

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #17

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Date: Thursday, 21 March 1996 - 0830 hrs.

Location: NS Department of Municipal Affairs
Summit Place, Lower Water Street, Halifax, NS

NAME	AFFILIATION	TEL. NO.
Present: * indicates ACZISC member		
Joe Arbour	Environment Canada	(902) 426-1701
Sam Baird	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(613) 990-5095
François Boulanger	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(418) 648-4092
Michael Butler*, Chair	Oceans Institute of Canada	(902) 494-1977
Heather Campbell	Champlain Institute	(902) 463-3990
Connie Carruthers	Industry Canada	(902) 426-9905
Réjean Castonguay*	Province of New Brunswick	(506) 453-3917
Kimberley Edwardson	Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic	(902) 426-2582
Brad Fay*	Province of Nova Scotia	(902) 424-4966
Fred Guphill	NS Oceans Industries	(902) 852-3878
Brenda Haley	Council of Maritime Premiers	(902) 424-7606
Geoff Howell	Environment Canada	(902) 426-4196
Claudette LeBlanc	Oceans Institute of Canada	(902) 494-1977
Art Longard*	Province of Nova Scotia	(902) 424-0347
Chris Morry	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(613) 990-0308
Brian Nicholls*	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(902) 426-3246
Andy Power*	GIAC Atlantic	(902) 468-7777
Jim Ramsay*	Province of Prince Edward Island	(902) 368-4075
Andy Sherin*	Natural Resources Canada	(902) 426-7582
Eric Theriault*	Environment Canada	(902) 426-9558
Buffy White	Canadian Hydrographic Service	(902) 426-4581

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

Mike Butler, ACZISC Chair, called Meeting #17 to order at 08:30 hrs. He welcomed guests and thanked Brad Fay for arranging the meeting room and the Province of Nova Scotia for providing lunch. A roundtable introduction of all participants followed.

Mike reported that the ACZISC had been established four years ago in January 1992 under the umbrella of the Council of Maritime Premiers (CMP). He read remarks made by Emery Fanjoy at the first ACZISC meeting. Mr. Fanjoy was replaced by Keith Wornell as Secretary to the CMP in March 1995.

Mike introduced Brenda Haley, Assistant Secretary to the CMP. Brenda reported that the current three year agreement with the Oceans Institute of Canada (OIC) to provide \$50K per year in support of the ACZISC Secretariat and other coastal/oceans initiatives would be ending at the of March. The ACZISC request to extend the agreement has been approved by the Provinces and the CMP. The funds will be made available with the proviso that the ACZISC obtain matching funds from federal partners. It was also suggested that the ACZISC consider other means of generating revenues. The CMP is anticipating a proposal from the OIC to continue the agreement and a detailed workplan from the ACZISC.

Brenda added that the organization responsible for representing the CMP interest in implementing the Maritime Geomatics Strategy is the Maritime Geomatics Committee, established in October 1994 after the closure of the Maritimes Geomatics Board. In its report to the CMP re the ACZISC funding request (November 9th presentation), the Maritime Geomatics Committee was supportive of ACZISC activities and in particular the Atlantic Coastal Zone Database Directory.

Brenda briefed participants on the ongoing negotiations between the Maritime Provinces and Unisys Canada to create a network for marketing and delivering government data worldwide on a fee basis. Software Kinetics is also involved. Revenues generated by Atlantic Canada On-line will be shared with the data generators. The agreement in general should be signed at the next meeting of the CMP at the end of April. Individual provincial departments would then negotiate agreements with Atlantic Canada On-line. Jim Ramsay added that negotiations would initially focus on sectors which are more marketable, such as motor vehicle and land-related information.

Brenda inquired whether the oil and gas industry would be interested in ACZISC activities. Andy Sherin responded that a lot of mapping of interest to the industry had been done by ACZISC members. He also suggested that the industry would be interested in the "Standards" activities of the ACZISC. Art Longard added that several indirect links were being made by the ACZISC with the oil and gas industry through the participation of ACZISC members on committees related to the industry.

Andy Power asked if there was any momentum in the CMP to recognize the coastal zone and its economic activities and spinoffs. Brenda felt that this may be discussed by the Atlantic Premiers and the New England Governors at an upcoming meeting but suggested the Conference of Atlantic Premiers would be another appropriate venue.

ACTION: ACZISC Secretariat to request to the Secretariat of the Conference of Atlantic Premiers ASAP that the coastal zone and its economic benefits be added to the agenda of their next meeting.

Mike Butler officially thanked the CMP and Brenda for the continued support of the ACZISC.

2. ***ADOPTION OF AGENDA, AND REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING #16***

The Provisional Agenda for Meeting #17 was reviewed and approved (copy attached).

The minutes of ACZISC Meeting #16 were reviewed and approved as distributed.

3. ***STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS***

The Action Items from Meeting #16 are in progress or were completed, other than the following:

LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR THE DIRECTORY: It was actioned that the Database Directory Working Group develop a Licensing Agreement for the Database Directory. This has not been done to date because of time constraints.

