

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #23

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Date: Thursday, 26 February 1998

Location: PTV Room, Ground Floor
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Bedford Row, Halifax, NS

NAME	AFFILIATION	TEL. NO.
Present: * indicates ACZISC member		
Don Amos*	Public Works and Government Services Canada	(902) 496-5009
Bill Blight*	Public Works and Government Services Canada	(902) 496-5160
Paul Boudreau	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(902) 426-7464
Jim Bradford	National Defence	(902) 427-7417
Michael Butler*, Chair	Oceans Institute of Canada and Council of Maritime Premiers	(902) 494-1977
Andy Cameron*	Province of Nova Scotia	(902) 424-0406
Heather Campbell	GANS/GIAC Atlantic and Champlain Institute (representing Paul Currie*)	(902) 463-3990
Réjean Castonguay*	Province of New Brunswick	(506) 453-3917
Norval Collins	CEF Consultants	(902) 425-4802
Graham Daborn	Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Project/ Acadia University	(902) 542-2201
Brad Fay*	Province of Nova Scotia	(902) 424-4966
Larry Hildebrand*	Environment Canada	(902) 426-9632
Barry Jones*	Province of New Brunswick	(506) 444-5749
Laureen Kinney	Canadian Hydrographic Service	(902) 426-3497
Claudette LeBlanc	Oceans Institute of Canada	(902) 494-1977
John Legault	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(506) 851-6221
Colleen Mercer-Clarke	Commission for Environmental Cooperation	(902) 492-6761
Neil Munro*	Canadian Heritage	(902) 426-2797
Robin Neale	Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic	(902) 426-7582
Dale Nicholson	Canadian Hydrographic Service	(902) 426-4581
Charles O'Reilly	Canadian Hydrographic Service	(902) 426-5344
Jim Ramsay*	Province of Prince Edward Island	(902) 368-4075
Faith Scattolon*	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(902) 426-2065
Andy Sherin*	Natural Resources Canada	(902) 426-7582
Curt Speight	NS Geomatics Centre	(902) 667-7231
Eric Theriault*	Environment Canada	(902) 426-9558

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

Mike Butler, ACZISC Chair, called Meeting #23 to order at 08:30 hrs. He welcomed members and guests and thanked Don Amos and Bill Blight for making arrangements for the meeting room and Public Works and Government Services Canada for providing lunch. A roundtable introduction of all participants followed.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA, AND REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING #22**

The provisional Agenda for Meeting #23 was reviewed and approved (copy attached). The minutes of ACZISC Meeting #22 were reviewed and the following revisions were made:

Page 3: **NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA:** 3rd bullet "A deep-water (40 m) multi-disciplinary project in the Bay of Fundy was completed recently; the project was carried out with the CHS."... *should read* "**A multi-disciplinary project** in the Bay of Fundy was completed recently; the project was carried out with **the NS Department of Natural Resources** and the CHS."...

Page 4: **ENVIRONMENT CANADA:** 2nd bullet ... "Meetings and discussions are taking place to explore interest in creating an umbrella, combined program and building linkages."... *should read* "Meetings and discussions are taking place **with other federal departments and the Provinces** to explore interest in creating an umbrella, combined program and building linkages."...

3rd bullet "The U.S Coastal Society met in July (Williamsburg, Virginia) and focused on data and information." *should read* "The U.S Coastal Society **will meet in July 1998** (Williamsburg, Virginia) and **one focus will be** on data and information."

The minutes were approved with the above revisions. The revised minutes will be posted in the ACZISC website at <http://is.dal.ca/aczisc/info.htm> in WP5.1 format.

3. **STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS**

The status of the Action Items from Meeting #22 was reviewed. All Action Items were carried out or are in progress other than the following:

ACTION 22.12: ACZISC Secretariat to prepare a one-page document ASAP for distribution to community groups and associations offering the ACZISC Homepage as a Clearinghouse for community information.

STATUS: Mike commented that the Secretariat required clearer direction re this action. Brad Fay stated that the intent was for the ACZISC to offer communities a "bulletin board" service which could be used by communities to post information re projects and upcoming events. Faith Scattolon added that an example of such a service established for that purpose was the Fundy Communications Council. Its area of focus is the Bay of Fundy Region.

ACTION 23.1: ACZISC Secretariat to prepare a one-page flyer ASAP for distribution to community groups offering to establish a "bulletin board" for community information.

4. **ACZISC WORKPLAN**

MEMBERSHIP: Mike Butler reported on the status of ACZISC membership and welcomed several new members:

Canadian Heritage: Francine Mercier has resigned as the representative of Canadian Heritage on the ACZISC. She has been replaced by Neil Munro, Science Adviser for Parks Canada Atlantic.

Public Works and Government Services Canada: Don Amos will be retiring during the 1998/99 fiscal year. Bill Blight, Regional Manager Spatial Technology Resources, will be replacing him. PWGSC will be jointly represented by Don and Bill until Don's retirement.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada: A letter will be sent to Neil Bellefontaine, RDG, DFO Maritimes Region, to request official replacements for Paul Bellemare and Brian Nicholls on the ACZISC. Faith Scattolon will represent DFO on a pro tem basis.

