

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #24

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Date: Tuesday, 16 June 1998 - 0830 hrs.

Location: Boardroom, Animal and Plant Research Station
93 Mount Edward Road, Charlottetown, PEI

NAME	AFFILIATION	TEL. NO.
Present: * indicates ACZISC member		
Don Amos*	Public Works and Government Services Canada	(902) 496-5009
Tim Anderson	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Newfoundland Region	(709) 772-2852
David Boyce	Southeast Environmental Association	(902) 838-0635
Kate Bredin	Canadian Wildlife Service	(506) 364-5034
John Burka	Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (APICS)*	(902) 566-0810
Michael Butler*, Chair	Council of Maritime Premiers and Oceans Institute of Canada	(902) 494-1977
Andy Cameron*	Province of Nova Scotia	(902) 424-0406
Réjean Castonguay*	Province of New Brunswick	(506) 453-3917
Brad Fay*	Province of Nova Scotia	(902) 424-4966
Barry Jones*	Province of New Brunswick	(506) 444-5749
Laureen Kinney*	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(902) 426-3497
Claudette LeBlanc	ACZISC Secretariat	(902) 494-1977
John Legault	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region	(506) 851-6221
Paul Macnab	Saint Mary's University	(902) 466-0551
Neil Munro*	Canadian Heritage	(902) 426-2797
Kenneth Paul*	First Nations	(902) 426-3497
Brenda Penak	Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association	(902) 436-7090
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
Eric Theriault*	Environment Canada	(902) 426-9558
Keith Wornell	Council of Maritime Premiers	(902) 424-7600

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

Mike Butler, ACZISC Chair, called Meeting #24 to order at 08:30 hrs. He welcomed members and guests and thanked Jim Ramsay for making arrangements for the meeting room and the Province of Prince Edward Island for providing lunch. A roundtable introduction of all participants followed.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA, AND REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING #23**

The provisional Agenda for Meeting #24 was reviewed. Mike reported that additional agenda items would include a report on a meeting to review provincial ICZM policy and an update on BOFEP. The agenda was approved (copy attached).

The minutes of ACZISC Meeting #23 were reviewed and the following revision was made:

Page 16: **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS:** "Andy Sherin announced that Ross Piercey had resigned as Executive Director of the NS Oceans Initiative." *should read* "It was announced that Ross Piercey had resigned as Executive Director of the NS Oceans Initiative."

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

3. **STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS**

The status of the Action Items from Meeting #23 was reviewed. All Action Items were carried out or are in progress other than the following:

ACTION 23.8 *ACZISC Communications Working Group to review the requirement for an ACZISC Mailing List ASAP.*

STATUS: Mike commented that the Working Group would be addressing this issue.

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.*

STATUS: Mike reported that this had not been done to date.

ACTION 24.1 *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.*

4. **ACZISC WORKPLAN**

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

National Defence: National Defence has become a member of the ACZISC. Lt Cmdr Jim Bradford will be the representative.

First Nations: Mike welcomed Ken Paul who will be representing First Nations on the ACZISC. Ken is currently completing his masters at UNB and is employed by CHS in Dartmouth.

Province of Newfoundland: Andrew Noseworthy, Deputy Minister, Nfld Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat, has been contacted by the ACZISC Secretariat. A representative will be attending the autumn ACZISC meeting to consider reviewing Newfoundland's participation.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: David Bailey, Director of the Research Centre in Charlottetown, has been transferred. His replacement will be contacted.

ACTION 24.2 ACZISC Secretariat to continue discussions with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada re membership on the ACZISC.

Industry Canada: Mike commented that Industry Canada's active participation on the ACZISC should be pursued.

John Burka added that Industry Canada should be made aware of the potential benefits of participating in the ACZISC. For example, the ACZISC could facilitate the Department's involvement in education projects. He suggested that Doug Hull, Director General, Information Highways Application Branch, Industry Canada in Ottawa be contacted; Mr Hull is responsible for the Schoolnet project.

ACTION 24.3 ACZISC Secretariat to contact Industry Canada prior to next meeting to review the potential benefits of the Department retaining its ACZISC membership.

Community Groups: Efforts are being made by the ACZISC Secretariat to reach out to community groups, for example, the proposed newsletter for ICZM community projects. As there is no community umbrella organization in Atlantic Canada, local groups such as the ACAP sites are invited to participate in ACZISC meetings.

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

WORKPLAN/BUDGET/FUNDING: Mike Butler reported the following:

- The draft 1998/99 ACZISC Workplan was distributed by email in May and recently in hard-copy by courier.
- The ACZISC Executive Committee has met to review the Workplan. It recommends that Secretariat activities continue to focus primarily on Secretariat functions, communications and the Database Directory.
- Most of the Secretariat activities are related to communications, e.g., maintenance of the ACZISC Homepage and liaising with related programs such as GoM and BOFEP.
- There is a shortfall of approximately \$30K in ACZISC revenue for 1998/99. A list of potential additional funding sources was reviewed, including NRC/IRP, CEC, ACOA, CRP, etc. Identifying funds is time consuming and the Secretariat requires the assistance of members re this activity.

ACTION 24.4 ACZISC members to contact the Secretariat ASAP re potential funding sources for the Secretariat and/or ACZISC projects.

The 1998/99 Workplan and budget were reviewed. The following comments were made:

Faith Scattolon: A process for identifying and selecting projects is recommended. Mike responded that this responsibility could reside with the Executive Committee.

Barry Jones enquired who would do the work. Mike responded that the Secretariat could carry out portions of projects which relate to the ACZISC mandate; however, this would take time away from Secretariat activities. Other components would be contracted out.

Brad Fay: As an example of a related project, Nova Scotia will be updating its metadata directory and some of the services may be contracted out to the ACZISC.

