internal review in June with formal consultations beginning in the fall.
- CoE Communications Approach:
  - CoE is releasing a DVD targeted towards fish harvesters called [Diving into the Deep: Coral and Sponge Conservation in Canada](#). It is anticipated the video will be available online in June 2011.
  - The CoE is developing a website which will be launched in spring 2011. The website outlines the mandate and objectives of the CoE as well as providing links to related websites and documents.
  - CoE is working with Maritimes Region to re-issue a [Corals of Atlantic Canada](#) poster, which will include updates on coral science, research, and conservation.
- DFO Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS):
  - CSAS National Advisory meeting on the development of Encounter Protocols for Corals and Sponges in Canadian Waters was held on 15-18 March 2011. Proceedings and science advisory report will be available later this year.

### **Coastal Management Areas (CMAs) - General**

- Regional Oceans practitioners and managers from DFO met 27-28 April 2011 to discuss CMAs in Newfoundland and Labrador. The second day of the meeting was also attended by the Provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA).

Specifically, the goal of the meeting was to organize and document key elements related to the support for and development of CMAs in Newfoundland and Labrador. These elements could be identified based on past experiences with CMAs in the Region to date and from knowledge of similar activities in other parts of Canada and around the world, and will be used to explore how any lessons and best practices based on experience can be applied in a common approach to CMAs in Newfoundland and Labrador in the future.

- The development of a Regional approach to CMAs is timely in that DFO has now gained several years of experience in integrated coastal management activities, including that for five CMAs. In addition, the Provincial DFA has also recently identified coastal management areas as a key activity within its Strategy for Coastal and Ocean Management, and therefore it may be an approach that can be shared while further supporting collaborative approaches to addressing integrated coastal management.
- It is expected that the information contained within this guidance will be helpful to a wide range individuals and groups, including community, academic, industry, government and non-government representatives, with an interest in the management of Newfoundland and Labrador's coastal regions.

### **World Oceans Day Events**

- DFO, along with an inter-organizational planning committee, is organizing a World Oceans Day Family Event to be held on Saturday, 11 June 2011 in St. John's. The event will have many child-friendly interactive and educational booths and activities. A province wide art contest is also being carried out in partnership with the Provincial DFA. In addition, a beach cleanup is being planned for the St. John's area. The Area Offices throughout the province will be planning many World Oceans Day activities, including showing videos, providing presentations, leading games and activities, and organizing beach clean ups.

**Michel Goguen**, Canadian Hydrographic Service, reported the following:

- Lidar: Fugro was contracted to do several sites in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Results of the surveys varied, some showed only 6 meters of depth and up to 25 meters at others. Results included xyz bathymetry, Back Scatter, & digital imagery/photos. Data is being processed and it is planned to update charts/ENCs.
- Canadian Hydrographic Service met with the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors (NSLS) and is in discussions on vertical datum issues. Advising NSLS on how to quantify the juridical land/water boundary -the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM). NSLS are preparing proposals to the Nova Scotia Government on redefining the OHWM to something more quantitative rather than the current historical subjective definition "...the line along the shore where the water seldom rises above and is wrested of vegetation...."
- E-Nav: The Canadian Coast Guard is leading the electronic navigation initiative. Much of the information being considered would also benefit integrated coastal and ocean management. More importantly a framework to communicate information to users in the marine environment.

**COINATLANTIC:** Paul Boudreau, ACZISC Secretariat reported the following:



- The International Oceans Institute (IOI) Training Program on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management is scheduled for 18th May - 15th July in Halifax, NS. The ACZISC Secretariat will be deliver two presentations to the students.
- Andy Sherin, Director, ACZISC Secretariat, is planning to attend the 5th workshop of the International Coastal Atlas Network from 30 August to 2 September 2011 as well as the CoastGIS 2011 Conference scheduled for 5-8 September. Both events are taking place in Oostende, Belgium.
- See #11 below for an update on the COINAtlantic Search Utility and Geocontent Generator

**AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA:** Rollin Andrew, Agri-Environment Services Branch, reported the following:

