

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #35

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Date: Wednesday, 30 January 2002, 0830 - 1630 hrs.

Location: NB Teachers Association Building
350 Montgomery Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick

PARTICIPANTS (¹ indicates ACZISC member; ² indicates Executive Committee member)

Name	Affiliation	Tel. No.
Tim Anderson ¹	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Oceans and Environment Branch, NF Region	709-772-2852
Cdr George Borgal ¹	National Defence, TRINITY, JOSIC	902-427-0550
Michael Butler ^{1,2} , Chair	International Oceans Institute of Canada	902-494-1977
Réjean Castonguay ¹	Government of New Brunswick, Service New Brunswick	506-453-3917
Bernie Connors	NB Department of the Environment and Local Government	506-453-4333
Gerard Costello	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Hydrographic Service (for Dick MacDougall ¹)	902-426-3463
Mark Costello	APICS ¹ and Huntsman Marine Science Centre	506-529-1224
Shawn Dalton	Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy, UNB	506-458-7651
Jessie Davies	Environment and Sustainable Development Research Centre, UNB	506-453-4886
Dave Finley ¹	Government of New Brunswick, Service New Brunswick	506-444-4644
Michel Goguen	Public Works and Government Services Canada (for Bill Blight ¹)	506-851-6784
Larry Hildebrand ¹	Environment Canada, Sustainable Communities and Ecosystems Division	902-426-2131
Bill Horne ¹	Environmental Emergencies Section, Environment Canada	902-426-6196
Marianne Janowicz ¹	Government of New Brunswick, Department of the Environment and Local Government	506-457-4846
Claudette LeBlanc	ACZISC Secretariat	902-494-1977
Geoff Lewis ¹	Industry Canada, Energy and Marine Branch	902-426-9475
Ed Light ¹	Government of Nova Scotia, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs	902-424-0173
Lt Nicole Newell ¹	National Defence	902-427-0550
Sam Ng'ang'a	Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering, UNB	506-447-3259
Kathryn Parlee	C-CIARN National Coastal Node	902-426-8988
Joel Richardson	NB Tourism and Parks	506-444-5171
Brent Rowley ²	Private sector - Champlain Institute	902-420-1435

PARTICIPANTS (cont'd)

Faith Scattolon ^{1,2}	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Oceans and Environment Branch, Maritimes Region	902-426-2065
Andy Sherin ¹	Natural Resources Canada, Geological Survey of Canada – Atlantic	902-426-7582
Eric Theriault ¹	Canada – NS Offshore Petroleum Board	902-496-0742
Dave Wartman ¹	Environment Canada, Meteorological Service of Canada	902-426-9132
Cameron Wilson ¹	Natural Resources Canada, GeoConnections Secretariat	613-996-6377
Irfan Yüksel	NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture	506-453-8433

1. *WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS*

Mike Butler, ACZISC Chair, called Meeting #35 to order at 08:30 hrs. He thanked David Finley and Marianne Janowicz for making the meeting arrangements, and for providing the meeting room and the lunch. A roundtable introduction of all participants followed.

2. *ADOPTION OF AGENDA, AND REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING #34*

The provisional Agenda for Meeting #35 was reviewed. The agenda was approved (attached).

The draft minutes of ACZISC Meeting #34 were reviewed. It was noted that the numbering of the Action Items was not sequential and should be corrected. The minutes were approved with the noted correction. The revised minutes will be posted on the ACZISC website at <http://www.dal.ca/aczisc/docs>.

3. *STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS*

The Action Items from Meeting #34 were reviewed. All Action Items were carried out or are in progress.

4. *UPCOMING ACZISC MEETINGS*

The schedule for upcoming ACZISC meetings was discussed. The following dates were provisionally selected:

- **ACZISC Strategic Planning Session #2: Wednesday, 8 May 2002, Halifax**
- **ACZISC Meeting #36 and 10-Year Celebration: Thursday, 9 May 2002, Halifax**
- **ACZISC Meeting #37: Thursday, 12 September 2002, Charlottetown**

Larry Hildebrand suggested that the Secretariat email the schedule for upcoming ACZISC meetings to related programs in the region, e.g., Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. This will help to reduce the number of conflicting events.

ACTION 35.1: Secretariat to communicate ASAP the dates of upcoming ACZISC meetings to related programs in the region

5. **ACZISC WORKPLAN**

ACZISC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Mike Butler reminded members that the ACZISC Executive Committee consists of Ken Paul (First Nations representative); Brent Rowley (Private Sector representative); Faith Scattolon (Federal representative); and Mike Butler (ACZISC Secretariat representative). Efforts are being made to identify a provincial representative.

ACTION 35.2: Secretariat to facilitate ASAP the identification of the provincial representative on the Executive Committee

A meeting of the ACZISC Executive Committee was held on 24 January at the International Oceans Institute of Canada (IOIC). Faith Scattolon and Mike Butler were in attendance.