Province of New Brunswick: Barry Jones, Sustainable Development Coordinator, NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, is joining Réjean Castonguay in representing the Province of New Brunswick.

Province of Nova Scotia: Mike commented on the sadness felt by ACZISC members at the death of Art Longard last December. Art had been a strong supporter and active member of the ACZISC and the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. His wise and thoughtful advice as a member of the ACZISC Executive Committee will be missed.

Andy Cameron, Policy, Planning and Coastal Resources, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, will be replacing Art on a pro tem basis as the second member from Nova Scotia.

Province of Newfoundland: Discussions re Newfoundland's participation on the ACZISC will be taking place in the Province. Leslie Grattan, Deputy Minister of the Nfld Department of Environment and Labour will initiate this process. Randy Gillespie will participate in the discussions.

National Defence: Mike reported that Lt Cmdr Jim Bradford would be participating in the meeting as an observer.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Nothing new to report.

Aboriginal Representation: The Secretariat has been in contact with Ken Paul, CHS. Ken is currently doing his Masters degree at UNB and has expressed interest in representing the Atlantic Policy Congress (APC) of First Nation Chiefs on the ACZISC. This will be confirmed with John Paul, Director, APC.

Larry Hildebrand commented that the membership of the ACZISC had evolved in that most of the jurisdictions were now represented by two members, one member with infomatics and/or science responsibilities and the other policy. Mike added that the ACZISC operates on consensus and so the number of members is only limited by logistics.

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

WORKPLAN/BUDGET/FUNDING: Mike distributed copies of the 1996/97 and 1997/98 Budget and the Membership Dues Revenue Summary 1996-1998 (copies attached). He reviewed the federal and provincial contributions to the ACZISC since its establishment in 1992 and briefed members on changes to the 1997/98 budget since its preparation by Jennifer Barr, OIC Financial Officer, on 17 February.

Mike stated the following:

- A proposal entitled *The Role of the ACZISC in the Implementation of the Oceans Act* was submitted to the DFO Deputy Minister for federal funding. Mr. Wouters responded that funding for the ACZISC was a DFO Maritimes Region responsibility. The issue of matching federal funding remains unresolved.
- Clarification on the outstanding dues from NACOM and Industry Canada will be sought.
- The deadline for depositing funds to cover the end of March payroll is 20 March.
- The ACZISC financial situation is critical and decisions re its future will have to be made at today's meeting. He asked for comments.

Faith Scattolon stated the following:

- Mr. Wouters considers that federal funding support for the ACZISC should come from all of the federal departments represented on the Committee.
- The DFO Nfld and Laurentian Regions consider funding for the ACZISC to be primarily a Maritimes Region issue because of the minimal participation by the Provinces of Québec and Nfld.
- A meeting was held recently at BIO to review federal funding options for the ACZISC; responses are being received. The DFO objective is to deal with the immediate financial problem and then to organize a federal funding formula for the next two years.

Larry Hildebrand reported that he and Eric Theriault had attended meetings to brief senior EC staff on the ACZISC and its activities. The ACZISC is considered to be a valuable organization by EC.

Andy Sherin reported that the GSC Atlantic did not have excess year end funds and as such was not in a position to make additional contributions to the ACZISC this fiscal year. He added that the ACZISC may have to reduce its level of activity if funding is not forthcoming.

Neil Munro stated that this year Parks Canada would become the Canadian Parks Agency and its budget will be reduced. Parks Canada membership on the ACZISC has been delegated to the Atlantic region; however, the 1998/99 dues will be paid by Parks Canada in Ottawa as in previous years. Future contributions to the ACZISC will be based on the value of the ACZISC to the new Agency.

Bill Blight commented that decisions re the future of the ACZISC should be made by the Committee as a whole. He added that funding problems often impact negatively on productivity and that billing plans should be considered for future years to generate the revenue required to pay salaries and other expenditures on time.

Barry Jones stated that ACZISC funding issues should not be the sole responsibility of the ACZISC Secretariat and that the Executive Committee should address these problems.

It was agreed that the ACZISC Executive Committee would meet on 4 March to review the financial situation. Faith Scattolon was designated as the replacement for Paul Bellemare, and Brad Fay for Art Longard on the Executive Committee. Brent Rowley is the private sector representative. It was also agreed that the federal members would address the federal funding problems by 20 March.

ACTION 23.2: *ACZISC Executive Committee to meet on 4 March to review the ACZISC financial situation to year end and for fiscal years 1998/99 and 1999/2000.*

ACTION 23.3: *Federal ACZISC members to address the issue of a formula for matching federal funds by 20 March.*

Mike reported that Council of Maritime Premiers (CMP) funding for the ACZISC had been a stable and critical source of revenue for the ACZISC. A 2nd MOU between the Oceans Institute of Canada (OIC) and the CMP re the ACZISC has been negotiated as per the recommendations of the CMP Maritime Geomatics Committee. Jim Ramsay, advisor to the PEI member of the Maritimes Geomatics Committee, briefed participants on the MOU:

- The initial agreement between the OIC and the CMP covered the three-year period 1994-1997. The 2nd agreement is for the three-year period 1997-2000. The level of funding remains \$50K per year.
- The conditions of the agreement are that the Database Directory be updated; that annual reports be produced; and that provincial dues remain at the 1996/97 level of \$1500.
- Flexibility has been built into the agreement; the ACZISC can now be involved in ICZM projects in addition to information management.