Laureen Kinney: CHS is supportive of the Secretariat becoming involved in other projects. A game plan including a schedule should be formulated by the Executive Committee in the event that project funds are not forthcoming to meet the ACZISC budget shortfall.

Barry Jones: The ACZISC should not have to deal with Secretariat core funding on a continuous basis. An adequate core funding formula is required.

Mike Butler: The ACZISC has not been successful in identifying an adequate core funding formula to date. In addition to occupying a significant portion of Secretariat time, the core funding problem is taking away from the positive accomplishments of the ACZISC.

Keith Wornell: The Maritime Provinces have discussed ACZISC core funding at length. It will continue to provide \$50K per year to the ACZISC subject only to a few deliverables. A champion is required from the federal members which will match the CMP contribution.

Faith Scattolon: There is a champion but funds are not available. The funding formula which has been arrived at by the federal departments approximates the CMP contribution.

Keith Wornell: The ACZISC is spending a lot of time and money trying to locate the \$30K shortfall in revenue. This is a waste of tax dollars.

Andy Sherin: Most national federal personnel consider funding for the ACZISC to be a regional responsibility. However, the regions are not in a position to provide additional funding as this would have to come out of regional program budgets. Managers will not provide funds without strings attached. Currently the GSC Atlantic contribution to the ACZISC is a large portion of its coastal program budget.

Laureen Kinney: CHS program budgets are very tight. For example, CHS has to chase dollars to operate the Matthew. It is possible that the ACZISC may have better luck in identifying a federal champion at the national level.

Jim Ramsay: The coastal zone should be considered as a national issue. Wayne Easter, MP from Malpeque and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, may be a good contact.

John Burka: The ICZM problems in BC are very similar to those in Atlantic Canada. If Ottawa contributed funds to the BC Coastal Review, a precedent would have been set for funding initiatives in the regions. Also, linkages between the ACZISC and other regions would make the exercise more national.

Tim Anderson: Other departments and agencies could be approached, e.g., ACOA.

Don Amos: Perhaps ACOA should be represented on the ACZISC. Wynne Potter, Vice-president, ACOA Nova Scotia, is well briefed on coastal issues.

Faith Scattolon: An ACOA staff person is responsible for the Oceans file and works closely with DFO in oceans-related projects.

Members concluded that the Executive Committee should meet with Keith Wornell to review funding options for the ACZISC.

ACTION 24.5 ACZISC Executive Committee and Keith Wornell, Council of Maritime Premiers, to meet ASAP to review core funding options for the ACZISC Secretariat.

ACTION 24.6 ACZISC members to further review the ACZISC Workplan and Budget and contact the Secretariat with comments.

Andy Sherin enquired as to the status of the Operating Guidelines to be developed by the Secretariat and Executive Committee. Mike responded that he had contacted the Gulf of Maine Secretariat to obtain a copy of the GoM Secretariat Operating Guidelines. These will be used to develop guidelines for the ACZISC Secretariat.

ACTION 24.7 ACZISC Secretariat and Executive Committee to develop operating guidelines for the ACZISC Secretariat for presentation to the ACZISC at the next meeting.

Barry Jones commented that the operating budget for the GoM Secretariat was less than that of the ACZISC Secretariat. However, the salary for the Director of the GoM Secretariat is not included in the GoM budget; it is covered by his/her jurisdiction. Mike asked Barry to report on the actual GoM Secretariat operating budget in 1996/97. The GoM Secretariat was based at the NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture during that year.

ACTION 24.8 Barry Jones to provide the ACZISC with details re the budget required to operate the GoM Secretariat in 1996/97.

The outstanding issue of incorporating the ACZISC as a not-for-profit association was again discussed. Based on experience with the Coastal Zone Canada Association, Brad Fay reported the following:

- Registration could take place either provincially or federally; however, federal incorporation would provide more status. The cost is \$230 for the initial application and annual fees thereafter.
- Incorporation could raise the profile of the ACZISC. It would provide it with a more formal reporting structure, including a Board of Directors, and facilitate transfer of funds from federal departments.
- It would allow for charitable status thereby enabling the ACZISC to accept donations and provide income tax receipts.

The following comments were made:

Neil Munro: If government is the primary source of funding for the ACZISC, incorporation may not be appropriate.

Brenda Penak: Incorporation with charitable status would allow ACZISC funding applications to foundations.

Réjean Castonguay: There is little benefit to incorporation if the ACZISC is funded totally by government.

Mike Butler: The ACZISC Secretariat is based at the Oceans Institute of Canada which is registered as a not-for-profit association with charitable status. The OIC is involved primarily in international projects; the ACZISC acts as the OIC's regional arm. In the past the OIC has been used as an umbrella for the ACZISC, e.g., the Economic Study.

Neil Munro: The relationship between the OIC and the ACZISC appears to offer the best of both worlds.

Eric Theriault: The current structure of the ACZISC as an inter-agency multi-level body works well. Incorporation would add another layer of bureaucracy and interfere with the efficient operation of the Committee.

Members concluded that the issue of incorporation should be set aside until the next detailed ACZISC review unless circumstances necessitate earlier reconsideration.

COMMUNICATIONS: The ACZISC Communications Working Group is chaired by Mike Butler who reported on the various ACZISC communication tools:

- The ACZISC monthly updates are emailed to members and to a growing distribution list of ACZISC associates. Several of the recipients then email the Updates to their personal email distribution lists.

Discussion and comments:

John Burka: The monthly ACZISC Update is an effective communication tool, in particular the links to other resources, conferences, etc. He added that the frequency of distribution was appropriate.

Andy Sherin enquired if the updates were available from the ACZISC Homepage. Claudette LeBlanc responded that most of the contents of the Updates were posted in the "What's New" section of the Homepage.

