

# MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #31

## Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

*Date:* Thursday, 7 September 2000, 0830-1600 hrs.

*Location:* Chancellors Room, Wu Centre  
University of New Brunswick  
Fredericton, NB

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**PRESENT:** \* indicates ACZISC member or Executive Committee member

| <b>Name</b>            | <b>Affiliation</b>  | <b>Tel. No.</b> |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Joe Arbour             | Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region (for Faith Scattolon*)            | 902-426-3894    |
| Cdr George Borgal*     | National Defence  | 902-427-0550    |
| 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    |
| Michael Dillon         | NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture                         | 506-453-3488    |
| Michel Goguen          | Public Works and Government Services Canada (for Bill Blight*)                  | 506-851-6784    |
| Leslie Grattan         | Environmental Planning and Management Projects, Government of Nfld and Labrador | 709-729-3782    |
| Larry Hildebrand*      | Environment Canada  | 902-426-2131    |
| John Hughes-Clarke     | University of New Brunswick   | 506-453-4568    |
| 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    |
| Richard MacDougall*    | Canadian Hydrographic Service   | 902-426-3497    |
| Nancy McNeil*          | Canadian Coast Guard  | 902-426-9022    |
| Sue Nichols            | University of New Brunswick   | 506-453-5141    |
| Kevin Pegler           | University of New Brunswick   | 506-453-4698    |
| Yi Ru                  | University of New Brunswick   | 506-447-3387    |
| Michael Sutherland     | University of New Brunswick   | 506-453-4698    |
| Eric Theriault*        | Environment Canada  | 902-426-9558    |
| Rob Thompson           | Parks Canada (for Neil Munro*)  | 902-426-3281    |
| Cameron Wilson         | GeoConnections Secretariat  | 613-996-6377    |

### 1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

Mike Butler, ACZISC Chair, called Meeting #31 to order at 08:30 hrs. He welcomed members and guests. He thanked Réjean Castonguay for making the meeting arrangements and the Province of New Brunswick 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 #30**

The provisional Agenda for Meeting #31 was reviewed. Additions were proposed:

- a presentation on GeoConnections by Cameron Wilson, GeoConnections Secretariat
- a review of SEAMAP, MIDI (Marine Invertebrate Diversity Initiative) and GoMOOS (Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System)
- discussions on the upcoming 10-year anniversary of the ACZISC in 2002.

The agenda was approved (copy attached).

The draft minutes of ACZISC Meeting #30 were reviewed and the following revision was made:

**Page 16 ENVIRONMENT CANADA:** *Last bullet* "Eric is on the Steering Committee evaluating project proposals submitted to the Endangered Species Recovery Fund (ESRF), sponsored by Environment Canada and the World Wildlife Fund Canada. A project has not been awarded yet." **should read** "Environment Canada 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."

The minutes were approved with the above revision. 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 #30 were reviewed. All Action Items were carried out or are in progress, other than:

**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 the next ACZISC meeting.*

## 4. **NEXT MEETING**

ACZISC Meeting #32 is provisionally scheduled for Thursday, 11 January 2001 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

## 5. **ACZISC WORKPLAN**

**ACZISC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** 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).

An ACZISC Executive Committee meeting was held on 7 September 2000 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. Mike Butler reported on the meeting:

- **ACZISC Finances:** The Executive Committee reviewed the ACZISC budget and financial situation.
- **Agreement with the NS Federal Council:** The Executive Committee discussed the NS Federal Council meeting scheduled for 30 October and suggested that an ACZISC presentation be made to the Council by Faith Scattolon and Mike Butler. The Federal Council is being considered as the 'vehicle' through which federal funding for the ACZISC could be coordinated. ACOA could act as the 'banker' for the federal departments and

- perhaps contribute to the ACZISC funds.
- Action Items from ACZISC Meeting #30 to be Addressed by the Executive Committee:
    - » The Executive Committee considered the requirement for a Strategy Meeting to review the ACZISC 'identity', clientele, deliverables, membership, etc. It recommended that a strategy meeting be planned by the Secretariat for the fall of 2000.
    - » The Executive Committee considered ACZISC slogans proposed by the Secretariat for use on the business card, website, etc. The slogan "A Guide to Coastal Information in Atlantic Canada" was approved by the Executive Committee.
    - » The Executive Committee reviewed the current communication program of the ACZISC Secretariat. It was considered be appropriate and effective.
    - » The Executive Committee recommended that a meeting be arranged with Leo Walsh, the newly-appointed Secretary to the Council of Maritime Premiers, to explore possible future funding opportunities and implications for the ACZISC of the recent formation of the Council of Atlantic Premiers.
  - Other: The Executive Committee reviewed ACZISC initiatives:
    - » Two Workshops to be held during CZC 2000 in Saint John.
    - » Metadata Workshop, co-sponsored by the ACZISC and the GeoConnections Secretariat, held in Amherst on 21 and 22 August.
    - » Progress to-date re the High Resolution Coastal Mapping Project.

***ACTION 31.1: Secretariat to organize a Strategy Meeting in the fall of 2000 to review the ACZISC Terms of Reference, Mandate and Goals.***

***ACTION 31.2: Secretariat to distribute the ACZISC Terms of Reference prior to the proposed Strategy Meeting.***

It was suggested that the membership of the Executive Committee be reviewed in light of Brad Fay's secondment to the GeoConnections Secretariat.

***ACTION 31.3: Secretariat and Executive Committee to review the membership of the Executive Committee prior to next meeting.***

**ACZISC SECRETARIAT:** Mike Butler reported that the Secretariat Operating Guidelines, approved at ACZISC meeting #30 (11 May 2000), had been distributed with the minutes of that meeting. He suggested that the Guidelines could be reviewed yearly, unless events dictated otherwise. Members agreed with his suggestion.

The ACZISC Secretariat continues to be based at the Oceans Institute of Canada located on the Dalhousie University campus at 1226 LeMarchant Street, Halifax.

**ACZISC MEMBERSHIP:** Mike Butler reported that the Secretariat continued its efforts to communicate with departments or agencies identified as being potential ACZISC members but currently not represented on the ACZISC. These include Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Health Canada.

Mike reported that discussions are ongoing with the Province of Newfoundland re the status of its membership on the ACZISC. He introduced Leslie Grattan, Deputy Minister, Environmental Planning and Management Projects, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Leslie stated that Newfoundland and Labrador intended to become a paying member of the ACZISC.