Faith Scattolon commented that the Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP) Program could be another source of funding support for ACZISC projects. The goal of the CRP is to support rural community development with new approaches and practices. Project funds are available. In Atlantic Canada, the CRP is managed through an office in Cape Breton. DFO staff met with representatives of the CRP Program in January; Carla Dale is the contact person within DFO. Faith suggested that Mike contact the Director of the Cape Breton Office to discuss other opportunities.

ACTION 23.4: *ACZISC Secretariat to contact the Canadian Rural Partnership Program ASAP to discuss possible funding opportunities for ACZISC projects.*

Mike stated that Carla had been in contact with him regarding an ACZISC proposal and subsequently an exploratory letter had been submitted to the CRPP by Carla.

Paul Boudreau questioned if there was a requirement to revise the ACZISC Terms of Reference as the value of the ACZISC was tied to them. It was stated that the ACZISC had recently undergone a major review, including its Terms of Reference. Paul enquired if the Terms of Reference were available from the ACZISC Homepage. Claudette LeBlanc replied that they were not but that they could be easily posted.

ACTION 23.5: *Claudette LeBlanc to post the ACZISC Terms of Reference on the ACZISC Homepage ASAP.*

Andy Sherin commented that a well-functioning Executive Committee would be useful to the overall operation of the ACZISC. The Executive Committee could be responsible for staff accountability and the budget. Mike added that the role of the ACZISC, however, should be decided by the Committee as a whole. It was agreed that operating guidelines for the Secretariat should be developed.

ACTION 23.6: *ACZISC Secretariat and Executive Committee to develop operating guidelines for the ACZISC Secretariat for presentation to the ACZISC at the next ACZISC meeting.*

Brad Fay added that the ACZISC becoming an association would be one way of formalizing the operation of the ACZISC. This has been discussed at previous ACZISC meetings but the Secretariat has not received any comments from members re this suggestion, as actioned. Brad suggested that this be re-actioned.

ACTION 23.7: ACZISC members to gauge support within their jurisdiction ASAP for the possibility of the ACZISC becoming a registered non-profit association or society (to include a Board of Directors, etc.) and provide comments to the Secretariat.

COMMUNICATIONS: The ACZISC Communications Working Group is chaired by Mike Butler. He reported that the ACZISC Homepage was becoming the major ACZISC communication medium, in particular the ACZISC "Meeting Highlights and Minutes" and the "What's New" sections. In addition monthly updates are emailed to members and a growing distribution list of ACZISC associates.

Brad Fay stated that it was important to maintain a design for the ACZISC Homepage which made it suitable to print in hard-copy. Mike added that the Secretariat distributes the Homepage in hard-copy format as an information document on a regular basis.

Claudette LeBlanc distributed user statistics for the ACZISC Homepage for the period 1 October 1997 to 23 February 1998 (copy attached). During that period ACZISC web pages were accessed a total of 2628 times, an average of 548 times per month.

Other ACZISC hard-copy documents include:

- The ACZISC Project and Program History document, formerly known as Project Updates, is updated on a regular basis and serves as a historical record of ACZISC activities; it is also useful as means of briefing new ACZISC members.
- The Minutes are distributed to ACZISC members and to associates who have requested a hard-copy.
- The Coastal Zone Info newsletter is included in the registration packages of related conferences and workshops.

Paul Boudreau reinforced the requirement for the ACZISC to continue making information available in hard-copy format in addition to electronic format.

The requirement for the ACZISC Listserver currently housed at DFO/BIO was discussed. It was suggested that the Communication Working Group address this issue.

ACTION 23.8: ACZISC Communications Working Group to review the requirement for an ACZISC ListServer ASAP.

Don Amos suggested that a more prominent link to the ACZISC Homepage be included in the Homepage for the Atlantic Coastal Zone Database Directory. This would help to publicize the ACZISC Homepage.

ACTION 23.9: Claudette LeBlanc to add a "prominent" link to the ACZISC Homepage in the Database Directory Homepage ASAP.

Mike reminded members to bring notes re their Roundtable Review presentations as this was very helpful for the preparation of minutes.

DATABASE DIRECTORY: The Database Directory Working Group is chaired by Claudette LeBlanc. She provided user statistics for the Atlantic Coastal Zone Database Directory. The number of individuals who carry out searches on the Directory continue to average approximately 200 per month. These searches result in approximately 1500 to 2000 database description reports being generated monthly.

The update of the Database Directory will be initiated in April. An electronic form will be developed to allow database managers to update their database entries online; hard-copy forms will also be available.

The ACZISC Secretariat will be meeting with personnel from the NS Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs on 27 February to discuss ongoing collaboration re the update of the ACZISC and the NS database directories.