FIELD MANUAL FOR COASTAL MAPPING: It was actioned that the Secretariat distribute a final proposal for a Field Manual for Coastal Mapping which was being prepared by a consortium. The proposal has not been finalized and will be distributed at a later date.

Other outstanding Action Items will be discussed in further detail within the context of the Workplan and Working Group reports (Agenda Item #4).

4. ***ACZISC WORKPLAN***

MEMBERSHIP: Mike Butler reported on developments in ACZISC membership:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada: Mike stated that there was the possibility of DFO Région Laurentienne becoming a full member. Yvan Vigneault has participated as an observer at the last two ACZISC meetings.

Province of Québec: François Boulanger, DFO, commented that the Province of Québec had indicated some interest in participating in the ACZISC.

Province of Newfoundland: Mike commented that renewed interest was expected from the Province of Newfoundland following the election of Tobin as the new Premier. Art Longard stated that he had discussions with senior bureaucrats in Newfoundland who felt that the Province should be actively involved in the ACZISC. Art will pursue this matter with Malcolm Rowe. Andy Sherin added that, while in Newfoundland yesterday, he had discussions with Neil MacNaughton who was optimistic about active participation by Newfoundland in the near future.

NACOM: The National Action Committee for Ocean Management will continue to be a member of the ACZISC in 1996/97.

Coast Guard: Because of its amalgamation with the DFO, the Coast Guard will be reviewing its membership for 1996/97.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Joe Arbour has initiated discussions with Ken Webb at the Agriculture College in Truro re membership in the ACZISC. Andy Sherin added that, in the course of discussing integrating soils information into coastal zone information, he also had informal discussions with Ken re AAFC's involvement in the ACZISC. It was suggested that Ken Webb be invited to attend the next ACZISC meeting as an observer and that his name be added to the ACZISC mailing list.

ACTION: ACZISC Secretariat to add Ken Webb, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to the mailing list of the ACZISC.

ACZISC Secretariat to invite a representative of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to attend the next ACZISC meeting as an observer.

Forestry Division of Natural Resources Canada: Andy Sherin stated that the Division was undergoing major changes and that he would approach Forestry personnel re their participation in the ACZISC at a later date.

An up-to-date list of Committee members with mailing and email addresses, and telephone and fax nos. is attached.

BUDGET/FUNDING SUPPORT: Participants reviewed financial documents circulated by Mike Butler:

- Proposed ACZISC Budget 1996/97
- ACZISC Financial Projection for the Year Ending 31 March 1996

- Membership Dues/Revenue Summary 1994-1996
- Membership Dues/Revenue Summary 1995-1997

As reported in the Financial Projection for the Year ending 31 March 1996, Mike commented that the ACZISC had been facing a \$14.3K deficit at the beginning of fiscal year 1996/97 due to unpaid membership dues. Following a plea for assistance by the Secretariat, the deficit has been eliminated with contributions and contracts with DFO and DOE.

Mike stated that the Executive Committee had been actively seeking federal partners as per the CMP proviso that the ACZISC obtain matching funds for its \$50K per year contribution. Brian Nicholls commented that it may be appropriate for DFO to provide funds in view of its proposed coordinating role in the developing Canada Oceans Act and Oceans Management Strategy. However, DFO may require a broader role than information management from the ACZISC. Brian added that discussions were at an early stage. Mike stated that discussions were also taking place with DOE. ACOA also has been approached. He commented that efforts to obtain matching funds and membership dues were very time consuming.

Andy Sherin reported that support could be sought from a committee of federal resource departments (DOE, DFO, NRCan and Agri); an MOU, designed to promote cooperation in CZM, was signed in January 1995. Brian Nicholls reported that Larry Hildebrand was involved in this Committee. Brian added that counterpart ministerial support at the federal/provincial levels for the ACZISC would also be beneficial. Andy Sherin stated that NRCan would also be an appropriate department with which to discuss ACZISC support.

Art Longard stated that the Atlantic Council of Fisheries Ministers could provide another opportunity to raise the issue of support for the ACZISC. The next meeting of the Council has not been scheduled to date. Art added that the Council would be commenting on the proposed Oceans Management Strategy and, in its comments, the Council could state that the Maritime Provinces were contributing \$50K to the ACZISC via the Council of Maritime Premiers.

François Boulanger stated that the petroleum industry could also be approached.

ACTION: ACZISC Executive Committee to seek funds from other sources ASAP, including Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, the federal resource departments' CZM Committee and the petroleum industry, to match the \$50K annual contribution from the Council of Maritime Premiers.

ACZISC Executive Committee to seek counterpart ministerial support at the federal/provincial levels for the ACZISC ASAP via the Council of Maritime Premiers, the Conference of Atlantic Premiers and the Atlantic Council of Fisheries Ministers.

WORKPLAN: Participants reviewed time allocation documents circulated by Mike Butler:

- Current (1995/96) and Proposed (1996/97) Secretariat Time Allocation
- Current (1995/96) and Proposed (1996/97) Time Allocation for Support Personnel

Mike reported that time spent by the Secretariat on ACZISC core programs was increasing and that time on other projects, e.g., ECNASAP, CZC'94, was decreasing.