He also welcomed George Borgal, Commanding Officer of TRINITY JOSIC (Joint Ocean Surveillance Information Centre), the representative of National Defence on the ACZISC.

Larry Hildebrand announced that Martha McCulloch would be joining both he and Eric Theriault in representing Environment Canada on the ACZISC. Martha is the Manager of the Maritimes Weather Centre of Environment Canada.

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

**BUDGET / FUNDING / WORKPLAN:** Mike Butler distributed copies of the ACZISC Budget (1998-1999 to 2000-2001) and a Summary of ACZISC Membership Dues/Revenues (1999-2001). Copies are attached. Mike added that \$12K had been received from Environment Canada since the documents were prepared.

*Discussion:*

Barry Jones enquired if the budgeted financial contribution by the OIC was 'real money' or in-kind support.

Mike Butler responded that it was 'real money'. The OIC contributes \$2K per month to the ACZISC in exchange for 25% of his time spent on OIC matters.

George Borgal suggested that in-kind contributions be indicated in the ACZISC Budget as these could be important in securing funding and other in-kind support for the ACZISC.

Rob Thompson stated that 'Heritage Canada' should be changed to 'Parks Canada' in the Revenue Summary.

It was suggested that the ACZISC Secretariat consider applying to the Atlantic Investment Partnership for ACZISC funding. ACOA is the lead agency in this initiative.

Mike Butler thanked ACZISC members for supporting the Secretariat financially through collaborative projects. This is an important source of funding for the ACZISC Secretariat.

Mike Butler distributed copies of updates (copies attached) to the ACZISC 2000-2001 Workplan:

- revised time allocations for himself and Claudette LeBlanc
- a revised project summary for the Atlantic Coastal Database Directory
- a project summary for the newly formed Integrated Coastal Management Working Group.

***ACTION 31.4: ACZISC members to review and provide comments to the Secretariat on the 2000/2001 Budget, Sources of Revenue and Workplan.***

***ACTION 31.5: Secretariat to indicate in-kind contributions in the ACZISC 2000/2001 Budget.***

Larry Hildebrand commented that the ACZISC Workplan was effective at documenting the ACZISC outputs. However, he stressed that it was important to also document 'outcomes' as these could facilitate the securement of long-term funding for the ACZISC. This was supported by George Borgal.

***ACTION 31.6: Prior to next meeting, Secretariat to prepare, with the assistance of members, the first draft of a document outlining the 'outcomes' of ACZISC activities and projects.***

The following members and associates volunteered to assist the Secretariat with this task: George Borgal, Andy Cameron, Larry Hildebrand and Joe Arbour.

**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 which contains over 1,000 names. The Updates include items of relevance to the ACZISC mandate; efforts are made to achieve a balance of regional, national and international items.

The Secretariat receives positive feedback from the Update readership. However, a critical comment was received with regard to an item in the August Update relating to the aquaculture industry. The sender stated that the item was skewed and not true.

*Discussion:*

Andy Cameron stated that the Update was an information tool and did not promote an 'ACZISC perspective'.

George Borgal suggested that a leader should be added to the Updates stating that the contents do not reflect the position of the ACZISC.

Geoff Lewis commented that disclaimers in newsletters were standard practice and gave as an example the newsletter of the NS Oceans Initiative (NSOI).

It was concluded that a statement should be added to the Updates which states that the inclusion of items does not imply endorsement by the member agencies of the ACZISC.

***ACTION 31.7: Secretariat to add a disclaimer to the ACZISC Update newsletter stating that the inclusion of items in the Update does not imply endorsement by the member agencies of the ACZISC.***

ACZISC Website: Claudette LeBlanc stated that frequent updating of the website was important to keep the interest of users. The number of users of the website continues to increase gradually. The focus over the next few weeks will be to do a major update of the "Links", "Documents" and "Maps Online" sections.

*Discussion:*

Réjean Castonguay enquired how often the website was updated.

Claudette LeBlanc responded that updates were made frequently, often on a daily basis and at least weekly.

Atlantic Coastal Zone Info: The 2-page information bulletin contains a summary of information on ACZISC activities. It is updated and customized for relevant workshops and conferences. Issues will be prepared for Coastal Zone Canada 2000 (17-22 September 2000, Saint John, NB) and Geomatics Atlantic (26-27 September 2000, Halifax, NS).

ACZISC Business Card: A new business card has been produced with the slogan "A Guide to Coastal Information in Atlantic Canada". Copies were made available to members for distribution at appropriate events.

*Discussion:*

John Legault enquired if the ACZISC was making efforts to communicate with NGOs and communities.

Mike Butler responded that ACZISC efforts included the following:

- The "Atlantic Coastal Community Update" has been implemented on the ACZISC website to allow community groups to publicize and exchange information on their activities. A letter of invitation was sent to community groups inviting them to contribute information on their projects. This has proved to be less than successful, primarily because the Secretariat staff does not have the time/funding to communicate in person with individual community groups. The under staffing of community groups is also a factor.
- Several community group representatives are on the distribution list for the monthly ACZISC Update newsletter. Submissions for inclusion in the Updates are encouraged and these are becoming more frequent, including those from community groups, largely because the Update is being recognized as a 'powerful communication tool'.
- 'Official' community group representation on the ACZISC has been difficult to achieve because there is not presently an Atlantic-wide community organization. However, representatives of community groups are invited to attend ACZISC meetings.
- Mike asked for suggestions on improving communications with community groups.

John Legault suggested that sub-regional groups such as the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability could serve as vehicles to improve ACZISC communications with community groups. He suggested that a presentation on the ACZISC could be made at the upcoming AGM of the Coalition. Members recommended that John follow up on this.

