

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #28

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Date: Wednesday, 29 September 1999, 0830-1700 hrs.

Location: Wu Centre, University of New Brunswick
Fredericton, New Brunswick

NAME	AFFILIATION	TEL. NO.
Present: * indicates ACZISC member		
Larry Bell	NS Oceans Initiative (NSOI)	(902) 463-6764
Dominique Bérubé	NB Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy	(506) 547-2070
William Blight*	Public Works and Government Services Canada	(902) 496-5160
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
Jeff Chamberlain	PCI Geomatics	(613) 226-8588
Mireille Chiasson	Chaleur Bay Sustainable Development Project	(506) 547-7244
Dave Colville	Centre of Geographic Sciences	(902) 584-2076
Elisabeth DeBlois	Coastal Habitat Assessment Research and Technology (CHART Inc)	(709) 738-6105
Brian Delaney	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (for Mike Warren*)	(709) 729-3712
Michael Dillon	NB Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development	(506) 453-3488
Brad Fay	GeoConnections Secretariat	(613) 996-1412
Brad Firth	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region	(506) 851-6221
Pierre Gareau	Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic	(902) 426-3411
Jennifer Harding	Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic	(902) 426-6877
Larry Hildebrand*	Environment Canada	(902) 426-2131
Pat Hinch	NS Department of the Environment	(902) 424-6345
Barry Jones*	Province of New Brunswick	(506) 444-5749
Henry Kucera	MGDI/HydraSpace Inc	(250) 477-4719
Claudette LeBlanc	ACZISC Secretariat	(902) 494-3879
John Legault	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region	(506) 851-6221
Geoff Lewis*	Industry Canada	(902) 426-9475
Richard MacDougall*	Canadian Hydrographic Service	(902) 426-3497
Lee MacNeill	MacNeill and Associates	(902) 667-3616
Marie Josée Maillet	Richibucto Sustainable Development Project	(506) 743-7222
Brian McLeod	Natural Resources Canada	(613) 947-1291
Paul Mrstik	GEOsurv Inc	(613) 820-4545
Charles O'Reilly	Canadian Hydrographic Service	(902) 426-5344

NAME	AFFILIATION	TEL. NO.
Kenneth Paul*	First Nations, Atlantic Canada	(902) 426-3497
Brent Rowley	Champlain Institute, GANS and GIAC (for Norval Collins*)	(902) 420-1435
Faith Scattolon*	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region	(902) 426-2065
Andy Sherin*	Natural Resources Canada	(902) 426-7582
Eric Theriault*	Environment Canada	(902) 426-9558
Gilles Thériault	Bay of Shippagan Sustainable Development Project	(506) 726-2372
Yi Ru	University of New Brunswick	(506) 447-3387
Tim Webster	Centre of Geographic Sciences	(902) 584-2058

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

Mike Butler, ACZISC Chair, called Meeting #28 to order at 08:30 hrs. He welcomed members and guests and thanked Réjean Castonguay for making arrangements for the meeting room and the Province of New Brunswick for providing lunch. A roundtable introduction of all participants followed.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA, AND REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING #27**

The provisional Agenda for Meeting #28 was reviewed and approved (copy attached).

The draft minutes of ACZISC Meeting #27 were reviewed and approved. The minutes will be posted on the ACZISC website at <http://is.dal.ca/aczisc/info>

3. **STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS**

Action Items from Meeting #27 and those outstanding from previous meetings were reviewed. All Action Items were carried out or are in progress.

4. **ACZISC WORKPLAN**

ACZISC SECRETARIAT: Mike Butler stated that the ACZISC Secretariat has been based at the Oceans Institute of Canada (OIC), located on the Dalhousie University campus, since 1993.

CIDA has recently carried out a management review of the OIC. As a result, an OIC Strategic Planning Meeting was held in August 1999 to consider CIDA's recommendations. One of the suggestions made by the participants at the Planning Meeting was that the OIC consider linking or merging with organizations with similar or complementary mandates, including the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and the Coastal Zone Canada Association. An OIC Task Group is reviewing options. The ACZISC will be kept informed of developments for future consideration.

Copies of the ACZISC Secretariat Operating Guidelines were distributed and reviewed. Suggested changes to the wording were made by members; these will be incorporated and the revised Guidelines will be considered at the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: Mike Butler reported that Nancy McNeil, Director, Marine Programs, Canadian Coast Guard, had been appointed as the new CCG representative on the ACZISC.

Larry Hildebrand suggested that Agriculture Canada be contacted again re membership and that Laurent Léger who is affiliated with the Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP) program would be an appropriate contact.

Participants discussed academic representation on the ACZISC. The following comments were made:

Brent Rowley: The Centre for Geographic Sciences (COGS) would like to be represented on the ACZISC.

Mike Butler: Academia is currently represented by APICS (Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences).

Andy Sherin: APICS represents universities but not community colleges. There are a number of community colleges in Atlantic Canada which would be appropriate for membership on the ACZISC.

Barry Jones: As the size of the ACZISC could become a problem, a policy should be developed for representation by academia.

Mike added that a policy was also required for private sector and community representation.

ACTION 28.1: ACZISC Executive Committee to develop a policy for representation by academia, the private sector and communities on the ACZISC, for consideration by the ACZISC at the upcoming meeting.

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 distributed and reviewed the ACZISC Budget (1997-1998 to 1999-2000); a Summary of ACZISC Revenue Sources (1992-2000); and a Summary of Provincial and Federal Revenue (1992-1999). Copies are attached.

Mike reported the following:

- As per an Action Item from the last ACZISC meeting, OIC in-kind contributions to the ACZISC have been added to the budget.
- In recent years, total federal contributions have begun to catch up to total provincial contributions made since 1992.
- The ACZISC has recently been audited, as part of the OIC audit.
- The ACZISC is currently negotiating funding agreements with the CMP and the NS Federal Council.

Larry Hildebrand added the following:

- Approximately 8 months ago, a few ACZISC federal members met with representatives of the NS Federal Council to discuss using the Council as a vehicle for "organizing" federal funding of the ACZISC to match the provincial contributions made via the Council of Maritime Premiers.
- A letter of agreement between the federal departments is being discussed. This has been brought forward by Neil Bellefontaine, RDG/DFO, to the Policy Committee of the NS Federal Council. The agreement would "rationalize" federal funding for the ACZISC.

Discussion:

Barry Jones enquired what levered funds were?

