

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #26

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Date: Thursday, 4 February 1999, 0830-1700 hrs.

Location: Boardroom 1524, Environment Canada
45 Alderney Square, Dartmouth, NS

NAME	AFFILIATION	TEL. NO.
Present: * indicates ACZISC member		
Tim Anderson*	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Newfoundland Region	(709) 772-2852
Joe Arbour	Environment Canada	(902) 426-1701
Alex Bielak	Environment Canada	(902) 426-6314
Paul Boudreau	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(902) 426-7464
Michael Butler*, Chair	Council of Maritime Premiers and Oceans Institute of Canada	(902) 494-1977
Andy Cameron*	Province of Nova Scotia	(902) 424-0406
Heather Campbell	Champlain Institute	(902) 463-3990
Réjean Castonguay*	Province of New Brunswick	(506) 453-3917
Norval Collins*	Champlain Institute, GANS and GIAC	(902) 425-4802
Brad Fay*	Province of Nova Scotia	(902) 424-4966
Larry Hildebrand*	Environment Canada	(902) 426-9632
Geoff Howell	Environment Canada	(902) 426-4196
Barry Jones*	Province of New Brunswick	(506) 444-5749
Claudette LeBlanc	ACZISC Secretariat	(902) 494-1977
Dick MacDougall*	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Hydrographic Service	(902) 426-3497
Paul Lafleche	Virtual Campus, NS Community College	(902) 491-6705
Barry Lonergan	Public Works and Government Services Canada (for Bill Blight*)	(902) 496-5524
Gary Patterson	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	(902) 893-7430
Kenneth Paul*	First Nations, Atlantic Canada	(902) 426-3497
Roger Percy	Environment Canada	(902) 426-2576
Brent Rowley	Earth Information Technologies Inc	(902) 420-1435
Faith Scattolon*	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region	(902) 426-2065
Andy Sherin*	Natural Resources Canada	(902) 426-7582
Herbert Sooley	Health Canada	(902) 426-5575
Mike Warren*	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador	(709) 729-3712
Brian Whitehouse	Alliance for Marine Remote Sensing	(902) 835-2209

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

Mike Butler, ACZISC Chair, called Meeting #26 to order at 08:30 hrs. He welcomed members and guests and thanked Larry Hildebrand and Eric Theriault for making arrangements for the meeting room and Environment Canada for providing lunch. He added that Eric was absent from the meeting due to illness. A roundtable introduction of all participants followed.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA, AND REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING #25**

The provisional Agenda for Meeting #26 was reviewed and approved (copy attached).

The minutes of ACZISC Meeting #25 were reviewed and the following revision was made:

Page 9 **DATA EXCHANGE AND STANDARDS:** *Réjean Castonguay provided a correction to the 5th bullet of the Discussions: "The final value will be available on 31 March 1999" **should read** "The final values were available on 31 March 1998"*

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**

Action Items from Meeting #25 and those outstanding from previous meetings were reviewed. All Action Items were carried out or are in progress other than the following:

ACTION 25.7: ACZISC to evaluate using PDF for formatting ACZISC documents made available on the ACZISC Homepage.

STATUS: This has not been done but will be addressed by the Secretariat prior to the next meeting.

4. **ACZISC WORKPLAN**

ACZISC SECRETARIAT: Mike Butler distributed copies of the draft Operating Guidelines for the ACZISC Secretariat. They were reviewed and suggestions were made to clarify the intent of some items.

ACTION 26.1: Members to further review the draft Operating Guidelines for the ACZISC Secretariat and contact the Secretariat with comments prior to next meeting.

The Secretariat will revise the Guidelines based on comments and distribute the revised version at the next ACZISC meeting for further review.

It was actioned at ACZISC Meeting #25 that a protocol for identifying participants to attend ACZISC workshops and other events be developed. The Secretariat has discussed this issue with the Working Group co-chairs and the following is recommended:

- The Secretariat will notify ACZISC members of upcoming workshops and other events and ask for their assistance in identifying and inviting individuals within their jurisdiction who should attend;
- The Secretariat and Working Group co-chairs will also identify and invite individuals to attend;
- The Secretariat will publicize the workshops and other events in the ACZISC Updates, the website and other relevant communication tools.

Members agreed with this recommendation.

MEMBERSHIP: Mike Butler reported on the status of ACZISC membership:

Canadian Coast Guard: Larry Wilson has been replaced by Jim Calvesbert, A/Director, Marine Programs as the CCG representative on the ACZISC. Larry has been appointed Regional Director for the CCG.

Newfoundland and Labrador: Mike welcomed Mike Warren, Director, Planning Services, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture as a representative of the Government of Nfld and Labrador on the ACZISC.

Mike Butler commented that the success of the ACZISC depended largely on the active participation of its members. He reminded members that the ACZISC Review carried out in 1997 had recommended that members who were not active on a long-standing basis be asked to resign to permit the appointment of a replacement. Members agreed with his suggestion that the ACZISC Executive Committee and Secretariat come up with a policy for carrying this out, subject to approval by the Committee at the next meeting.

ACTION 26.2: Executive Committee and Secretariat to develop a policy and procedures for replacing long-standing non-active ACZISC members ASAP.

Discussion:

Barry Jones enquired who was on the Executive Committee. Mike Butler responded that the members were: Brad Fay, representing the Provinces; Ken Paul, representing First Nations; Brent Rowley, representing the private sector; Faith Scattolon, representing the federal departments; and Mike Butler, representing the Secretariat. The Executive Committee meets on average two times between the ACZISC meetings; it also communicates via conference calls and email.

Barry Jones enquired if it was necessary to be a member of the ACZISC to become a member of the Executive Committee, as was the case with Brent Rowley. Mike Butler responded that it was not necessary and that familiarity with and interest in the activities of the ACZISC were the prerequisites.

Members suggested that the Executive Committee members be identified in the List of ACZISC Members.

ACTION 26.3: Secretariat to include the list of Executive Committee members with the listing of ACZISC members.

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

WORKPLAN/BUDGET/FUNDING: Mike Butler reported that the Secretariat is operating based on the 1998/99 ACZISC Workplan distributed in June 1998. Copies of the 1998/99 budget were distributed (copy attached). Members were asked for feedback on the Workplan and Budget.

ACTION 26.4: Members to further review the ACZISC Workplan and Budget and contact the Secretariat with comments ASAP.