**ACTION 31.8:** *John Legault to discuss with the Steering Committee of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability the scheduling of a presentation on the ACZISC at the upcoming AGM of the Coalition.*

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

- The Database Directory was processed by NDI in 1996 and posted free of charge on the NDI server from 1996 to 2000. The ACZISC is very appreciative of NDI's past assistance.
- Last July, the website for the Database Directory was moved from the NDI server to the Dalhousie University server to allow for more frequent updating of the Directory. Dalhousie University has hosted the ACZISC website since its development in 1994.
- Over the last year, approximately 60% of the entries in the Database Directory have been updated, several with the help of ACZISC members. These updates were processed and posted on the new Directory website at <http://www.dal.ca/aczisc/acdd> in August.
- Additions or updates to the Directory can be posted monthly or at the request of the ACZISC Secretariat.
- A WORD form and definitions document are available on the Database Directory website for describing new entries. The filled-in form can be faxed or emailed to the Secretariat.
- Claudette stressed the importance of member participation in updating the Directory. The individual database managers are much more inclined to cooperate and keep their entries up to date if the update process is coordinated internally within each government department or jurisdiction. As an example, Service NB was particularly successful in updating the New Brunswick component of the ACZISC Directory when it assigned a summer student to visit the database managers onsite to obtain update information.
- Claudette demonstrated the ACZISC Database Directory and its various features, including the Full Text Search Function and the Table of Contents.

*Discussion:*

George Borgal enquired if the metadata revision date was documented for each of the entries in the Directory.

Claudette LeBlanc responded that the metadata revision date, if known, was provided at the bottom of each of the database descriptions.

George suggested that the metadata revision date be added in the Table of Contents to help users to determine quickly the 'usefulness and relevance' of each of the entries.

Larry Hildebrand enquired if data and information were being used more widely as a result of the ACZISC Database Directory being available.

Claudette responded that this was difficult to assess in general. However, she stated that she was aware of specific cases of users, e.g., several of the ACAP sites have made extensive use of the Directory in their start-up phase.

George commented that the usefulness of the Database Directory would be one of the items addressed in the ACZISC Outcomes paper.

**ACTION 31.9:** *Claudette LeBlanc to add the metadata revision date to the entries in the Database Directory ASAP.*

- The Database Directory Working Group met on 15 June to discuss future strategies for the Database Directory, including the relationship between the ACZISC Database Directory, CEONet and other metadata directories.

- The Database Directory Working Group decided to organize a workshop in collaboration with the GeoConnections Secretariat to address these issues. The Workshop, entitled "Collaborative Opportunities in the Delivery of Metadata", was held on 21-22 August at the NS Geomatics Centre in Amherst. A workshop report is being prepared.
- One of the recommendations from the Workshop was that the ACZISC should play a leading role in coordinating the development of a distributed metadata system in Atlantic Canada and that a letter of intent requesting funding to assist with this process should be submitted to GeoConnections by the ACZISC.

*Discussion:*

Members discussed the 'letter of intent' and concluded that this be actioned ASAP by the Secretariat.

***ACTION 31.10: Secretariat to submit a 'letter of intent' to the GeoConnections Secretariat ASAP re a proposal to develop a distributed system for metadata in Atlantic Canada.***

Andy Cameron stated that he had not received an invitation to the Workshop.

Claudette LeBlanc responded that the invitation had been sent only to members with a particular interest in metadata.

Members recommended that in the future invitations to all ACZISC-sponsored events be sent to every member.

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

- Recent efforts have focused on a proposal to coordinate a number of coastal high-resolution data collection projects in the region to reduce the cost of acquiring imagery by pooling resources. The mobilization of aircraft is a significant budget item. The individuals primarily responsible for the coordination are Brent Rowley, Champlain Institute, Mike Butler, ACZISC and Tim Webster, College of Geographic Sciences (CoGS).
- These coordination efforts build on the following projects:
  - » Terrestrial LIDAR, CASI and IKONOS coverage in the Annapolis Valley made possible through the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant awarded to CoGS.
  - » Terrestrial LIDAR and CASI coverage of a major section of PEI's North Shore and the Charlottetown area funded through a Climate Change Action Fund (CCAF) grant awarded to CHS/DFO and GSCA/NRCan.
  - » CASI coverage of the Bras d'Or Lakes, being acquired by DFO, Science Branch.

Mike Butler read an update on the status of data collection prepared by Brent Rowley:

- Land LIDAR:
  - » GeoSurv has completed its mission in the Annapolis Valley with a fixed wing aircraft. Some problems have been encountered, especially with solar storms affecting GPS. A portion of their area had to be reflight. Data preprocessing is now under way at GeoSurv.
  - » Terra Remote Sensing has completed its mission in the Annapolis Valley and PEI with a helicopter. They also experienced problems with solar storms affecting GPS in their area of the Annapolis Valley. Other problems included: atmospheric haze, which was detected on site and corrected; and difficulty penetrating vegetative cover on steep slopes, which was corrected by lower altitude flying and more flight lines. PEI coverage was completed as expected and without problems. Data preprocessing is now under way at Terra.
- CASI (Compact Airborne Spectrographic Imager): Hyperspectral Data International (HDI) has completed 70% of the Annapolis Valley. The remainder will be flown later this month. PEI has been completed at 2 metre and 1 metre resolution; 1 sq. km. in PEI was completed

at 0.35 metre resolution. Planning for data acquisition in Cape Breton and data preprocessing are under way at HDI.

- Digital photography: Delivery of digital photography is not likely as HDI has not received to date the digital camera system which it ordered last spring.
- IKONOS: Status is unknown re delivery of an IKONOS image for the Annapolis Valley.

Once the various datasets are received from the vendors, processing will begin at CoGS. Samples from each of the datasets should be available for presentation at an ACZISC Workshop on Information Management in support of ICM at CZC 2000 in Saint John.

Mike Butler added the following:

- Earth Information Technologies (EIT) has been successful in its application to the NS Map Fund for funding to provide groundtruthing support for the data acquisition.
- Marine LIDAR data will not be acquired. It had been hoped to take advantage of a US-based shoal system which was planned to be used by DND. However, these plans have been shelved by DND.

*Discussion:*

George Borgal enquired as to which individuals/projects were interested in acquiring marine LIDAR coverage.

Mike Butler responded that these were the Bras d'Or Lakes for Gary Bugden (DFO), the North Shore of PEI for Don Forbes (GSCA) and the Bay of Fundy Shore of NS for Tim Webster (CoGS).

Cameron Wilson enquired who the custodian of the data would be.

Mike Butler responded that CoGS would be the custodian. Project partners have each paid \$2K to have access to the data. The data will be made available unprocessed on CD and / or in the working format utilized by CoGS. Other formats can be made available at a price to be negotiated between CoGS and the project partner.