Mike Butler: These are the funds which have been provided by the federal departments to match CMP contributions. This has been somewhat ad hoc to date. The agreement with the NS Federal Council would formalize the process.

Mike added that the OIC Board of Directors had submitted a letter to the ACZISC Executive Committee for its consideration. The letter offers the ACZISC \$2000 month for 25% of Mike's time to be spent on OIC matters. This arrangement would be temporary as the OIC requires the services of a full-time president.

Discussion:

Brad Fay reported that the letter had been reviewed by the Executive Committee (Faith Scattolon, Ken Paul, Brent Rowley, Brad Fay and Mike Butler) and that they were in support. He asked for and received the support of the ACZISC members. Brad stated that he would respond favourably to the letter on behalf of the ACZISC Executive Committee.

Brent Rowley cautioned that this did not mean that \$24K could be withdrawn from other funding sources.

Mike requested that outstanding dues be paid ASAP to assist with cash flow and that members further review the budget and provide comments.

ACTION 28.2: ACZISC members from agencies/jurisdictions with outstanding dues to initiate payment of dues ASAP.

ACTION 28.3: ACZISC members to further review the budget and contact the Secretariat with comments.

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

ACZISC Update:

The ACZISC Updates contain brief information items relevant to ICZM and information management; they are distributed monthly via email in text format. Positive feedback and requests from individuals wanting their names added to the mailing list are received on a regular basis.

Suggestions for improving the format of the Update and its distribution were made and discussed, including adding a table of contents and distribution in PDF format. However, it was agreed that the current format was the most appropriate for reaching out to a broad range of users, including community groups.

ACZISC Website:

The website is maintained on a regular and frequent basis.

Claudette LeBlanc reported that a WWW access counter had been added to the ACZISC website on 9 September. The counter displays the number of accesses to the website as a whole, excluding the Database Directory which is captured by NDI. The counter is not incremented by consecutive accesses from the same location; this will prevent false hit counts by repetitive reloads of a page.

A partial list of websites with links to the ACZISC website or the Atlantic Coastal Zone Database Directory was distributed (copy attached) and reviewed by participants. It was

suggested that members whose agency/jurisdiction website was not on the list consider adding a link.

Claudette requested that members provide her with information suitable for the ACZISC Updates and the website in general, e.g., conference announcements.

ACTION 28.4: ACZISC members to provide the Secretariat with relevant information for inclusion in the monthly ACZISC Update and the website.

Members enquired re the feasibility of implementing a search capability on the ACZISC website. Claudette stated that she would obtain cost estimates of implementing this function.

ACTION 28.5: ACZISC Secretariat to prepare a cost estimate prior to next meeting for adding a search function to the ACZISC website.

Mike Butler added that the ACZISC provides a "home" for the Fundy Forum website and, on a temporary basis, Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition information and documentation.

Atlantic Coastal Zone Info:

The 2-page information bulletin contains a summary of information on ACZISC activities and projects. It is customized for relevant workshops and conferences in the region, the most recent being the National Hurricane Conference held in Halifax on 24 September and Geomatics Atlantic held in Fredericton earlier in the week.

Business Card:

Mike Butler distributed a proposed mock-up for the ACZISC business card (copies attached). Suggestions were made to improve the wording. Mike asked members for further feedback.

ACTION 28.6: ACZISC members to provide further comments ASAP on an appropriate slogan for the ACZISC, for use on the business card, website and other communication tools.

Barry Jones recommended that the business card be bilingual. This was discussed in terms of whether or not that would imply that the ACZISC Secretariat offered bilingual services. It led to further discussions on the requirement for, and implications of, bilingual ACZISC communications and services in general.

Discussion:

Réjean Castonguay cautioned against token bilingualism.

Faith Scattolon: The cost and additional workload associated with bilingual services must be considered. In terms of the ACZISC website, perhaps a bilingual introduction could be offered, in addition to providing links to both French and English websites.

Geoff Lewis stated that, at a minimum, he favoured a bilingual introduction to the website, as well as a bilingual business card as this did not imply that the bearer was bilingual, e.g., federal employees.

Réjean added that the long-term implications of bilingualism would have to be determined.

Mike Butler suggested that the Executive Committee consider this issue and report at the next meeting.

ACTION 28.7: ACZISC Executive Committee to review the requirement for, and implications of, bilingual ACZISC communications, for consideration by the ACZISC at the upcoming meeting.

DATABASE DIRECTORY: The ACZISC Database Directory Working Group is chaired by Claudette LeBlanc. She reported the following:

- Monthly summary user statistics for the period January to August 1999 (copy attached) have been produced by NDI. These were distributed and reviewed by Claudette. The user stats indicate a regular and extensive use of the Directory. Detailed user statistics have also been produced by NDI.
- The ACZISC Secretariat has communicated with NDI re posting Version 4 of the Database Directory on the WWW. A fee may be charged by NDI for this service. The ACZISC will have to determine how to proceed if this is the case.
- Future priorities for the Database Directory include the development of an online update capability and graphic geographic search capability.

Andy Sherin added that there was some resistance developing against the use of the FGDC metadata standards for directories. This was reported at the CoastGIS Conference held earlier this month in Brest, France.

COASTAL MAPPING: The Coastal Mapping Working Group is co-chaired by Curt Speight, NSGC and Eric Theriault, EC. Eric reported the following:

- A workshop entitled *Remote Sensing Technologies for Coastal Zone Mapping* has been organized by the ACZISC Secretariat, the Coastal Mapping Working Group, and the Data Exchange and Standards Working Group, in collaboration with the CCMC. It will take place tomorrow, 30 September at the NB Teachers Federation in Fredericton. The workshop agenda was reviewed.
- Following the Workshop, a meeting will be held to identify potential partners in the preparation of a proposal for a high-resolution coastal mapping project and for the subsequent implementation of a demonstration project.
- Tomorrow's workshop is a follow-up to the ACZISC workshop entitled *National Disasters in the Coastal Zone and their Mitigation: Rising Sea Levels, Hurricanes, Storm Surges and Erosion*, held in April in Sackville, NB. The Workshop was attended by 100 participants. The proceedings of the April workshop are available from the ACZISC website.

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:

- The requirement for a Workshop on Shoreline Standards will be reconsidered after tomorrow's *Remote Sensing Technologies for Coastal Zone Mapping* workshop, organized with the Coastal Mapping Working Group and the Secretariat.
- Andy attended the CoastGIS Conference earlier this month. He will be discussing with Réjean the implications of the information which he obtained during the Conference to the activities of the Working Group.