- Applied research projects are being implemented in all four Atlantic Provinces in the areas of water quality, water management, riparian health, nutrient management, climate adaptation, biomass, and agro-forestry. Some have been delayed due to the wet spring conditions, but hopefully can still proceed.
- All of these projects involve collaboration with multiple stakeholders at the federal, provincial, municipal industry, watershed, and academic level.
- One example would be a multi-year project in the Amherst area that will look at dykelands and mapping to evaluate various climate adaptation scenarios and potential adaptation measures. This project involves Environment Canada, several provincial government departments, the local municipality and a local stakeholder group. The project will accurately map the areas and dykeland elevation using Lidar and GIS, evaluate the economic value of the land and infrastructure protected by these dykelands, and look at the risk under various climate change scenarios.
- We have recently hired new staff in the areas of: climate adaptation, water management/watersheds, riparian health, hydrology, water quality, and watershed evaluation of Best Management Practices. We would be interested in further partnerships in terms of projects related riparian health, aquatic habitat, water quality, and climate adaptation.

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

- The Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) was successful this past year. CAMP is a collaboration between DFO and 27 community groups in 34 estuaries of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Coalition-SGSL developed a template bilingual presentation for the CAMP community groups to use to present the work they do, gather local support, and recruit volunteers. This presentation is being refined and will be distributed to members in the coming year. The last seven years of CAMP data was added to the Regional Sustainable Atlas on Google Earth for groups to use in their work. This coming year the Coalition-SGSL hopes to hire five students for the summer.
- This year the Coastal Erosion Monitoring and Education Program (CEMEP) produced a bilingual template for a PowerPoint presentation. This is designed for community groups doing monitoring to share the work they do, explain sedimentation processes, and lead to habitat stewardship by protecting natural habitat along waterways as an affordable and simple first method of managing erosion. Coalition-SGSL has also produced an internal report reviewing the methodologies used, the benefits, and challenges. The Coalition-SGSL also worked at updating and improving our online Atlas, and worked with conservation organisations to seek their input in the Atlas to



include more areas of interest to them. The Coalition-SGS objective is to be able to overlay their areas of interest with that of the conservation groups to help them connect.

- The Coalition-SGSL annual general meeting is 16-18 June 2011 in Cap-aux-Meules in the Magdalene Islands. Everyone is invited, especially as the theme for discussion is the sustainability and coexistence of both renewable and non-renewable natural resource exploitation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Local communities are very concerned about the long-term impacts to their livelihoods and their health and are seeking to learn as much as possible. Local communities also wish for a concerted and shared effort by the provincial and federal governments to develop strategic management of resources in the Gulf, and feel more time is needed for all five provinces to make the right decision.
- Our Coastal Communities Challenges - Community-University Research Alliance (CCC-CURA) project has moved forward in the last year with six projects. The multi-site longitudinal project has also started. This over the course of the next four years or more will include eight communities in four regions. The objective is to accompany these communities in a participatory-action-research process with the ultimate objective of strengthening their resiliency to changes in the environment. The project is using the December 2010 storm as the common denominator for the research work. This research project is done in collaboration with 22 researchers, eight universities and nine non-government organisations.
- In following with the CCC-CURA project, the Coalition-SGSL will be involved with the Coastal Zone Canada 2012 which will be held in Rimouski, Quebec. Specifically working with the Coalition-SGSL's partner at the Université du Québec à Rimouski on developing a session on adaptation and considerations involved with the adaptation strategy known as retreat.
- Recently the Coalition-SGSL has worked with the Canadian River Institute and the University of New Brunswick, through our member Simon Courtenay to develop a consortium. This consortium will seek to facilitate the development of a regional monitoring framework for the Northumberland Strait to identify cumulative effects. This consortium chose the name Northumberland Strait- Environmental Monitoring Partnership, and it first applied to funds from the Canadian Water Network to facilitate research aimed at filling in existing gaps in science, namely effects of sedimentation, contamination and nutrients coming from land sources to estuaries of the Northumberland Strait. We will be looking at involving more participants in the process as we move forward with this joint initiative.