**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. Réjean Castonguay reported the following:

- The Working Group has been considering holding a Marine Cadastre Workshop. However, the goals of the proposed ACZISC workshop may be achieved by a GeoConnections Workshop on Administrative Boundaries being organized for 28 September in Ottawa. The purpose of the GeoConnections Workshop is to formulate a national vision for Administrative Boundaries. GeoConnections may be encouraged to hold a similar Workshop in Atlantic Canada.
- A Marine Cadastre Workshop would be timely from an NB perspective because the Province has to consider its data requirements to administer the Marine Policy currently under development. Funds have been budgeted to address Administrative Boundaries, identified by the Geographic Information Management Committee (GIMAC) as a priority issue for the Province.

***ACTION 31.11: Secretariat and Data Exchange and Standards Working Group to reconsider, prior to next meeting, the requirement for a Marine Cadastre Workshop in the light of other similar initiatives.***

**INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT:** The ICM Working Group is co-chaired by Barry Jones and Faith Scattolon. Barry Jones reported that the Working Group had met yesterday p.m. (6 September) to discuss the following: policy initiatives in the region, the NS/Federal Council Sustainable Communities Initiative, the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability and CZC 2000. These topics will be addressed in detail later during the Roundtable Review and Updates section of the agenda.



6. **PRESENTATION: GEOCONNECTIONS**

Cameron Wilson, GeoConnections Secretariat, made a presentation on the GeoConnections program. A copy of his overheads is attached.

He demonstrated the ACZISC application under development at CEONet located at <http://ceodev.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/prototypes/> which is designed to increase the exposure of the ACZISC Directory.

Funds and other forms of support are available via GeoConnections to put databases online and to develop a distributed approach to making data available on the web.

Claudette LeBlanc reported that facts about Canada's coastline were available in the Atlas of Canada website at <http://atlas.gc.ca/english/facts/index.html> by clicking on "Coastline". Facts include coastline lengths by province and territory, coastline of areas, coastline lengths of sea islands and the criteria employed in measuring the coastline.

Cameron Wilson reported that a GeoConnections Workshop on Funding Opportunities and Distributed Database Technology would be held on 26 September in Halifax in cooperation with the Geomatics Atlantic Conference. This workshop will cover a lot of the material presented at the Metadata Workshop held in Amherst on 21-22 August, *i.e.* connectivity, access and providing metadata for the purpose of giving access to geospatial data resources. He suggested that the members be added to the distribution list for GeoConnections workshops and other events, and notices of upcoming RFPs. The ACZISC members agreed with his suggestion.

***ACTION 31.12: Secretariat to provide the email addresses of members to the GeoConnections Secretariat for the purpose of adding their names to the GeoConnections distribution list re funding opportunities and events.***

7. **PRESENTATION: GOOD GOVERNANCE OF CANADA'S OCEANS**

Sue Nichols and John Hughes-Clarke, Ocean Mapping Group, University of New Brunswick, made a presentation on the "Good Governance of Canada's Oceans: The Use, Value and Potential of Marine Boundary Data", a Research Project with the GEOIDE National Centre of Excellence Network.

Sue stated that the research project focuses on identifying the spatial limits of rights and responsibilities associated with marine living- and non-living resources and their governance. She distributed a briefing document; this and a copy of her overheads are attached.

The objectives of the project are:

- to identify and evaluate boundary information requirements for good ocean governance;
- to investigate spatial data uncertainty and its impact on data integration and boundary delimitation;
- to develop and enhance prototype visualization and mapping tools for marine boundary delimitation; and
- to communicate the results of the research to decision makers through a series of national workshops.

The first meeting of all researchers involved in the Oceans Governance project is being held next week. A website for the project is being established on the UNB website at <http://www.unb.ca/GGE/Research/OceanGov/>

John Hughes-Clarke continued the presentation, focusing on the "Musquash Estuary Case Study". A copy of his overheads are attached. He stated that the case study offers an

opportunity to test a whole range of coastal boundary delimitation issues. It will:

- be a case study for coastal boundary delineation problems;
- serve as a testbed for coastal zone mapping approaches;
- act as a base map for MPA resource management; and
- serve as a training program for the UNB hydrographic program.

*Discussion:*

George Borgal enquired if Dalhousie University was part of the research team.

Sue responded that Dalhousie researchers had been contacted but that they were not available for various reasons. Attempts will be made to expand the network.

Mike Butler enquired how international boundaries were being addressed.

John Hughes-Clarke responded that software designed by Gallo Carrera for boundary delimitation had been incorporated into the CARIS LOTS (Law Of The Sea) software, which is being used in the research project.

## 8. **ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ZONE ACTIVITIES**

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK:** Kevin Pegler, a graduate student at UNB, reported on the GEOIDE research project entitled "Marine Activity and Geomatics Risk Analysis":

- Dr. Ron Pelot, Dalhousie University, in conjunction with the CCG, has developed a rudimentary marine risk model and computer program called SARMAP (Search and Rescue Marine Analysis Program).
- In June, a joint research project proposal to further develop SARMAP was accepted by GEOIDE. The proposal was submitted by Dr. Pelot (leader), Dr. David Coleman (UNB) and Dr. Peter Keller (UVic), with the participation of the CCG.
- The objective of the GEOIDE research project is to develop a comprehensive marine activity and risk model, particularly to address CCG planning issues but also to serve as an important component of coastal mapping.
- The major thrusts will proceed along four related topics: data management, spatial analysis, risk modelling and decision models.
- The test site is the Bay of Fundy. The program/methods will be adapted nationally.

Kevin's described his interest in the project:

- High-resolution commercial satellite imagery can be used for small vessel detection. Small vessels can account for 40% of all SAR incidents.
- This will require setting up simultaneous image collection from a number of platforms, both spaceborne and airborne. In addition groundtruth visual checks will have to be collected in order to prove or disprove the image fusion algorithms.

Yi Ru, a graduate student at UNB, reported on her thesis project to develop GIS for integrated management of the NB coastal zone:

- The project will define and integrate data requirements and decision processes for the main stakeholders. A prototype for a web-based GIS is being developed to rapidly integrate and share various coastal data interactively using 'Spatial Fusion', a CARIS product that allows transparent and rapid integration of large spatial data sets in different data formats at multiple locations.
- NB Coastal Lands data is being used to test the software for display, retrieval, integration and analysis.
- Problems identified to date relate to the large size of files; integrating files that are not exactly for the same geographic area; using attribute data; and confidentiality.

