

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #30

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2000, 0830-1600 hrs.

Location: Richmond Room, Charlottetown Hotel
75 Kent Street, Charlottetown, PEI

NAME	AFFILIATION	TEL. NO.
Present: * indicates ACZISC member or Executive Committee member		
Lt Cdr Dan Agnew	National Defence (for Cdr George Borgal*)	(902) 427-0550
Tim Anderson*	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Newfoundland Region	(709) 772-2852
Paul Boudreau	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(902) 426-7464
David Boyce	Southeast Environmental Association	(902) 838-0635
John Burka	University of PEI (representing the Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences*)	(902) 566-0810
Michael Butler*, Chair	Council of Maritime Premiers and Oceans Institute of Canada	(902) 494-1977
Andy Cameron*	Province of Nova Scotia	(902) 424-0406
Réjean Castonguay*	Province of New Brunswick	(506) 453-3917
Norval Collins*	Champlain Institute	(902) 425-4802
Don Forbes	Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic	(902) 426-7737
Michel Goguen	Public Works and Government Services Canada (for Bill Blight*)	(506) 851-6784
Peter Hale	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(613) 990-0308
Larry Hildebrand*	Environment Canada	(902) 426-2131
Barry Jones*	Province of New Brunswick	(506) 444-5749
Claudette LeBlanc	ACZISC Secretariat	(902) 494-3879
John Legault	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(506) 851-6221
Geoff Lewis*	Industry Canada	(902) 426-9475
Nancy McNeil*	Canadian Coast Guard	(902) 426-9022
Craig Millar	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	(613) 998-3306
Brenda Penak	Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association	(902) 436-7090
Jim Ramsay*	Province of Prince Edward Island	(902) 368-4075
Gary Rockwell	Canadian Hydrographic Service (for Richard MacDougall*)	(902) 426-2432
Brent Rowley	Champlain Institute	(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
Rob Thompson	Parks Canada (for Neil Munro*)	(902) 426-3281

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

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

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA, AND REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING #29**

The provisional Agenda for Meeting #30 was reviewed and approved (copy attached).

The draft minutes of ACZISC Meeting #29 were reviewed and the following revisions were made:

Page 3 **ACZISC SECRETARIAT:** *Discussion, 3rd bullet* "Barry Jones enquired as to the impetus being these discussions." **should read** "Barry Jones enquired as to the impetus behind these discussions."

Page 8 **INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT:** *Last par...* "Neil Ross enquired if the aquaculture industry could be represented on the ICM Working Group. Barry Jones responded that they would be welcome to attend meetings." **should read** "Neil Ross enquired if the aquaculture industry would be allowed to participate in ACZISC meetings. Barry Jones responded that they would be welcome to attend meetings."

Page 12 **PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK:** *delete 1st bullet* "The Coastal Mapping application of linking 911 to individual properties is almost complete."

The minutes were approved with the above revisions. The revised minutes will be posted on the ACZISC website at <http://www.dal.ca/aczisc/info>

3. **STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS**

Action Items from Meeting #29 and those outstanding from previous meetings were reviewed. All Action Items were carried out or are in progress.

4. **ACZISC WORKPLAN**

ACZISC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Faith Scattolon reported the following:
The members of the Executive Committee are: Mike Butler (ACZISC Secretariat Representative); Brad Fay (Provincial Representative and Executive Committee chair); Ken Paul (First Nation Representative); Brent Rowley (Private Sector Representative); and Faith Scattolon (Federal Representative).

The ACZISC Executive Committee held a conference call in late February. It also met in person on 26 April 2000 at Bedford Institute of Oceanography to review the following:
Executive Committee Report to the ACZISC: It was decided that the Executive Committee members would take turns reporting to the ACZISC meetings.

Revenue generation by the ACZISC Secretariat: Three projects have been secured by the Secretariat since the last ACZISC meeting (26 January). Authorisation to undertake these projects was obtained from Executive Committee members. The projects are as follows:

- Service Canada Contract: This \$15K contract is funded by Service Canada and is part of a collaborative project with Environment Canada. It involves the further development of the Logical Integrated Knowledge System (LInKS) developed by Environment Canada as a decision support and information access tool for communities in Atlantic Canada. The metadata component of LInKS is based on the ACZISC Database Directory. It is anticipated that a follow-up proposal will be submitted to implement the system within the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence.
- High Resolution Coastal Mapping Project: This project was described at the last ACZISC Meeting and is a follow-up to an ACZISC workshop held in Fredericton on 30 September 1999. The administration revenue of approximately 18K, generated by the nine collaborators and administered by the OIC, will contribute to pay Brent Rowley's salary while he is organizing the project. The \$18K will also be used to cover the project-related expenses of the ACZISC Secretariat and the salaries of OIC administration personnel.
- Marine Geospatial Data Infrastructure Workshops: The ACZISC Secretariat was contracted (\$20K) by the CCMC to organise two workshops on the topic of ICM in the context of the MGDl. The Workshops were held in Halifax, NS (7 April) and Victoria, BC (10 April). The contract will pay for workshop expenses, ACZISC Secretariat salaries and expenses, and the administrative costs of OIC personnel.

Update re discussions with ACOA: Faith recently met with Bob Hoegg (Secretariat, NS Federal Council) and Debbie Windsor (ACOA). ACOA will consider becoming an ACZISC member and acting as the banker for the federal contributions to the ACZISC. Federal Council support for the ACZISC can be justified within the Federal-Provincial Agreement on Sustainable Communities and the current priority given to "horizontal cooperation".

A matching fund agreement (3 years) with the CMP is the next immediate objective which could be facilitated by Wynne Potter, the President of ACOA. The ongoing support of the Maritimes Geomatics Committee, the technical advisory arm of the CMP, is essential; this will require the support and intervention of the provincial ACZISC members and Secretariat.

Private sector membership on the ACZISC: A draft letter was discussed and approved in response to the NSOI's request for membership on the ACZISC. This issue was discussed at the previous two meetings of the ACZISC and the topic and decisions recorded accordingly in the minutes of ACZISC meeting #29 - 26 January 2000, i.e.:

"The private sector in the Maritime Provinces should continue to be represented on the ACZISC by the Champlain Institute (CI). Norval Collins is currently representing the CI on the ACZISC and Brent Rowley on the ACZISC Executive Committee. In addition, representatives of other private sector organizations may attend meetings as observers.