Mike reported the following:

- Fiscal year 1998/99 began with a \$20K deficit. This has been partially addressed with the support of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and contracts with the NS Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs and the Canada Rural Partnership Program.
- The NS Federal Council has been approached re long-term base funding for the ACZISC; copies of the draft briefing notes on the ACZISC prepared for the Council were distributed. Comments were requested from members.

ACTION 26.5: Members to review the draft briefing notes on the ACZISC prepared for the NS Federal Council and to contact the Secretariat with comments prior to 19 February 1999.

- The Council of Maritime Premiers has also been approached; it will contribute \$60K/year over the next three years to the ACZISC on behalf of the Provinces if this amount is matched by the Federal Government.
- Because Newfoundland is not part of the CMP, the Province will be approached individually. Keith Wornell, Secretary to the CMP, has initiated discussions with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. A contribution of \$10K/year is considered to be an equitable sum, based on per capita calculations (vis-à-vis the Maritime Provinces).

Faith Scattolon reported on the federal councils:

- Each Province has a federal council. There is also an Atlantic Federal Council.
- The federal councils in each province meet regularly to deal with logistical matters such as the sharing of services and facilities. Sub-committees of the councils deal with common policy issues.
- A meeting was held on 20 October with Bob Hoeg, Secretary to the NS Federal Council, at which time the ACZISC was presented as a forum for both federal and federal/provincial collaboration.
- The theme of the NS Council's 1999/2000 workplan will be adopted at a meeting scheduled for 12 February. Sustainable Communities has been suggested repeatedly and is likely to be adopted. The ACZISC will be presented as an item under this theme at this meeting and ongoing federal financial support for the ACZISC will be sought.
- In addition to obtaining financial support, this could provide an opportunity to broaden the relevance of the ACZISC to the federal departments and to communities.
- The NS Federal Council may consider developing a federal/CMP MOU re ACZISC support.
- The Atlantic Federal Council will be meeting later this spring; federal support for the ACZISC will also be brought to their attention.

COMMUNICATIONS: The ACZISC Communications Working Group is chaired by Mike Butler who reported the following:

Communications Meeting:

- A Communications meeting was held on 19 January 1999 at BIO. Participants were Paul

Boudreau, Mike Butler, Larry Hildebrand and Claudette LeBlanc. The following recommendations were made:

- The ACZISC should simplify its "identity". This could include developing a concise vision statement/slogan and placing emphasis on services provided. This should be used in the ACZISC communications tools, e.g., website, Updates, business card, etc.
- The ACZISC monthly Updates would be more effective if titles were added to the individual items. This would enable readers to more quickly identify the items of interest to them.
- The monthly ACZISC Updates, posted in the What's New section of the ACZISC Homepage, should be archived as they contain useful information.
- The ACZISC should consider purchasing a "domain" for the website.
- The ACZISC should consider purchasing the PDF software for formatting documents to be posted on the WWW. *Note:* The PDF reader software is available free-of-charge on the WWW.

Discussion:

Participants concurred with the need for a concise vision statement.

Brian Whitehouse stated that the intent of the statement must be very clear.

Andy Sherin added that there may be a need to rethink the entire ACZISC operations, i.e. committee structure, website, etc. in light of an expanded role vis-à-vis communities.

ACTION 26.6: Members to contact Secretariat with suggestions for an ACZISC vision statement/slogan ASAP.

ACTION 26.7: Communications Working Group and Secretariat to develop a concise vision statement/slogan for the ACZISC, for use on the letterhead, website, business card, etc. prior to next meeting.

ACZISC Update:

- The ACZISC Updates continue to be prepared and distributed monthly via email to members and a distribution list of associates maintained by the Secretariat. Some of the individuals on the list also email the Updates to their own networks of contacts. Thus distribution is widespread.
- The Updates contain brief items relating to information management and coastal zone management regionally, nationally and internationally.
- The Secretariat is receiving positive feedback on the Updates.

Some of the members asked for a copy of the ACZISC distribution list so as to remove overlaps from their own lists. Mike cautioned that the list is confidential and should be used for that purpose only.

ACTION 26.8: 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.

ACZISC Website:

- The website continues to be maintained on a regular and frequent basis. Efforts are being made to improve it.
- User statistics for the website were distributed and reviewed (copy attached). Claudette LeBlanc suggested that the increase in usage during the last three months was as a result

of the letters mailed out by the ACZISC during that period asking for input to the Atlantic Coastal Community Update. The letters directed the recipients to the ACZISC website for details on ACZISC activities.

- Claudette asked for assistance in improving the ACZISC website "Maps and Imagery Online" as this was one of the more popular ACZISC web pages. She requested that participants notify her of websites where, in particular, maps and imagery suitable for resource management can be downloaded free-of-charge or for a fee.

ACTION 26.9: Members to email Claudette LeBlanc with the URL of websites where maps and imagery can be downloaded.

Discussion:

Claudette LeBlanc: The Shellfish Closure maps posted by EC on the web are an excellent example of easily accessible larger scale maps suitable for resource management. However, most of the maps currently available on the web are generalized and small scale.

Réjean Castonguay: The PDF format is an excellent format for making maps available on the web. It offers the capability of zooming in on specific areas. The PDF reader software can be downloaded free-of-charge from the Internet. However, there is a cost associated with the software used for formatting documents and maps in PDF.

Norval Collins: The ACZISC could consider making recommendations for making maps available on the web.

Atlantic Coastal Community Update:

- The ACCU was initiated at the request of members who stated that communities had expressed the need for a website where they could post information related to their activities.
- Approximately 400 letters have been mailed out to the communities and associations in the four Atlantic Provinces requesting contributions to ACCU.
- To date, there has been little response.

Discussion:

Ken Paul: The reason for the lack of response could be that community groups are very busy and they don't see a return for the effort required to contribute to ACCU.

Herb Sooley reiterated the need to clearly indicate the benefits to communities in making their community information available. He also suggested that the website could be more community friendly.

Mike Butler: The benefits to the communities were clearly stated in the letter mailed to them. Community awareness is an ongoing process and efforts will continue in this regard.

DATABASE DIRECTORY: The ACZISC Database Directory Working Group is chaired by Claudette LeBlanc. She reported on a meeting of ACZISC representatives with personnel of CGDI/CEONet on 4 December in Halifax to discuss issues of common interest, including metadata directories. An offer of assistance made by CEONet personnel earlier in 1998 was discussed. At that time, CEONet had offered to make the ACZISC Directory available via CEONet by either:

1. converting the ACZISC Database Directory to the American FGDC metadata standard adopted for CEONet; this standard was adopted for CEONet because it is in line with the international metadata currently being developed by the International Standards Organization (ISO).
2. providing an interface between the ACZISC Directory/CGSB standard and the CEONet/FGDC standard; or

3. taking over the maintenance and update of the ACZISC Directory.