John Legault offered to provide the nearshore data collected by DFO in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence for use in the study. YI gratefully accepted the offer.

**PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND:** Leslie Grattan reported the following:

- No department in the provincial government has the lead for CZM planning in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- In 1997, the Environmental Assessment Panel for the Terra Nova Project, an offshore oil project, recommended that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador establish a CZM plan for the Avalon Peninsula and the western side of Placentia Bay. Placentia Bay was expected to see an increase in tanker traffic associated with the growth of the offshore oil and gas industry off Newfoundland and a transshipment terminal at the head of Placentia Bay.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador accepted this recommendation.
- An ad hoc working group has been in place and in June 2000, Leslie was assigned specific responsibility for this recommendation as Deputy Minister, Environmental Planning and Management Projects.
- In 1997, the federal government stated that they would work with the Province toward integrated management of Placentia Bay.
- In August of this year, the Province and DFO Newfoundland Region began to work jointly toward an integrated CZM plan for Placentia Bay.
- Existing information on Placentia Bay is currently being compiled. Work with communities will begin this fall.
- DFO Newfoundland will be giving a poster presentation at CZC 2000 on its work to date toward an integrated management plan for Placentia Bay.
- The Marine Institute of Memorial University offers two diplomas in CZM and has a joint project underway with DFO and the town of Conception Bay North.
- Coastal Zone Canada 2006 will take place in St John's, Newfoundland. A small provincial/federal group has initiated planning for this event.

Barry reported that a document will be prepared re the "do's and don'ts" associated with CZC 2000. The document will be made available to assist organizers of the future CZC conferences.

**FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA:** John Legault, DFO Oceans Maritimes Region, reported the following:

- DFO is in the initial phase of developing a proposal for a joint internal management plan for the entire Gulf of St. Lawrence based on collaboration between three DFO regions and five provinces. This would involve data acquisition re the use of the Gulf, from transportation, etc. to local use. If approved, this will be a multi-year project.
- Recently the Canada-NS Offshore Petroleum Board has granted licences for exploration in the Gulf of St. Lawrence off Cape Breton. Several enquiries for data have been received by DFO as result.
- The inshore data collected by DFO Gulf Region will be published in atlas form. The data has been provided to Environment Canada for its Sensitivity Habitat Mapping Program.

*Discussion:*

Mike Butler enquired if the internal management plan for the Gulf was linked to the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability (SGSLCS).

Joe Arbour stated that as the project moves forward it will be integrated with other initiatives, e.g., the North Shore Laurentian Region, the West Coast of Nfld and the SGSLCS.

Joe Arbour, DFO Oceans Maritimes Region, reported the following:

- Minister's Advisory Council on Oceans (MACO):
  - » Nominations closed on 18 August. Over the summer Art Hanson and Geoff Holland, the Minister's Oceans Ambassadors, held a series of meetings across Canada to seek input on potential nominees and the role of MACO. The Minister will announce the Council membership at CZC 2000.
- Eastern Scotian Shelf Information Management (ESSIM):
  - » Tentative results of the ESSIM Science Workshop held last June and a proposed

- governance model were tabled at a stakeholder meeting on 26 July.
- » An ESSIM Forum has been provisionally scheduled for 15-16 November in Halifax to identify key issues, e.g., scientific information needs, monitoring, regulatory streamlining, governance and ways to move forward.
- Seabed Resource Mapping Program (SEAMAP):
  - » The momentum continues to develop and initiate SEAMAP. Very successful and well attended workshops have been held in Newfoundland, British Columbia, Québec and Halifax. An interdepartmental meeting is planned for 15 September in Ottawa.
  - » DFO, NRCan and DND are the lead departments for the project.
- Federal Council, ACOA and ACZISC:
  - » There is strong support from ACOA for the ACZISC. The ACZISC file has been handed over to Peter Hogan, who is involved in the Sustainable Communities Initiative.
  - » Efforts will be made to put the ACZISC on the agenda of the upcoming Federal Committee meeting scheduled for 30 October.
- Coral Reef Workshop:
  - » The workshop, co-sponsored by the Ecology Action Centre, was held the first week of August in Halifax. The workshop resulted in a series of recommendations, including the need for a dedicated corals research program.
  - » Last June, a Hudson cruise covered the northeast channel and other areas which were identified by fishermen as having corals. Extensive video coverage was taken and live coral samples were collected and brought back to BIO.

Dick MacDougall, Canadian Hydrographic Service, reported the following:

- CHS is continuing to be financially challenged and is struggling to deliver on its core mandate. All options are being examined through the Alternate Delivery process.
- CHS currently has only one survey program underway: the CCGS Matthew (with 2 launches) is in Newfoundland working on projects in Placentia Bay, Notre Dame Bay and Labrador (Squasho Run, approaches to Charlottetown).
- Only one third of paper charts in Atlantic Canada can be used directly with GPS. At the present level of effort, all the charts will be referenced to GPS in 111 years.
- Nautical Data International (NDI) has a new majority owner, Mohammed Al Zaibak, who was involved with Terranet, the computerized land registry system in Ontario. The impact on NDI's direction and focus is not yet known.
- CHS continues its involvement in the federally-led SEAMAP proposal.
  - » The objective of SEAMAP is the systematic mapping of Canada's 'submerged lands' - for seabed shape, sediment and habitat - to serve as a base map for integrated ocean management.
  - » The goal is to have accessible base maps on which to merge other data about the water column, bottom, human activity, etc.
  - » SEAMAP is being planned as a partnering program, with partners contributing data and accessing data.
  - » Participants at workshops held across Canada have been supportive. The workshop reports and other information are available on the web at <http://seamap.bio.ns.ca/>
  - » Funding has been provided by DND, DFO and NRCan to build a business case, implementation plan and funding proposal.
  - » A Steering Committee has been established composed of the three lead departments. It will be expanded to include EC, IC, ACOA and Parks. A SEAMAP office has been established at BIO and Kate Moran has been hired as the SEAMAP Project Manager.
  - » In addition to the workshops, briefing meetings are being held to develop future strategies.
  - » Contract have been issued to assemble part of the business case: economic benefits, cost estimates of data collection and international competition. These will be used to develop and support a funding proposal that will be put forward by the three lead departments this fall.
  - » A presentation and exhibit on SEAMAP are planned for CZC 2000.