The private sector in Newfoundland and Labrador should continue to be represented by the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Technology Industries (NATI). Randy Gillespie is currently representing NATI on the ACZISC."

ACZISC SECRETARIAT: Mike Butler distributed copies of the ACZISC Secretariat Operating Guidelines (copy attached). He noted that changes to guideline #7 and #10 (bold text) had been recommended at ACZISC meeting #29 (26 January 2000). These were discussed and approved. Mike suggested that the Guidelines be reviewed on a regular basis.

Brenda Penak enquired if community groups should be mentioned specifically in Operating Guideline #7, i.e. Promote relevant participation on the ACZISC. Mike responded that such details were not necessary as the guideline relates to all sectors, including community groups.

ACZISC MEMBERSHIP: Mike Butler reported that National Defence had recently become a member of the ACZISC. The Department will be represented by Commander George Borgal, Commanding Officer of TRINITY JOSIC (Joint Ocean Surveillance Information Centre). Lt Cdr Dan Agnew is participating in today's meeting as an alternate to Cdr Borgal.

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

Discussion:

Participants discussed membership on the ACZISC and whether it was effective in bringing regional issues to the table from all the sectors involved in coastal information management and ICM. They also discussed the organizations which would be most appropriate for representing particular issues and sectors.

John Burka: Which sector is represented by the Champlain Institute?

Norval Collins: The CI represents the private sector in the Maritimes but primarily the geomatics industry.

John: Users of the coastal zone and the geomatics industry have "different approaches" to ICM issues; the aquaculture industry is an example. A means should be found to ensure that all private sector perspectives can be brought to the table.

Norval: The CI is open to bringing private sector issues and information to the table at ACZISC meetings and other events. This will be discussed at the upcoming AGM of the Institute.

Mike Butler: In addition, he and Norval will discuss developing a mechanism to enable the private sector to bring issues to the ACZISC table via the CI.

David Boyce: Similar mechanisms are needed for community groups and other organizations not represented through regional bodies on the ACZISC.

ACTION 30.1: ACZISC Secretariat and Champlain Institute to develop a mechanism to enable the private sector to bring issues to the ACZISC via the Champlain Institute, prior to next ACZISC meeting.

ACTION 30.2: ACZISC Secretariat to develop a mechanism to enable other organizations, NGOs and communities to bring issues to the attention of the ACZISC, prior to next ACZISC meeting.

Larry Hildebrand stated that the size of the Committee had to be kept to a "workable" number of members. For this reason, efforts are made to identify regional representative organizations for ACZISC membership.

John Legault stated that there were a number of regional organizations in the Atlantic Canada, with an interest in the coastal zone, with which the ACZISC could exchange information.

Jim Ramsay commented that there should be a forum for those organizations to provide comments to the Secretariat and Executive Committee. Also they could participate in ACZISC meetings as observers if they wished.

Réjean Castonguay suggested that an "Associate Member" category could be considered.

Andy Sherin commented that a strategic outreach was needed to enable the ACZISC to communicate effectively.

Mike Butler commented that the ACZISC was making efforts to keep its focus, i.e. information management for ICM, as recommended in an ACZISC review undertaken in June 1997.

Larry Hildebrand suggested that, as the ACZISC was coming up to its 10th anniversary in 2002, the timing might be appropriate for a review of the ACZISC membership, clientele, deliverables, both tangible and intangible, etc. This should also be of a “celebratory” nature. Paul Boudreau stated that the ACZISC needed a “pithy” phrase - a mantra - which would summarize its vision in a few words. This could be added to the ACZISC website, a business card and other communication tools. A communication strategy could also be developed. Faith Scattolon observed that ICM and resource use were being addressed by other fora in the region. For example, there is an Atlantic-wide aquaculture policy committee. The ACZISC provides a unique and valuable service; this should not be lost or watered down by trying to be “everything to all people”.

Barry Jones suggested that the Executive Committee consider the requirement for a strategy session to review the previous comments, including the ACZISC “identity”.

Faith Scattolon added that a focus of government was to provide information directly to citizens. The role that the ACZISC could play in assisting with this task should also be part of a review.

Andy Cameron suggested that the composition of the Executive Committee and Working Groups should also be reviewed.

ACTION 30.3: ACZISC Secretariat and Executive Committee to consider the requirement for a strategy meeting to review the ACZISC “identity”, clientele, deliverables, membership and categories of membership, including that of the Executive Committee and Working Groups.

ACTION 30.4: ACZISC Secretariat and Executive Committee to develop a slogan for use on the ACZISC website, business card, etc.

ACTION 30.5: ACZISC Communications Working Group to develop a communications strategy.

WORKPLAN/BUDGET/FUNDING: Mike Butler distributed copies of the ACZISC 2000-2001 Workplan. As actioned at the last meeting, responsibilities have been assigned for reporting on related programs at ACZISC meetings (page 11 of the Workplan). These are as follows:

- BoFEP - Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership: Larry Hildebrand
- CoastGIS 2001: Andy Sherin
- CZCA - Coastal Zone Canada Association: Barry Jones
- Coastal Zone Canada 2000 Conference: Barry Jones
- Fundy Forum: Claudette LeBlanc
- GeoConnections Secretariat: Brad Fay
- GPAC - Global Programme of Action Coalition for the Gulf of Maine: Andy Cameron
- GoM - Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment: Andy Cameron
- MGDI - Marine Geospatial Data Infrastructure: Randy Gillespie
- NB Marine Resources Economic Studies: Barry Jones
- SGLCS - Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability: Larry Hildebrand

Larry Hildebrand commented that the ICM Working Group should be added to the ACZISC Workplan.

ACTION 30.6: ACZISC Secretariat to add the ICM Working Group to the ACZISC 2000-2001 Workplan.