However, it was indicated by CEONet personnel that funding was not available to provide assistance with any of the three options.

The Working Group had been tasked at a previous ACZISC meeting to organize a Strategic Workshop for the Directory. The Working Group is recommending that this Workshop be delayed until various options for the ACZISC Directory are reviewed by the Working Group. A one-page long-term strategy document for the Directory will be developed by the Working Group to assist in identifying the options.

ACTION 26.10: ACZISC Database Directory Working Group to develop a long-term strategy for the ACZISC Database Directory prior to next meeting.

COASTAL MAPPING: The Coastal Mapping Working Group is co-chaired by Curt Speight, NSGC and Eric Theriault, EC. Mike Butler reported on behalf of the co-chairs and distributed a draft Workshop agenda:

- Following an Action item from the last ACZISC meeting (#25) in Fredericton, several meetings of the Working Group and Secretariat have taken place to organize a coastal zone mapping workshop.
- The Workshop has been provisionally scheduled for Wednesday, 7 April 1999 at Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB.
- The Workshop will address mitigation of natural disasters (storm surges, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, etc.) in the coastal zone through the development and use of high resolution 3D coastal base maps and digital terrain models.
- The Workshop will build on a series of regional workshops sponsored by the Institute of Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) and Emergency Preparedness Canada (EPC), in the fall of 1998, on mitigation of natural disasters. Two documents summarize the results of these meetings: *Better Protecting Canadians from Natural Hazards* (Dec. 1998); and *A National Mitigation Policy* (Dec. 1998).
- Workshop objectives include:
 - To bring together primary stakeholders and decision makers to identify the major threats to the coastal environment of Atlantic Canada;
 - To identify potential strategies and solutions which will minimize these threats;
 - To raise stakeholder awareness;
 - To develop a Plan of Action.
- Expected attendees include stakeholders and decision makers who are responsible and/or concerned about the impact and mitigation of these events.
- Members were asked to review the draft Workshop agenda and provide comments and to assist in identifying individuals from their jurisdictions who should attend.

ACTION 26.11: Members to contact Secretariat ASAP with comments or suggested revisions to the draft agenda for the Coastal Mapping Workshop.

ACTION 26.12: Members to contact Secretariat ASAP with the names and email addresses of individuals from their jurisdiction who should be attending the Workshop.

Mike Butler added that this Workshop was a follow-up to two previous ACZISC coastal mapping workshops, one concerning federal programs and the other related to provincial mapping. Reports of these workshops are available from the Documents page of the ACZISC website at <http://is.dal.ca/aczisc/docs>.

Discussion:

Larry Hildebrand questioned if the workshops were contributing to the elimination of duplication in coastal mapping.

Brad Fay: The workshops help to create awareness of coastal mapping and to reduce duplication.

Andy Sherin: In general, the workshops can be useful in building partnerships. He suggested that there is a need to organize a workshop focusing on federal/provincial partnerships in particular.

Andy Cameron: The coastal zone is common to a lot of government activity and it is unrealistic to think that duplication in coastal mapping and CZM can be eliminated completely. However, efforts must continue to reduce duplication.

Réjean Castonguay suggested that Modelling (e.g., storm surges) be the topic of a presentation at an upcoming ACZISC meeting.

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 the following:

- He and Réjean had asked for feedback at the last ACZISC meeting to identify key issues which could be addressed by the ACZISC. The shoreline, its definition and standards, were identified as issues in common to several jurisdictions represented on the ACZISC.
- NB has been very active in this area because of its coastal mapping program and its Marine Policy currently under development.
- Efforts in the U.S. have focused on developing standards for the attribution of lines.
- A workshop on shoreline standards is being considered as a follow-up to the Natural Disasters workshop scheduled for 7 April.

Discussion:

Brad Fay: A CGDI meeting is scheduled in Ottawa next week. Data exchange and standards are on the agenda. Both Brad and Réjean will be attending the meeting.

Andy Sherin: It is important to be aware of developments outside the region so as not to duplicate efforts.

Heather Campbell added that a CGDI/NB meeting would be held in Fredericton on 18-19 February.

ACTION 26.13: ACZISC Data Exchange and Standards Working Group to consider organizing a Workshop on Shoreline Standards.

5. ***PRESENTATION: EC'S LINK SYSTEM***

Mike Butler introduced Geoff Howell, Head, Integration and Interpretation, Ecosystem Science, Environment Canada. Geoff briefed participants on LINKS (Logical Integrated Knowledge System) currently under development at Environment Canada and gave an online demo. Geoff stated the following:

- LINKS is being developed as a communication tool to allow scientists to share information relating to their projects and skillsets, to facilitate project planning, and to reduce duplication.
- LINKS builds on Q-LInKS, Québec-Labrador Integrated Knowledge System, designed for sharing biophysical and environmental data. It was developed in collaboration with the Innu Nation in Labrador. A workshop was held in St. John's, Nfld in December 1997 to exchange ideas on the design of Q-LInKS. Based at Memorial University, Q-LInKS is scheduled for release in a month.

- LINKS is a hierarchical system. Data can be entered and updated online. The only static part in the system is the "front page". LINKS is driven by two databases: the information, and the html codes used to generate html reports on demand.
- LINKS eliminates the need for a gatekeeper/webmaster but a database administrator will be required. One of the administrator's duties will be to issue warnings if links are broken by the contributors to the system.
- Several groups have expressed interest in LINKS for their information requirements, including the ACZISC, the ACAP sites, the NRCan Sustainable Communities group, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, and the Cape Breton Development.
- Funding is being sought to support further development of the system.

Discussion:

Larry Hildebrand: The LINKS metadata component is based on the structure of the ACZISC Database Directory.

Geoff Howell: Pop-up boxes and text boxes are now being developed for the LINKS metadata component to facilitate data entry and updating. Currently MS Internet Explorer 4 is required to run the system. It is anticipated that the next release of Netscape will support pop-up boxes.

Dick MacDougall: LINKS could be very useful to coordinate the production of shoreline mapping.