Nancy McNeil, Canadian Coast Guard, reported the following:

- As stated earlier, the CCG is participating in a GEOIDE R&D project to develop the Search and Rescue Marine Analysis (SARMAP) GIS. The CCG will use the risk model to assist with planning the acquisition and deployment of SAR resources. Efforts are being made to sort out the funding for the multi-year project.
- ORCA is a mechanism to gather statistics on boaters. It will be used as a tool for placing CCG resources.
- CCG has a number of databases which are relevant to ICM. These include: Proved Obstructions to Navigators; Statistics on foreign vessels in Canadian waters; Environmental Response Equipment; Aids to Navigation; Lighthouses (available on CD).
- The CCG is supporting coastal mapping through the CAP program for environmental response and stewardship.

**ENVIRONMENT CANADA:** Larry Hildebrand reported the following:

- 'Sustainable communities' is emerging as a major theme in the region.
- This goal is being supported by several federal and provincial programs.
- It has become apparent that there is need for governments to better coordinate the 'sustainable community' programs that are offered to communities.

Andy Cameron stated that as a result of the NS/Federal Council 'Sustainable Communities Initiative', pilot projects had been identified in Cape Breton and the Annapolis Valley. These projects are broad based and multi-partnered.

Eric Theriault reported the following:

- As an update from the last meeting, proposals have been received and a contractor was selected on 6 September for the Canada - NS Offshore Petroleum Board's (C-NSOPB) project on the 'Identification of ecologically and commercially important areas in the Southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence'.
- This project is being funded through the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF). The study was initiated due to the controversy raised when the C-NSOPB issued an exploration permit for a parcel adjacent to the west coast of Cape Breton Island. EC is a member of the steering committee and will be providing shoreline data.
- The C-NSOPB, in conjunction with the ESRF, hosted a 'Workshop to develop methodologies for research on the effects of seismic exploration on the east coast fishery'. The workshop was held on 7-8 September in Halifax and coordinated by LGL Ltd. Scientists from Canada, Norway, Australia and the US were invited to participate, as well as representatives from the oil industry and fishing industry.

**PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK:** Barry Jones reported the following:

- He will be retiring from the Government of New Brunswick next spring. His one remaining responsibility is CZC 2000 and its wrap-up.
- The NB Marine Policy will be reassigned to someone else in the NB Department of Environment and Local Government.
- The NB Coastal Lands Policy is being brought forward by the NB Department of Environment and Local Government.
- Some funding for the 'NB Sustainable Development Program' has been received from the NB Environmental Trust Fund (ETB). The focus of the Program has become more 'environmental'.

On behalf of the ACZISC, Mike Butler thanked Barry Jones for his sound advice and his active involvement in the ACZISC since he was appointed a representative of the Province of New Brunswick in February 1998. A round of applause followed.

Réjean Castonguay reported the following:

- The NB Geographic Information Management Committee (GIMAC) advises Service New Brunswick on the mapping priorities for NB.

- Data and databases are needed to implement policies. Three products have been identified to support the NB Coastal Land Use policy:
  - » The Coastal Topographic Data Base (CTDB98): This has been recently completed.
  - » The Coastal Softphoto Orthophoto Data Base (CSODB): This has been recently completed.
  - » The Coastal Lands Database (CLDB98): Production has not yet begun.
  - » The CTDB98 and CSODB are scheduled to be available on the web later this fall following the identification of a fee structure.
- A distributed approach is being implemented for accessing core datasets in NB. The Cadastre, the CTDB and the CSODB will be available in October. Other datasets will be added.
- Money has been budgeted for the identification of Administrative Boundaries on both land and sea. The Province will be discussing this with the federal government in terms of links to the Framework Data initiative of GeoConnections.
- A Landsat 7 agreement has been signed with NRCan.
- 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. The specifications are scheduled for completion by the end of September. The GCADB should be available on the web shortly after.

Michael Dillon, Manager, Land Resources, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, reported that his term as chair of GIMAC would end next month. He added that he would be retiring from the NB Government at the end of the fiscal year, after which he plans on working as a consultant.

**INDUSTRY CANADA:** Geoff Lewis reported the following:

- Neptune Project:
  - » Neptune is a proposal to implement sub-sea observatories off the BC and State of Washington coast 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 meetings held across Canada were very successful.
  - » IPOST is optimistic that the project will move forwards.
  - » Implementation decisions are expected later this year.
- Oceans 2000:
  - » The Oceans 2000 conference will be held from 11-14 September 2000 in Providence, Rhode Island. Technical session topics include: Advanced Marine Technology; Communications and Navigation; Underwater Acoustics; Ocean Monitoring Systems; Marine Resources; Signal Processing and Information Processing; Ocean and Coastal Engineering; and Marine Policy, Education and Business.
  - » 18 Canadian exhibitions and over 20 Canadian papers will be presented.
  - » Canada and Newfoundland will be hosting a reception on 12 September in the Newport Room at the Westin Hotel.

**NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA:** Cameron Wilson, GeoConnections Secretariat, reported the following:

- Efforts are being made at GeoConnections to initiate projects to link metadata to library data.
- An in-depth and extensive study by KPMG is underway to determine the current digital data distribution practices, costs, and revenues of Canadian government agencies, and the impact of data pricing, licensing, sharing, access, and other factors on the Canadian geomatics industry and user community. The study report will be available early next year.
- Free geospatial datasets are available on the GeoGratis website at [http://cgdi.gc.ca/geogratis/e\\_geogratis.html](http://cgdi.gc.ca/geogratis/e_geogratis.html)

**NATIONAL DEFENCE:** Cdr George Borgal provided updates regarding the following:  
Data collection/sensor initiatives:

- High Frequency Surface Wave Radar (HFSWR):
  - » The HFSWR Evaluation and Performance Working Group (HEAP WG) has been established to support HFSWR R&D leading to Maritime Surveillance Project definition.
  - » A Project contract is being let for further HFSWR development with Raytheon Systems Canada, to the end March 2002.
  - » The HEAP WG will substantiate potential request for decision on production and procurement by January 2002.
  - » HQ DND has lead; east coast DND is providing support.
- Space-based RADARSAT:
  - » Assessment continues but awaiting RADARSAT II.
  - » International and scientific collaboration is continuing.
  - » RADAR satellite technology is showing impressive potential for surveillance and classification.
- Ocean-based Rapid Deployment System (RPS):
  - » Funding has been released for first year planning only.
  - » System delivery is expected in 2004. This may be optimistic.
  - » Initial testing of acoustic module has been completed.
  - » DREA (Defence Research Establishment Atlantic) has the lead. DND is providing major support.
- SEAMAP:
  - » Strategic planning and analysis is about half completed.
  - » The memo to Cabinet is in final stages for presentation seeking long-term policy and funding approval (mid-October).
  - » Commanding Officer Trinity is current DND representative on the SEAMAP Steering Committee.