Mike distributed copies of the ACZISC Budget (1998-1999 to 2000-2001) and a Summary of ACZISC Membership Dues/Revenues (1999-2001). Copies are attached. He stated that this

was the last year of the funding agreement between the Council of Maritime Premiers (CMP) and the ACZISC Secretariat/Oceans Institute of Canada. The advice of the CMP Maritime Geomatics Committee (MGC) will be sought on how best to renew the agreement.

Discussion:

Larry Hildebrand: Will the recent establishment of the Council of Atlantic Premiers impact on the agreement?

Jim Ramsay, Advisor to the PEI representative on the MGC, responded that this was not known at the present.

ACTION 30.7: ACZISC members to review and provide comments to the Secretariat on the 2000/2001 Budget and Workplan, prior to next ACZISC meeting

ACTION 30.8: ACZISC Secretariat and Executive Committee to consider how the formation of the Council of Atlantic Premiers might impact on the ACZISC, prior to next ACZISC meeting.

Andy Sherin enquired if the travel expenses for the Secretariat staff, related to the MGDI workshops, had been covered under the MGDI contract. Mike responded that they had been covered. He added that the Expenditure portion of the Budget may have to be adjusted if there is a shortfall in the Revenues.

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

ACZISC Update: The ACZISC monthly Updates continue to be distributed by email mid-month to the ACZISC distribution list. Subsequently a number of the individuals on the ACZISC distribution list email the Updates to their respective distribution lists. This results in several thousand copies being distributed monthly. The Secretariat has received positive feedback from the Update readership. Claudette requested that members continue to provide her with information suitable for the Update.

ACZISC Website: The ACZISC website as a whole is currently accessed by over 900 users per month. The 50% increase since the counter was installed last September can be attributed in part to the publicity generated by the monthly Updates. The website is updated as frequently as time permits. Claudette requested that members continue to provide her with information suitable for the ACZISC website, e.g., conference announcements, documents on ICM, etc.

Atlantic Coastal Zone Info: The 2-page information bulletin contains a summary of information on ACZISC activities and projects. It is updated and customized for relevant workshops and conferences, the most recent being the Marine Geospatial Data Infrastructure Workshops held in Halifax, NS on 7 April and in Victoria, BC on 10 April 2000.

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

- Version 3 of the Database Directory was processed and posted free of charge by NDI on the NDI server in 1996. Paul Bellemare was instrumental in making this possible.
- Since 1998 approximately 60% of the entries in the Database Directory have been updated, several with the collaboration of ACZISC members. However, no commitment has been made by NDI to process and post the updates on the WWW. This is causing concern as the

- update entries are rapidly “going out of date”.
- The long-term relationship between the ACZISC Database Directory, CEONet and other metadata directories must also be addressed.

Members discussed the situation and asked the Working Group to hold a meeting to consider future strategies for the Database Directory.

ACTION 30.9: ACZISC Database Directory Working Group to hold a meeting to consider future strategies for the Database Directory.

COASTAL MAPPING: The Coastal Mapping Working Group is co-chaired by Curt Speight, NS Geomatics Centre and Eric Theriault, Environment Canada. Eric reported the following:

- Recent efforts have focused on the follow-up to the ACZISC workshop entitled *Remote Sensing Technologies for Coastal Zone Mapping*, held on 30 September in Fredericton.
- Several meetings have been held following the workshop to initiate and implement a multi-partner project proposal to acquire high-resolution 3D datasets in the coastal zone; the proposal is entitled *Collaborative Program to Develop and Implement a High-Resolution Coastal Mapping Project in Atlantic Canada*.
- The ACZISC and the Champlain Institute have been collaborating in the development of the proposal.
- The project involves the pooling of resources to reduce the cost of acquiring imagery. It builds on two large projects in the region: the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant awarded to the College of Geographic Sciences for terrestrial LIDAR, CASI and IKONOS coverage in the Annapolis Valley; and the Climate Change Action Fund (CCAF) grant awarded to CHS/DFO and GSCA/NRCan for terrestrial LIDAR and CASI coverage of a major section of PEI's North Shore and the Charlottetown area. It is also expected that marine LIDAR coverage of the Bras d'Or Lakes will be acquired by DFO, Science Branch.

Discussion:

Geoff Lewis: Is it possible for one aircraft to acquire all the various imageries for the project?

Mike Butler: This is not possible due to technical considerations.

Brent Rowley, President, Champlain Institute, further briefed the participants on the project proposal. He added the following:

- Since the last ACZISC meeting in January, several meetings have been held with potential project partners and vendors, including: Hyperspectral Data International - CASI imagery; GeoSurv - land lidar data; and Terra Surveys - land and marine lidar data.
- The target dates for data collection are July and August 2000. Meteorological conditions will have a critical impact on this exercise.
- The acquisition of IKONOS imagery is not time sensitive.
- The vendors will be invited to participate in a meeting with the project partners later this month in Amherst. This will provide the opportunity to obtain details re the services offered by the vendors and the capabilities of their sensors.
- A proposal is being developed for submission to the NS Map Fund to support the ground truthing component of the project.
- Expertise gained from the project can be marketed worldwide.

Discussion:

Dan Agnew: Where will the data be stored and how can it be obtained?

Brent: CoGS will be storing the data and providing it in an unprocessed format to the project partners. On request and for a fee, CoGS will process and provide the data in various formats

for the partners. Some of the partners will want to do this themselves.

Gary Rockwell: Has Terra updated their marine lidar sensor?

Brent: They have not, but the densification capability of their current sensor is appropriate for the project requirements.

Paul Boudreau: Have the project partners considered using the imagery collected by the NASA Shuttle Mission which took place earlier this year. The radar signals from the mission will be used to study several science issues, including flooding and climate change.

Brent: Tim Webster of CoGS has the Shuttle data. Tim has studied it and concluded that the Shuttle imagery is not of sufficient resolution for the applications being considered for the project.

Barry Jones: Will the recently announced decision by the USA to discontinue their policy of degrading the civilian Global Positioning System (GPS) signal have an impact on the project?

Brent: This will make it possible to achieve better accuracy.

Gary Rockwell: Current 5 to 10 metre accuracies will be increased to 1-2 metres as a result of this decision.