Discussion:

John Legault: The cost of accessing data and information and restrictions on its use are other factors which are negatively affecting data exchange and use. He gave the example of data agreements and annual licensing fees associated with the use of chart data. Costs and restrictions could be topics of a future ACZISC workshop.

Bill Blight: Federal departments and agencies which provide data to CHS for use in charting must make their concerns known to CHS. He added that Geomatics companies are tightening up in regards to restrictions. Encryption is being used.

Brad Fay: added that he had just returned from meetings where cost was identified by the Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCoG) as an issue which must be addressed. A resolution

was passed by the CCoG to carry out a study re the cost of producing geographic products versus reasonable fees for acquiring the products. The cost issue is also being reviewed by a sub-committee of the GeoConnections Secretariat.

Andy Sherin: Cost has been discussed by the federal 5NR (natural resources) Committee. A draft MoU is being circulated amongst its members re information exchange. This would not include non-5NR members but it is a beginning.

Henry Kucera: Cost will also be reviewed under the Marine Geospatial Data Infrastructure (MGDI) initiative. A white paper will be prepared and submitted to the GeoConnections sub-committee.

Andy Sherin: In the US, data is much more freely available than in Canada. In Europe, the situation is similar to Canada's. Tim Davis, Director, Geography Division, Statistics Canada is leading a data liberating initiative.

Dick MacDougall: CHS has revenue targets which it must meet and less than 10% of its production costs are recovered. A big counterfeiting problem with charts is resulting in reduced revenue. Data distribution methods such as posting of chart information on the web without navigation info are being discussed by CHS.

John Legault: Keeping costs reasonable could result in increased sales. Another option which could be considered is to sell data by layer.

Charlie O'Reilly: It is important to resolve any problem with the CHS/NDI agreement to reduce the negative impact on future government/private sector partnership agreements.

Brad Fay: The ACZISC could reinforce the need to address this issue with the GeoConnections Secretariat.

ACTION 28.8: ACZISC Secretariat and working groups to consider, prior to next meeting, the requirement for a workshop on the cost and pricing of data and restrictions on its use.

ACTION 28.9: ACZISC Secretariat to communicate with the GeoConnections Secretariat, prior to next meeting, regarding the need to address the cost and pricing of data and restrictions on its use.

5. ***PRESENTATION: INTERNET-BASED SPATIAL DATA FUSION***

Réjean Castonguay introduced Kevin Berry from USL who made the presentation *Internet-based Spatial Data Fusion* online. (Overheads were produced to include with the minutes; copies are attached.) Réjean added that Service New Brunswick (SNB) had been working with USL to develop a system for bringing together maps from various servers in different formats and projections on a real-time basis.

Discussion:

Réjean Castonguay: The development of the Data Fusion system has been spearheaded in part by SNB's plans to negotiate a data access license agreement for access to SNB data by DFO, similar to the one between NSGC and DFO. The Internet-based system will facilitate delivery of the data.

John Legault: A significant advantage of the Data Fusion system is that a user does not have to be an expert in using GIS systems such as CARIS and ArcInfo.

Réjean Castonguay: Map projections can be converted and surrounds built "on the fly". The map product can then be printed. To date SNB has not considered cost of access; perhaps it could be on a subscription basis.

Kevin Berry: USL is now marketing the system and is further developing it based on its projected potential.

6. **PRESENTATION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARINE GEOSPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE (MGDI)**

Mike Butler introduced Henry Kucera, President of HydraSpace Inc. based in Ottawa. Henry made a presentation on the development and implementation of the proposed Marine Geospatial Data Infrastructure (MGDI). A copy of his overheads are attached.

Henry further reported the following:

- A MGDI panel will be struck to obtain feedback from stakeholders.
- Development of the MGDI is being coordinated and driven in large part by the CCMC.
- The cost of accessing data via MGDI will be considered.

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

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK: Réjean Castonguay reported the following:

- The new government in NB which was elected on 7 June has initiated a review of all programs in the Province in an effort to rationalize expenditures and activities. The Coastal Lands policy will be reviewed.
- Production of the orthophotos is on schedule; coverage for the NB coast is almost complete. Production of the coastal topographic database is also on schedule.

Barry Jones stated the following:

- As with the NB Coastal Lands policy, the draft NB Marine Policy will be reviewed by the new government. Both these policies were developed as a follow-up to CLURE (Commission on Land Use and the Rural Environment). Revisions to the policies are anticipated as a result of the review.
- The Saint John Campus of the University of New Brunswick (UNBSJ) is organizing a coastal research and management centre; Jamey Smith, President, CoastalSmith Inc., is writing a report on the subject. Contact Jamey for further information at james@coastalsmith.com

Dominique Bérubé, Geomorphologist with the NB Department of Natural Resources and Energy, reported the following:

- The Department is carrying out a review of its coastal activities in order to formulate a "vision" for its involvement in the coastal zone.
- The Department is building a database of coastal erosion rates.
- Dominique is a member of the provincial committee reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments. Currently the impact of tourism and cottage development in NB is being reviewed.
- The Department, together with the local port authorities, is now responsible for dredging. Disposal of the sand is becoming a problem as it can no longer be used for beach nourishment.
- Rebuilding beaches is often necessary, especially in prime tourism areas such as Parlee Beach.

Mireille Chiasson, Marie-Josée Maillet and Gilles Thériault, Field Coordinators for the NB Sustainable Development Projects, reported that local issues are brought to the Working Groups by community groups, local citizens, businesses, government agencies, etc. who then all work together on these issues to try to find solutions. Initiatives include:

- Coordinating the septic conversion program. Grants of \$2500 maximum are given to individuals who need to upgrade their septic systems. Priority is given to those who reside