The strategy meeting to discuss possible linkages between the Database Directory and other similar initiatives, the status of various metadata standards, and the restructuring of the Directory database will be held as soon as possible.

ACTION 23.10: ACZISC Secretariat to initiate the update of the ACZISC Database Directory ASAP.

ACTION 23.11: ACZISC Database Directory Working Group to organize a strategy workshop ASAP to review future directions for the ACZISC Database Directory.

Jim Ramsay reported on an inventory of geographical data, databases, maps, and reports being compiled for PEI. The inventory is being produced as part of the Knowledge Economy Program of the PEI Department of Economic Development. The project is making use of the information pertaining to PEI contained in the ACZISC Database Directory.

COASTAL MAPPING: The Coastal Mapping Working Group is co-chaired by Curt Speight, NSGC and Eric Theriault, EC. Eric reported that an ACZISC Coastal Mapping Meeting to review federal programs had been held on 25 February 1998 at the NS Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs, Halifax. The programs reviewed were the Community-Based Coastal Resource Mapping Projects - Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia and the Bay of Fundy, and the Coastal Habitat Mapping Project - Gulf of St. Lawrence, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; the Coastal Information System, Geological Survey of Canada Atlantic, Natural Resources Canada; and the Atlantic Region Sensitivity Mapping Program, Environment Canada.

The goals of the meeting were to identify collaborative opportunities in thematic coastal mapping, and to identify factors which inhibit the flow of data and information between the respective programs and to other users. The technical issues related to data exchange will be discussed at a future meeting.

The participants made the following recommendations:

- Guiding principles, which will benefit the wider coastal community, should be developed for use by federal departments in the preparation of their Data Distribution Policies. This could be a collaborative initiative of the ACZISC and the federal Working Group on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (4 NR committee).
- Mapping program managers should document the problems and positive experiences encountered when using data from other sources and make this available to the data providers.

- A meeting should be organized to review provincial data distribution policies.

A meeting report will be prepared and distributed by the ACZISC Secretariat.

Participants of ACZISC Meeting #23 discussed and concurred with the recommendations. The following comments were made:

Mike Butler: Data exchange is hindered by cost-recovery and unresolved questions re ownership. Currently data exchange occurs primarily through partnership agreements, but also informally "under-the-table". The private sector has difficulty accessing data.

Andy Sherin: Ownership is a factor which often restricts how data can be used.

Norval Collins: It is important to differentiate between data and information. As a rule, consultants require access to information.

John Legault: There are organizational policies which determine what data and information are available and to whom.

Faith Scattolon: DFO should be sensitive to the needs of the private sector. Their perspective should be considered when the ACZISC and its Working Groups make recommendations.

Paul Boudreau: There is also a need to share mapped information in the form of "pictures" or graphics; technology is available to make this possible. Norval Collins added that the Shellfish Growing Area maps which have been posted on the WWW by EC are a good example of this application and are easy to access and use.

Eric Theriault thanked the meeting participants for their comments. He added that the process of communicating re data and information exchange has begun. It will be continued in a series of meetings dealing with provincial issues.

ACTION 23.12: ACZISC Secretariat to contact the chair of the federal Working Group on ICZM (4 NR Committee) to discuss the preparation of Guiding Principles for Data Distribution Policies.

ACTION 23.13: ACZISC Coastal Mapping Working Group and Secretariat to organize a meeting of provincial coastal mapping representatives to review data distribution and compatibility issues prior to next ACZISC meeting.

DATA EXCHANGE AND STANDARDS: The Data Exchange and Standards Working Group is co-chaired by Réjean Castonguay, NBGIC, and Andy Sherin, GSC Atlantic. Réjean reported that he and Andy were making efforts to organize a workshop. The purpose of the workshop would be to identify the standards-related programs and activities being carried out in Canada and the role, if any, of the ACZISC in implementing standards; and to review the status of the developing Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) and its relationship to other similar national and international initiatives.

Réjean stated that he had discussions with various individuals who have been active in standards at a conference in Regina last fall, including David McKellar, National Defence. David would be one of the individuals invited to attend the workshop.

Réjean added that a pilot application could be initiated to apply the results and recommendations of the proposed ACZISC workshop. The Province of NB would be interested in participating in such an activity and may be able to fund some of the costs as this would be helpful to designing and building the NB coastal database.

Andy Sherin stated that he would be meeting with Herman Varma, CHS, to discuss the rapid development of standards at the international level. Herman is active in the ISO and will be invited to participate in the Data Exchange and Standards Workshop.

ACTION 23.14: ACZISC Data Exchange and Standards Working Group and Secretariat to organize an "awareness meeting/workshop" prior to next meeting.

Andy will be participating in the 10th International Geomatics Conference scheduled for 9-11 June 1998 in Ottawa. The theme of the Conference is *Spatial Data Infrastructures*. The Conference will examine the policies, initiatives, technologies and applications leading to national and international geospatial information infrastructures. Andy will be reporting on the Conference deliberations at the next ACZISC meeting. (For further information on the Conference, check the website <http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/sdi98/>)

A CGDI Newsgroup has been proposed as a public forum to discuss issues relating to geospatial data discovery, accessibility and utility using the following themes: Partnerships; Supportive Policies; Geospatial Standards; Geospatial Data Access; and Framework Data. The Newsgroup would be moderated to ensure that it remains focused and to minimize spam (unsolicited commercial email).