Tim Anderson stated that he liked the format of the Updates, i.e. point form and short.

Andy Cameron stated that he distributes the Updates to his contacts. He asked for a copy of the ACZISC Associates distribution list so that he could remove duplicate names from his list. Other members concurred with this request.

ACTION 24.9 ACZISC Secretariat to provide members with the email Distribution List for the monthly ACZISC Updates. Members will cross-reference the ACZISC list with their own personal distribution list and remove duplicate addresses.

- The ACZISC Homepage is another key vehicle for communication. User Statistics for the Homepage (copy attached) were distributed and reviewed.

Barry Jones enquired if BOFEP was written up in the ACZISC Homepage. Claudette stated that it was included in the Related Programs section of the Homepage.

- It has been actioned at previous meetings that the ACZISC offer an "ICZM Community News Bulletin" service for posting brief write-ups on community projects related to ICZM. Claudette stated that she required the assistance of members in identifying community groups, including mailing addresses. The Secretariat would then write to these groups and offer this service.

Discussion and comments:

Brenda Penak: A list of community groups in PEI is available from Bruce Smith, PEI Department of Fisheries and Environment.

Andy Cameron: In NS a list is available in the NS State of the Environment Report; Andy Montgomery is the contact person.

Barry Jones and Tim Anderson stated that they had a list for NB and Nfld respectively and would make it available to the Secretariat.

Ken Paul enquired what the advantages of taking part in this service were. He added that First Nations are setting up their own information infrastructures and acquiring management skills. Trust will have to be built to ensure their participation in the news bulletin. Claudette responded that the main reason for the news bulletin is information sharing and to assist in establishing networks of contact. Andy Sherin added that another advantage is that the ACZISC Homepage is a communication vehicle with regional coverage.

ACTION 24.10 Barry Jones and Tim Anderson to forward a mailing list of community groups and associations for their respective provinces to the Secretariat ASAP.

ACTION 24.11 ACZISC Secretariat to communicate with community groups and associations in Atlantic Canada ASAP offering the ACZISC Homepage as a WWW site for posting summaries of ICZM-related community projects.

- The ACZISC Mailing List is not used frequently for communication. It resides on a listserver at BIO and Paul Boudreau, DFO, has assumed responsibility for managing the list since his return from Europe.

Discussion and comments:

Andy Sherin and John Legault: The ACZISC Mailing List could be used to disseminate the ACZISC Update.

Don Amos expressed his concern that this would lead to members and associates receiving excessive mail, including junk mail, via the Mailing List.

Mike Butler: Perhaps the ACZISC Mailing List should be moved to the Dalhousie University listserver, a more "neutral" location. Another option is to do away with it as it is not used. This will be discussed by the ACZISC Communications Working Group.

ACTION 24.12 ACZISC Communications Working Group to review the requirement for an ACZISC Mailing List and Distribution List.

DATABASE DIRECTORY: The Database Directory Working Group is chaired by Claudette LeBlanc. She stated that the update of the database for the Atlantic Coastal Zone Database Directory was underway. Some members have been contacted and others will be over the coming months re update procedures for their component of the Directory. The update of the PEI component of the database has been completed. Claudette acknowledged the support of the NS Geomatics Centre, NS Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs for contributing five days of programming time to the update process.

A Strategic Workshop for the Database Directory will be organized. Prior to that a meeting of the Database Directory Working Group will take place to review and "finetune" the Workshop goals and objectives. In particular, standards and the relationship between the ACZISC and CEONet must be addressed by the Working Group and the Workshop. Workshop participants will include members of the Working Group, interested ACZISC members, a representative of CEONet, as well as individuals from jurisdictions which are collaborating with the ACZISC in their individual directory projects. Both Réjean Castonguay and Brad Fay recommended a "cautious" approach when determining future directions for the Directory.

ACTION 24.13 ACZISC Database Directory Working Group to organize a Strategy Workshop ASAP to review future directions for 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. A meeting report was prepared by the Secretariat and is available from the ACZISC Homepage at http://is.dal.ca/aczisc/czmap_rp

A meeting of coastal mapping representatives to review provincial data distribution and compatibility issues will be organized by the Working Group and the Secretariat. A provisional date of 10 September has been identified for the meeting.

ACTION 24.14 ACZISC Coastal Mapping Working Group and Secretariat to organize a meeting of provincial coastal mapping representatives ASAP to review data distribution and compatibility issues.

Discussion and comments:

Brenda Penak stated that it would be helpful if representatives of community groups could participate in the upcoming meeting. Eric responded that it was better if the initial provincial meeting was kept small and attended only by provincial mapping representatives. Mike Butler agreed and added that follow-up activity could focus on community groups.

Brad Fay commented that the next step could be to move towards data and information exchange agreements. It would then be time to talk to potential partners and users.

DATA EXCHANGE AND STANDARDS: The Data Exchange and Standards Working Group is co-chaired by Réjean Castonguay, Service NB, and Andy Sherin, GSC Atlantic. Andy reported that lately, for personal reasons, he had not been able to devote time to the Working Group. He stated that he and Réjean would be organizing a session on the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI), possibly in conjunction with the Coastal Mapping meeting or the Database Directory meeting. Réjean added that the session could also be scheduled on the afternoon prior to the next ACZISC meeting. Dave Coleman, University of New Brunswick, and formerly chair of the CGSB Committee on Geomatics, would be invited to attend and brief participants on the status of the CGDI and standards.

ACTION 24.15 ACZISC Data Exchange and Standards Working Group and Secretariat to organize an "awareness meeting/workshop" ASAP:

- *to identify the standards-related programs and activities being carried out in Canada and the role, if any, of the ACZISC in implementing standards.*
- *to review the status of the developing Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) and its relationship to other similar national and international initiatives.*

Andy circulated the following documents for review:

- Charter for a new Canadian Geomatics newsgroup: the document is available at <http://cgdi.gc.ca/charter.html>
- the latest FGDC newsletter.