- along a water body and who have incomes below \$28 000. A total amount of \$50 000 per year per watershed has been given to citizens in the past three years.
- Sanitary Shoreline surveys to pinpoint potential pollution sources in the watershed.
 - In May 1998 a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection was held and a total of 24 000 kilograms of HHW was collected.
 - Water quality and the sustainability of fish and shellfish harvesting practices. The Chaleur Bay Sustainable Development Project (CBSDP) conducted sampling of 36 sites last summer in the Chaleur watershed. These sites were chosen because of their possible negative impact on shellfish growing areas. The objective is to pinpoint the sources of pollution affecting these watercourses and then try to remediate the problems so that eventually the shellfish harvesting closure sites can be reopened.
 - A beach sweep was held in the summer of 1999 with the help of students from the local college. Large amounts of waste were collected at the two sites.
 - Collaborative Project between Big Cove First Nation and the Richibucto Sustainable Development Project.
 - Beach sweeps/tree planting/public awareness.
 - Culvert Survey: identifying culverts in the Richibucto watershed which prevent the migration of fish.
 - Workshop on land use planning on a watershed basis held last June in the Bouctouche watershed.
 - Addressing fish effluent problems in the Caraquet/Shippagan region.
 - CAPP (Community Action Partnership Program): A CAPP presentation was recently made by the Canadian Coast Guard. The possibility of implementing CAPP programs on the entire east coast of NB is being considered.
 - Several presentations to schools and groups re watershed pollution; impact of land-based activities on water quality; and better management practices for a more sustainable future.
 - School curriculum developed and to be implemented in local schools. This will help educate the youth on different sustainable development topics that are important to their watershed.
 - Articles published in local newspapers on different subjects of interest to the watershed's residents (rare plants, composting, HHW, evolution and history of local landmarks, e.g., Youghall Beach.
 - Facts sheets on various topics as identified by members of Working Groups.
 - Evaluation of the effects of the breach in the sand dune in Maisonette.
 - Funding for the NB Sustainable Development Projects is provided by the NB Environmental Trust Fund.

CHAMPLAIN INSTITUTE AND GANS: Brent Rowley reported the following:

- Most of the geomatics private sector companies involved in coastal zone activities in the region are working on the NB Coastal Mapping Program.
- The Marine Resource Conservation Measurement project, primarily off the coast of Argentina, is on hold pending national elections in Argentina in December. The Champlain Institute and several other partners are involved. Real-time fish mapping is being produced; the maps are used by fishermen to determine whether it is worth going fishing.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Faith Scattolon reported the following:

- Herb Dhaliwal is the newly-appointed Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. He is from BC and has a strong business background.
- From 30 August to 1 September, DFO, the Provinces, fishers and ENGOs participated in a DFO workshop entitled *Incorporating Ecosystems Objectives into Fisheries Management Plans*. Proceedings will be out later this fall and should be of interest to some ACZISC members. Workshop participants reviewed work going on internationally, in Canada and

- locally in terms of incorporating ecosystem objectives into fisheries management plans.
- DFO and First Nations around the Bras d'Or Lakes are co-sponsoring a workshop on 22-25 October to design an Ecosystem Study of the Bras d'Or Lakes. DFO and the First Nations are finalizing an MOU to enable this study to be undertaken over the next five years.
 - The Supreme Court released the Marshall Decision a week ago. DFO is now focusing on interpreting how the decision is to be applied.
 - Last June, DFO announced that the Department is working in partnership with the Province of PEI, the Basin Head Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund on the Basin Head lagoon area as an Area of Interest under DFO's Marine Protected Area program.
 - Later this fall, DFO will be releasing an interactive CD-ROM entitled *A Virtual Tour of the Gully*. The CD describes and visualizes a number of the interesting ecological features of the Gully (whales, fish, benthic habitat and communities, oceanographic features, etc.) and gives a virtual tour of the Gully. The CD is targeted at the broad community, schools, ENGOs.
 - This summer, DFO undertook to compile a database of fisheries management measures (closures, gear restrictions). The database will be entered into a GIS and will be used to assess cumulative impacts of these management measures and impacts of management measures on non-targeted species and habitat.
 - Matthew King was recently appointed A/ADM Oceans, DFO; he has a policy background. His focus in the immediate future will be getting the development of the Oceans Management Strategy back on track, as per the Oceans Act.
 - Earlier this year, DFO was allocated some new funds for research at BIO. Approximately \$200K of this money is directed toward data management: improving data sharing and accessibility among disciplines working at BIO. For example, the oceanographic chemistry and biology databases are being consolidated into a biochem database.

Mike Butler enquired if Faith was aware of the process for selecting Oceans 11 teachers and why tours of the BIO facility were apparently not available to Oceans 11 students. Faith responded that teachers were selected by the school boards and then participated in training workshops organized by the NS Department of Education. Joni Henderson, Community Relations Officer (tel 902-426-3559), is the person responsible for organizing tours at BIO on a formal basis and is the official liaison with teachers. October 20 has been designated as Career Day; all high schools in Halifax have been invited to visit BIO.

John Legault reported the following:

- The agreement between DFO and the NS Geomatics Centre is proceeding well with DFO having access to all the Centre's electronic maps, including the new coastal series. The agreement is proving to be very beneficial for NS and DFO and should be used as a model for other "map" distributors.
- The Internet application developed to provide easy access to the traditional fisheries resources maps currently available in hard-copy is still under development. The original "beta" version had some "unfriendly" interface options that are being improved. The final product should be available to DFO by early January 2000.
- The sensitive area study for the Eastern and Northern coasts of NB included a workshop held in June to "vet" the areas of concern by DFO scientists and biologists. After some refinements, the study will be distributed for public consideration and input.
- The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management program delivered out of the Halifax office will include the preparation of resource maps to assist in the development of integrated resource management plans for that area. Once plans are in place, DFO will be one step closer in the process of designating the area as a Marine Protected Area.

Lee MacNeill added that he had been working under contract with DFO for a number of years to produce the TEK Atlas for the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Efforts are being made to make the information available to communities with the web being the primary distribution method.

Dick MacDougall reported the following:

- With reduced resources, CHS has been focusing primarily on navigation as its core business. The GPS and DGPS used increasingly by boaters allow for more accurate positioning than many of the charts. In Newfoundland there are 49 charts that are direct copies of 19th century British charts with uncertainties of up to 2 nautical miles. Recent surveys have been of navigation routes only and not complete shore to shore or coastline surveys.
- Recently CHS has been involved in joint projects with the Geological Survey of Canada Atlantic (GSCA) and DFO's Oceans Sector to map habitat in the offshore on Browns Bank. CHS is also doing a joint project with the offshore scallop producers to map the Canadian portion of Georges Bank. This will involve multibeam acoustic imagery, bottom type and habitat mapping.
- As a result of joint projects with industry, DFO and NRCan are putting together a position paper on seabed mapping. The paper will support extended jurisdiction of Canada's Maritime limits under Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It will also propose that Canada embark on a systematic seabed mapping program from the coastline to the limits of jurisdiction to support exploration, benthic habitat mapping and physical oceanography. A multi-departmental approach is proposed both for the work and to secure support for the concept.
- CHS is involved in the Canadian Centre for Marine Communication (CCMC) led project to write the specifications for the survey of the Irish continental shelf from depths of 50 metres out to 4500 metres. The GSCA and UNB are also part of this team. Ireland has \$45 million (Canadian) over 7 years for this mapping. It is expected that an RFP will be issued in the new year. CHS will be alerting the Geomatics Industry Association of Canada (GIAC).