Geoff requested that interested participants review LINKS on the web and provide feedback; the website is located at <http://www.qlinks.umoncton.ca/links>

6. **PRESENTATION: 4NR COMMITTEE**

Mike Butler introduced Dr. Alex T Bielak, Manager, Ecosystem Science, Environment Canada. Alex made a presentation on the Federal Natural Resource Departments Atlantic (Pilot) Project. Copies of his overheads are attached. Alex reported the following:

- The four federal natural resource departments (Agriculture and Agri-Food, Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, and Natural Resources) signed an MOU in 1995 to coordinate efforts re sustainable resource management. When the MOU was renewed in 1998, it was signed by Health and the 4 original NR departments.
- Several working groups have been established, including the Atlantic Regional Pilot Project initiated in the fall of 1998. Major organizational, functional and operational differences among the departments have led to a Maritime focus rather than an Atlantic focus. John Loch, DFO, is the current Chair and Alex is the Secretary.
- Deliverables of the Atlantic group include two reports:
 - *Monitoring Activities of the Federal Natural Resources Departments in the Maritimes*
 - *The Bay of Fundy: Current Program Activities and Management Issues of the Federal Natural Resource Departments in the Maritimes.*
 The documents are for internal purposes only; they were circulated for review.
- Current activities of the Atlantic group include:
 - A Report on Laboratory Cooperation
 - Draft of Maritimes Data Exchange Agreement
 - Review of report *Environmental Impacts of Barriers on Rivers Entering the Bay of Fundy*
 - Provision of data to enhance AEB Monitoring CD
 - Impending discussion of web access to data.
- NS and NB have expressed interest in the activities of the Atlantic group.

Discussion:

Andy Cameron enquired who had expressed interest from NS. Alex replied that he did not know specifically but that the interest was conveyed to George Finney, Regional Director,

Environmental Conservation, EC, at a GoM meeting.

Ken Paul suggested that Indian and Northern Affairs be approached if they had not already.

Ken added that he would provide the name of a contact.

Herb Sooley enquired who represented Health. Alex replied that there was no one on the Atlantic Committee.

Mike Butler: Is there an attempt to bring federal representation from Newfoundland?

Alex Bielak: The only federal department from Newfoundland not represented, as the Atlantic Group is presently constituted, is DFO. Their involvement would be welcomed.

Mike Butler enquired why the documents were for internal use only, adding that they would be of interest to a broader audience. Alex replied that they were incomplete and therefore could be misleading. He added that the report *Environmental Impacts of Barriers on Rivers Entering the Bay of Fundy* was available - email Alex (alex.bielak@ec.gc.ca) or Joe Arbour (joe.arbour@ec.gc.ca) for a copy.

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

NEW BRUNSWICK: Réjean Castonguay reported the following:

- Planet is a 10-year land titles project being designed and implemented in modules. It could be demonstrated at a future ACZISC meeting.
- Three coastal mapping databases are being produced:
 - Coastal topographic database
 - Coastal lands database
 - Coastal soft-copy orthophotomap database\$1.1 million will be awarded in contracts during 1998/99 for the production of these databases. The total cost will be approximately \$1.5 million.
- Future projects include:
 - Geo-referenced civic address database: this is a high priority project. NS is currently developing a similar system.
 - A Province-wide colour soft-copy orthophotomap database may be produced.
 - Structured administrative boundaries database: the need for this database is increasing.

Barry Jones stated the following:

- Personnel from the NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture met with DFO personnel to discuss the process for identifying and establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). DFO will be taking measures to ensure interaction between the Provinces and the federal government on this matter. Musquash Marsh has been proposed as an MPA.
- Dr. Louis Lapierre, Université de Moncton, made a presentation to the NB Government on a study for a Protected Areas Strategy for New Brunswick. The strategy recommends seven protected sites. Public consultation and socio-economic analysis were not part of the study.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: Mike Warren reported the following:

- AquaGIS (Aquaculture Geographic Information System) is a comprehensive system to collect, manage and distribute aquaculture information. It was designed to be used as a tool for selecting aquaculture sites and was developed at a cost of approximately \$500K.
 - A beta version of AquaGIS will be available online shortly. Access will be limited. Version 2 will be available in a few months; it will include more data, including aquaculture site layouts, submarine cables, bathymetry, etc.
 - AquaGIS was developed in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Marine Communication, DFO, CCG and the aquaculture industry.
 - The "location" of the system has yet to be determined. Potential sites include the CCG, CCMC or the Nfld Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

- Tim Anderson and Mike are members of the Steering Committee for AquaGIS.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, efforts are being made to establish a network of individuals who are interested in ICZM in order to facilitate communication.

Discussion:

Paul Boudreau asked if there was an agreement to include aquaculture site data in AquaGIS. Mike Warren responded that this information would form the heart of the system. However, the confidential information will not be made available.

Tim Anderson: Issues such as "can AquaGIS be used more broadly than for aquaculture applications" and "how can it be used in the future" will be addressed.

Paul Boudreau enquired if the NB aquaculture sites were available on the web. Barry Jones replied no but that he thought that capability was being developed.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Tim Anderson reported on activities in the DFO Newfoundland Region:

- The Procedures Manual entitled *Community-Based Coastal Resource Inventories in Newfoundland and Labrador* has been published. The manual includes standards re the approach and symbology associated with coastal resource inventories. Copies are available from Tim.

ACTION 26.14: Participants who wish to receive a copy of the Procedures Manual entitled *Community-Based Coastal Resource Inventories in Newfoundland and Labrador* to contact Tim Anderson, DFO (andersont@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

- DFO has been collaborating with developers of the Advanced Diploma Course in Coastal Zone Management at the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University. Students will be undertaking practical field work compiling information in Conception Bay South, an area of high activity including ferry crossings, recreation, fisheries, etc. The Institute will be approaching other government agencies in regards to becoming partners in the Course.
- A national discussion document to be used in public consultations re the National Program of Action (NPA) is nearing completion. Public workshops will be held in February. DFO, EC and their provincial counterparts will be involved.
- A public feasibility study is ongoing re the proposed Bonavista-Funk Island National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) site off the northeast coast of Newfoundland. There are 125 communities in the area.
 - An Advisory Committee has been established; half of its members have a fisheries interest. DFO and the Province are involved in the consultations.
 - Three workshops have been held to date dealing with benefits, awareness and tourism; mistrust of government; and aquaculture. A fourth workshop will consider management of commercial fisheries.
 - The Advisory Committee will be tasked to develop a broad model which will be brought to the public for consultation.
 - Following public consultations, the plan will be brought to federal and provincial agencies. It is anticipated that the plan will be completed in 1999.
 - Neil Munro (neil_munro@pch.gc.ca), Parks Canada, should be contacted for further information on NMCAs.