PROVINCIAL ICZM POLICY AND RESPONSE TO OCEANS ACT: Mike Butler reported that two meetings had been organized to date to allow provincial representatives to exchange ideas re the Oceans Act and the Oceans Strategy. Participants have included Barry Jones and Réjean Castonguay from NB, Andy Cameron from NS, David Gillis from PEI and the ACZISC Secretariat. Discussions are informal.

Discussion and comments:

Andy Cameron: Participants are seeking to identify common positions re some issues. Discussions have focused primarily on the Oceans Strategy and MPAs. The meetings provide a good forum to "get things on the table".

Barry Jones: The individual Provinces are also developing their own perspectives and policies re coastal zone management. These are also being discussed.

Faith Scattolon: There has been some consistency and some differences in the comments expressed by the Provinces when DFO has met with them individually re the Oceans Act. It is helpful to the consultation process if the Provinces get together to dialogue. It is important to remember that the individual Provinces often have different perspectives.

Andy Cameron: The Provinces may change their positions as a result of these inter-provincial discussions.

5. **PRESENTATION: ATLANTIC CANADA CONSERVATION DATA CENTRE**

Kate Bredin, Program Coordinator for the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (CDC), made a presentation on the Centre. Copies of her overheads are attached. Kate reported the following:

- There are 86 CDCs established throughout the Western Hemisphere: they represent 6 Canadian provinces, 51 U.S. states and districts (known as Natural Heritage Programs), 12 countries in Latin and South America, and 17 associations and agencies.
- An eighteen month pilot is now underway for the Atlantic Canada CDC. The Centre headquarters are located at the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville, NB.
- The objective of the Atlantic Canada CDC is to establish a permanent and dynamic database, part of an international biodiversity network, which tracks biological information on rare, threatened and endangered species and communities in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments of Atlantic Canada, for use by governments, citizens and conservation organizations.
- CDCs and Natural Heritage programs use a standardized information management system known as the Biological and Conservation Database (BCD).
- The system has three major components: a computerized database that integrates the biological and non-biological information; a digital mapping system based on Geographic Information Systems; and structured paper files.
- Atlantic Canada CDC pilot phase products will include:
 - a written commitment from the coalition of partners
 - a Strategic Plan for the operation of the CDC
 - a detailed workplan for the first two years
 - a Biological Conservation Database (BCD), containing the basic data structure for a regional Atlantic Canada CDC
 - vascular plant and vertebrate species tracking lists for Atlantic Canada
 - development of marketing and communications products to demonstrate the scope and utility of the information that would be compiled by an Atlantic Canada CDC.

In response to questions/comments from the participants, Kate added the following:

- Information will be made available free-of-charge to partners in the coalition, including private sector companies.
- The turn-around time to respond to requests should be approximately two days.
- Policies re the release of sensitive information are being developed. The exact location of sensitive information such as nesting sites will not be given.
- Marine species are not tracked currently but there are plans to do so.
- The CDC will work with pathologists if this expertise is required.
- The CDC contacts in PEI are Rosemary Hurley and Bill Glenn. In NS they are Sherman Boates and Gary Sabean.
- Detailed information will not be made available by the CDC until the scientists have written and published their publications.

For further information, email Kate at kate.bredin@ec.gc.ca or Diane Amirault, Steering Committee Chair at diane.amirault@ec.gc.ca

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

COMMUNITY GROUPS: David Boyce reported on activities and projects at the Southeast Environmental Association (SEA):

- Mercury testing in Fish has been initiated out of concerns raised in NB and NS; it is not

expected that elevated levels will be found due to local geology and stream morphology. Trout are being sampled in five ponds around PEI; larger fish in non-migrating situations will be tested.

- A report was produced from a benthic study carried out last year; a copy was made available to the ACZISC Secretariat. The 1998 benthic study will cover three components: organic content of sediment, establishment of long term water quality monitoring stations, and investigation of the effects of sea lettuce (Ulva).
- SEA is working with the National Hydrology Research Institute to develop protocols for Biomonitoring and Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring. The monitoring will include chemical and physical parameters. BBEMA, SEA and the Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC) are cooperating in this activity.
- The Murray River was sampled in 1994, 95 and 97. The bacterial levels in the estuary were measured before and after the installation of on-site septic systems. The results in 1997 show a vast improvement. Sampling will also take place in 1998.
- The use of constructed wetlands are being studied for:
 - Farm use to treat dairy farm waste. One is in use in Frenchfort, PEI.
 - Municipal use for tertiary treatment of sewage. Murray Harbour is looking at this application.
- A Report is being prepared by Bob Taylor, Geological Survey of Canada, which looks at mining of aggregate on the shore and the effect on coastal dune structures. The draft report will be available soon.
- The Cardigan Fish Hatchery (now operated by the Atlantic Veterinary College/UPEI) is working on a project to look at rearing striped bass for aquaculture and stock enhancement opportunities.