Dan Agnew: The GPS signal will be improved but it will not be permitted to achieve its full capability.

Nancy McNeil stated that she would make available a document re the GPS announcement to the ACZISC Secretariat for distribution to members.

Mike Butler requested that members wanting to participate as partners in the Remote Sensing project should contact the ACZISC Secretariat ASAP.

ACTION 30.10 : ACZISC members and others wanting to participate in the Collaborative Program to Develop and Implement a High-Resolution Coastal Mapping Project in Atlantic Canada to contact the ACZISC Secretariat by 31 May 2000.

ACTION 30.11: Nancy McNeil to provide the ACZISC Secretariat with a copy of a document for distribution to members on the higher-resolution GPS signal now available.

DATA EXCHANGE AND STANDARDS: The Data Exchange and Standards Working Group is co-chaired by Réjean Castonguay, Service New Brunswick and Andy Sherin, Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic. Andy reported the following:

- Andy, Mike Butler and Randy Gillespie are members of the MGD I Advisory Committee. A number of MGD I workshops on user perspectives have been held across Canada recently. Sue Nichols, University of New Brunswick, participated in two of the MGD I workshops. As a follow-up, she has suggested that a technical workshop on the Marine Cadastre be organized, possibly in conjunction with an ACZISC event or Geomatics Atlantic. Workshop topics would include leased boundaries and other jurisdictional boundaries. One of the workshop objectives would be to identify project proposals for submission to GeoConnections.

Réjean added the following:

- A Marine Cadastre Workshop would be timely. NB is currently developing a Marine Policy and will have to consider its data requirements to administer the Policy. Also, the new NB Land Titles Act scheduled for the summer should have provisions for marine titles.

Discussion:

- Gary Rockwell commented that David Gray, CHS, be involved in the workshop.
- Norval Collins suggested that the Champlain Institute could also be involved.
- Jim Ramsay commented that a cadastre would also be common to land applications, e.g.,

adequate warnings of storm surges. In PEI, this would require a detailed elevation model to identify areas most prone to flooding. The PEI Civic Addressing database could be linked to a shore segment database, in order to identify the owners of properties at risk.

- Andy Sherin commented that in a recent lecture at BIO entitled *The Geographic Information Implications of Emergency Response with Special Reference to Recent Hurricanes in North Carolina*, Karen Sideralis, Director, North Carolina Centre for Geographic Information, dealt with a number of these issues.

ACTION 30.12: *ACZISC Secretariat , Data Exchange and Standards Working Group and Champlain Institute to consider their respective roles and responsibilities in the development and implementation of the Marine Cadastre Workshop, prior to next ACZISC meeting.*

ACTION 30.13: *ACZISC Secretariat and Data Exchange and Standards Working Group to organize a Marine Cadastre Workshop.*

INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT: Mike Butler reported that Barry Jones and Faith Scattolon had been chosen as the co-chairs of the ICM Working Group.

Barry Jones reported the following:

- The ACZISC Secretariat and provincial ACZISC representatives with an interest in ICM and policy have been meeting over the past two years on the day preceding the ACZISC meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to share information on ICM, to discuss the Provinces' responses to the Oceans Act and how the Provinces could play a role in federal initiatives.
- This ad hoc group has been expanded to form the ACZISC ICM Working Group. It now includes all ACZISC members with an interest in ICM.
- The Group met yesterday afternoon and discussed issues related to ICM policy and management, include the NB Marine Policy and NS Coastal 2000.
- Provincial restructuring in NB will slow down developments re the NB Marine Policy.

It was suggested by Paul Boudreau that the ICM Working Group consider changing its name to one which would more accurately reflect its role; this will be considered at the next ICM Working Group meeting.

Faith Scattolon added that, although it was not "official" and would not represent departmental positions, the ICM Working Group provided an ideal opportunity for ACZISC members working on policy matters to meet regularly and discuss issues related to ICM policy and management. Andy Cameron and Larry Hildebrand both concurred with Faith.

5. **PRESENTATION: COASTAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN PEI**

Don Forbes, Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic, made a presentation on climate change impacts in PEI. He focused on coastal and marine geoscience studies in PEI; climate change issues in the coastal zone; and new collaborative initiatives. A copy of his overheads is attached. Discussion followed.

David Boyce: How difficult is it to identify the specific cause of erosion in a particular situation, e.g., climate change, ice, etc.?

Don: This is not easy to do. Mapping done by LRIS in the 1980s is being used to measure the rate of erosion in PEI. The rate varies between 10 cm to 1.3 metres per year on the North Shore.

David: One of your overheads indicates that Cardigan Bay is not as prone to erosion as the North Shore of PEI. What is the reason for this?

Don: The mapping used to identify the rates of erosion were at the scale of 1:50,000. Higher resolution mapping is required for accurate predictions of erosion rates for specific sections of coastline.

Jim Ramsay: Erosion has considerable implications for property owners on the Island.

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

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK: Réjean Castonguay reported the following:

- The NB Government is currently undergoing a major reform. However, Service NB's mandate has not changed to date.
- The implementation of the NB Land Titles is planned for June/July. It is anticipated that the registration of submerged lands will be made possible or greatly simplified by this system.
- Service NB is making a major effort towards developing an infrastructure for e-commerce.
- Traditional Mapping Fund 1999-2000 Program:
 - » The completion of the Coastal Topographic Data Base (CTDB98) has been delayed until late July.
 - » The Coastal Softphoto Orthophoto Data Base (CSODB) will be completed by the end of June.
 - » Production of the Coastal Lands Database (CLDB98) has not yet begun. This is a special series to be built on the CLDB98 for use in the implementation of the Coastal Land Use Policy. The specifications for this database have been delayed due to government restructuring and changes in departmental responsibilities.
- Traditional Mapping Fund 2000-2001 Program:
 - » The first generation of the Georeferenced Civic Address Data Base (GCADB) will be created by harmonizing the Civic Address Data Base with the Parcel Data Base.
 - » Work will continue on the Softphoto Orthophoto Data Base (SODB) for the remainder of the Province.
 - » The needs and technical specifications for the administrative boundaries will be finalized.
 - » Spatial Data Fusion will be implemented.
 - » Specifications for a Real Time Road Network (RTRN) will be prepared.
 - » Specifications for the Digital Topographic Data Base (DTDB2000) will be prepared.
 - » Seed efforts will continue re developing a Submerged Data Base (SDB).