Jim Ramsay commented that a detailed Workplan for 1996/97 should be prepared, including deliverables, timelines and resources.

ACTION: Members to comment on the ACZISC Time Allocation summaries for 1996/97 by 30 April 1996.

ACZISC Secretariat and Executive Committee to prepare detailed ACZISC Workplan for 1996/97 by 15 May 1996.

DATABASE DIRECTORY: Claudette LeBlanc, chair of the Database Directory Working Group, reported that the initial update of the Atlantic Coastal Zone Database Directory had been completed. However, "minor" updates only have been made to the Newfoundland component due to the lack of participation by the Province. She added that the continuous changes being made to departmental and divisional names and in staffing, both at the federal and provincial levels, would require regular updates of the Directory. Efforts will now be directed at posting the Directory on the Internet which will serve as the primary source of distribution.

Jim Ramsay suggested that Atlantic Canada On-line be contacted re posting the Directory. Brad Fay commented that pointers to the URL could be established after the Directory is posted. François Boulanger added that it will be important to make the Directory URL known to appropriate sites and groups.

ACTION: ACZISC Secretariat to contact Atlantic Canada On-line by 30 April 1996 re the possibility of posting the Atlantic Coastal Zone Database Directory on the Internet.

Claudette reported that the Database Directory has been updated and produced in accordance with the CGSB paper standard for directory information. There is not a digital standard available at this time from the CGSB. A digital standard based on the paper standard and developed for the Northern Information Network (NIN) has been distributed for comments by Valerie Hume to members of the CGSB Committee on Geomatics.

Claudette reported that David Swetnam, Information Management Coordinator, Information Management Branch, DFO Maritimes Region, would be joining the Database Directory Working Group. The other members are Joe Arbour, Mike Butler, Brad Fay and Andy Sherin.

Andy Sherin reported that the IACG would now be focusing on the development of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure based on data quality, quantity and comprehensiveness.

Andy enquired as to the status of the proposal submitted by Munin Multimedia Solutions to distribute Version 3 of the Database Directory on CD-ROM. Mike Butler reported that Chris Hawkins had contacted him re the production of a master CD-ROM at a cost of \$200. Members discussed this request and agreed that it was not acceptable to the ACZISC.

CITAP: The CITAP (Coastal Information Technology Architecture Plan) Working Group is co-chaired by Andy Montgomery and Andy Sherin. Andy Sherin distributed copies of the CITAP Workshop Report held on 16 November 1995 in Fredericton. He stated that one of the Workshop objectives had been to identify demonstration projects which could be facilitated by CITAP. A proposed project - Oil Spill Mapping - should proceed now that the project leaders (Eric Theriault, Andy Montgomery and Andy Sherin) can devote time to it. The status of another proposed project - Coastal Community Mapping - is unknown. More information will be available at the next ACZISC meeting.

Andy reported that a new name for CITAP is being proposed which more accurately reflects the concept, as directed at the last ACZISC meeting. The proposed name is CCODE (Consortium for Coastal and Ocean Data Exchange).

Discussions on the CITAP concept and the proposed new name ensued. Andy explained that the initial approach to implementing CITAP had been top-down and technical. The need for a bottom up approach was now recognized. Also the major impediments to the successful implementation of CITAP are now

considered to be "people/agency" related and include the development of workable protocols and agreements.

The name CCODE was approved by the members.

Andy reviewed the agenda for the Workshop on Data Accessibility and Data Pricing scheduled for 22 March at BIO. The objective of the Workshop is to review information accessibility and to explore information sharing in Atlantic Canada.

STANDARDS: The Coastal Mapping Standards Working Group is co-chaired by Paul Bellemare and Réjean Castonguay. Réjean reported that the Working Group had not initiated any new activities since the Workshop held on 14-15 November in Fredericton. The Workshop had focused on Data Models.

Réjean reported that the NB Coastal Zone Committee had not adopted the November Workshop recommendation to utilize 2 chart datums, DIGEST for the land and S-57 for the sea. The NB Committee stressed the need for a continuous datum, in particular for coastal zone mapping and modelling applications. It should be noted, however, that the ACZISC Standards Working Group had recommended the 2 datums on the condition that they be "harmonized" for use as a continuous datum; the Working Group also recommended that the harmonized DIGEST/S-57 datum be subjected to testing and verification of its suitability as a condition of adoption. The NB Coastal Zone Committee is chaired by Réjean.

Réjean stated that the MOU between CHS and NB re coastal mapping had not been signed; the Province has concerns over the impact of NDI's exclusive distribution rights of CHS data on the distribution of the NB coastal mapping. The MOU under development between NS and CHS is being studied.

Brad Fay reported that he was unsure of the status of the Workshop recommendations in NS. He added that NS has recommended moving to NAD83 for land-related data. The specifications for a NS coastal mapping series are being prepared so the issue of a continuous datum will have to be addressed. Jim Ramsay stated PEI was not concerned with continuous datums at this time because the Island had not initiated a coastal mapping program.