Discussion:

Larry Hildebrand enquired if the NPA consultations would be coordinated with the consultations re the Oceans Strategy. Faith Scattolon replied that they would not be coordinated in a formal way.

Faith Scattolon reported the following:

- DFO is participating on a pilot project in St. Georges Bay with St. Francis Xavier University which focuses on fisheries and socio-economic information. Efforts are being made to add additional data to the database.
- The Oceans 11 course is being offered in 48 of 80 high schools in Nova Scotia. The teachers are enthusiastic about the course and a considerable amount of resource material is available. A resource guide will be produced.
- DFO is participating in a mapping project to locate aquaculture sites with the CCG in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. New applications for the data collected for the TEK Atlas are being developed. The maps will be made available on the WWW.
- The regional DFO GIS Working Group may be re-invigorated because of need.
- DFO has developed a subscription agreement with the NS Geomatics Centre with regards to base maps.
- A meeting was held at Dalhousie University at the end of October to consider the development of an Oil and Gas Research Institute which would have Atlantic-wide involvement of universities. The Institute will be funded by the oil and gas industry and will focus on areas of interest to them.
- DFO Fisheries Management staff are organizing a workshop on Low Trophic Level Fisheries (krill), probably in the fall, as part of a study to review ecosystem impacts of fisheries management. A working group headed by Odette Murphy is developing a plan to be addressed at the workshop.

Discussion:

Barry Jones enquired if it was DFO's intentions to discuss Oceans 11 with the other Provinces. Faith responded that the other Provinces had indicated they were interested when they were contacted by NS in regards to Oceans 11. They will be implementing the course after NS finishes developing it. This is standard practice with course development in the Provinces. There is a curricula agreement amongst the Provinces re standards, etc. Mike Butler enquired if there was a link with the Canadian Wildlife Federation's school program. Faith responded that Oceans 11 was a different type of course in that it was specific and offered a science credit.

Paul Boudreau reported the following:

- Faith Scattolon has been named Regional Director, Maritimes for the new DFO Oceans Sector as of 1 January. Participants congratulated her on her new appointment.
- The Georges Bank Moratorium expires on 1 January 2000.
 - The Moratorium legislation specifies that a Public Review be included in the process to determine if the Moratorium is to be extended beyond that date. This Public Review is now completed. The report is due on 1 July 1999.
 - Both federal and provincial legislation are required to extend the Moratorium.
 - DFO submitted a summary *DFO Maritimes Regional Habitat Status Report* to the Review Panel. A detailed background science document was also prepared by DFO.

ACTION 26.15: Participants wishing to obtain a copy of the background science documents presented by DFO to the Georges Bank Panel to contact Paul Boudreau, DFO (boudreaup@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

NOVA SCOTIA: Brad Fay reported the following:

- The Civic Addressing Pilot Project in Cumberland County is continuing with a view to possible province-wide roll out over the next 2-3 years, funding permitting.
- The anticipated completion date for the NS Coastal Mapping at 1:50,000 is March 2000:

- Mapping is completed in the Annapolis area.
 - 16 sheets in the Pictou area will be completed by March 1999.
 - Canso to Yarmouth (south coast) is scheduled for completion by 30 April 1999.
 - The remainder of the Province is to be completed by March 2000.
- The NS Property Records Database On-line has been operational for almost one full year; it offers access to data on a subscription basis. This very successful initiative is proving the WWW to be the dissemination media of the future for this and other NS datasets.
- NS hosted a Roundtable on the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) on 3 December 1998. It was a very successful meeting with presentations on CGDI, the NS GeoNOVA initiative, and Partnering by NRCan, the NS Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs (DHMA), and Statistics Canada.
- The NS DHMA is collaborating with the ACZISC on an interim metadata directory update for the NS Metadata Directory.
- The NS DHMA is involved in developing data and information exchange agreements with other government agencies.

Brad reported the following on behalf of Andy Cameron:

- A Georges Bank Oil and Gas Forum held in Halifax last November in conjunction with meetings of the Gulf of Maine Working Group and Council was well received.
- NS' Coastal Management Policy will be sent to the Deputy Ministers for approval in the near future.
- A provincial/federal MOU on Service Delivery in Coastal Areas is being finalized to present to lead Deputy Ministers and Regional Directors General for approval.
- The Pacem in Maribus Conference took place in Halifax from 29 November to 3 December 1998.

Claudette LeBlanc stated that the *Halifax Declaration on the Ocean*, the recommendations from Pacem in Maribus, was available via the ACZISC documents website at <http://is.dal.ca/aczisc/docs>

CENTRE FOR GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCES: Paul Lafleche, the former Principal of COGS, briefed participants on a grant submission made by the Centre to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. The submission is entitled *High Resolution Terrain Modelling and Imaging Along the Coastal Zone with Multi-disciplinary Applications in Disaster and Resource Management*. He distributed copies of the proposal.

Components of the \$2 million proposal include Digital Elevation Model Acquisition, Validation of the DEMs, High-resolution Satellite SAR and Airborne Hyperspectral Imagery for Mapping of the Coastal Zone, Integration of Onshore with Offshore Data; and Application Development.

Paul added that Dave Woolnough had replaced him as the GOGS Principal. The Centre is located in Lawrencetown, NS.

ACTION 26.16: Participants wishing to obtain further details on the COGS submission to the CFI to contact Tim Webster, Project Leader, COGS (tim@cogs.ns.ca).

PRIVATE SECTOR: Brent Rowley reported the following:

- His company, Earth Information Technologies, was recently involved in two coastal projects:
 - Demonstrating the use of high resolution 1-3 metre satellite data in St. Margarets Bay in

response to the Swissair tragedy.

- The Marine Resource Conservation Measurement project, primarily off the coast of Argentina. The project is in the 3rd year of the development phase. Funds have been sought from the World Bank to move to the implementation stage. The Champlain Institute and several other partners are involved. Real-time fish mapping is being produced which are used by fishermen to determine whether it's worth going fishing.