Barry Jones reported the following:

- The NB Marine Policy is still "in the works". It will be reviewed and possibly revised as a result of the change of Government in the Province. The NB Coastal Lands Policy will also be reviewed. The policies should be presented to Cabinet in the near future.
- The NB Environmental Trust Fund (ETB) now holds \$4.5 million. The revenue is generated via the Beverage Container Act. An application has been made to the ETB for funds to support the NB Sustainable Development Program. A decision is expected by 1 June.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA/GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA ATLANTIC:

Andy Sherin reported the following:

- GSC Atlantic is working on two coastal archaeological projects:
 - » GSC and a group of archaeologists from Memorial University are studying early human habitations on the Northern Peninsula of Nfld. Because of emergence, the "old shorelines" where these sites are located are further inland than the present shoreline.
 - » GSC and a group of archaeologists from Parks Canada and the Museum of Civilization are studying sites in the Greenwich extension to the PEI National Park. These sites of early human habitations are now underwater due to submergence.

- A 13-panel Climate Change poster for Atlantic Canada is being developed. Topics include sea level, storm surge, coastal erosion, sea ice, agriculture, forestry, ecological change and fishing. The poster is scheduled for completion in the fall.
- Ocean Mining update:
 - » Contracted reports on environmental assessment, communication strategies and technology assessment will be delivered shortly. The process of public consultation is being re-evaluated.
 - » The Swissair disaster site is being used as an ocean mining test bed. Change in the dredged Swissair area will be monitored later this year on a Hudson cruise.
- Deep water multibeam over recently leased blocks on the Scotian slope is under way in collaboration with the oil companies. GSC Atlantic anticipates that a survey in shallower depths (150 m – 350 m) will be conducted later this year. GSC will be licensed to use the data for hazard assessment. A follow-up cruise on Hudson is planned for September.
- Bob Taylor, GSC Atlantic, reports that damage from the January storm is still evident on the beaches of the eastern shore of NS. The wet spring has also contributed to increased erosion on cliffs.
- Two GSC Atlantic websites are now available:
 - » C-Margin is a CEONet compatible and connected metadata search website for marine geology. It is in its 2nd year of development. The URL is <http://margin.bio.ns.ca/cmarginc>
 - » CoastWeb is a new website for GSC Atlantic coastal information. The URL is <http://agc.bio.ns.ca/COASTWEB/>

PRIVATE SECTOR: Brent Rowley, President of the Champlain Institute, reported that the Champlain Institute/MIT proposal for a real-time groundfish mapping project was scheduled for submission in late April.

PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Michel Goguen reported that PWGSC had been restructured. The Department is currently focusing on e-business and data management. Tools for data management have been acquired.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Gary Rockwell, CHS Atlantic, reported that a workshop, sponsored by the Sloan Foundation, based at Woods Hole, Mass, was recently held to identify information sources for a census of the oceans. A project proposal is under development, headed by Ken Foote at MIT. Comments are being sought. For information, email Gary at rockwellg@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

John Legault, DFO Oceans Maritimes Region, reported the following:

- A project in the Cape Breton Highlands is developing a protocol for resource mapping. The goal is to examine existing mapping results and techniques to provide a better product and methodology. DFO is providing guidance and expertise to the project.
- The fisheries data collected for the Gulf of St. Lawrence will be provided on CD to the Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association and the Southeast Environmental Association.

Faith Scattolon, DFO Oceans Maritimes Region, reported the following:

- DFO is co-sponsoring the 1st International Symposium on Deep Sea Corals, scheduled for 30 July - 2 August 2000 at Dalhousie University. The purpose of the Symposium is to review, discuss and synthesize all aspects of deep sea, cold water coral biology, ecology, and conservation.
- A 5-day science workshop on the Eastern Scotian Shelf will take place at BIO. Participation is by invitation. It is anticipated that the workshop will identify areas of research. Proceedings will be available.

- A Trawling Impact Studies Working Group has been formed; it will be carrying out a quantitative assessment. The initial analysis will take place in Newfoundland. The technical report will be available in less than one year. Some of the data will be geo-referenced.
- The Right Whale Recovery Plan has been submitted to Minister Dhaliwal for approval. An announcement is anticipated by the summer.

Nancy McNeil, Canadian Coast Guard, reported the following:

- CCG has a number of databases which are relevant to ICM. These include:
 - » Vessel Traffic
 - » Environmental Response Equipment
 - » Aids to Navigation
 - » Lighthouses: this is available on CD.
 - » Mapping carried out with communities for environmental response
- CCG is participating in a GEOIDE research project with Dalhousie University to develop a risk management model for the Bay of Fundy. The Search and Rescue Marine Analysis Program (SARMAP) GIS will be used to analyze the information. The CCG will use the risk model to assist with planning the acquisition and deployment of SAR resources.
- CCG is currently carrying out 13 surveys in the Maritimes Region.
- CCG will be experimenting with an Automatic Vessel Identification (AVI) system in Halifax Harbour.

Gary Rockwell enquired if CCG had study data re the impacts of dredging. Nancy replied that CCG no longer carried out dredging.