Andy Sherin commented that it was important that the ACZISC membership receive feedback on this topic. Jim added that PEI and NS would benefit greatly by being kept informed of developments in NB.

Jim stated that PEI would have a fully operational GPS by 1997. Réjean reported that NB's would be in place by 1998 and Brad reported that NS' would be in place by 1999.

Andy Sherin commented that standards for thematic layers for coastal mapping must be considered also.

COASTAL THEMATIC MAPPING: Eric Theriault, co-chair of the Coastal Thematic Mapping Working Group, stated that the key areas of work for the Group would be to identify key thematic layers and their availability, to inventory planned and current coastal mapping projects, and to develop a field manual for collecting TEK information.

Eric added that a provisional date for a Coastal Thematic Workshop was being identified. The goal of the Workshop will be to identify the agencies responsible for the maintenance of the major thematic layers used in coastal zone mapping.

Réjean Castonguay added that several lists of parameters for coastal zone mapping had been documented in recent years by a variety of agencies. He suggested that these documents be collected and distributed to participants prior to the Workshop. This should reduce the amount of time required to bring Workshop participants "up to speed" on work done to date.

ACTION: ***ACZISC Secretariat and Co-chairs of the Coastal Thematic Mapping Working Group to organize a workshop on Thematic Coastal Mapping by 15 April 1996.***

ACZISC Secretariat to distribute previously documented lists of Coastal Thematic Mapping layers/parameters prior to the Workshop for reference and feedback.

ICOIN: Mike Butler reported that a lot of development work re ICOIN had been carried out by the ICOIN Project Office located at MEDS in Ottawa. He added that ICOIN was being demonstrated regularly to interested groups; a group of Koreans were recent visitors. In recent discussions with Hank Jones, the ICOIN Project Officer, Mike provided him with the names of several contacts in Atlantic Canada who were carrying out ICOIN-related projects. A number of ICOIN documents are available. ICOIN information can also be obtained on the Internet at <http://web.meds.dfo.ca>.

ECNASAP: Mike Butler, co-chair (with Joe Arbour and Andy Sherin) of the Canadian ECNASAP Project Management Committee, briefed participants on the status of the Canada/U.S. East Coast of North America Strategic Assessment Project (ECNASAP).

Mike stated that the Offshore Case Study was led by Bob O'Boyle, DFO. The Case Study was stage centre at a DFO-sponsored Cod Mortality Workshop held in St. John's, Newfoundland in February. The ECNASAP process and products have become accepted by the scientific community as a valuable "assessment" tool.

The Inshore Case Study is led by Joe Arbour. He reported that the focus of the Case Study was shellfish. The Shellfish Register is in the final stages of production at NOAA. It will be available in two months. A Workshop on Shellfish Restoration was held in St. Andrews in March 1995; the Workshop report has been completed and will be available in one month. An Inshore Workshop will be organized in the near future to review past activities and to discuss future actions.

Mike circulated ECNASAP documents for review. He added that the working relationship between BIO and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at Woods Hole, Massachusetts was being developed further as a result of collaboration on ECNASAP.

An ECNASAP paper session and workshop are planned for CZC'96 (Rimouski, 12-17 August, 1996).

PASSAMAQUODDY: Mike Butler reported that an ICOIN/Passamaquoddy presentation had taken place at BIO on 9 February. Participants were briefed on the ICOIN modules and the system was demonstrated. The attendees responded positively to the demonstration and the system's functions. Mike added that documentation on the project was available.

COMMUNICATIONS: The ACZISC Communications Working Group (chaired by Mike Butler) has identified the need for an ACZISC communication strategy.

It was recommended that the ACZISC minutes be communicated widely as they are considered to be good summaries of information management activities in the coastal zone of Atlantic Canada. Emailing by each member to appropriate groups and individuals within their jurisdiction was recommended as the most efficient and economical method of distribution.

It was suggested that the minutes be forwarded by the Secretariat to each member as formatted WP5.1 attachments. UUencoding was suggested as the "safest and most acceptable" encoding method to use; members whose email systems do not support UUencoding should notify the Secretariat.

ACTION: *To enable the distribution of formatted minutes and other documents as WP5.1 attachments, ACZISC members to inform the Secretariat re their email setup and encoding requirements ASAP.*

ACZISC Communications Working Group to develop a communication strategy and plan.

5. **PRESENTATION: ECNASAP-TOOLBOOK SOFTWARE**

Mike Butler introduced Geoff Howell, Environment Canada. Geoff was instrumental in developing the ECNASAP-Toolbook system for both the Offshore and Inshore Case Studies. The ECNASAP system was demonstrated by Geoff. Considerable international interest is now being expressed in the software and the associated ECNASAP process.

6. **PRESENTATION: CANADA OCEANS ACT AND OCEANS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Mike Butler introduced Chris Morry, Oceans Programs, Science Sector, and Sam Baird, Oceans Policy, Policy Sector, DFO Ottawa. Chris and Sam were invited by the Secretariat to brief members on the status of the Canada Oceans Act and Oceans Management Strategy.