FIRST NATIONS: Ken Paul reported the following:

- Chief Garfield Barlow is working on a study to assess the feasibility of clam culture in waters off Indian Island, near Richibucto, NB. He has been collecting data for two years.
- The Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs (Maliseet and Mi'kmaq) will be holding a conference on 24-25 February to address environmental issues, including the Oceans Act. Neil Bellefontaine and other DFO personnel will be in attendance. The APC hopes that these discussions will lead to First Nation participation in developing the Oceans Strategy.
- The Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission (EFWC) is actively involved in resource management in the Bras d'Or Lakes region. This was spurred by concerns over the impacts of dredging the mouth of the Bras d'Or Lakes in the summer of 1996. Activities include:
 - Development of a GIS for mapping marine and coastal resources and traditional information.
 - Carrying out water quality testing. The main source of pollution is sewage. Efforts are being made to educate and make people aware of this problem.
 - Habitat restoration.
 - Oyster cultivation.
 - Establishment of the Native Guardians Program for fisheries monitoring and enforcement.
 - Hatching fish eggs for release. The schools are involved.
 - Identifying partners to fund activities. A Working Group meeting will take place next week to discuss this matter.
 - Further information is available from the EFWC website at <http://www/tec.ednet.ns.ca/~wildlife/index.html>.

Discussion:

Tim Anderson enquired who would be participating in the APC Conference from Nfld, adding that he wanted to start a dialogue with First Nations in Nfld and that this person could be a starting point. Ken responded that it was someone from Conne River and that he would provide Tim with the name and contact information.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Larry Hildebrand reported the following:

- Centre for Community-based Management: The Coady International Institute and the Extension Department at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish will be cooperating in the establishment of a Centre for Community-based Management. For information, contact John Kearney, St. FX Extension Department.
- EC-DFO Joint Agenda for Action: The senior management committees of DFO Maritimes and EC Atlantic met on 10 November 1998 for a day-long workshop to explore the common ground they share and to seek further cooperation in the delivery of their respective and common programs. The shared nature of EC's and DFO's mandates and interests was highlighted and agreement was reached to further explore areas of cooperation and the basis for a common vision and approach. A full inventory of the departments' cooperative ventures is being compiled and a specific examination of the Sustainable Communities/Integrated Management interests is being developed with a focus on the Bay of Fundy.

- Canadian Wildlife Service Marine Protected Areas: The CWS/EC has completed an internal examination of its legal responsibilities and opportunities for the establishment of marine protected areas. The CWS Executive has approved the cooperative development of MPAs in Canada's marine waters with DFO, the new Parks Agency, provinces and other stakeholders as the only sensible approach. As a first step, the CWS Regions will compile mapping and listings of the marine areas they consider as critical marine habitats in need of enhanced protection. This information will be shared with all other interested stakeholders in the pursuit of a cooperative MPA systems plan. CWS will continue to emphasize the particular importance of seabirds in the offshore and their special need for protection.

Larry reported the following on behalf of Eric Theriault:

- Atlantic Region Sensitivity Mapping Program (ARSMP):
 - A revised version of the user interface will be completed by the end of February. It will include a pilot project for mapping on the web using MapInfo's MAPX software.
 - The pre-spill database includes coastal zone characteristics, shoreline protection and cleanup strategies and methods, and response equipment requirements. It has been provided to several agencies, including: Eastern Charlotte Waterways Inc., DND and the East Coast Response Corporation.
 - Data can be provided for specific areas or the entire coastal area of the Atlantic provinces. It can be provided in a hard-copy format or as a complete digital system, including base maps, data and user interface.
 - An MOU has been signed with the East Coast Response Corporation to form a partnership with respect to sensitivity mapping for marine oil spills. The MOU details the conditions of use, products exchanged between the agencies, and the service that EC's sensitivity mapping personnel will provide both during the preparation for, and response to, oil spills.
- Environmental Assessment Query Tool:
 - EC's Integration and Interpretation Section, in collaboration with the Environmental Assessment Section, has developed a GIS-based Environmental Assessment Query Tool. The system allows the user to place a point representing a proposed project on a 1:250,000 or 1:50,000 scale map, then overlay and automatically search layers of environmental attributes, such as conservation areas, to identify potential environmental issues. The system has been in use since January 1998 and presently includes maps for all of NB and PEI, as well as approximately 40 databases obtained from various agencies throughout the region.
 - EC is presently seeking partners to continue development of the system for NS and Nfld and Labrador, as well as to refine and enhance the user interface. A more detailed (although slightly out-dated) description, with sample screens, is available at <http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/assessment/geoquery.html>. For more information, contact Derek McDonald (tel 902-426-6892/email derek.mcdonald@ec.gc.ca).

Roger Percy reported the following:

- Canada will be signing an MOU with the NS Offshore Petroleum Board in regards to areas of cooperation. Canada has had a long-standing agreement with the Nfld Board.
- EC participated in planning meetings for the upcoming CANUSLANT exercise scheduled to take place in Eastport, Maine, 2-4 June 1999. The exercise scenario will centre around the grounding of a Kent Line (Irving) product carrier along the US shoreline resulting in significant oiling of Canadian and US border areas and resources. CANUSLANT exercises are held every 3 years in either Canada or the USA on a rotational basis.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA/GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA - ATLANTIC:

Andy Sherin reported the following:

- North Coast of Prince Edward Island Project: A successful field season has been completed for the GSCA's project to investigate coastal response to sea level rise. Multibeam bathymetry coverage has been extended both on the North Coast and at Milne Bank east of PEI. High resolution acoustic surveys and light sampling were also completed. New surveys are planned for the summer and fall of 1999 to again extend multibeam bathymetry coverage and conduct heavier sampling.
- Pictou County Canadian Rural Partnership Project: Detailed geomorphological mapping of the Pictou County shoreline is completed. This was presented to a public meeting on 26 January 1999 along with presentations from other partners and data providers, ACZISC Secretariat, the NS Geomatics Centre, and DFO. Follow-up meetings are planned to define an information product for delivery to the community.
- Newfoundland Collaboration: Resurvey of coastal change monitoring sites on the Avalon Peninsula was jointly conducted during the fall of 1998 with staff from the Nfld Geological Survey as part of a collaborative monitoring program. A student from Memorial University was also involved.
- Gros Morne National Park: GSCA has had discussions with staff at Gros Morne to assist them in the development of interpretive materials.
- Cheticamp Multibeam Surveys: GSCA and DFO (Oceans Sector, Moncton) collaborated on the collection of multibeam bathymetry in the Cheticamp area during the summer of 1998 with the objective of correlating the bathymetric morphology with fisheries resource maps produced by DFO. This work will be extended in 1999.
- NRCAN Knowledge Initiative:
 - The Canadian Marine Geoscience Information Network is an initiative of GSC Atlantic and GSC Pacific. It is based on the CEONet model and uses the interim CEONet standard from FGDC for its metadata. Technical development will focus on tailoring access to user defined profiles.
 - The Energy Sector of NRCAN is developing an Internet capacity to access the location of industrial seismic data in collaboration with the CNOPB, CNSOPB, NEB and GSC Atlantic.

PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA: Barry Lonergan reported the following:

- The amount of work carried out by PWGSC is increasing.
- Hydrographic survey crews and GIS personnel are involved in a variety of projects, including small craft harbour surveys.
- DGPS technology is used in association with depth information and floating aids.
- The channel at Little Narrows in Cape Breton is monitored closely. Buoy surveys are carried out 6-8 times per year.
- The Miramichi River channel is infilling rapidly due to the lack of dredging. Surveys are carried out every month to try to prevent tragedies from occurring, e.g., a large barge went aground near Liverpool in 1995. These accidents can have huge environmental impacts.
- PWGSC issues notices to shippers and mariners.
- The data re the Confederation Bridge (Fixed Link) is available on CD-ROM.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA: Gary Patterson reported the following:

- He is with the Research Centre located in Truro at the Agricultural College. AgriCan staff work closely with College staff and provincial agriculture personnel, also located at the College.
- A Soil Research Unit is located at the Agricultural College. Soil maps are housed in

Ottawa. A website is maintained from which generalized maps of the entire country are available free. More detailed maps are available at a minimum cost.

- Research into potato production is carried out at the Research Centre in Charlottetown.
- Research in plant breeding and animal breeding is carried out in Kentville.
- AgriCan is involved in developing an Environmental Farm Plan. This will consist of a peer-reviewed workbook to guide farmers in identifying and correcting potentially dangerous conditions on their farms, including storage sites for chemicals and manure, erosion patterns, etc.
- AgriCan has groundwater monitoring programs. Nitrates and pesticides are the greatest problems. Phosphates and sedimentation are of concern in regards to surface water.
- Research is being carried out into farming practices which affect soil stability, including winter ground cover, tillage farming, crop rotation.
- AgriCan is involved in the Precision Agriculture project. GPS and radar systems are installed on harvesters to help farmers identify low and high yield areas. Farmers can use this information to determine which areas need less fertilizer, etc. and increase their profit margins.

HEALTH CANADA: Herbert Sooley reported the following:

- Health Canada's research is carried out by the Environmental Health Directorate in Ottawa.
- The Health Protection Branch is involved in environmental assessment activities in reserves and off-reserve if there is a potential impact on First Nations. Projects include Voiseys Bay and the Sydney Tar Pond Clean-up.
- The ACZISC may provide information on activities which could impact on aboriginal issues.

ALLIANCE FOR MARINE REMOTE SENSING: Brian Whitehouse reported the following:

- Efforts are being made to have users "drive" the Earth Observation component of Canada's Space Plan. To date it has been driven by technology. This situation is not unique to Canada; the US and Japan are experiencing similar problems.
- A new Space Plan is being developed by the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).
- The Marine Earth Observation sector has historically fared poorly in terms of funding and is lacking trained researchers from Canada.
- Less than 1% of the Space Plan funds (\$2.7 billion in 1994) are spent in Atlantic Canada. A letter has been written to Minister Manley outlining these concerns. The ACZISC would be an appropriate group to become involved in representing the coastal/marine sector if further assistance is required to make the case for Atlantic Canada's participation in the Space Plan. Brian will notify the ACZISC if input is required.

8. **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*, published in 1998 (available on the ACZISC website at <http://is.dal.ca/aczisc/docs>). An article on the study was published in Atlantic Progress recently. The article was written by Maurice Mandale, the Project Leader of the NS study report.

Barry Jones reported the following:

- NB is considering carrying out a similar study. The NB study would be a collaborative effort of the NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and DFO.
- A study proposal has been submitted to the Deputy Ministers Committee for funding approval.
- It is proposed that the study results be organized on a watershed basis; this would allow the

- information pertaining to watershed-based areas such as GoM to be more easily extracted.
- The study would include a site specific study of Caraquet Bay.

Discussion:

Larry Hildebrand: Are there any plans to include environmental economics in the study?

Barry: Although environmental economics are not easy to do at this point in time, they will be included as much as possible in the study.

Paul Boudreau: A workshop on environmental economics was held in Thailand recently. A workshop report has been prepared; Paul will provide a copy.

Faith Scattolon: DFO is exploring this field of economics. She encouraged other departments and jurisdictions to do the same.

Larry Hildebrand: Professor Scott Wood at the School for Resource and Environmental Studies (SRES), Dalhousie University, is working in this field.

Barry Jones: Maurice Mandale is now working for ACOA.

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

- DFO held meetings re Canada's Oceans Strategy with representatives of the NB, NS and PEI governments during the spring of 1998. The Provinces were invited to submit names for the panel which will review and make recommendations re the Strategy; the panel will operate at arms length from the government. Other federal agencies were also invited to submit names. The 70-80 names submitted have been short-listed and submitted to Mr. Anderson, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, for approval.
- A number of pilot MPA projects have been announced:
 - two BC sites - Race Rock and Gabriola Passage - announced at CZC 98 in Victoria last September.
 - the Gully, announced at the Pacem in Maribus Conference in Halifax last December. DFO is working on a digital "fly-through" of the Gully with EC and NRCan/GSC Atlantic.
 - ICZM on the Scotia Shelf. The Gully and Scotian Shelf projects are closely related. Efforts are being made to document what kind of activities are going on and to identify the process for implementing and managing an MPA.
 - Other MPA sites being considered include Musquash Marsh in Southern NB and Basin Head in PEI.
 - A workshop will be held in the Acadian Peninsula to initiate the process of identifying an MPA pilot site in Northeast NB. The Université de Moncton will be organizing the workshop.

Tim Anderson reported that potential nearshore and offshore MPA sites are being identified in Newfoundland and Labrador. Announcements are anticipated.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY: Joe Arbour, co-chair of the SGSLCS, reported the following:

- A Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Environmental Workshop was held in Miramichi, NB in November 1997. Workshop participants indicated that there was a real need for a networking group to play a role in the Southern Gulf.
- Since the workshop a small group has been meeting to identify the structure and activities of this multi-stakeholder coalition.
- General agreement on the SGSLCS vision and structure was achieved at another workshop held in Moncton in November 1998. A prospectus will be prepared.
- The vision, structure and activities will be further discussed at a series of zonal meetings to be held from northern Cape Breton to Baie des Chaleurs during the month of March. The AGM is provisionally scheduled for late May.