Current Operations of Interest:

- Operation Claire Lilly: Ammunition dumped in Emerald Basin.
- Operation Fidelity: Anchor clumps in St. Georges Bay.
- Operation Raleigh: Ammunition from HMS Raleigh off Newfoundland coast.
- L26 Discovery: Identification of WW1 British submarine during Swissair recovery operations; originally sunk as target for anti-submarine practice.

ACZISC Mandate and DND:

- The ACZISC supports the development of appropriate mechanisms to manage information and facilitate its exchange and dissemination in support of integrated coastal management.
- Trinity is an example of a 'mechanism' which does this on a daily basis within the domain of Ocean Surveillance - organization and medium.
- Commander Borgal is prepared to present this as a potential model at a future ACZISC meeting.

Geoff Lewis enquired whether the High Frequency Surface Wave Radar would be extended to the rest of Canada if it is approved. George responded that there are now two operational level sites in Newfoundland. Other sites would be established in Labrador and NS.

**PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA:** Andy Cameron reported the following:

- As reported at the last meeting, the infrastructure - *i.e.* Policy, MOU and Implementation Plan - is in place for coastal zone service to communities. However, due to reorganization of the NS Government, no major milestones have been reached since the spring.
- The Sustainable Communities Initiative, a federal/provincial program, has taken significant input of resources and time from many provincial agencies.
- The NS Department of Natural Resources is currently conducting a series of public meetings to collect and distribute feedback on an Integrated Resource Management Plan for crown land in NS.

- » The plan is basically a planning exercise for resource utilization and conservation.
- » One issue may be marine lands. Only the Minas Bight has been identified in the plan. The Minas Bight has been selected as a RAMSAR site. The wetland supports the largest numbers of mixed species of shoreline birds during fall migration in all of North America.
- Canada's *National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities* was released on 8 June. Copies are available from Andy.

**ACTION 31.13:** *Participants wanting a copy of Canada's National Programme of Action to contact Andy Cameron at cameroad@gov.ns.ca*

**PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES:** Michel Goguen reported the following:

- Five years ago, PWGSC acquired an ISAH-S unit to interface with their depth sounders and enable the Department to collect waveforms.
- Last year PWGSC acquired the IMPACT software which, using the waveforms, enables the Department to isolate bottom characteristics.
- This tool is presently being used on the Miramichi River with regard to fisheries habitat and in Churchill, Manitoba to monitor sediment transportation at an ocean dumpsite.

**PARKS CANADA:** Rob Thompson reported the following:

- Progress re Bill C8, the Marine Conservation Bill, has been slow. It is now between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the House of Commons.
- There are three National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs): Gwaii Haanas NMCA Reserve off the Queen Charlotte Islands in BC, Fathom Five National Marine Park in Georgian Bay, ON and Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park in QC.
- There are presently no marine biophysical or feasibility studies under way at Parks Canada.
- Efforts are being made to evaluate the failed Bonavista exercise, including looking at how the Steering Committee was established and how it interacted with communities.
- A paper by Jon Lien, Memorial University, describes the marine protection initiative associated with the Terra Nova National Park in Newfoundland and reviews the reasons for its lack of support.

**ACTION 31.14:** *Participants wanting a copy of the report by Jon Lien to contact Rob Thompson at rob\_thompson@pch.gc.ca*

John Hughes-Clarke enquired what the difference was between an MCA and an MPA. Rob responded that MCAs were marine areas managed for sustainable use and containing smaller zones of high protection. They include the seabed, the water above it and any species which occur there. They may also take in wetlands, estuaries, islands and other coastal lands. An MPA is defined under the Oceans Act as an area of the sea that forms part of the internal waters of Canada, the territorial sea of Canada (12 nautical miles) or the exclusive economic zone of Canada (to 200 nautical miles); and has been designated for special protection under the Oceans Act for one or more purposes.

## **UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS**

**BAY OF FUNDY ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP:** Barry Jones reported that two BoFEP events were scheduled in conjunction with CZC 2000 in Saint John:

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Bay of Fundy Science Workshop will be held on 20-21 September. The workshop theme is *Opportunities and Challenges for Protecting, Restoring and Enhancing Coastal Habitats in the Bay of Fundy*.
- The Founding/Organizational Meeting of BoFEP is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, 20 September.
- Further Information on BoFEP is available at <http://www.auracom.com/~bofep/>



**COASTGIS:** Mike Butler reported that CoastGIS 2001 will be held from 17-20 June 2001 in Halifax, NS. The Organizing Committee for CoastGIS is co-chaired by Andy Sherin, GSCA and Paul Macnab, DFO. The theme is "Managing the Interfaces". The deadline for submitting abstracts is 30 November 2000; for information, access <http://agc.bio.ns.ca/coastgis2001>

**COASTAL ECONOMIC STUDIES:** Barry Jones reported that the provincial study report entitled *The Economic Value of Marine-Related Resources in New Brunswick* had been published and that copies were available on the side table. This report can be downloaded from the ACZISC website.

**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 program includes paper sessions, case studies, workshops and roundtables, and a Trade Show.
- *Baseline 2000* was developed for CZC 2000 to establish the current 'state-of-the-art' in the international practice of ICM. The *Canadian Synopsis* was prepared to highlight the Canadian situation in regards to ICM. Both booklets will be made available to CZC 2000 participants upon registering 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. A contract has been awarded to UNB Saint John for the preparation of this document which is scheduled for completion early next year.
- To date, there are 450 registered participants for the main conference; approximately 600 are expected. Approximately 150 are expected to participate in the Youth Forum which precedes the main conference.
- The Trade Show has been 'opened up' to encourage participation by NGOs and academics, in addition to governments, industry and the private sector.
- The AGM of the CZC Association will take place during CZC 2000 on the evening of Monday, 18 September.