Bill Blight commented that there were problems with the geo-referencing of lights in the "Listing of Lights" maintained by the CCG. Dick reported that this was due to the conversion to NAD83 and that seminars would be held this fall to explain this discrepancy.

Ken Paul reported that he was involved in projects using multibeam data to map deep sea corals and also as an environmental assessment tool in the Bras d'Or Lakes.

GEOCONNECTIONS SECRETARIAT: Brad Fay reported the following:

- He has accepted a secondment to the GeoConnections Secretariat, Natural Resources Canada from the Government of Nova Scotia (Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs). His new position as Provincial/Territorial Coordinator brings a provincial/territorial perspective to the deliberations of the Secretariat and its committees. As such, he will be visiting all jurisdictions to discuss the GeoConnections program, and to become aware of provincial/territorial priorities and issues related to the program.
- GeoConnections is governed by a board of directors which includes members from the federal government, the provinces, the private sector, academia and First Nations.
- He will continue in his capacity as a member of the ACZISC Executive Committee but will be replaced as a representative of the Province of NS on the ACZISC for the duration of his secondment.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA/GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA - ATLANTIC:

Andy Sherin reported the following:

- Two Climate Change Action Fund (CCAF) projects have been approved. The project entitled *Sea Level Rise and Climate Change: Impacts and Adaptation Needs, Prince Edward Island* has received funding at a reduced level. Several partners are involved in the project. Martha McCulloch, EC, is the project leader.

The project entitled *Coastal Impact of Climate Change on the Beaufort Sea Coast* has also been approved.

A project proposal has been submitted to the Public Outreach Table of CCAF for Conception Bay South in Newfoundland. Partners include the GSC, the Nfld Department of Natural Resources and Memorial University.

Charlie O'Reilly commented that the ACZISC may wish to put in place a working group on Sea Level Rise, which has the potential of becoming a major problem in the region. As an example, he stated that if last week's large rainfall in the Halifax region had fallen on PEI, and this had coincided with a storm surge and high water, it would have resulted in significant sewage back-up and other problems. Bill Blight added that the infrastructure needed to be rebuilt into dual systems to partly address the storm surge problem.

- Saglek North Warning site contamination investigation is continuing. The study site is located at the mouth of Saglek Fjord on the northern tip of Labrador. PCB contamination of the marine environment is being investigated by the Royal Military College Environmental Studies Group and GSCA. Studies are designed to provide information on the frequency and intensity of sediment suspension and transport. The Labrador Inuit Association (LIA) and EC are also involved in the investigations.
- Multibeam bathymetry acquisition was continued this summer for the PEI North Coast Project with the extension to St. Peters Bay. Due to poor weather, alternate sites were also surveyed on the east coast at Boughton Bay, Souris Harbour and Basin Head. The Milne Bank survey was extended towards East Point and a repeat survey to monitor large bedform movement was conducted. A major ground truthing survey is planned to begin on 5 October on CSS Hudson.
- Habitat mapping of Browns Bank as a cooperative project between GSCA, CHS, DFO and industry has been very successful. There are ongoing discussions for continued and expanded collaboration.
- DFO participated through Lee MacNeill in the GSCA multibeam cruise in the Northumberland Strait, which is part of ongoing collaboration on linking resource maps with multibeam and surficial geology interpretations.
- Andy made the following available for review: (1) Two cruise reports for ground truthing surveys: Newfoundland, Bonne Bay, Bay of Islands, Port au Port, St. Georges Bay and White Bear Bay, Ramea Islands, Bay d'Espoir, and the Argentic Area. (2) Two posters from the ESRI Users Conference in San Diego on the Visualization of Terrestrial and Marine DEMs for Fjords on the south coast of Nfld.
- Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP): A MapInfo product of coastal mapping information has been constructed and will shortly be reviewed by community partners in Pictou County. The digitizing of the GSC's video is also under way with EC. GSC has partnered with the Northern Cape Breton Mapping Association for a second CRP project in Inverness County and GSC has signed a data exchange agreement for geomorphological data in Victoria County.

- GSC Atlantic has successfully bid for resources to extend its web site and accessibility to its information through the GSC Resources Program which is part of NRCan's knowledge initiative. The projects are a second phase for both Sea-Margin and Earthnet projects and new initiatives called GeoCollections and Coast Web.
- GSC Atlantic hosted the visit of the Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Minister of Sustainable Development for Nunavut. The agenda included presentations on multibeam, oil and gas potential, early warning site clean-up, marine conservation area assessment and baseline studies for port and harbour development.
- Roger Longhorn had proposed ACZISC involvement in a series of regional workshops in Europe and possibly elsewhere to explore models of cooperation between scientists, regulators and policy makers. Discussions with Roger Longhorn and others at CoastGIS 99 will result in a significant rewrite of the proposal.

Pierre Gareau reported that he is working with geologists on a paleo sea level change project. Isobase maps of the various time slices are constructed, and then the isobase data from modern digital relief and bathymetry is subtracted. The maps are large scale: 1 km X 1 km cells. All the processing is being performed using Arc/Info as the main GIS and AutoCAD for the digitization of the isobase curves. The source of the present day DTM consists of several digital (both vector and raster) databases.

Jennifer Harding reported on the two projects that she has been involved in lately: assembling/evaluating the available offshore data for Eastern Canada and assisting in the habitat mapping on Georges Bank. The evaluation of the offshore data is preliminary work needed should Canada ratify Article 76 - Law of the Sea. The work involved getting all the available data into a common format, removing any erroneous data and locating zones where more data is required. The habitat mapping project is a multi-disciplinary project involving many people in various fields. It involves merging and viewing various data in a common environment to see how many factors relate to bottom habitat.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Eric Theriault reported the following:

- Atlantic Region Sensitivity Mapping Program: A mapping system and training has been provided to East Coast Response Corporation (ECRC) in Dartmouth for most of Nova Scotia, and will shortly be provided to their St. John's office for Newfoundland coastal areas. ECRC has provided EC with logistical data (boat launch, staging areas, etc.) for the parts of Nfld and NS to be integrated into the mapping system. This work is being done under a partnership arrangement between the two organizations.

