

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #1

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Date: January 15, 1992 - 13:00 hrs.

Location: Boardroom, Council of Maritime Premiers
5161 George Street, 10th Floor
Halifax, Nova Scotia

PRESENT:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Tel. No.</i>
Paul Bellemare	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	902-426-3497
Richard Belyea (substitute for Don Amos)	Public Works Canada	902-426-7670
Paul Boudreau (alternate for Paul Bellemare)	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO Geomatics Secretariat)	902-426-7564
Michael Butler, Chairperson	LRIS/CMP	902-424-5835
Larry Hildebrand	Environment Canada	902-426-9632
Peter Hill	Communications Canada	902-426-3810
Claudette LeBlanc, Secretariat	LRIS/CMP	902-667-7231
Lincoln MacLeod	Nova Scotia	902-485-8991
John Major	Transportation Canada	902-426-3939
Alan McIver (observer)	Environment Canada	902-426-9300
John Shaw (observer)	Energy, Mines and Resources Canada	902-426-6204
Andrew Sherin (observer)	Energy, Mines and Resources Canada	902-426-7582

1. **WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mike Butler called ACZISC Meeting #1 to order at 13:00 hrs and welcomed participants.

Committee members approved the agenda with the addition of two items:

- ACZISC Inventory of Databases
- Mont Ste-Marie Conference

Mike Butler introduced Emery Fanjoy, Secretary to the Council of Maritime Premiers. M. Fanjoy addressed the Committee regarding the Council's vision, commitment and approach to achieving economic self reliance for the Region and a better quality of life for Maritimers. This vision is outlined in a document circulated by M. Fanjoy, entitled *Challenge and Opportunity*, available from the Council Secretariat. He also distributed a backgrounder entitled *The Maritime Economic Initiative* (copy attached) which briefly scopes the Premiers' strategy for Maritime economic cooperation, including the guiding principles and goals and the potential areas of cooperation.

Emery Fanjoy challenged the Committee to ensure that the coastal zone and the oceans are identified as priority areas of concern by the Premiers in their strategic plans. He suggested that this could be carried out more effectively if the socio-economic and "heartfelt" perspective was emphasized, rather than the technical or scientific viewpoint.

2. **INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

A roundtable introduction of Committee members and other participants followed. It was announced by Mike Butler that Jim Ramsay, Director of the Real Property Records Division, Department of Finance, has been appointed as Prince Edward Island's representative on the Committee. Discussions re appointments by New Brunswick and Newfoundland and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources are ongoing; announcements are expected shortly. An up-to-date list of Committee members is attached.

Paul Bellemare, Director of the Canadian Hydrographic Service (Atlantic), informed the participants that he has been appointed to represent all branches of the three DFO Regions in Atlantic Canada: Gulf, Scotia/Fundy, and Newfoundland. A Sub-group within each Region is being formed to assist Paul Bellemare re Atlantic-wide DFO activities of relevance to the ACZISC.

3. **TERMS OF REFERENCE (1st Draft)**

Draft #1 of the ACZISC's proposed *Terms of Reference* was circulated to the participants as a discussion document and reviewed briefly. It was recommended that a short preamble be added to the *Terms of Reference* to educate the readers as to the rationale for the Committee and its activities. The document should also address Emery Fanjoy's recommendation that senior federal/provincial politicians and bureaucrats be made aware of the importance of the coastal zone and the oceans to the living standards and the socio-economic fabric of Atlantic Canada.

ACTION: Committee members to review Draft #1 of the ACZISC proposed *Terms of Reference* and provide comments to the Chairperson by Friday, January 24. The Secretariat will revise the document accordingly and distribute Draft #2 at the next Committee meeting for further discussion.

4. **BRIEF REVIEW OF COASTAL ZONE ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA**

The ACZISC members and other participants provided brief updates on the status of various coastal zone programs and other activities.

ACTION: At subsequent meetings of the ACZISC, participants to provide Secretariat with brief summaries of their coastal zone programs and subsequent activity updates for inclusion in the minutes and other ACZISC documents.

NOVA SCOTIA COASTAL ISSUE GROUP/LRIS COASTAL PROGRAM: Lincoln MacLeod, Chairperson of the Coastal Issue Group, informed the participants that the Group is now active. It has held its first meeting, the Terms of Reference have been documented and the delegates appointed by the participating provincial departments. The Group will be acting as Scientific Authority to the Nova Scotia Coastal Program currently being implemented at LRIS Amherst. The next meeting of the Issue Group will take place in Amherst on January 24 at which time discussions will focus on the *deliverables* of the LRIS Coastal Program.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA/ACOA PROPOSAL AND HYDROGRAPHIC CHARTING: Paul Bellemare briefed the participants on the \$25 million proposal (\$5 million over 5 years) to develop a coastal zone information infrastructure. The proposal was submitted by DFO to ACOA under the Cooperation Agreement. The proposal has been signed by the DFO Deputy Minister and support is currently being sought from the four Atlantic Provinces. The proposal focuses on job creation, initially at the low skill/high tech level but leading to high skill/high tech employment.