Chris briefed participants on the background and recent developments concerning the Canada Oceans Act. He commented that the Science and Policy Sectors of DFO had been collaborating in the development of an oceans policy. He stated:

- The need for a unifying Act was identified in 1987 by the Ocean Development Branch of DFO. The political will was not there at the time to move it forward. However, behind the scene work continued.
- The NABST (National Advisory Board on Science and Technology) Report published in 1995 identified the need for an Act.
- Subsequent to the NABST Report, 650 stakeholders were sent a Vision Paper and General Framework for an Oceans Act and Oceans Management Strategy. Key components of the document were: ICZM, Definition of Marine Protected Areas and Marine Environmental Quality Guidelines. Feedback from the stakeholders was used to draft the Act.
- The authority to write the Canada Oceans Act was passed in February 1995.
- The Canada Oceans Act was tabled on 14 June 1995. After first reading, it went to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. Representations were received by the Committee throughout last fall. A slightly modified version of the Act was submitted to Cabinet December 8.
- On the international stage, efforts have been made through UNEP's Global Program of Action to reduce land-based sources of pollution. Subsequently, it was recognized that other activities impact on the coastal zone and the oceans. The resulting agreement - the Washington Declaration - was endorsed in November 1995. Signatory countries are expected to develop national Programs of Action.
- In Canada, 24 departments, 8 provinces and 2 territories are involved in ICZM. Although Alberta and Manitoba don't have marine areas, marine interests are present.

Chris reviewed the proposed approach for developing an Oceans Management Strategy. He stated that the approach would be based on consultation, information gathering and dissemination, and methodology development and testing. A three-year timetable has been identified. Two pilot projects will be implemented: one on the East coast and one on the West coast. Key project deliverables will include:

- Advisory committees
- Consultations (other government departments/provinces/NGOs)
- Planning tools
- Filling gaps in knowledge re resource sensitivities
- Methodology for integrated use of TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge)

- Recommended remote sensing and modelling methodologies
- Private sector Directory Service Centre
- National CZM strategy/policy

Chris reported that funds have been identified for an Ocean Science Program Fund to carry out science programs and research in support of the above deliverables. Seventy proposals have been received in response to a Request for Proposals. These are currently being reviewed. Some proposed projects include studies of international CZM models, small coastal mapping projects in the Maritimes, and reasons why a CZM policy is not in place to date in Canada.

Chris added that a Directory of Geo-referenced Information for CZM had just been completed.

Art Longard commented that several CZM initiatives were under way in NS, including CZ 2000 and several mapping projects. He added that the Province would like to provide input into the formulation of the Oceans Management Strategy and the national CZM policy. Chris responded that the development of the Strategy was being reigned in temporarily until the Canada Oceans Act becomes law. Provincial input will be sought when the Act is passed in Parliament. Initially the Advisory Committee will be composed of DFO representatives only; the Committee will refine the draft policy prior to consultation with other departments and the Provinces.

Sam Baird reported that the Canada Oceans Act should be brought back for its third reading soon. It would then go the Senate for approval. The original Act contained sections on ICZM and Sustainable Development. The Act has been revised to include the addition of a precautionary principle, the strengthening of the strategy for marine protected areas, and more references to the role of the Provinces and aboriginal groups. The Act identifies the Minister of Oceans as the steward for the oceans and DFO as the lead coordinator in matters relating to oceans management and CZM.

Sam stated that a draft Oceans Policy discussion document was being prepared. June 8 - Oceans Day - has been targeted for distributing the discussion document. Reaction and feedback will be sought throughout the fall of 1996. The process is expected to last 18 months; a final policy is anticipated late 1998/early 1999. However, this schedule is dependant on the passing of the Act. Chris stressed that partnerships will be needed to make the policy work once it is in place.

Sam added that the reports of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans were available from the BIO Library. Information is also available on the WWW.

Sam stressed that every ACZISC member should participate in strengthening the need for an Oceans Policy by identifying the economic benefits which can be derived. He suggested that member jurisdictions write letters to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans stating their requirements and concerns.

ACTION: ACZISC Secretariat and member jurisdictions to write letters to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans ASAP regarding their jurisdiction's requirements and concerns re CZM and Oceans Policy and the Canada Oceans Act. The letters should also include statements on how the policy could contribute to wealth generation in Atlantic Canada. To facilitate the process, the ACZISC Executive Committee will prepare guidelines for consideration by the members.

7. ***ROUND TABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ZONE ACTIVITIES***

GIAC ATLANTIC: Andy Power stated that GIAC was a national organization which now has an Atlantic Chapter. GANS is the provincial geomatics association in NS. The purpose of the associations is to increase business in the geomatics sector. Recently the two associations signed an MOU for coordination of their activities. Andy is the GIAC/GANS representative on the ACZISC.

Andy circulated copies of the November/December issue of GIAC News, pointing out that a new issue would be out in a week. He commented that the Newsletter indicated interesting trends, including high level briefings. Andy also distributed copies of the GANS President's Report presented at the GANS AGM on 19 March.