Tim Anderson, DFO Newfoundland, reported the following:

- Marine Protected Areas:
 - » Final arrangements are being made to announce Areas of Interest for MPAs.
 - » A paper entitled *Designing a Marine Protected Area Program in Newfoundland and Labrador* has been prepared for presentation at SAMPA - the Science and Management of Protected Areas Conference scheduled for next week in Waterloo, ON.
 - » A paper entitled *Developing Marine Protected Areas in Atlantic Canada*, a summary of community involvement and discussions to date, will be presented jointly by DFO Maritimes and Newfoundland regions also at SAMPA.
- Integrated Management - Conception Bay South Project:
 - » Phase 2 is being completed with the Marine Institute of Memorial University which deals with stakeholder and resource uses.
 - » A contract has been let to begin an Ecological Overview.
 - » DFO has entered into a Science and Technology Internship with the Marine Institute to develop an annotated visual presentation of the environmental profile.
 - » DFO is leading the development of an Outreach Climate Change proposal to complement the recently funded Science project for the Area.
- Integrated Management - Placentia Bay Project:
 - » The project is DFO-led.
 - » The Integrated Management process is continuing.
 - » A draft ecological overview has been completed.
 - » Economic and socio-economic data is currently being gathered for a use audit of the area.
 - » Visual aids are being prepared for public presentations, education and awareness.
- Integrated Management - Bay of Islands Project:
 - » This project includes the Humber Arm ACAP site.
 - » A document is being developed to identify the issues related to coastal management and future directions.
- Oil Exploration and Development:

- » A project is being undertaken for the Grand Banks to determine sensitive/critical habitats and areas of high biodiversity and productivity using existing fisheries data.
- » A similar project may be undertaken in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
- Three DFO Regions - Newfoundland, Maritimes and Laurentian - will be meeting in the near future to scope out issues and approaches related to ICM in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Paul Boudreau, DFO Oceans Maritimes Region, reported the following:

- Marine Invertebrates Diversity Initiative:
 - » MIDI is a co-operative effort between several agencies to build a database promoting awareness of marine invertebrates.
 - » The MIDI website will be housed in the new Fundy Forum website to be established soon at <http://www.fundyforum.com>
- Gulf of Maine Information Exchange:
 - » The GOMINFOEX initiative has been selected as a finalist in the Stockholm Challenge Award 2000 in the category of "Public Services and Democracy". It is one of 20 finalists from over 103 submissions submitted from around the world. The announcement of winners will be made on June 5th.
 - » An online timed discussion will take place from 29 May - 9 June on the topic of Information Exchange in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine region. It will be co-hosted by the Fundy Forum and the GOMINFOEX Action Committee. For information, access <http://www.dal.ca/aczisc/fundy/forum>
 - » The input of the timed discussions will be used to prepare the agenda of the 2nd GOMINFOEX Workshop scheduled for 2-4 November 2000 in Saint John, NB. For information on the Workshop, email Sean Brilliant at acapsj@fundy.net
- SEAMAP:
 - » The SeaMap concept paper, jointly authored by DFO, NRCan and DND, proposes the systematic mapping of the Canadian EEZ for bathymetry, geology, benthic habitat and biological communities to form the basic infrastructure for integrated ocean management. The SEAMAP proposal is currently being developed. A diagram is attached.
 - » A SEAMAP Planning Workshop is scheduled for 6 June at BIO.
 - » Workshops will also be held in other locations across Canada.
 - » For information on SEAMAP, email Kate Moran, Director, SEAMAP Office at seamap@agc.bio.ns.ca

NATIONAL DEFENCE: Lt Cdr Dan Agnew reported the following DND data collection/sensor initiatives:

- High Frequency Surface Wave Radar:
 - » Funding for the HFSWR has been extended to fiscal year 2000/2001.
 - » DND on the East Coast has taken the lead on the project.
 - » Operational evaluation is ongoing at two experimental sites established at Cape Race and Cape Bonavista. This will be a major activity this summer.
 - » There is a good indication that the implementation of the system will be funded by DND Ottawa.
 - » The radar data will be blended with CANMARNET.
- Space-based:
 - » Assessment is ongoing re the installation of a RADARSAT ground station.
 - » DND on the West Coast has taken the lead on this project.
 - » The Department is awaiting the launch of RADARSAT II.
- Ocean-based:
 - » Funding has been approved for the Technology Demonstration Project by CRAD (Chief Research and Development). The lead is DREA (Defence Research Establishment Atlantic).

- » A system will be delivered by 2004.
- » Testing in the Arctic was conducted in March 2000.
- » A Factory Acceptance test of the Acoustic Processor and the data distribution subsystem was conducted in Dartmouth last week. Development is progressing well. Large scale testing (in water) will be carried out by next summer.
- » The lead on this project is DND on the East Coast.
- Trinity is the lead DND agency on the SEAMAP project proposal.
- Activities this summer include:
 - » A bottom survey of the Claire Lilly site and the ammunition disposal site.
 - » A bottom search of St. Georges Bay for lost moorings.
 - » Bottom investigation of the wreck of a RN warship off Labrador to assist in the disposal of her ammunition.
 - » Investigation of wreck located during Swissair crash site survey off St. Margarets Bay.
- A survey of a "submarine bottoming area" off Halifax Harbour has been completed.

SOUTHEAST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION: David Boyce reported the following:

- The Sand Mining Report by Bob Taylor, GSC Atlantic, has been completed and published. The Province has withdrawn some of the mining permits as a result .
- C-LInKS project:
 - » SEA is a beta test site for the C-LInKS system being developed for the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability.
 - » SEA has applied to the Canadian Rural Partnership Program for funding to support community development and training in the use of C-LInKS.
 - » Efforts are being made to ensure that data and information from all sectors (environment, social and economic) will be included.
 - » The Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) at the University of PEI will be hosting the web-based C-LInKS system for the Coalition.
- Climate Change Seminars:
 - » SEA is applying to the Climate Change Action Fund (CCAF) for funding to hold seminars on the effect of climate change on PEI.
 - » Each session will address specific topics such as forestry, agriculture, tourism, etc.
- Valleyfield River Environmental Damage Assessment:
 - » A report was completed last fall on the cost of the fish kill in the Valleyfield River which occurred on 10 July 1999.
 - » A model will be created this year to enable other groups to conduct damage assessment in the event of a spill or a kill.
 - » Environment Canada is considering carrying out studies on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) this year and using the Valleyfield and other PEI rivers as test sites.
- Cardigan Environmental Centre:
 - » The Centre is to focus on the theme of "water".
 - » An AVC project will be used for aquaculture re-circulation research, education and tourism.
 - » Phase I of the project has been completed and aquaculture re-circulation courses will be offered to students from Chile, Australia and Paraguay this summer.
- Agricultural Bacteria Study:
 - » A two-year multi-stakeholder study on land use effects of agricultural bacteria has been completed.
 - » The final report will be available next winter.