5. ***PRESENTATION: BAY OF FUNDY ECOSYSTEM PROJECT***

Graham Daborn, Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research, Acadia University, made a presentation on the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Project (BOFEP). He and Larry Hildebrand distributed summaries of BOFEP (copies attached).

Graham made the following points:

- The Bay of Fundy has generated considerable scientific interest over the past several years.
- In the 1970s, concerns re tidal power development resulted in the formation of the Fundy Environmental Studies Committee. The Committee's activities came to an end in 1982 after interest in tidal power development subsided.
- Recent studies have changed the understanding of "processes" in the Bay of Fundy, e.g., geological studies carried out by Gordon Fader/GSC Atlantic, bird studies/EC, DFO, etc. The need to bring in "non-scientific" concerns has also been identified.
- BOFEP was initiated at a meeting in November 1997 as a mechanism for cooperation and communication re managing the Bay of Fundy. The meeting was attended by stakeholders in the Bay of Fundy region, including resource users such as fishers and community groups, federal departments, the Provinces, academics, etc.
- There is presently no relationship between BOFEP and the GoM. However, BOFEP could play an integral role in implementing some aspects of the GoM Action Plan, in particular pollution control and habitat monitoring in relation to the Bay of Fundy. A presentation on BOFEP will be made to the GoM.
- The next step is to hold a more comprehensive workshop to obtain a buy-in from more stakeholders.

Larry Hildebrand commented that several similar initiatives were seeking support, including BOFEP, CEC, GOM Institute Without Walls, GOM, etc. He stated that it was important that the relationship between these initiatives be identified. Graham stated that linkages with other relevant organizations will be explored.

6. **ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ZONE ACTIVITIES**

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Larry Hildebrand reported the following:

- The Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville is participating in the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre project. The focus of the Centre will be biological data relating to rare and endangered species; a pilot phase is being initiated. Larry distributed copies of a newsletter describing the Centre (copy attached). He requested that ACZISC members read the newsletter, consider possible relationships between the Centre and the ACZISC and contact Kate Bredin, program coordinator, with comments.
- Larry has been invited by the IUCN (World Conservation Union) to participate in meetings on Coastal Conservation of Atlantic Shorelines to be held in Paris in May. One of the topics will be data acquisition and knowledge.

Eric Theriault reported:

- EC will be participating with the U.S. in a multi-disciplinary exercise re storm surges in the latter part of April. He requested information on storm surges.
- The Atlantic Sensitivity Mapping Program is continuing. A contract is being awarded for the shoreline classification of the west coast of Newfoundland, which will be added to the pre-spill database.
- A meeting of the NS Regional Development Authorities (RDAs) mapping focus group will take place in Truro on 3 March. The focus group was formed to address the mapping requirements of the RDAs; members include John Legault, Curt Speight and Eric Theriault.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA/GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA - ATLANTIC:

Andy Sherin submitted a report on recent NRCan activities (copy attached). He stated the following:

- An NRCan Knowledge Initiative is in the early stages of implementation. Two pilot projects are under development: components of the CGDI; and a climate change Web page. Also the NRCan Database Directory is being updated and will become part of the CEONet.
- CEONet workshops were held in Fredericton on 3 February and in St. John's on 5 February.
- GSC Atlantic will be conducting a Multibeam Training Course from 20-24 April.
- GSC Atlantic is carrying out habitat studies in collaboration with DFO: horse mussel habitat in the Bay of Fundy; scallop habitat on Browns Bank; lobster habitat in Baie des Chaleurs, Lobster Bay, NS and Grand Manan, NB; effects of trawling; and clam habitat on Banquereau Bank.
- The North Coast of PEI study is progressing well: marsh sampling, radiocarbon dating work and multibeam surveys have been completed; computer modelling is being done; and shoreline geomorphological mapping is near completion.

Andy also reviewed the tentative 1998 schedule for the GSC Atlantic field program (refer to his report for details).

NATIONAL DEFENCE: Lt Cmdr Jim Bradford reported that coastal mapping with U.S. and European allies is continuing. One of the applications for the mapping is support of simulated peace keeping operations. Some of the data is acquired with laser imaging systems and space-based remote sensing. This year mapping of the Stephenville/St. Georges Bay region of Nfld will be carried out. National Defence will be exchanging data with the GSC.

NOVA SCOTIA: Andy Cameron reported the following:

- Workshops were held in several locations in NS to determine how best to achieve stakeholder and community-based input in coastal zone management. A workshop report has been produced; it contains six recommendations for ICZM, including:
 - The need for an MOU between NS and the federal government. Preliminary discussions are under way involving DFO, EC and the NS Departments of the Environment and Fisheries and Aquaculture.
 - Capacity building.

Mike Butler reported on an article in the 25 February issue of the Chronicle Herald which briefly described a project of the Coastal Communities Network, the federal government and the Province of NS to find ways of ensuring the future of coastal towns and villages. Seminars will be held throughout NS leading to a provincial conference.