Mike Butler added that considerable effort was being put into the SGSLCS. This is partly to achieve a balance with the huge amount of attention given to the Bay of Fundy region through various programs which include GoM, Fundy Forum, CEC/GPAC, BOFEP, RARGOM, etc. He thanked Brian Whitehouse for provided the AVHRR satellite image for use in a SGSLCS brochure.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION COALITION/COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION: Joe Arbour, co-chair of the GPAC, distributed a summary document on the status of GPAC. He reported the following:

- GPAC was initiated under the Canada/US Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).
- The Gulf of Maine was chosen as a pilot project area partly because of the activities of the GoM Council and RARGOM (Regional Association for Research in the Gulf of Maine) in that region and because of the shared jurisdiction by Canada and the US.
- GPAC is multi-stakeholder from both Canada and the US; it includes representatives of industry, academia, NGOs, First Nations and governments.
- Seed money is available from the CEC to move forward on the priority activities identified by GPAC:
 - Bilateral arrangements for managing the Gulf of Maine ecosystem;
 - Salt marsh restoration;
 - Communities united for the Gulf of Maine;
 - Education materials on land-based sources of marine degradation;
 - Low trophic resource harvesting and policy development conference.

Discussion:

Faith Scattolon enquired why low trophic level activity was included as a GPAC activity, considering that GPAC is meant to deal with land-based impacts on the marine environment. Joe responded that GPAC stakeholders had insisted during GPAC workshops that it be included as an activity.

Faith added that because low trophic level activity was not part of the GPAC mandate when it was announced individuals with an interest in this field did not participate in GPAC.

Paul Boudreau: There is a possibility of linking the GPAC low trophic level activity with the DFO regional process on rockweed.

GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: Barry Jones reported the following:

- The GoM Working Group will be meeting on 22-23 March in Portsmouth, NH.
- The GoM Council is considering how to involve First Nations and NGOs in Council activities. Currently this is left to each jurisdiction.
- GoM has established an Aquaculture Committee which will be composed of representatives from the public and private sector, as well as non-government organizations. The Committee will have the mandate to study common issues of interest such as environmental monitoring of aquaculture, aquaculture policies and regulations, and research relating to aquaculture habitat and management.

Mike Butler added that the integration of the CEC-sponsored Gulf of Maine GPAC projects with the GoM Action Plan will be one of the agenda items considered at this meeting.

Norval Collins commented on two workshops which he attended re information exchange in the Gulf of Maine; these were sponsored in part by GoM. The first workshop was held in

Portland, Maine in 1997. The workshop was community-oriented with an emphasis on governments asking community groups for input and assistance in the collection of data. The workshop was an exiting event. The Portland workshop was followed by the "Out of the Fog Workshop: Towards Information Exchange in the Gulf of Maine" which he and other ACZISC members attended last November in Boston. This workshop was disappointing because there was little community participation. Issues discussed were for the most part technical problems and solutions which have been addressed at length for a number of years. A positive outcome was the suggestion that "circuit riders" be used to help community groups needing training in accessing and using information. These individuals would work with the community groups in their own locality.

Paul Boudreau, co-chair of the GoM Data and Information Management Committee (DIMC), also attended the Boston workshop and agreed that the participants included too many government and technical people. He added that "turf wars" had also inhibited a successful outcome. An Action Committee will be meeting at the end of March in Portsmouth to develop an Action Plan.

Mike Butler stated that most organizations and governments were struggling to identify effective means of communicating with communities. He added that proceedings would be available from the Boston Workshop.

Barry Jones stated that the GoM Council meetings scheduled for Yarmouth in June would include a forum dealing specifically with improving communications with community groups and First Nations.

Paul Boudreau stated that the DIMC was reviewing its terms of reference.

COASTAL ZONE CANADA CONFERENCE SERIES: Barry Jones, chair of the CZC 2000 Steering Committee and President of the CZC Association, reported the following:

- The new updated CZC 2000 brochure has been widely distributed.
- The theme for CZC 2000 is *Coastal Stewardship: Lessons Learned and the Path Ahead*. Oceans Governance has been added as a Conference sub-theme to the original three: Aboriginal Practices, Community-based Actions, and Coastal Health.
- A Youth Conference is being organized to precede CZC 2000. Maxine Westhead, DFO, is the chair of the organizing committee.
- A country-wide school contest has been organized for a promotional poster for the Conference. Approximately 3000 schools have been invited to submit an entry.
- Financial arrangements for the CZC 2000 Secretariat will be in place in April 1999. Funding has been made available through the NB Environmental Trust Fund.
- Elections for regional Vice-presidents and Directors for the CZC Association are taking place. Candidates have been selected from various sectors across Canada.

Larry Hildebrand, Past-president of the CZC Association, added the following:

- Sites for future conferences are being identified and linkages with other CZ conference series are being developed: 2002 will be held jointly with the US Coastal Society, possibly in Niagara Falls; 2004 in the Arctic; 2006 on the west coast; and 2008 in Newfoundland.
- Larry will be co-chairing a meeting of CZ associations at CZ 99 in San Diego. The purpose for the meeting is to make the associations aware of each others activities, to form linkages and to make an attempt at global coordination. The goal is to advance CZM from conference to conference. Nine CZ associations have been identified around the world.

BAY OF FUNDY ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP: Barry Jones reported that the 3rd Bay of Fundy Science Workshop will take place at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB on 22-24 April 1999. The theme of *Understanding Change* will be the focus of the papers.

PROVINCIAL ICZM POLICY AND RESPONSE TO OCEANS ACT: Mike Butler reported that he had polled the provincial representatives prior to this meeting and had concluded that a meeting on provincial ICZM policy would not be required at this point at time. A meeting may be organized prior to the next ACZISC meeting.

Barry Jones reported that a draft of the NB Marine Policy had been approved by the Deputy Ministers Committee. It will be presented to Cabinet on 9 February for approval. If approved public consultations on the policy will be organized. The policy does not deal with jurisdictional issues. It is based on the ecosystem approach and is written to "catch things that fall in the cracks" and fill the gaps. The policy will be made available on the web after it receives final approval.

10. ***OTHER BUSINESS***

No new business was discussed.

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

ACZISC Meeting #27 is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday, 12 May 1999 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

ACZISC Meeting #26 adjourned at 16:30 hrs.