A partnership has been formed to undertake a coastal resource inventory for the west coast of Nfld. This community-based project is funded by various partners including DFO (lead), HRDC and EC. Seed money was obtained through the Panel for Energy Research and Development (PERD). The project is to start in October 1999.

Coastal video tapes from GSC Atlantic for the area covering Campobello, Grand Manan and Deer Island have been digitized and stored on CD Rom and linked to the shoreline segmentation. Plans are to continue digitizing these videos for other areas of Atlantic Canada. Information is accessible through the sensitivity mapping system.

Large maps (60" x 36") containing the shoreline segmentation and classification are being produced. A total of 99 maps will cover the entire Atlantic region, except Labrador. An example was displayed at the meeting.

- The vessel 'Queen of the Netherlands' will commence renewed dredging operations at the Swissair recovery site. Dredging should take two days and start on September 28. The dredged material will be transported to Sheet Harbour for sorting. REET has been participating in the Environmental Assessment of these activities and providing technical and scientific advice.
- In September, a meeting was held to describe proposed mapping work off Canada's coasts in preparation for a potential claim for an extension of the Canadian economic zone jurisdiction under the Law of the Sea. Depending on the final rules that apply Canada could claim jurisdiction over an additional undersea area equivalent in size to the 3 prairie provinces. Most of this expansion would be off the east coast and in the Arctic and very little on the west coast. The meeting was chaired by DFO and included senior representatives of EC, Parks Canada, DND, NRCan, Federal Council, CHS and ACOA.

The bulk of the technical work proposed will be conducted by DFO, DND and NRCan which have been involved in the past; however, they are looking for others with an interest in the type of data collected or new technology which will have to be developed.

It was indicated that Canada and the US were the only industrialized western countries that had not ratified the Law of the Sea. Because Canada has not ratified the Convention, it is not able to influence the guidelines which are being drawn up to establish the data required to support a successful claim for extended jurisdiction. Once Canada ratifies, it will have 10 years to develop its claim for expanded coverage. It is anticipated that it could take \$60-100 million of mapping studies to complete the process.

- In August 1998 EC co-operated with Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard to test the capability of Canada's RADARSAT to detect oil spilled at sea. EC's Ice Centre (Ottawa) scanned their RADARSAT images not only for ice concentrations, but also for oil.

Between 6 March and 30 March 1999, 11 RADARSAT passes were processed. The project detected several apparent spills which were not subsequently found by aerial surveillance. However, on March 30, an image of a ship apparently dumping oil under the cover of darkness was obtained. It was not possible to detail an aircraft to investigate this event because the surveillance aircraft currently do not work after dark. However this incident did demonstrate the capability of RADARSAT to serve as a trigger for despatch of a surveillance aircraft and a subsequent investigation possibly leading to a prosecution.

A document is attached which describes the organizations involved in the project and includes a copy of the 30 March image.

- Labrador has been identified as a priority area for research. As a consequence of this, EC - Atlantic Region has over the last three years begun to develop a concentrated research program in Labrador. EC's Environmental Conservation Branch is leading and or participating in several research programs including: (1) Landscape and Waterscape Mapping; (2) Local Environmental Applications Program (LEAP); (3) Harlequin Duck Monitoring; (4) Harlequin Duck Habitat Mapping; and (5) Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Other proposed projects include: (1) INNU Nation Ethnolinguistic Study; (2) "Ashkui" Mapping; (3) Climate Change Impacts on Northern Wetlands; and (4) The Labrador Integrated Knowledge System. A summary report on these projects is attached. For further information, contact Dave Wilson, ECB, tel 902-426-4197.

Larry Hildebrand reported the following:

- The Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) sites are hosting a Coastal Communities Sewage Conference in Lunenburg, NS from 27-30 October 1999. The target audience is municipal leaders in coastal communities throughout Atlantic Canada. The Conference will focus on and discuss sewage issues facing towns and municipalities in the region. Interactive workshops will examine the role of the community in achieving sewage treatment objectives, allocation of resources for development of municipal treatment facilities, innovative solutions to sewage treatment problems, homeowner participation in maintaining on-site septic systems, and at-source control. The Conference is expected to result in practical recommendations and options that communities can employ to address the long-standing issue of sewage throughout the region.
- The Office of the Auditor General-Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (OAG/CESD) is beginning a value-for-money audit on issues related to water management in Canada. OAG/CESD officers will be visiting the Atlantic Region in late October to discuss this issue with a range of stakeholders from federal and provincial governments, industry associations, ENGOs and academics. They will be examining regional issues and approaches including ACAP, the quality of the marine environment, the quality of fresh and marine fish habitat, the state of sewage treatment in coastal communities, drinking water quality (trace contaminants), groundwater issues, non-point source pollution, wetlands conservation and supply and demand issues related to freshwater.
- The federal and NS departments of Environment and Fisheries and Aquaculture are close to concluding an MoU regarding collaborative approaches to community-based sustainability initiatives. The MoU is a response to the NS Round Table on Environment and Economy's consultations with communities throughout the Province in 1997 that made a clear call for enhanced coordination and cooperation among the senior levels of government in their recognition of and collaborative working relationships with community-based organizations. The MoU lays out a set of common principles and objectives and will serve as the organizing framework for inter-departmental, inter-governmental and government-community collaboration in the pursuit of sustainability in NS.
- Larry co-chaired a workshop in San Diego, California on 26 July 1999 that brought together organizers of coastal zone conferences from around the world. They convened in recognition of the proliferation of such events (there will be over 18 major CZ conferences held in the next 12 months), the lack of coordination among these conferences, and a desire to derive greater benefit from these international events. Agreement was reached to establish an ongoing network, or family of these coastal zone conference organizers, an organization that will hitherto be known as *The Coastal Nostra*. Larry (aka Giovanni) Hildebrand will serve as co-Godfather of the nascent organization. Efforts are currently under way to establish an international clearinghouse of CZ conference announcements, a listserver to enhance ongoing communication and planning among these organizations, and to secure better coordination among these events in terms of cross-announcements, joint planning and a building on of recommendations and guidance from each event with the objective of advancing the understanding and commitment to the field of ICM.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA: Andy Cameron reported the following:

- Coastal Zone Management Framework in NS: The formulation of the policy statement is progressing slowly. Two departments continue to express concern with the wording. The drafting of an MOU between the federal and provincial government on service delivery in coastal areas is nearing completion. A meeting is scheduled on 30 September to further those discussions.