John Burka suggested that SEA consider involving the Institute of Island Studies at the University of PEI in its activities.

PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: Jim Ramsay reported the following:

- The Province is participating in a number of offshore projects. Email Jim at jbramsay@gov.pe.ca for details and the names of appropriate contacts, etc.
- The Province is making plans for a major land use study. A pilot will be carried out.
- PEI will be participating in the High Resolution Coastal Mapping project being coordinated by the ACZISC and the Champlain Institute.
- The HPN values for the GPS network have been published.
- NAD83 can now be legally used on the Island. The grid shift file will be available this fall.
- PEI is considering implementing a guaranteed land titles system.
- A geo-referenced civic addressing system is also being considered. Each driveway or entrance has a geo-reference point tied to the PID.
- A real-time road network is also being considered. It would form part of the civic addressing database. The database would be available to the general public.
- The Province would like to instate a new and more "practical" shoreline definition. The current statement is based on the high water mark and is causing some problems re property assessment.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES COUNCIL ON THE SCIENCES: John Burka, University of Prince Edward Island, reported the following:

- The APICS Aquaculture Committee organizes a student conference each year to allow students from the four Atlantic Provinces, conducting aquaculture-related research, the opportunity to present their research to their peers. The next conference is scheduled for March 2001.
- Memorial University has been granted several million dollars to establish Aquanet, a centre of excellence for aquaculture. Several groups are involved including DFO, the Government of Newfoundland Labrador, and the aquaculture industry.
- The International Aquaculture 2000 conference was held from 2-6 May in Nice, France.
- The Aquaculture Canada 2000 Conference will take place from 28-31 May 2000 in Moncton, NB. The theme of the Conference is "Aquaculture in the New Millennium: Innovation and Sustainability". Andrew Boghen, Université de Moncton, is the Conference coordinator.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Eric Theriault reported the following:

- EC held a 2-day national workshop for Geographic Information System users and managers last February in Burlington, ON. The purpose of the workshop was to bridge the various GIS activities of the EC regions and branches and to move forward on broader issues such as access to federal datasets, data management, metadata and data sharing.
- EC will be applying to NRCan for a site licence for the NTDB data.
- Atlantic Region Sensitivity Mapping Program:
 - » Two people have been hired to join the Sensitivity Mapping Program team. They will be responsible for data collection and integration of data.
 - » Sensitivity maps are produced for emergency response.
 - » The shoreline is divided into segments with unique identifiers.
 - » The pre-spill database includes coastal zone characteristics, shoreline protection and cleanup strategies and methods, and response equipment requirements.
- EC is supporting a DFO project which will analyze countermeasures re oil spills on salt marshes.
- EC is on a steering committee for a project funded through the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF) regarding the identification of ecologically and commercially important areas in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA: Andy Cameron reported the following:

- Service Delivery to Communities:
 - » The Provincial policy has been approved.
 - » The MOU between the NS departments of the Environment and Fisheries and Aquaculture, DFO and EC has been signed.
 - » The first meeting of the Steering Committee has been held. The 2000/01 Workplan for the MOU has been approved; it includes a basic inventory of initiatives and terms of reference for the Service Delivery Teams. Copies of the documents were distributed and are attached.
- FEDC/DM Sustainable Communities Projects:
 - » Bras d'Or and Annapolis/Fundy: Open houses for government agencies will be held during the week of 12 June. Engagement of communities by Service Delivery Teams is scheduled for 1 July to 31 March 2001.
- The Province is undergoing a reorganization of its departments and programs.
- Other coastal issues in NS include lighthouses, wharves and cables. The fishing industry is particularly concerned with cables.

Faith Scattolon commented that MOUs may also be negotiated between other provinces and their respective federal councils.

INDUSTRY CANADA: Geoff Lewis reported the following:

- Wireless Communication:
 - » A wireless communication R&D initiative between the Canadian Centre for Marine Communications (CCMC) and Aliant has been announced.
 - » Initially \$1 million in R&D projects will be undertaken by private industry and academic institutions.
 - » Further information is available from the CCMC website at <http://www.ccmc.nf.ca>
- Neptune Project:
 - » Neptune is a proposal to implement sub-sea observatories to monitor the seafloor and the ocean above it. The sensors would be used to predict seismic activity, to monitor fish migration, etc. Details are available from the Neptune website at <http://www.neptunecanada.com>
 - » Neptune represents a broad array of opportunities for Canadian companies. A \$250K feasibility study will be carried out.
 - » A presentation on the Neptune Project is scheduled for 6 June 2000 at Industry Canada, 1801 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS. To register, email Geoff at lewis.geoff@ic.gc.ca
- The Sector Branch of Industry Canada is being reorganized and "renewed"; the consolidation of several branches and the review of plans and activities is ongoing.

ACTION 30.14: Participants wanting further details on the Neptune project should contact Geoff Lewis, Industry Canada.

PARKS CANADA: Rob Thompson reported that the Marine Conservation Bill was now before the House of Commons for its 2nd reading. Changes are anticipated.

7. **UPDATES**

BAY OF FUNDY ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP: Faith Scattolon reported that the BoFEP Steering Committee will be meeting in Sackville, NB on 17 May. Copies of Fundy Issues fact sheets were distributed.

Barry Jones added that the 4th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop will be held on 20-21 September in Saint John in conjunction with CZC 2000. The workshop theme is *Opportunities and Challenges for Protecting, Restoring and Enhancing Coastal Habitats in the Bay of Fundy*. Information on BoFEP is available from <http://www.auracom.com/~bofep/>.

CANADIAN RURAL PARTNERSHIP: Andy Sherin reported that the deliverables of the Pictou CRP project had been delivered to the community. These include a MapInfo database of coastal mapping for the Pictou area integrated with a video flown in 1990. A new video will be flown; this will be combined with the old video to provide a time series study for the intervening 10 year period.