**FUNDY FORUM:** Claudette LeBlanc reported the following:

- The Fundy Forum has been moved to its own domain at <http://www.fundyforum.com>. Most of the archival material is still not on-line, but should be soon after the CZC events.
- The Timed Discussion on Information Exchange in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine region was successful. It was co-hosted by the Fundy Forum and the Gulf of Maine Information Exchange (GOMINFOEX) Action Committee.
- A Timed Discussion on compliance issues in the Bay of Fundy is planned for mid-October. It will be led by Dr. Douglas Day of Saint Mary's University.

**GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION COALITION FOR THE GULF OF MAINE:** Andy Cameron reported that a GPAC special meeting would be held on Sunday, 17 September in conjunction with CZC 2000 in Saint John. GPAC was formed in 1997 and, in cooperation with the Gulf of Maine Council, has completed a three-year program to identify and prioritize issues and strategies and implement actions.

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

- The GoM Secretariat is now the responsibility of the State of Maine.
- The GoM Action Plan will be revised to cover the next 5 year period.
- A Working Group retreat for Action Planning is scheduled for mid-October in central Maine.
- Suzie Freid has resigned as editor of the Gulf of Maine Times newsletter. Andi Rierden, who resides in Granville Ferry, NS, has been appointed as the new editor.

**MARINE GEOSPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE:** Mike Butler reported that several papers on MGD I would be presented at an ACZISC Workshop during CZC 2000.

**OCEANS INSTITUTE OF CANADA:** Mike Butler reported the following:

- The Oceans Institute of Canada is currently negotiating a merger with the International Ocean Institute - Canada, the operational arm of the International Ocean Institute in Canada, to form a new institution - the International Oceans Institute of Canada (IOIC). The offices of the International Ocean Institute - Canada are located in the same building as the Oceans Institute of Canada. If the merger discussions are successful, it is anticipated that the new institution will be in place by the end of the year.
- The International Ocean Institute (IOI) is program oriented and operates in a 'hierarchical' manner. It is registered in Holland and headquartered in Malta. IOI activities include organizing the "Pacem in Maribus" conference series. IOI Canada's primary responsibility is organizing a coastal and ocean management course held at Dalhousie University each summer. This 10-week intensive course is attended by participants from the developing world. A number of ACZISC members are involved in the delivery of the course.
- The Oceans Institute of Canada is an independent, not-for-profit, charitable and professional membership organisation. It is project oriented and operates in a democratic manner with its members having a strong voice. OIC operations are financed from project overheads and other administrative cost recoveries. Approximately 85% of OIC contract work is funded by governments or international development institutions, and a high proportion of this is provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Several ACZISC members are also members of the OIC.
- The mandate of the International Oceans Institute of Canada (IOIC) will be to promote, in both Canada and internationally, the sustainable and rational use, management and regulation of coastal and ocean resources, as well as the protection and conservation of the marine environment. It is anticipated that the establishment of the IOIC will result in an institution with the critical mass necessary to achieve national and international credibility and with the capacity to fill some of the roles of the former International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) which was also based in Halifax.

*Discussion:*

Barry Jones enquired if the ACZISC was totally at arms length from the OIC and what its relationship would be with its possible successor, the IOIC.

Mike Butler responded that the ACZISC was totally at arms length from the OIC and that discussions re the possible IOIC/ACZISC relationship were also based on that premise. Members recommended that an arms-length relationship also be maintained with the IOIC if and when the IOIC comes into existence.

**SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY:** Barry Jones reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM of the Coalition is provisionally scheduled for November 2000. The Report of the Founding Meeting, held in November 1999 in Summerside, PEI, will be made available at the AGM (for information, access <http://www.dal.ca/aczisc/programs#sgsl>).

Leslie Grattan enquired what was the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability. Barry responded that the Coalition is a grouping of partners whose common vision is a future where the Southern Gulf is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. It is meant to provide a connection between science and communities and encourage communication between government and communities. The Coalition is multi-sectoral and includes communities, NGOs, government, First Nations, academia and the private sector.

9. ***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS***

Digital Earth 2001 is scheduled for 24-28 June 2001 in Fredericton, NB. Digital Earth will integrate four events into one: the 2nd International Symposium on Digital Earth, the National Conference on Geomatics, the Canadian Institute of Geomatics AGM, and Geomatics Atlantic 2001. For information, access <http://www.digitalearth.ca>.

A Proposal to Implement the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) has been approved. The goal of GoMOOS is to provide the data that the public and private sectors need to resolve problems, predict events and to further understand the natural system of the Gulf. For information, email Evan Richert at [evan.d.richert@state.me.us](mailto:evan.d.richert@state.me.us).

The Marine Invertebrates Diversity Initiative (MIDI) is a co-operative effort of the Ecology Action Centre, EC, DFO, the Integrated Coastal Planning Project, Dalhousie University, the NS Museum of Natural History, and a number of private citizens. The goal of MIDI is to engage the widest possible audience in learning, discovering and respecting the marine invertebrates (animals without backbones) that live in the waters of the Scotian Shelf, Bay of Fundy, and the Gulf of Maine. The MIDI concept is outlined at <http://www.fundyforum.com/MIDI/>.

Saint Mary's University in Halifax was successful in its application to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation for funding to develop the Maritime Provinces Spatial Analysis Research Unit. The Unit is expected to be operational by the spring of 2001. For details, email Danika van Proosdij at [DVanProo@stmarys.ca](mailto:DVanProo@stmarys.ca).

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Larry Hildebrand commented that the ACZISC consider events to mark the 10th anniversary of the Committee. Members suggested that the Executive Committee initiate discussions and report at the next ACZISC meeting.

***ACTION 31.15: Secretariat and Executive Committee to initiate discussions regarding a 'celebration' for the ACZISC 10-year anniversary in 2002.***

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

ACZISC Meeting #31 adjourned at 16:00 hrs.