- The National Program of Action (NPA) is undergoing another revision. A committee meeting has been proposed for February 2000 in Ottawa.
- Lighthouse Day: 2 October 1999 has been designated Lighthouse Day in NS. Various organizations will hold events associated with lighthouses across the Province on that day.
- Cables: Undersea fibre optic cables are becoming an issue with the NS fishing community. There are currently two proposals in the works: one internal to NS near Sable Island, the other an international project from Boston to Halifax and on to Ireland. A meeting is scheduled for 1 October re this issue.

Pat Hinch, NS Department of the Environment, reported the following:

- The Minas Basin Project focuses on the identification of important species and their habitats and the development of action plans for species and habitat maintenance, restoration and enhancement. The project is an extension of two pilot projects carried out by the Gulf of Maine Council in Great Bay, New Hampshire and Passamaquoddy Bay, New Brunswick. This initiative seeks to fulfil a commitment of the Gulf of Maine Council to improve the management of coastal habitats regionally.
- The Minas Basin study will identify specific high value sites and document habitat utility for key species. This will form the basis for protection through multiple-use management sensitive to living resource needs. Tangible products of this project include:
 - a demonstration of the use of existing knowledge to identify significant habitats in the Minas Basin area;
 - development of standardized methods to engage the public in coastal zone management issues which can be applied to other areas;
 - publication of a series of resource (species/habitat) maps and species/habitat profiles;
 - a model for public participation and involvement in coastal zone management; and
 - an action plan for sustainable management of the Minas Basin as an ecosystem.
- The action plan would subsequently be implemented over the long term through cooperative initiatives in habitat conservation involving government agencies, conservation groups and the scientific community.
- The Steering Committee for this project have submitted an application for funding under the Canada Millennium Fund. As much of the work for this project has and will continue to be through in-kind support, coordinators thank those government agencies which have been involved as Steering Committee members and encourage their continued involvement and commitment. Without their support this project would not be possible.

INDUSTRY CANADA: Geoff Lewis reported the following:

- An invitation has been extended to Atlantic Canadian firms to participate in the Oceanology International 2000 Trade Show scheduled for 7-10 March in Brighton, England.
- The National Trade Team for Ocean Technologies will meet on 25 November at 2 pm (AST). Anyone wishing to participate should contact Geoff.
- The proceedings of the Oceans 99 conference can be purchased via the IEEE website at <http://www.ieee.org/>

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: Brian Delaney reported the following:

- It is anticipated that funding for a proposal to carry out a Coastal Zone Economic Study for Nfld and Labrador will soon be available. The study should be finished by the end of March. The study will be based in part on the NS and NB models.
- A beta version of AquaGIS is now online but with restricted access. A few system "bugs" are being corrected. The issue of distribution is being addressed, including the cost of charts.

- The GIS for regional economic development is being updated.
- A Strategic Social Plan for Newfoundland has been developed for the next 5-10 years. A series of community benchmarks are being identified.
- Mike Warren is making efforts to organize a meeting of provincial personnel interested in the coastal zone to seek their support for ICZM in Nfld.

FIRST NATIONS: Ken Paul reported the following:

- A Habitat Mapping project is under way for the River Denys Basin. The project involves the Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission, as well as three federal departments (PWGSC, DFO, and NRCan). Detailed bathymetric data and bottom quality information will be used to enhance fisheries habitat knowledge as well as to provide a base map for environmental monitoring of the proposed gypsum mine by Georgia-Pacific in nearby Melford.

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

- The Department has tested Chart View Tracker. It is an ideal plotting tool: the dithering is fine, plots can be blown up without loss of quality and it can interface with GPS. The cost is only \$200.
- PW is able to tie in buoys while gathering data in harbours.
- The dredging program has been cut back from \$25 million to a much smaller program. The program is now in monitoring mode. Port management is carried out by port authorities.
- The national annual PWGSC hydrographic conference will be held in November in Halifax. CHS will be making a multibeam presentation.
- The annual flying of aerial photography for Confederation Bridge is scheduled for October. The photography will be colour at 1:5000 or 1:1000 and cover approximately 4 km on either side of the Bridge.

NOVA SCOTIA OCEANS INITIATIVE: Larry Bell reported the following:

- NSOI is putting teams together for national and international projects. The teams include members from government, the private sector and academia.
- Currently there are five NSOI projects under way: three in the Philippines, one in Trinidad and one in Barbados. More projects are being developed.
- The Atlantic region has leading expertise in the coastal and marine sectors but is not getting its fair share of projects.
- NSOI's three focus areas are: watersheds, the coastal zone and Law of the Sea - Article 76.
- NSOI projects are initiated through the Department of Foreign Affairs or directly through federal departments such as CHS, and GSC/NRCan.
- The NSOI website is being redesigned; the URL is <http://www.nsoi.ns.ca>.

CHART INC: Elisabeth DeBlois gave a summary of services provided by CHART (Coastal Habitat Assessment Research and Technology):

- CHART is a Newfoundland-based company focusing on services related to coastal zone management including environmental science, remote sensing data analysis and GIS.
- The company recently completed a detailed inventory of coastal resource in Placentia Bay, Nfld. The database is available free of charge and can be accessed through the CHART website at <http://www.chart.net>. CHART has also collaborated with DFO and the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) in the development of a satellite-based habitat classification technique and a habitat sensitivity ranking scheme.
- CHART has been involved in a number of other resource data mapping and analysis projects including: mapping of underutilized fish species biomass off the coast of Nfld and Labrador; mapping of cod CPUE off Fogo Island; analysis of cod school structure relative to

- feeding as well as trawl avoidance behaviour based on hydroacoustics information.
- Elisabeth will be meeting with Andrew Noseworthy, Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat, in two weeks time to discuss coastal zone issues.

PCI: Jeff Chamberlain reported the following:

- PCI Geomatics is a software vendor.
- A new PCI product is the CZ-IMS - Coastal Zone Information Management System. CZ-IMS is a turnkey system designed for marine environmental monitoring, coastal zone surveillance and disaster management applications. Its main input is RADARSAT imagery.
- CZ-IMS two main components are an integration management tool and decision response tool.
- Features include direct input; geometric correction; area, perimeter and length calculation, etc. A technical description is attached.