Andy stated that the Champlain Institute is receiving the support of the CMP. The Institute provides private sector links to international opportunities in geomatics. It also provides links to a large number of companies which supply services, software and information not related to geomatics. Heather Campbell has been appointed as the Executive Coordinator of the Institute. The Champlain Institute is linked to GIAC.

GIAC members are active in CZM projects internationally, in contrast to Canada where the recognition of the coastal zone and its economic spinoffs was moving very slowly. Major business opportunities are in the oil and gas industry, not in government.

Andy expressed concern that an expansion of the ACZISC mandate into CZM would not appear to be acceptable to the Maritime Geomatics Committee. He stated that private sector participation in the ACZISC must be driven by economic activity and opportunity. GIAC and GANS will be getting together before the next ACZISC meeting to identify what they expect from the ACZISC; support and participation by the private sector will depend on the continued relevancy of the ACZISC's Terms of Reference.

Andy stressed that the ACZISC must find the funds necessary to put a dollar value on the economic activity in the coastal zone. Mike Butler responded that funds were being identified and that he was optimistic that a study could be initiated shortly under the aegis of the OIC.

Andy stated that the private sector was awaiting the Canada Oceans Act and the Oceans Management Strategy.

NOVA SCOTIA: Art Longard stated that NS was the #1 province in Canada in terms of fisheries and that the #1 export product in NS was fish. CZM issues are very much "on the burner" in NS in terms of fisheries. Art stated that his new position as Director, Policy, Planning and Coastal Resources for the NS Department of Fisheries was a reflection of the Province's and his department's interest in CZM. NS has a great investment in the Canada Oceans Act and the developing Oceans Management Strategy and Policy. He commented that the Province must focus on the land side as the federal government was concentrating on the water side of the coastal zone.

Art reported that efforts re CZ 2000 and ICZM in NS were ongoing and that these efforts were converging.

Brad Fay reported that the NS Department of Municipal Affairs was coordinating efforts in NS in terms of publicizing land information. Land information will be available through the GeoNova system. NS is acknowledging that datasets are corporate resources. Multiple usage of the datasets is being encouraged and standards are being implemented to increase their usability. The resource departments are major holders of land information in the Province. A "travelling road show" is being developed to sell the concept throughout NS.

Brad stated that NS would like to enter into partnerships for building and maintaining datasets. Plans are being developed to collect data at the municipal level which could be used also at the provincial and federal levels. Currently discussions are ongoing with NRCan re the road network.

Standards are being developed for the "infrastructure" datasets. Departments producing thematic layers are being encouraged to develop standards which could be shared through the provincial standards mechanism.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Brian Nicholls reported that he had recently attended the Oceanology '96 Conference in the U.K. Other Canadian attendees included Diana Pethick, DFO Ottawa, Connie Carruthers, Industry Canada, several private sector companies and the Alliance for Marine Remote Sensing (formerly ACRSO). Brian added that the Global Ocean Observation System (GOOS) had significant potential for involvement by Canadian industry.

Chris Morry noted that Diana Pethick had resigned and that unfortunately her position as head of Ocean Industry for DFO Science would not be filled. He added that the Intergovernmental Oceans Committee (IOC) was quite active in promoting ocean industry; the chair of the IOC is Geoff Holland, Assistant Deputy Minister, DFO Ottawa. It was suggested that Geoff could be invited to attend the next ACZISC meeting to brief members on the work of the IOC.

ACTION: *ACZISC Secretariat to invite Geoff Holland, DFO Ottawa and Chair of the Intergovernmental Oceans Committee (IOC) to attend the upcoming ACZISC meeting to brief participants on IOC activities.*

Andy Sherin enquired as to the status of the coastal mapping projects undertaken by Bob Rutherford, DFO Scotia-Fundy Region and John Legault, DFO Gulf Region. Brian Nicholls replied that Bob was finishing his projects in NS; he added that Antigonish County remained to be completed. John Legault has submitted a proposal to carry out additional mapping in the Gulf Region.

Chris Morry commented that the two Regions were using different approaches to carry out the mapping. Scotia-Fundy is contributing 25% of the funds with the remainder coming from other sources. The mapping contains primarily TEK information and the projects are community-led. In the Gulf Region, the mapping is carried out by consultants and has a higher degree of accuracy. It was noted that the Scotia-Fundy and Gulf Regions have now been merged as the Maritimes Region.

François Boulanger reported that DFO Région Laurentienne was completing data inventory projects on coastal habitats and commercial resources in the Region. Areas inventoried include Blanc Sablon, North Shore, Gaspé Peninsula, Magdalene Islands, St. Lawrence Estuary, and the Saguenay River. The information is being mapped at 1:50 000. In addition "hot spot" inventories are being carried out for 10-15 areas; these will be mapped at 1:10 000. The data will be used to model habitat suitability and for zonal management. Mike Butler suggested to François that he may want to contact NOAA re their habitat modelling work in Casco Bay, Maine.