Brenda Penak reported on activities at the Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association (BBEMA):

- A study of faecal coliform in Bedeque Bay has indicated that 60% of samples are over the allowable limit for recreation and more than 90% for shellfish aquaculture. Agriculture is a contributor to the contamination. Presentation of this information last year to the PEI Round Table on Resource Land Use and Stewardship was controversial. This year, aquaculture associations and cattlemen associations will assist with the design of a new study.
- BBEMA is involved in a bio-monitoring project with Holland College and MREAC.
- Brenda will be attending CZC'98 in Victoria with four other ACAP site representatives and Karen Swan, EC. A paper and poster on ACAP will be presented.
- A workshop dealing with nitrates and bacteria in the riparian area is being organized for this winter. On the agenda will be a 3-year study headed by George Sommers.
- Discussions are taking place with John Legault, DFO re coastal zone mapping.
- An agro-environmental site is being developed to demonstrate sustainable agricultural practices. Soil conservation in relation to potato production is a major issue.
- Plans are underway to develop a farmers market in Summerside. A press conference will be held on 20 June.
- Plans for the ACAP Annual Meeting have not been finalized. It may be held separately in two regions: Fundy and Southern Gulf.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA/GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA - ATLANTIC:

Andy Sherin reported the following:

- The NRCan Knowledge Initiative (KI) now has a website at <http://ressources.nrcan.gc.ca>. GSC Atlantic has submitted a proposal under the KI for the development of a prototype of the Canadian Marine Geoscience Knowledge Network to enhance access to the GSC's marine geoscience information and related datasets.

- GSC senior management has initiated a review of the GSC's Marine Program. The review is being carried out by the Canadian Geoscience Council; the Council's review team will be headed by Jeremy Hall, Memorial University of Newfoundland.
- NRCan has released its Sustainable Development Strategy. It is available from the website <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca>
- NRCan has released a Framework for Revenue Generation. It is available from the website <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/dmo/spcb/revgen/revfrmee.html>
- The GSC Atlantic, in partnership with the ACZISC, has submitted a proposal for funding to the Canadian Rural Partnership Program. The proposal is for a pilot project to enhance access and use of the GSC's video dataset by coastal communities. Informal approval has been received.
- The GSC project to predict coastal change due to sea level rise for the north coast of PEI is entering its second field season. The 1998 nearshore data coverage will extend east of the 1997 survey off Rustico Island and at East Point; additional geophysical surveys and sampling will be carried out in the already surveyed areas. Andy circulated preliminary coastal geomorphology maps of the area for review.
- Heiner Josenhans, GSC Atlantic, has been involved in a project off the Queen Charlotte Islands in BC which is studying early man's migration routes from Asia to North America. More information is available from <http://www.vancouversun.com/newsite/news/1736644.html>

NEW BRUNSWICK: Réjean Castonguay reported the following:

- The NB Coastal Mapping Project is on schedule as reported at ACZISC Meeting #23. Partnerships and input from other sources are being sought.
- As of 1 April 1998, the NBGIC became part of Service New Brunswick. The new president is Bob Gamble.

Barry Jones stated the following:

- The NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has a new Deputy Minister - Paul Aucoin, formerly with Economic Development and Tourism. As mentioned earlier, senior management at the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is being decentralized.
- The NB Department of the Environment has a new minister - Gene Devereux.
- A draft of the NB Marine Policy has been submitted to the NB departments of the Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, and Fisheries and Aquaculture for their consideration. The draft may be available for distribution after the departments give their approval. A copy would be provided to the ACZISC Secretariat.
- A workshop on sustainable development initiatives in NB will be held on 17 June in Fredericton. Participants will include representatives of ACAP and NB Sustainable Development sites, the NB departments of the Environment and Fisheries and Aquaculture, EC, DFO and others. The purpose of the workshop is to bring about greater cooperation. Workshop recommendations will be submitted to the government.

CANADIAN HERITAGE: Neil Munro reported the following:

- Bill C-29 was approved by the House of Commons on 2 June; it awaits Senate approval. It will establish Parks Canada as a separate service agency by the end of the year.
- Bill C-47, an Act to create National Marine Conservation Areas, was tabled in the House of Commons on 11 June. It has been sent to Parliamentary Committee for review. Twenty-nine natural regions have been identified which will provide representative samples across Canada. The sites also will appear on the DFO list of Marine Protected Areas. Further information is available from the Parks Canada website at <http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca>
- The public consultation program has been completed for the proposed Greenwich adjunct to PEI National Park. Lands are to be transferred from the Province to the federal

- government. The Island Nature Trust has been actively involved.
- A meeting was held on 15 June re Rustico Island, now called Robinson Island. There is debate as to whether it should become an island again by removing the causeway which connects it to the PEI mainland. Community people and mussel growers have concerns about the effects of the causeway. More dialogue and research will be pursued.
 - In NS, proposed conservation areas are located on the Scotian Shelf. Cape Sable-Roseway Basin and the Canso Islands are areas that would likely qualify for further consideration. Public consultations have not been initiated.
 - In Newfoundland, public consultation has been active re the proposed Bonavista-Funk Island site off the northeast coast of Newfoundland.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Laureen Kinney reported on activities at the Canadian Hydrographic Service:

- CHS is responsible for the permanent water level network, part of which is being decommissioned. Efforts are being made to upgrade and maintain sites and to find partners re these activities. Funding is available to upgrade 9 sites. The network may be expanded in specific areas to meet scientific requirements.
- Discussions are taking place between PEI and DFO aquaculture leasing personnel re maintaining up-to-date aquaculture site information on charts. CHS is in the exploratory stage of developing a "fast update product".

John Legault reported on activities re the coastal resource inventory database:

- The database is being used for the St. Georges Bay Ecosystem Project, a collaborative effort between the Interdisciplinary Studies in Aquatic Resources programme (ISAR) of St. Francis Xavier University, marine harvesters organizations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and DFO. Dr. Anthony Davis is the project leader and ISAR coordinator. Dr. Jim Williams is also involved. Fishermen will be contacted to verify and update the information.
- The database may be used for the proposed CRPP project for the Pictou region, mentioned earlier by Andy Sherin.
- The database is being used by Search and Rescue in the Bay of Fundy. Risk analysis models are being developed. Data has been collected and is being tested by the Canadian Coast Guard.
- A presentation on the coastal inventory was made to the PEI Department of Fisheries and Environment. Discussions are ongoing re data exchange and updates.
- The hard-copy atlas for the coastal inventory in the Gulf region will be officially released on 17 June at a workshop on Sustainable Development and ACAP sites in NB. The atlas themes focus on commercial fish species.