CHS has earmarked \$9.6 million to establish an infrastructure for Electronic Hydrographic Charting. The project will be funded by the Green Plan following recommendations by the Brander Smith Panel on Tanker Safety.

ATLANTIC COASTAL ACTION PROGRAM (ACAP): Larry Hildebrand advised the meeting participants that ACAP has been expanded to 13 sites. Many of the sites are operational with local steering committees and coordinators working towards identified goals. ACAP provides an example of how information management can be a key component of coastal zone management.

ESRF RFP (Newfoundland): Mike Butler distributed a document (copy attached to minutes) which outlines the ESRF Request for Proposals re an Environmental Sensitivity Atlas for coastal and offshore western Newfoundland.

NOAA STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT PROJECT: Mike Butler distributed copies of a document which outlines the NOAA Strategic Assessment Project. Follow-up activities are anticipated.

ICOIN PROJECT OFFICE: The Atlantic ICOIN Task Force, chaired by Paul Bellemare, was established to develop an Action Plan for the implementation of ICOIN. In its final report submitted to DFO and the Champlain Institute, the Task Force recommended the establishment of an ICOIN Project Office. The Office, funded by DFO for the next 3 years and now operational, is managed by Hank Jones of MEDS (Marine Environmental Data Service) under the guidance of the ICOIN Steering Committee. The ICOIN Project Office is mandated to provide a national perspective for DFO's ICOIN activities; a priority of the Office is the development of a national database directory. The ACZISC will have access to the services provided by the ICOIN Project Office.

ATLANTIC GEOSCIENCE CENTRE (AGC): John Shaw and Andy Sherin informed the participants re the status of coastal zone information management activities taking place at the AGC and elsewhere. The activities at AGC include: ongoing delivery of shoreline videos, the most recent being the south coast of Newfoundland flown last October; surveys of Bouctouche (NB), Chedabucto Bay (NS) and Bay d'Espoir (Nfld) as part of ongoing studies of the effects of long-term sea-level rise; surveys of parts of Notre Dame Bay (Nfld) under the Canada Newfoundland Cooperative Agreement on Mineral Development; preparation of a map showing the effects of sea-level rise on the coastline of Canada

(including shoreline classification); development of a database of coastline information for Newfoundland using INFocus, and the investigation of appropriate data structures for coastal information using a prototype system based on PC Arc/Info.

The participants provided details of other activities of relevance to AGC which include: an ESRF project on the west coast of Newfoundland carried out by GeoSurvey; production of 22 map sheets at 1:50,000 on Bedrock and Surficial Geology for the Gulf of Maine Region by Ken Howells of the Nova Scotia Research Foundation; and a project on shoreline characterization which integrates video information carried out by Peter Wainright of LGL.

PUBLIC WORKS CANADA: Richard Belyea stated that Public Works is addressing the issues of digital data transfer and symbolization; international standards are being reviewed. The Department is also carrying out pilot projects which will determine the implications of using data produced by other sources (format conversion problems, etc.). Public Works is participating in the Interdepartmental Committee on Charting, chaired by Paul Bellemare. This Committee is dealing with the issue of standards as they relate to charting.

FMG DATABASE: Alan McIver reported that contracts for the distribution of the Bay of Fundy, Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank Resource and Environmental Database have been negotiated by Environment Canada with AXSES Inc and LRIS. Recent initiatives regarding the FMG Database include: feasibility of conversion to SPANS and INFocus; use as a reference framework and index for higher resolution information; adoption by the Gulf of Maine Data and Information Management Committee as a building block in a regional information system; and forming of an FMG Steering Committee to monitor the update of the Database.

ACTION: Secretariat to develop a schematic to clarify the relationship between the ACZISC and other committees and programs in Atlantic Canada.

SENSITIVITY MAPPING: The issue of Sensitivity Mapping is being addressed at the national level. Paul Boudreau attended a Workshop in British Columbia which focused on an extended scenario/pilot project involving a simulated oil spill. A Sensitivity Mapping Workshop will take place at on the east coast at BIO on February 17 to 19. An Implementation Plan for Sensitivity Mapping is anticipated by the end of March. DFO has funds available for Sensitivity Mapping.

ICOD FORUM: The Forum *Seeking Sustainable Development of the Oceans* was held last November in Halifax and attracted worldwide participation. Although the Forum focused primarily on oceans, the interrelationship between economic decisions, environmental actions and human well-being is a theme common to both the oceans and their fringing coastal zones. A synthesis of the ideas discussed and actions recommended will be published by ICOD. The Forum served as one of Canada's contributions to the process of organizing UNCED (described below).

UNCED '92 CONFERENCE: The *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development* (UNCED) is being organized under the auspices of the General Assembly of the United Nations. This major international event will be significant in determining the future direction of governments when dealing with the interlinking problems of environment and development. One of the agenda items to be discussed at UNCED is the "Integrated Management and Sustainable Development of Coastal Areas, Exclusive Economic Zones and Marine Ecosystems". UNCED will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 1-12, 1992.