Fish habitat index modelling will also be done which uses all available data to characterize fish habitat. The models will be used to respond to oil spill emergencies, and contribute to environmental evaluation and fish habitat enhancement.

François added that a thematic atlas for the north of Québec and the St. Lawrence River was being produced. It will be available on the WWW.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the provincial Department of Fisheries are participating with the Canadian Wildlife Service and universities in Montréal to carry out a biodiversity study along the St. Lawrence River.

François stated that the above projects were being carried out with 80% "soft" money. The projects will come to an end when funding runs out.

Mike Butler circulated copies of a memo from Dale Nicholson describing recent activities at CHS (copy attached). Dale noted that Paul Bellemare's absence was due to the birth of his second child, Nicolas, born on 20 March (yesterday). ACZISC members extended their congratulations to the proud parents and Sophie, Nicolas' sister.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Eric Theriault reported major activity in sensitivity mapping and shellfish mapping. He stated that shellfish data was being converted to SPANS by Geoff Howell, including closure data from the mid 80s to 1994, the sanitary database and water quality data. Geoff stated that a desktop system was now in the hands of shellfish officers and that training courses are being developed for the officers.

Seabird data collected for PIROP will be available from Tony Locke; the coverage will extend from Labrador to the Bay of Fundy. It is anticipated that the inshore and offshore seabird database will be completed by the end of the year.

Eric stated that a project on biodiversity in the Annapolis Valley and changes in the coastline was being carried out with Acadia University using historic data from the 1700s to date.

A major initiative is under way in the Voiseys Bay region of Labrador to develop a wetland inventory and biodiversity index which includes Inuit TEK.

Joe Arbour reported that initial steps had been taken to develop a conservation strategy for Sable Island. He stated that DOE was continuing its monitoring of environmental quality, both on land and sea, in the context of the Canada Oceans Act (Bill C-98).

INDUSTRY CANADA: Connie Carruthers stated that she had a personal interest in matters relating to the oceans. She reported that Industry Canada would be developing a Canadian International Business Strategy (CIBS); she will play a major role in writing the Strategy. Two to three pages in the document's Resource Sector will be devoted to the Oceans. The Canada Oceans Act and the Oceans Management Strategy will be integral to the developing CIBS. Connie added that once the Act and Policy are in place, Industry Canada would develop an oceans-specific CIBS. The Department would be appreciative of private sector input in the development of the CIBS and a consultative process will take place.

Connie also reported on the Technology Partnerships Canada Program recently implemented. The Program has loan money available to support the development of enabling technology for environmental and biotechnology applications.

ACTION: ACZISC Secretariat to obtain documents re the Canadian International Business Strategy 1996/97 and Technology Partnerships Canada (TPC) by 15 April 1996 from Connie Carruthers, Industry Canada for distribution.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA/GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA - ATLANTIC: Andy Sherin reported that the GSC-Atlantic is undertaking a planning process re its science programs; major themes include: beyond the shelf deep ocean studies; global change (sea level); engineering geology (Sable Island, Hibernia); seafloor characterization; and coastal and nearshore. The GSC-Atlantic is involved in coastal research to predict the coastline in 50 years. Priority study areas are being determined from the "Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise" map previously published by the GSC; Andy added that large parts of the Maritime Provinces had been classified as very sensitive. The initial study area for the predictive research will be the North shore of PEI. Other potential areas are the upper Bay of Fundy and the South coast of Nova Scotia. Preliminary monitoring in PEI re saltmarsh coring for sea level history is being carried out. Saltmarsh coring will be continued in the upper Bay of Fundy. Andy added that the GSC-Atlantic was interested in partnerships to carry out this work; in PEI it will be working with Parks Canada and the Province.

A video survey of the Bras d'Or Lakes may be carried out.

Existing hard-copy mapping is being incorporated into the GSC-Atlantic information system.

Andy announced the 1996/1997 Shipbased Field Programs:

- CSS Hudson, 25 November - 7 December: Sable Island Bank and Slope
- CSS Matthew, 10-28 June: Grand Banks (Simrad EM100 Multibeam Survey)
- CSS Hart, 30 September - 11 October: Southwest Newfoundland
- CSS Creed, 2-24 August, Southwest Newfoundland (Simrad EM1000 Multibeam Survey), Sable Island Bank; 18 October - 16 November: Louisbourg, Sydney and Chedabucto Bay, Bay of Fundy
- CSS Parizeau, 1-16 June: Trawl impact; August 6-13: Nova Scotia Slope

A pamphlet entitled "Canadian Charter for Quality in Geomatics" prepared by Geomatics Canada of Natural Resources Canada was distributed by Andy.

Kimberley Edwardson reported on the coastal geomorphology mapping being carried out in Newfoundland by the GSC-Atlantic and the Province of Newfoundland. The mapping is being done at 1:50 000; 15 map sheets have been completed. Environment Canada and Eric Theriault are also involved in terms of the Sensitivity Mapping Program. Because of recent developments in Voiseys Bay, DOE is interested in extending the mapping to Labrador. There is also interest in mapping Bonavista Bay and Terra Nova National Park.