CENTRE FOR GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCES: David Colville and Tim Webster reported the following:

- A new Advanced Diploma Program in Marine Geomatics is under way at the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS), Annapolis Valley Campus, NS Community College. The Marine Geomatics Program allows graduates to apply their skills in the coastal zone and offshore areas where, according to CHS, there is a lack of expertise related to geomatics technologies. This is an arena which has one of the largest growth potentials of any economic sector in the Canadian and global economies. The department head is Simeon Roberts (simeon@cogs.ns.ca).
- CoGS has been successful in its application to the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). \$2 million funding for new infrastructure will permit COGS to deliver the full spectrum of Geomatics learning from high-school entry programs to post-graduate diploma leading into applied research projects. The infrastructure will support five major research activity areas:
 - digital elevation model (DEM) acquisition
 - validation of the DEMs
 - high resolution satellite Radarsat, SAR and airborne hyperspectral imagery for mapping the coastal zone
 - integration of onshore and offshore data within GIS environment
 - application development

A number of Geomatics companies and agencies supported the project with in-kind contributions.

- A RADARSAT-1 Radar Imagery Workshop was held on 16-17 September 1999 at BIO. The workshop focused on RADARSAT applications and, in particular, the imagery acquired by NS as part of an agreement with the Canadian Space Agency. The imagery has been merged with other datasets including elevation and has been used for both land and coastal applications.
- The NS Remote Sensing Committee has been re-established. A meeting is scheduled for 5 October in Halifax. For information, email Brian Whitehouse at brian@amrs.org

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK: Yi Ru reported the following:

- Yi is a graduate student working on a project to develop GIS for integrated management of the NB coastal zone.
- The project will define and integrate data requirements and decision processes from the main stakeholders at all levels. A prototype for a web-based GIS will be developed to rapidly integrate and share various coastal data interactively. CARIS Spatial Fusion, a new product that allows transparent and fast integration of large spatial data sets in different data formats at multiple locations, will be used to test and evaluate the capability of the

designed prototype.

- The NB departments of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Municipality and Housing, Natural Resources and Energy, and Environment are the main provincial departments responsible for managing the coastal zone and its resources. Their responsibilities, concerns, policies, existing projects and data requirements dealing with coastal zone management issues will be investigated and defined. A framework for a database system will be designed with the cooperation of Service New Brunswick based on the analysis of data requirements and existing databases in each department. This framework will help implement the coastal policies and build the decision processes for ICZM in NB. A web-based geographic information system to integrate different policies, processes and a variety of large data sets will be developed with a "thin-client" environment using the software CARIS Spatial Fusion. The strengths and weaknesses of the software to handle a variety of coastal zone data in a distributed environment will be evaluated.

8. **UPDATES**

COASTAL ECONOMIC STUDIES: Barry Jones reported the following:

- NB has initiated two coastal economic studies in collaboration with DFO: a provincial study and a local study.
- The provincial study is scheduled for completion by mid-November 1999.
- The second, a socio-economic study of the implementation of sustainable development in an area, is scheduled for completion mid next year. The focus area of the study is the Caraquet area.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY: John Legault reported that the Founding Meeting for the Coalition would take place in Summerside, PEI on 19-20 November 1999. Barry Jones added that an invitation to the meeting and an information brochure were being completed. This will be made available to the ACZISC Secretariat for distribution.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION COALITION/COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION: Andy Cameron reported that GPAC was proposing to hold a 2-day meeting on 18-19 January 2000 in St. Andrews, NB to discuss the future of the Gulf of Maine project in light of the ending of CEC funding. Efforts will be made to change the dates and location of the meeting to coincide with the GoM meetings scheduled for 8-10 December in Portsmouth.

GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: Andy Cameron reported that he had just returned from Wells, Maine where the GoM Working Group had met for the last two days (27-28 September). NOAA continues to provide funding for the GoM. The GoM Secretariat is currently based in New Hampshire.

Barry Jones added that the year 2000 would mark the 10th anniversary of the GoM. It has been declared the Year of the Gulf and special events are being organized to celebrate the anniversary.

Pat Hinch reported that the GoM Council had received an unsolicited proposal from Peter Gough, an artist from NS, in June. Mr. Gough proposed to produce a series of 30 paintings entitled *The Ark* which focused on landscape, endangered spaces and species of the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy region. Mr. Gough's goal was to promote and support the work of the Council by providing 40% of the selling price of these paintings to the Council program for projects under the GoM Action Plan, and by giving the rights to use the images of these

paintings for educational, promotional and other revenue generating purposes. Mr. Gough also proposed to conduct a 2 year exhibition tour (2000-2002) of the works in NS, NB and the New England States. In June 1999, the Council fully endorsed the project by providing a letter of endorsement to Mr. Gough to accompany his request for funding under the Canada Millennium Arts Program. The Gough project has been named as one of the Gulf of Maine Council "Year of the Gulf" celebration events in 2000. Mr. Gough continues to solicit endorsement of his project from government agencies and endorsement and/or funding support from the business community.

COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION AND CONFERENCES: Barry Jones reported the following:

- Coastal Zone Canada 2000 is scheduled for 17-22 September 2000 in Saint John, NB.
- A preliminary program is being finalized and will be distributed later this fall.
- The CZC 2000 website is now online; the URL is <http://www.gov.nb.ca/dfa/czc-zcc2000.htm>
- Megan Trites-Tolson has been hired as the CZC 2000 Secretariat Office Coordinator. The Office email address is czczcc@gov.nb.ca
- The ACZISC is invited to hold a quarterly meeting in Saint John, in conjunction with CZC 2000.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

Andy Sherin made available copies of the paper which he presented at CoastGIS 99, held earlier in September in Brest, France. The paper was co-authored by Eric Theriault, David Cody of the NS Geomatics Centre and Andy. He also circulated a copy of the Proceedings. A copy of Andy's Trip Report to CoastGIS 99 is attached.

CoastGIS 2001, the 4th International Symposium on GIS in the Coastal Zone, will be held in Dartmouth, NS as a single stream conference with poster sessions. Suggestions for 2001 include a session on GIS training and live demonstration sessions. Volunteers to help organize the Conference are welcome. Contact Andy for further information (sherin@agc.bio.ns.ca).

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

11. **NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

ACZISC Meeting #29 is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday, 26 January 2000 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

ACZISC Meeting #28 adjourned at 17:00 hrs.