Faith Scattolon reported the following:

- An MPA workshop held on 12-13 February identified the need for a planned approach to designating sites. Participants identified the Scotian Shelf as a potential MPA. A project has been undertaken since the workshop to compile data re the Shelf. A project team may be formed.
- The Gully and its protection is a major topic of concern in talks between Canada and NS re offshore exploration.
- The Fundy Forum is being established in collaboration with the ACZISC. Its purpose is to provide a means of communication for community groups in the Bay of Fundy. It will provide a website, mailing list and teleconferencing.
- A Right whale meeting will take place on 24-25 June to look at the next stage of a recovery plan. Information provided by DFO is being used to develop the plan.
- Meetings are taking place to develop an MOU re collaboration among community groups. Discussions involve DFO, EC, the NS departments of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the

Environment.

- Most of DFO's focus in the International Year of the Ocean has been on youth and schools. The response has been excellent.
- Since December 1997, DFO has partnered with the NS departments of Education and Fisheries and Aquaculture to develop an oceans curriculum course for grade 11 students. The course will be launched in September 1998 and will initially be given in 88 schools. A curriculum guide and resource materials have been developed. NS Education is communicating with the other provinces re this initiative.
- Paul Boudreau has returned from his secondment with the Land and Ocean Interface in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) program in the Netherlands. Some of his tasks include:
 - Leading DFO's review of the 1988 moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank which expires in the year 2000.
 - Co-chairing the Data and Information Management Committee (DIMC) of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. A workshop is proposed for the fall to consider developing an information exchange network for the entire Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine region. ACZISC input is being sought.

Discussion and comments:

John Burka: In BC, federal/provincial guidelines have been established for aquaculture. Are there plans to do the same in Atlantic Canada?

Faith Scattolon: DFO has input into leasing. DFO Science is studying some aquaculture-related issues in NB.

Barry Jones and Andy Cameron stated that aquaculture issues are dealt with issue by issue in NB and NS. Barry added that new aquaculture siting policies are being developed in NB; environmental issues will be considered. Also the senior administration of NB Fisheries and Aquaculture is being decentralized; one ADM will be based in the Gulf region and one in the Fundy region. They will deal directly with aquaculture issues. Andy commented that there is a push in NS for the aquaculture industry to self regulate. A code of ethics is being drafted for consideration by the NS Aquaculture Association.

Tim Anderson reported on activities in the DFO Newfoundland Region:

- DFO is involved in several coastal zone inventory projects in Newfoundland. A manual has been developed to assist project participants. It deals with issues such as procedures, standards and methodology. The manual is patterned on similar initiatives in the Maritimes Region. A draft has been circulated to various departments for comments. It will then be revised and should be available by September 1998.
- The coastal zone inventory projects are carried out on a project-by-project basis and are generally coordinated by the regional development boards. DFO provides seed funding and additional funds are provided by Human Resources Development and ACOA.
- Efforts are being to verify the data in the Coastal Zone Resource Inventory (CZRI) before it is released. A CD-ROM is being prepared for use by senior management.
- The CZRI information is being incorporated into AquaGIS (Aquaculture Geographic Information System), a \$500K initiative funded under a Canada/Newfoundland Agreement on Economic Renewal. AquaGIS is a comprehensive system to collect, manage and distribute aquaculture information (a copy of an information pamphlet is attached). Version 1 will be available in September and the final version will be completed in March 1999. For further information on AquaGIS, contact Trevor Fradsham, AquaGIS Project Manager (email: fradshamt@dfo-mpo.gc.ca, tel 709-772-4345).
- CHART is a private sector company formed in 1995. It offers expertise in data analysis for ecological science and the use of satellite imagery and geomatics to CZM applications. CHART is developing a multi-source coastal information system for ICZM in Placentia Bay. The system will include social and economic information, including valuation information on

the resources. The project is funded by Operation ONLINE and involves several partners (see attached write-up).

- A poster on coastal resource inventories in Newfoundland will be presented at CZC'98.
- Public consultation re the proposed Funk Island (Bonavista Bay) as a National Marine Conservation Area site is ongoing. An advisory committee has been established. The study will be completed in 1999.
- The Atlantic component of the National Program of Action (NPA) has submitted its report to Ottawa. The NPA is Canada's responsibility under UNEP's Global Programme of Action (GPA).

ATLANTIC PROVINCES COUNCIL ON THE SCIENCES: John Burka, secretary to the APICS Aquaculture Committee, reported the following:

- The APICS Aquaculture Committee is one of the specialized committees of APICS. It has representatives from all APICS members with an interest in aquaculture, including DFO and the NRC Institute of Marine Biosciences. The Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance is an Associate Member.
- Every March, the Aquaculture Committee hosts a conference for undergraduate and graduate students to make presentations on their research. There are also speakers from industry and government laboratories. The 1998 meeting was held at Dalhousie University in Halifax. The 1999 meeting will be held at Acadia University, Wolfville.
- Members were actively involved in the recent Annual Meeting of the Aquaculture Association of Canada, held in St. John's, Nfld, 1-3 June.
- The Atlantic Aquaculture Expo will be held in St. Andrews, NB, 18-21 June.