CANUSLANT '92: John Major briefed the participants on this exercise, scheduled for the last week of September 1992, which is being planned by the Canadian and U.S. Coast Guards. One planning meeting has taken place to date. The lack of available and appropriate data and information has been identified by the Coast Guard as a significant problem when dealing with emergency exercises.

COASTAL CONFERENCE AT MONT STE-MARIE: This Conference, attended by several of the ACZISC members, addressed numerous coastal zone issues, including jurisdiction, provincial legislation, etc. It was recommended by the participants that a similar meeting should be organized regionally in cooperation with the Canadian Coastal Committee.

5. **PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION**

Committee members recommended that the ACZISC Secretariat consider the preparation of a Committee Newsletter and Annual Report for distribution to the participants of the Coastal Zone Information Workshop held in Amherst in July, 1991 and to other interested individuals. The members must also clearly document ACZISC deliverables with associated descriptions/guidelines and schedules for delivery.

The Chairperson circulated documents for review and distributed copies of announcements, etc.; copies of these are attached to the minutes. Larry Hildebrand brought to the Committee's attention the *Proceedings of the Ocean Information Systems Workshop*, held at Dalhousie University on June 24, 1991.

6. **ACOA GEOMATICS STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FUNDS: COASTAL SECTOR**

Mike Butler distributed copies of the ACOA Atlantic Geomatics Alliance announcement. An objective of the ACOA Alliance is the development of expertise and products by the private sector which can be marketed outside the region. The ownership of the project deliverables will reside with the consortia or companies.

Mike briefly reviewed the Annapolis River and Passamaquoddy Bay Project Proposals being drafted by private sector consortia. He urged that the ACZISC encourage cooperation between these consortia to ensure complementarity of the proposals, thereby encouraging the development of a private sector critical mass in this sector and contributing to the development of a regional information system.

7. **PRESENTATIONS BY PRIVATE SECTOR**

• **ANNAPOLIS ESTUARY PROJECT**

Simeon Roberts of UMA and Bill Jones of Nova Airborne Technologies made a presentation to the ACZISC on behalf of the Annapolis Estuary Project consortium which is preparing a proposal for submission to the ACOA Atlantic Geomatics Alliance. The other consortium members are ASA, Barry Mooney and Associates, Canadian Seabed Research, and H.T. Ripley and Associates.

The consortium is preparing a proposal to develop an Information System for the Annapolis River watershed. The objectives of the proposed project are: to increase user access to data through smart and user-friendly systems, including via networks; to develop interactive communication tools and decision support tools, e.g., artificial intelligence; to develop dynamic models for forecasting and simulation; to demonstrate the potential of integrating GIS and remote sensing; and to demonstrate the linking of municipal systems and models with provincial, federal and international systems.

The consortium is looking for letters of support for the concept and would like to negotiate MOUs with government departments re government contributions to the project. The consortium is also negotiating with potential investors. The Executive Summary from the project proposal, including an outline of support needed, will be distributed to the ACZISC members for their information.

- **CIN PROJECT**

Norval Collins of CEF Consultants Ltd made a presentation on the proposed Coastal Information Network (CIN) on behalf of the consortium which carried out the study. The other consortium members are Arctic Sciences Ltd, Earth and Oceans Research Ltd, and NSTN Inc. The CIN Project was initiated as a result of the activities of the ICOIN Task Force. The final report of the study will be available to the ACZISC in early February.

The CIN study was carried out for the federal departments of Environment and Fisheries and Oceans and the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries. It was partially funded by the Technology Transfer and Industrial Innovation Cooperation Agreement, a joint program of the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada. The report recommends the implementation of CIN in response to the need of the departments for a tool to access routinely shared data in an efficient manner. CIN would directly link the departments via a wide-area network, providing remote access to data while ensuring confidentiality and security. The use of a transparent interface would further facilitate access.

The cost of building CIN is estimated to be approximately \$300,000.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

ACZISC DATABASE INVENTORY: Paul Bellemare suggested that the ACZISC prepare an Inventory of Databases using information from the Environment Canada Catalogue of Environmental Data in Atlantic Canada and the Champlain Institute Directory of Marine Data Sets (1991), supplemented with additional information. A subset of the ACZISC Inventory of Databases could be made available to the Gulf of Maine Data and Information Management Committee for its directory requirements. The ICOIN Project Office would be asked to participate in this project. The Committee agreed with Paul's suggestion and urged that the process begin immediately.

ACTION: Mike Butler to contact the Champlain Institute re the possibility of accessing a digital copy of the Champlain Institute Directory of Marine Data Sets (1991) for incorporation into the ACZISC Inventory of Databases.

ACTION: Paul Boudreau to contact the ICOIN Project Office (Hank Jones) and Environment Canada (Clarence Spencer - tel 426-7123) for input into the computerized production of the ACZISC Inventory of Databases by March 31, 1992.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

ACZISC Meeting #2 was set for 13:00 hrs - Wednesday, February 19, 1992 in the LRIS Boardroom, 1660 Hollis Street, 6th Floor, Centennial Building, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

ACZISC Meeting #1 was adjourned at 16:30 hrs.