COASTAL ECONOMIC STUDIES: Barry Jones reported on the NB economic studies:

- The provincial study report entitled *The Economic Value of Marine-Related Resources in New Brunswick* will be completed and distributed by the end of May.
- The study divides the Province into two regions on a watershed basis: Fundy and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
- The study was cost shared 50-50 between the Province of NB and DFO.
- The report will be used to support the NB marine policy initiative.
- A local economic study dealing with the socio-economic implications of implementing sustainable development is scheduled for completion by the end of June. The report will be used as a planning tool.. The Caraquet area has been selected as the study site.

Tim Anderson reported that the proposed coastal economic study of Newfoundland and Labrador is "on the back burner" for the present. It will be re-introduced at a later date. ACOA has expressed interest in the project.

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

- CZC 2000 is scheduled for 17-22 September 2000 in Saint John, NB. The preliminary program includes paper sessions, case studies, workshops and roundtables.
- The booklet entitled *Baseline 2000* is being developed for CZC 2000. It will include issues identified globally which relate to ICM. The Canadian condition will be highlighted. *Baseline 2000* will be made available to all conference registrants at the Conference and will serve as a guide for discussions at the Conference.
- A follow-up document entitled *Beyond 2000* will be prepared which builds on *Baseline 2000* and the Conference discussions.
- The CZC Association will be meeting with the OIC, the ACZISC and the International Ocean Institute (IOI) to discuss collaborative opportunities. The meeting will be held during CZC 2000 in Saint John.

COASTGIS: Andy Sherin reported the following:

- CoastGIS 2001 will be held from 17-20 June 2001 in Halifax, NS.
- The Organizing Committee for CoastGIS had been formed; it is co-chaired by Andy and Paul Macnab, DFO. The Committee is meeting regularly. Anyone interested in assisting with the organization of this international Conference should email Andy at sherin@agc.bio.ns.ca
- The proposed primary theme is Managing the "Interfaces". The proposed sub-themes are:
 - » Technology and the non-specialist - human problems and human solutions
 - » Policy for the sharing, access and dissemination of geographic data
 - » Tools and standards for data and information access
 - » Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) / Technology interface
 - » Information infrastructures in support of geospatial applications
 - » Measuring and modelling the interface

FUNDY FORUM: Claudette LeBlanc reported the following:

- The Fundy Forum is planning to broaden its website content, increase participation, and secure advisors for various activities through the establishment of an advisory team. To date, 12 people have been contacted and have agreed to sit on the team. There will be a general call for expressions of interest to participate with the team in the near future.
- There is an anonymous online survey on the website that is seeking input on the Forum, including website content, design and the listserver. Some preliminary results have been posted.
- On 1 June, the Fundy Forum will be moving to its own domain name. The URL will be www.fundyforum.com

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION COALITION/COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION:

Andy Cameron reported that a GPAC Workshop entitled "Exploring Transboundary Arrangements for Managing the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem: Focus on Sewage, Toxics and Coastal Development" is scheduled for 19-20 June 2000 at the Trade and Convention Centre in Saint John, NB. He added that GPAC Gulf of Maine funding had been extended for one year.

GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: Andy Cameron reported the following:

- The 10-year anniversary meeting of the Council will take place from 18-20 July 2000 in Portsmouth.
- Suzie Freid has submitted her resignation as editor of the Gulf of Maine Times newsletter. A replacement is being sought.
- The Gulf of Maine Institute without Walls is being supported by the GoM. A workshop will be held in August in Tusket, NS. Five of the Institute nodes will be participating in the GoM Council meetings in July. The school projects associated with the Institute emphasize "learning".
- GoM has received a NOAA grant.
- The GoM Secretariat will be moving from NH to Maine as of July 2000.

Barry Jones added that, in addition to the GoM Secretariat, efforts are being made to establish permanent points of contact in each of the GoM jurisdictions: NB, NS, Maine, Mass and NH.

MARINE GEOSPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE: Mike Butler distributed briefing documents on MGDI. He reported:

- The proposed Ocean Sciences Worksop in Vancouver has been delayed until 30 May.
- It has been suggested that an Ocean Sciences Workshop be held at BIO.
- A debrief meeting was held at BIO on 28 April on the MGDI workshops held to date. These were: Renewable Resource Management, St. John's, NF, 4 April 2000; Non-Renewable Resource Management, Halifax, NS, 6 April; Coastal Zone Management, Halifax, NS, 7 April 2000 and Victoria, BC, 11 April; and Marine Transportation, Montréal, QC, 13 April.

Andy Sherin added that an Oil and Gas Workshop was being considered for Calgary in June.

OCEANS INSTITUTE OF CANADA: Mike Butler reported the following:

- The OIC is located on the campus of Dalhousie University in Halifax.
- The ACZISC Secretariat is based at the OIC.
- An Task Group is currently considering a proposal to merge the OIC with the International Ocean Institute. The Task Group will be making recommendations to the OIC Board of Directors and members. The final decision re merger rests with the membership.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY: John Legault reported the following:

- The Coalition Steering Committee has good representation from all of the sectors.
- A Coordinator for the Coalition will be hired soon.
- John is a member of the SGSLCS committee responsible for developing a communication strategy for the Coalition, including a website and Coalition profile. The website is being developed based on C-Links, in collaboration with EC and the ACZISC.
- The Coalition is planning to convene an Open Forum on Oil and Gas exploration and development, and its relationship with the ecosystem of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The purpose would be to bring all concerned stakeholders together to review the full range of issues and factors that must go into a process of 'informed debating' and 'informed-decision making'.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

Andy Sherin reported that the following publications were available:

- The book entitled *Marine and Coastal GIS*, published by Taylor and Francis.
- *Proceedings of the CoastGIS '99*, held in Brest, France, published in book form by IFREMER.

Andy also reported that Geomatics Atlantic 2000 will be held in Halifax, NS from 25-27 September 2000.

Brent Rowley announced that the Champlain Institute was looking for a new manager to replace Heather Campbell, who recently resigned. The competition closing date is 19 May 2000. For information, email Brent at earth@atccanada.ca

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

10. **NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

ACZISC Meeting #31 is provisionally scheduled for Thursday, 7 September 2000 in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

ACZISC Meeting #30 adjourned at 16:00 hrs.