John also briefly reviewed research carried out in the region, emphasizing extensive collaborations between academia, government laboratories and industry. He noted:

- Research and diagnostic initiatives, especially with regard to disease outbreaks (e.g., sea lice infestation, ISA virus) and mercury levels in fish
- Educational initiatives in aquaculture:
 - NS Agricultural College: BSc in Aquaculture
 - Marine Institute, Memorial University of Newfoundland: Advanced Diploma in Aquaculture
 - Canadian Aquaculture Institute (Atlantic Veterinary College/UPEI): Continuing education and specialized course in aquaculture medicine, fish health, and management given nationally and internationally.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Eric Theriault reported the following:

- With the recent completion of the west coast of Newfoundland component, the pre-spill database for the Atlantic Sensitivity Mapping Program is now complete for the coastal areas of all four Atlantic Provinces, except Labrador.
- The pre-spill database consists of sub-dividing the coastline into discrete segments and attaching 144 attributes to each segment.
- The information in the database is divided into four primary subjects:
 - Shorezone Character: includes coastal geomorphology, human use, biological resources, etc.
 - Shoreline Protection: how to protect the shoreline segment from an oil spill
 - Shoreline Treatment: how to clean the shoreline if it is oiled
 - Equipment Requirement: equipment to carry out shoreline treatment and for protection needs
- A workshop is being held in Fredericton, NB on 17 June to discuss collaboration amongst community groups.

Eric reported the following on behalf of Larry Hildebrand:

- EC Minister Christine Stewart released the Sable Island Conservation Strategy in Halifax on 1 June. The Strategy was developed by a coalition of government, NGO and private sector interests and provides a moral code for the conservation and protection of the Island. A partnership arrangement among EC, DFO, the Province of NS and the Sable Offshore Energy Project consortium continues to provide the financial resources to manage the Island. A non-profit NGO is being established to assume management responsibilities for Sable Island by April 1999.
- Another year of Dalhousie University's Marine Affairs Program is coming to a close. The Canadian and international students are currently engaged in their summer internships with various organizations represented on the ACZISC. The students are conducting their graduate research on aspects of coastal and marine management, several of which are focusing on community-based or co-management arrangements.

PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA: Don Amos reported the following:

- William Blight was awarded the Treasury Board Award of Excellence by the President of the Treasury Board, Marcel Massé, on 15 June. The prestigious award was presented to Bill for his contribution to the Fixed Link Project (Confederation Bridge). Other PWGSC personnel also received awards.
- PWGSC is continuing its charting activities in collaboration with the GSC Atlantic, including charting associated with the proposed gas pipeline.
- Personnel on a CCG ship are in the Arctic studying the thinning of the polar ice cap. This is a collaborative effort between Canada and the US.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: Jim Ramsay reported the following:

- PEI has reached the stage when GIS data can be made readily available for projects. The data is reasonably accurate and current and is being used by provincial departments and agencies, the federal government, ACAP groups and the private sector.
- The ability to export GIS data between systems has developed significantly, making it easier to use data from other sources.
- A GPS cooperative project was recently completed by PEI, NB and NS. The positions for the precision network are available.
- PEI will be developing internet access to land information, similar to GeoLinc and the NB and NS systems.

FIRST NATIONS: Ken Paul stated that his contributions to the ACZISC would relate to ICZM and coastal zone mapping; he added that if issues of a "political" nature arose, these would be brought to the attention of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs.

Ken reported that the Mi'kmaq Aboriginal Treaty Rights Centre in Shubenacadie, NS is carrying out a 2-year community-based mapping project to identify traditional fish, wildlife, and plant harvesting sites, as well as any other places of significance to the Mi'kmaq. A GIS system will be selected this fall to analyze and map the information. Elders are being interviewed. The information is being collected on paper maps. Ken is encouraging the Centre to obtain a GPS for the field work to facilitate the positioning of sites, etc.

A similar project may be carried out in NB re the northeast gas pipeline route.

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY: Paul Macnab, formerly on staff at Terra Nova National Park, reported the following:

- The Geography Department at Saint Mary's University features:

- a new lab with 20 Pentium class computers
- courses in cartography, remote sensing and GIS
- installed software: PCI, MapInfo, IDRISI and Adobe Illustrator
- laboratory exercises being prepared based on regional datasets
- Geomatics research at Saint Mary's includes:
 - a proposal for a university-wide research facility
 - ongoing geospatial research re ports, coastal landforms, offshore aggregates and historic Lunenburg
 - Sable pipeline route, Labrador land use and occupancy study
 - economics, geology and CIDA projects in Asia

Paul added that he had worked on the Bonavista Bay Mapping Project for three years.

Aspects of the Project include:

- collaborative work to support a National Marine Conservation Area proposal
- inputs from Parks Canada, DFO, CHS, the Province of Newfoundland and others
- topo-bathy base map generated from digital source data
- fisher charting of harvest areas and local names
- draft maps being used for community-based planning (e.g., Eastport lobster reserves)

Paul stated that he would make his masters thesis available for distribution.

NOVA SCOTIA: Brad Fay reported the following:

- Significant efforts are going into the NS Civic Address program in support of 911. Pilot projects will be carried out in Cumberland County - one using digital information, one without and another in a large cottage area.
- NS is having discussions with the universities re providing data for research and educational purposes. Agreements will be required with restrictions on use.

Andy Cameron reported the following:

- A meeting of the NS Coastal Zone Policy Group is scheduled for 22 June. A response to the NS Roundtable report and Oceans Act are being developed.
- A provincial/federal meeting re an MOU for coastal zone management is scheduled for 19 June. Participants will review a "straw-dog" document prepared by EC.
- NS is in the third phase of the NS Roundtable for Capacity Building. A workshop to discuss the processes which could be utilized was held last week. Integration into continuing education is being favoured.
- A workshop re significant habitat evaluation in the Minas Bight is scheduled for 30 June. The processes used in the Gulf of Maine program will be considered for the Minas Bight.