Brad Fay submitted a report on geographic information activities in the Province of NS (copy attached). He stated the following:

- The NS Civic Address File is the major new land information initiative in the Province. A consultant's report was submitted in November 1997. An implementation plan will be developed by the fall of 1998.
- A Road Centreline Database has been initiated in support of 911. This database is being coordinated with the civic address project and the project to update the 1:10 000 NSTDB.
- The NS Property Records Database is ready to go online on the Internet. The database contains map graphics of each individual property parcel in NS and a textual description of the parcel.
- A Personal Property Registry System was placed on the Internet in October 1997.
- The 1:10 000 NSTDB has been completed for the Province. The Annapolis Valley region is now being updated. The maintenance program for the NSTDB will be coordinated with the Civic Address File and the Road Centreline Database projects.
- Geological, mineral and energy information is available online at offices of the NS Department of Natural Resources.

Curt Speight reported the following:

- Technical problems have been experienced re the 1:50 000 Coastal Mapping Series; these have been addressed and progress is being made. Five maps have been completed for the Annapolis River Basin area; the files have been distributed for review and input prior to their official release.
- Production procedures are being re-evaluated. A contract will be let this summer for 16 map sheets in the Pictou/Antigonish area of the Northumberland Strait.
- The maps are based on the 1:10 000 NSTDB and NAD83.
- A one-year distribution agreement for the Coastal Mapping Series is being negotiated with DFO, CHS and the CCG. The price has not been determined yet.

CEF CONSULTANTS: Norval Collins reported that a First Nations group had initiated a project to map historical areas with a GIS.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: Jim Ramsay reported the following:

- Since 1995 numerous data files have been completed and added to the provincial GIS database, including base mapping, contours, property, forest cover and soils. A front-end user-friendly system is being developed for the GIS.
- GEOLINC has been developed and is successful in providing access to the provincial property information. Use by the private sector has been restricted. A read-only prototype

is available on the Internet.

- A study has been carried out re producing a civic address database. Discussions are ongoing between the Province, and the federal and municipal governments.
- Thirty-nine high precision points were established for GPS last year in PEI; the specifications re the points will be released in April. Points are being compiled in cooperation with NS and NB.
- Low cost computer equipment and software are being developed for farming applications, including measuring fertilizer and seed distribution.
- The PEI Government is implementing the non-controversial and no-cost recommendations in the report of the Roundtable on Resource Land Use and Stewardship. Roundtable townhall meetings are taking place.
- A Personal and Real Property Registry will be available in a few months. The Real Property will be linked to the provincial GIS.
- Field data re property assessment is being digitized. The data is being used by community groups.
- Numerous GIS applications are being developed by the PEI Government and the private sector.
- The tax system is being upgraded. It will have a GIS component.

NEW BRUNSWICK: Réjean Castonguay made a presentation on the NB Coastal Mapping Project; copies of his overheads are attached. He reviewed the production schedule for the DTBD97, the Coastal Orthophoto Map and Topographic Database and outlined plans for future projects, including a Geo-referenced Civic Addressing database; a Province-wide Colour Soft-copy Orthophoto Map; and a Coastal Marine Database.

Réjean added that because of the lack of standards, NB has been obliged to develop its own standards for the NB Coastal Database. The Province is interested in partnerships to build the seaward coastal database. The first task will be to carry out a needs study. This will be followed by an exercise to plot the seaward territorial limits of NB; the limits on the land side are well defined.

Discussion:

Mike Butler: Potential partners in this project would seem to be CHS, DFO and the GSC.

Jim Bradford: National Defence will make available appropriate data, collected for its purpose, to other agencies. Data collection is in the initial stages but this is being accelerated.

Laureen Kinney: Charles O'Reilly, CHS, is modelling tidal areas and storm surges. She enquired if NB would be interested in this data for its coastal database.

Dale Nicholson: Once NB has identified its needs, CHS could enter into a partnership with the Province in a similar manner as with NS.

Réjean commented that NB would welcome all discussions re partnerships to build the seaward coastal database. He added:

- The NBGIC will be spending approximately \$1 million to deal with the Year 2000 computer problems.
- Development of the Land Titles system is on schedule. A provincial-wide system will be implemented this fall.

Barry Jones stated the following:

- Amongst its many responsibilities, the NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is responsible for the compilation of environmental fisheries and aquaculture data. Site data is available for cages, etc.

- Barry is responsible for the six Sustainable Development sites in NB: Bathurst, Bouctouche, Caraquet, Cocagne, Richibucto and Shippagan. Another Sustainable Development site was recently approved by the NB Environmental Trust Fund in the Baie des Chaleurs. It will provide a link to the Province of Québec.
- The NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture participated in the recently completed ICOIN project. The ICOIN Sustainable Development module is being used by the NB Sustainable Development sites to deal with environmental issues.
- NB and EC are considering linking the Sustainable Development and ACAP sites. A workshop is being planned for mid-June to identify mechanisms for collaboration such as a federal/provincial agreement, which could include funding. This would also involve DFO, HRD and others.
- NB and EC will host the next ACAP Annual Meeting.
- NB's Marine Policy has not been finalized yet. It is being designed to dovetail with the Coastal Land Policy.