Réjean Castonguay asked if documentation was available re the shoreline classification system being used for the mapping. Kimberley reported that the system being used by the GSC-Atlantic is a combination of Ed Owen's system for oil spills and Don Howe's system being used on the West Coast. Documentation is available. She also stated that a paper had been written on the Newfoundland project.

ACTION: Kimberley Edwardson to provide documentation to Réjean Castonguay by 15 April 1996 re standards used by the GSC for shoreline classification.

Kimberley Edwardson to provide a copy of the paper documenting the joint Newfoundland/GSC-Atlantic Coastal Mapping project by 15 April 1996 to the Secretariat for distribution.

Kimberley and Andy stated that the GSC-Atlantic was supporting a coastal geomorphology program for the entire Atlantic Region.

NEW BRUNSWICK: Réjean Castonguay reported that the NBGIC was undergoing major restructuring in top management. There will one Director responsible for Assessment, Registry and Mapping combined. Also two registry offices will be closed.

Réjean commented that the development of a coastal zone management policy was continuing with public consultation. The 1996/97 NBGIC Coastal Mapping Program will direct its efforts to producing a digital orthophoto database of the NB shoreline. The Program is in the planning phase; RFPs are being prepared. A user requirement study is also being carried out. If supported by the study results, more mapping may be carried out.

Coastal mapping specifications are being developed by the ICOIN/Passamaquoddy Project. These specifications will become draft specifications for the NBGIC's Coastal Mapping Program.

8. **UPDATES**

ATLANTIC ACCORD ON THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF THE COASTAL ZONE: Mike Butler reported that the Accord had been distributed widely by the Oceans Institute of Canada (OIC) in Atlantic Canada and Ottawa. A Workshop was organized last fall; however, it was cancelled due to conflicting schedules. Another Workshop will be organized if there is a demand. It was suggested that the Province of Québec be included in the Accord to increase its effectiveness and relevance.

COASTAL ZONE CANADA '94 AND COASTAL ZONE CANADA '96: Mike Butler circulated copies of the CZC'96 Preliminary Program. The Conference is scheduled for 12-17 August 1996 in Rimouski. The deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended to 30 April. He added that Volume 6 of the CZC'94 Conference was in preparation. A committee is being formed to organize CZC'98 in either Victoria or Vancouver. The series of coastal conferences is being coordinated by the CZC Association.

ACTION: *Individuals to submit paper abstracts to the CZC'96 Conference by 30 April; for further information, contact Mohammed El-Sabh: Tel (418) 724-1707, Fax 724-1842, Email mohammed_el_sabh@uqar.quebec.ca*

ECONOMIC STUDY: Mike Butler reported that \$15K had been committed to date for the proposed study entitled "The Impact of Atlantic Canada's Coastal Zone Activities on the Economy of the Region and its Provinces". In addition, Marshall Moffat, DFO Ottawa, has committed an additional \$5K minimum and will contribute an additional \$5K on the proviso that the ACZISC locates \$5K from another source. The funds available for the study would then total \$30K. Mike circulated copies of the revised budget for the study (copy attached), which will be carried out under the auspices of the Oceans Institute of Canada.

Brad Fay commented that the CMP would be interested in the study. It was also suggested that the Province of Québec be included in the study area and that the Province be contacted re support for the study. Mike stated that he would follow up with Keith Wornell, Secretary to the CMP and the Province of Québec.

ACTION: *ACZISC Secretariat to seek funding support from the CMP ASAP for the proposed study entitled "The Impact of Atlantic Canada's Coastal Zone Activities on the Economy of the Region and its Provinces".*

ACZISC Secretariat to seek support for the proposed Economic Study from the Province of Québec ASAP.

GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: Brian Nicholls reported that the GoM Council had reached an interesting stage, that is the development of its second 5 year Action Plan. The Plan, developed by the GoM Working Group, will be presented to the Council for approval. The Plan focuses on Habitat. Marine mammals have been recently included.

9. ***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS***

Mike Butler circulated documents for review, including the CMP report "From Opportunity to Results" - an update and outlook on the Maritime Economic Initiative; the Oceans Studies Program at Dalhousie University; and the report of the DGPS Workshop held at BIO last October. Mike commented that individuals interested in obtaining copies of these documents or others mentioned earlier in the meeting should contact the ACZISC Secretariat.

Individuals interested in receiving information re the following documents may contact the ACZISC Secretariat: Maritime Geomatics Strategy and From Opportunity to Results - an update and outlook on the Maritime Economic Initiative (CMP documents); DGPS Workshop Report (October 1995, BIO); Ontario Shoreline Policy Report (paper presented at the CCSEA Conference, September 1995, Dartmouth); Coastal Zone Management in Canada (paper by Chris Morry, DFO Ottawa); ISO 9000; and Passamaquoddy/ICOIN documentation.

10. ***OTHER BUSINESS***

No new business was discussed.

11. ***NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT***

ACZISC Meeting #18 is provisionally scheduled for Thursday, 27 June 1996 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

ACZISC Meeting #17 adjourned at 17:00 hrs.