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*. He reported the following:

- A proposal to carry out a similar study has been made to the GoM Council. This will be followed up.
- Maurice Mandale, the lead consultant for the study, is discussing the possibility of extending the coverage of the study with ACOA, which has expressed interest.
- The report is downloadable from the ACZISC Homepage located at <http://is.dal.ca/aczisc/aczisc>. In addition, extra paper copies have been made available courtesy of the Oceans Act Coordination Office.

Barry Jones stated that the presentation to the GoM Council had caught the attention of the NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. The possibility of carrying out a similar study for NB will be discussed.

CANADA'S OCEANS ACT: Faith Scattolon reported the following:

- Some re-organization has taken place recently within DFO. An Oceans Sector, responsible for the Oceans Act and Habitat, has been created as of 8 June. Prior to its creation, responsibility for the Oceans Act and Strategy was split between the Science and Policy sectors.
- Scott Parsons is the ADM of the new Oceans Sector. Dr. Parsons' stated priorities are the Oceans Strategy and MPAs.
- Public consultation in the Maritimes Region re the Oceans Strategy has been re-scheduled from the spring to the fall of 1998. It will take place at arms length from government. Leaders will be consulted for their opinion. These findings and recommendations will then be fine-tuned with focus groups. Dena Murphy has been hired to obtain appropriate background material.
- A national policy and framework document on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) was released in April 1998. It builds on a discussion paper released in April 1997. A regional framework document has also been developed and is scheduled for revision. Areas of interest for MPAs are listed in the document, including the sites proposed for parks/conservation areas by Parks Canada. Meetings are taking place with the provinces and communities for feedback on the documents. A roundtable on MPAs is scheduled for February 1999.
- Documentation is available from the Oceans Canada website located at <http://www.oceanscanada.com>.

Tim Anderson added that consultation re the Oceans Strategy is also taking place in the Newfoundland Region. Pilot projects may be carried out as a result.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION: Mike Butler stated that the SGSL Coalition Steering Committee is co-chaired by Joe Arbour, EC and Sabine Dietz, Piper Project. Barry Jones is the secretary.

Barry reported the following:

- The SGSL Coalition Steering Committee is working to define the purpose of the Coalition and to identify a workable structure for its operation. Efforts will be required to build trust between government and the communities in the region.
- A Striped Bass project is underway and a user needs study will be carried this summer.
- A monitoring project based on the GoM experience is being contemplated.
- A meeting of the SGSL Coalition will be held in September to review progress to date and to determine future directions.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION COALITION/COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION: Mike Butler reported the following:

- The CEC was established under NAFTA to address environmental concerns.
- 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.
- Scoping papers on "habitats" and "pollutants" have been prepared and discussed at a workshop held in April.
- A 2nd GPAC workshop is being organized for 15-17 November in Portland, Maine. The workshop will identify an implementation mechanism for the GPAC action plan. To assist this process, specific papers will be prepared on Toxics; Nitrogen Loading and Marine

- Culture; Coastal Development; Resource Use; and Hydraulic Changes.
- The GPAC Committee is co-chaired by Joe Arbour, EC and Katie Ries, NOAA. The CEC Project Liaison is Colleen Mercer-Clarke, CBCL Ltd.

GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: Eric Theriault, on behalf of Larry Hildebrand, reported that the Gulf of Maine Council had met for its biannual meeting in Salem, Mass. on 11-12 June. The Program remains focused on its primary objective of protecting and conserving coastal and marine habitats within this bi-national ecosystem. The EPA grant will come to an end over the next few months and additional sources of revenue and partnerships are being sought to support the Program's 5-year Action Plan (1996-2001).

The Council's core activities of continuing production of its newsletter *The Gulf of Maine Times*, the Gulfwatch marine monitoring program and the Council's website remain as top priorities. EC is currently managing the GoM website located at <http://gulfofmaine.org>. Over the next few months, the look, content and accessibility of the website will be enhanced and a data management framework, modelled on that being developed by EC for Labrador and based on the ACZISC architecture, will be created.

Andy Cameron added that the Secretariat for the GoM would be located at the NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture for the 1998/99 year. Interviews are being conducted to fill the position of Secretariat Coordinator.

COASTAL ZONE CANADA CONFERENCE SERIES: Mike Butler reported that the CZC conference series was initiated in 1994 in Halifax, followed by CZC'96 in Rimouski. CZC'98 will take place in Victoria from 30 August to 3 September; it will have a community focus.

Barry Jones, chair of the CZC 2000 Steering Committee, reported:

- 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*. The sub-themes are Aboriginal Practices, Community-based Actions, and Marine Environmental Quality.
- Ken Paul is a member of the Aboriginal Program Sub-committee.
- The next meeting of the CZC 2000 Organizing Committee is scheduled for 7 July in Saint John. A CZC 2000 brochure for distribution at CZC'98 will be finalized.

BAY OF FUNDY ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP: Mike Butler reported that a BOFEP meeting would be held following the CZC 2000 meeting on 7 July in Saint John. The major topic of discussion will be information dissemination. Graham Daborn, Acadia University is the BOFEP chairman and Barry Jones is the secretary.

Andy Cameron added that the Minas Bight habitat study may be put under the BOFEP umbrella.

8. ***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS***

Mike Butler briefly discussed documents and other publications located on a side table available for review or for distribution.

It was announced that:

- The GoM Working Group meeting will take place in Wolfville, NS on 21-22 September.
- Geomatics Atlantic will take place in St. John's, Nfld from 23-25 September. Randy Gillespie is the contact person (randyg@ccmcpst.ifmt.nf.ca).

- The Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG) will meet from 27-29 September, also in St. John's.

9. ***OTHER BUSINESS***

No new business was discussed.

10. ***NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT***

ACZISC Meeting #25 is provisionally scheduled for Thursday, 8 October 1998 in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

ACZISC Meeting #24 adjourned at 16:00 hrs.