CANADIAN HERITAGE: Neil Munro reported the following:

- Parks Canada will become a separate service agency which will report to the Minister via its CEO; the change will take place between 1 April and 1 September 1998. The new agency will be responsible for generating revenue.
- A 5th draft of legislation re National Marine Conservation Areas is being considered. It is expected that the act will be introduced in Parliament in the spring. The legislation will complement the Oceans Act.
- It is planned that three National Marine Conservation Areas will be established by the year 2000. The process to name these sites is intensive and involves government representatives, community personnel and fishers. Currently the site most advanced in negotiations is Bonavista/Funk Island. The Saguenay/St. Lawrence site received royal assent in December 1997 and will be proclaimed on Oceans Day, 8 June 1998.
- Parks Canada is working with EC, DFO and the World Wildlife Fund re a marine conservation strategy for the Scotian Shelf.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Laureen Kinney, Canadian Hydrographic Service, reported the following:

- Survey charting is ongoing with a focus on the Southwest coast of Newfoundland and on Labrador. Data re Browns Bank has been delivered and being tested.
- Conversion to the S57 standard is moving forward. \$3 million has been contributed by the CCG and \$.5 million by the CCMC for this activity.
- The Tide Gauge System continues to be reviewed.
- A partnership agreement has been signed with Nova Scotia and Grenada.
- David Griffiths, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, has expressed interest in arranging a "focus session" on ICZM.
- The 1998 Canadian Hydrographic Conference will take place in Victoria, BC from 10 to 12 March 1998. The theme of the Conference is *Turning Data into Dollars*. (The URL for the Conference is <http://www.ios.bc.ca/ios/chs/pages/chc98.html>)

Charles O'Reilly reported the following:

- CHS, in collaboration with NRCan, is very active in projects related to tides and currents, sea level rise and storm surges. Several of the projects relate to the Bay of Fundy.
- It is possible to obtain DTMs within 1 decametre accuracy from satellite imagery, e.g., Radarsat.

Laureen suggested that a presentation on storm surges could be made by Charles at the next ACZISC meeting.

Faith Scattolon reported the following:

- DFO continues to be involved in the Eskasoni First Nations community mapping project.
- A Marine Protected Areas Roundtable held on 12-13 February was successful in advancing interest in MPAs. The Scotian Shelf was discussed and interest in treating the entire Shelf as an ecosystem was expressed; a nested model was presented based on the work of John Roff (Guelph University). Discussions were led by Bob Rutherford, DFO and personnel from EC and Parks Canada.
- DFO, in collaboration with the CCG and TUNS, is following up on a project in the Bay of Fundy to develop risk analysis models in the context of search and rescue activities. Jack Gallager, CCG, is the contact person.
- Data collection for community projects in the former Scotia-Fundy Region has ended. Digitizing is being completed.

John Legault reported that the Habitat Mapping program for the former Gulf Region is being completed. Hard-copy maps are being produced for distribution internally and to the fishing community. The program was designed to be dynamic with revisions and updates carried out on a regular basis. It is hoped that the mapping will be extended to other communities in NB and PEI. Plans are to create a uniform database for the entire Maritimes Region.

PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA: Bill Blight reported the following:

- PWGSC is a service agency involved in ongoing hydrographic activities.
- The database for the Confederation Bridge, including site photographs, is now available on CDROM. The CDROM is available via personal requests to Bill.
- The GIS database was compiled with CARIS. The database is being used to monitor changes over time, including nearshore changes, erosion, changes to the fisheries, currents, ice patterns, etc.
- The coordinates for the Confederation Bridge will be distributed to each of the Maritime Provinces geomatics agencies.

CHAMPLAIN INSTITUTE: Brad Fay reported the following:

- The Champlain Institute was initially an agency of the CMP. It is now operated by the private sector and focuses on export development, geomatics, research and development and training.
- Two significant export projects have recently been acquired through the Institute. One of the projects was secured as a result of a visit to the World Bank in Washington.
- The Institute has recommended that UNB and COGS cooperate re Geomatics training.
- The Angus Hamilton lectures will be implemented as a recurring lecture series.

7. **UPDATES**

ECONOMIC STUDY: Mike Butler briefed participants on the study entitled *Estimating the Economic Value of Coastal and Ocean Resources: The Case of Nova Scotia*. The focus of the study was Nova Scotia because 50% of the funds were provided by the Province. The contract was administered by the OIC and progress and deliverables were monitored by a Steering Committee, chaired by Mike. The report was completed a week ago and will be officially released in April following the NS provincial election. The report will be printed courtesy of the DFO Oceans Act Coordination Office. Copies of the report will be distributed to ACZISC members following its official release; the report will also be available in digital format from the ACZISC Homepage located at <http://is.dal.ca/aczisc/aczisc>

It is hoped that in the future the scope of the study will be expanded to include the other Atlantic Provinces. The subject of "environmental economics" will subsequently be addressed.

Paul Boudreau added that the technique used to carry out the study could be exported outside the region.

CANADA'S OCEAN STRATEGY: Faith Scattolon reported the following:

- The DFO Minister, David Anderson, was in Halifax on 14 January to initiate the consultation process re the Oceans Management Strategy. The year 2000 has been identified as the deadline for developing the Strategy.
- A national consultation process re the Strategy will take place. The timeframe for this activity has not been identified to date.
- DFO is concerned re how best to capture community input in the consultation process. The Department is trying to avoid a "top down" approach.
- Letters have been sent to provincial departments of Intergovernmental Affairs re provincial input.
- A DFO workshop to plan the consultation process will take place next week.
- Documentation is available from the Oceans Canada website located at <http://www.oceanscanada.com>

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP: The 3½ day Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Environmental Workshop was held on 5-8 November 1997 in Miramichi, NB; it was attended by 177 participants from an array of backgrounds and sectors. Workshop participants identified issues in the Gulf region which require attention and recommended that a Task Group be formed to address these issues.

An SGSL meeting was held at the Université de Moncton on 16 February. The purpose of the meeting was to consider structural options for the proposed SGSL Task Group. Meeting participants recommended that the Task Group be led by both NGOs and the government. A report is being prepared and will be submitted at the next SGSL meeting tentatively scheduled for 8 April.

COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION: Mike Butler introduced Colleen Mercer-Clarke, stating that Colleen had served as Director of the former NS Centre for Environmentally Sustainable Economic Development (CESED). Currently Colleen is Senior Environmental Manager, CBCL, a Director of the OIC and a member of the CEC Global Plan of Action Committee. Colleen reported on the Commission's activities:

- The CEC was established under NAFTA to address environmental concerns. A program of particular interest for the CEC is the Global Plan of Action (GPA) established to protect the marine environment from land-based activities.
- The CEC has identified two pilot project areas; the California Bight and the Gulf of Maine. A CEC GPA Committee (GPAC) for the Gulf of Maine has been established. It includes representatives of government - federal, provincial/state; municipalities; business and industry; research institutions; NGOs; and First Nations.
- GPAC Gulf of Maine meetings have taken place in November 1996, July 1997 and October 1997.
- A five-stage process has been identified for the GPAC Gulf of Maine project: Scoping process, including the preparation of position papers on "habitats" and "pollutants"; Workshop re priorities on 28-29 April in Saint John; Scoping papers on existing and proposed actions; Workshop to assess effectiveness of existing mechanisms and to define priority actions - fall 1998; and Review of progress to date.
- Activities and cooperation in the Gulf of Maine are serving as models in other parts of the world.
- For further information on the CEC and the GPAC, contact Colleen Mercer-Clarke, tel 902-492-6761, email colleenc@cbcl.ca

GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: Larry Hildebrand reported that several ACZISC members were active in GoM activities, including Faith Scattolon and Larry Wilson, Council members; Mike Butler, Andy Cameron, Larry Hildebrand and Barry Jones, Working Group members; and Brad Fay and Claudette LeBlanc, members of the Data and Information Management Committee (DIMC). Paul Boudreau is considering an invitation to become co-chair of DIMC.

Larry Hildebrand stated that the second GoM 5-year plan (1996-2001) focuses on habitat. GoM funding is limited but core GoM activities must continue. These include a Newsletter, the GoM Homepage and the Mussel Watch program. Lack of funds will emphasize cooperation. Representation on the GoM may be broadened to include community groups and First Nations. Larry also stressed the importance of maintaining a dialogue between the ACZISC, GoM, GPAC, etc.

COASTAL ZONE CANADA CONFERENCE SERIES: Mike Butler stated that Larry Hildebrand is the President of the CZC Association; Barry Jones is the Vice-president and Brian Nicholls is the Past-president. CZC'94 was held in Halifax and CZC'96 in Rimouski. CZC'98 will take place in Victoria, BC from 30 August to 3 September 1998; it will have a community focus. CZC 2000 will take place in Saint John, NB in September 2000; the theme for CZC 2000 is *Coastal Stewardship: Lessons Learned and the Path Ahead*. An organizing committee, chaired by Barry Jones, has been established; Mike Butler and Andy Cameron are also members of the CZC 2000 Organizing Committee. In addition Mike Butler is a member of the CZC 2000 Program Committee.

Larry Hildebrand stressed the importance for ICZM conferences to produce tangible products and follow-up actions. The CZC Association is committed to regularly assessing progress and moving forwards. Larry circulated copies of an article entitled *It's Déjà Vu All Over Again* which he contributed to the winter 1998 issue of the *Intercoast Network* newsletter. The article (copy attached) stresses the need to move from talk to action re ICZM.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

It was announced that Ross Piercey had resigned as Executive Director of the NS Oceans Initiative.

Mike Butler reported that Paul Bellemare had recommended that the ACZISC Secretariat prepare and submit a proposal to the National Centres of Excellence program. The deadline for submission is 23 March 1998.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

10. **NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

ACZISC Meeting #24 is provisionally scheduled for Tuesday, 16 June 1998 in Charlottetown.

ACZISC Meeting #23 adjourned at 17:00 hrs.