Faith reported that the agenda items for the Executive Committee meeting were: ACZISC Finances; ACZISC Strategic Planning Session; Membership; Provincial representation on the Executive Committee; Study on "Horizontality" by the Canadian Centre for Management and Development (CCMD); PEI Coastal Economic Study; and the CBC 'Learning from the Oceans' Program.

The CCMD is leading a study with operational and functional managers to identify approaches and tools that have proved useful in successfully managing joint horizontal initiatives and programs. The ACZISC has been selected as one of the case studies. Some of the members and the Secretariat staff have been interviewed. The report is scheduled for release by the end of March.

The details re the other discussions will be reported under the appropriate agenda items of today's ACZISC meeting.

ACZISC SECRETARIAT: Mike Butler reported that following the merger of the OIC and the 'International Ocean Institute (IOI) - Canada' into the 'International Oceans Institute of Canada (IOIC)', the IOIC invited the ACZISC Secretariat to continue its residence at the same location (1226 LeMarchant Street in Halifax).

Mike reported on the draft ACZISC/IOIC 'Letter of Agreement' currently being prepared which outlines the relationship between the two organizations. The collaborative, but independent, relationship of the ACZISC and the IOIC is stressed in the LOA.

George Borgal suggested that the draft LOA be distributed to members for comment.

ACTION 35.3: Secretariat to email to members by 8 February 2002 the draft LOA between the ACZISC Secretariat and the International Oceans Institute of Canada (IOIC)

ACTION 35.4: Members to provide comments to the Secretariat by 15 February 2002 on the draft Letter of Agreement

Geoff Lewis suggested that Saint Mary's University be considered as an alternative location for the Secretariat if the negotiations with the IOIC prove to be unsuccessful.

ACZISC MEMBERSHIP: Mike Butler welcomed the ACZISC members appointed since the last ACZISC meeting: Bill Horne, Environmental Emergencies Section and Dave Wartman, Meteorological Service of Canada have joined Larry Hildebrand in representing Environment Canada; Ed Light has joined Andy Cameron in representing the Province of Nova Scotia; Lt

Nicole Newell has joined Cdr George Borgal in representing National Defence; Ken Paul is returning as the First Nations representative; and Eric Theriault has joined the ACZISC as the representative of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB).

Réjean Castonguay will be retiring as one of the NB members on 31 March. Mike Butler thanked him on behalf of the Committee for 7 years of active participation on the ACZISC and in particular for his co-chairmanship of the Data Exchange and Standards Working Group.

The question of ACZISC membership was raised by Irfan Yüksel, NB Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture. Mike Butler responded that membership, in the case of the provinces, should be subject to inter-departmental discussion and agreement. Although the number of members representing a province is not prescribed, it is usually two for logistic reasons and these members must represent their province as a whole rather than their individual departments.

Following a general discussion, the following actions were agreed to:

ACTION 35.5: NB Government representatives on the ACZISC to organize ASAP a meeting of personnel from NB departments with responsibilities in the coastal zone to review provincial representation on the ACZISC

ACTION 35.6: If appropriate, members to arrange ASAP for a letter from a senior person in their respective jurisdictions to be sent to the Secretariat to confirm their appointment as a representative of their jurisdiction on the ACZISC

An up-to-date list of ACZISC members and Executive Committee members is attached.

BUDGET / FUNDING: Mike Butler distributed copies of the updated ACZISC Budget/Financial Statement and the Summary of ACZISC Membership Dues/Revenues (2000-2002). Copies are attached. The statements were reviewed.

Mike reported that fiscal year (2001-2002) would be the last year that the CMP would be contributing funds to the ACZISC on behalf of the Maritime Provinces. Efforts are being made to identify an alternate funding mechanism for 2002-03 as an interim measure. Discussions are taking place with the individual Maritime Provinces. Nova Scotia is considering a commitment of \$25K. Faith Scattolon and Mike have also approached ACOA.

A long-term funding proposal will be submitted to the Council of Atlantic Premiers beginning in 2003-04. George Borgal suggested that this be done ASAP.

Mike stated that the ending of CMP funding was in part due to the new focus of the CMP on e-commerce but also due to the lack of support for the ACZISC by the provincial intergovernmental affairs departments.

Mike reported that the format of the financial statements would be revised prior to the next ACZISC Meeting (9 May) to clarify sources of revenue and expenditures related to projects. Mark Costello suggested that operating funds be kept separate from other funds, e.g., research.

ACTION 35.7: *Secretariat and Executive Committee to continue developing a funding approach/formula for the ACZISC in fiscal year 2002-2003*

ACTION 35.8: *Secretariat and Executive Committee to develop a strategy ASAP for submitting a proposal to the Council of Atlantic Premiers for ACZISC funding support beginning in fiscal year 2003-2004*

ACTION 35.9: *Secretariat and Jennifer Barr, ACZISC Financial Officer, to revise the format of the financial reports by 31 March 2002 to provide additional details on project revenue and expenditures*

WORKPLAN: Mike Butler stated that a draft ACZISC 2002-03 Workplan would be prepared prior to the next ACZISC Meeting. Efforts will be made to incorporate outcomes and the results of the ACZISC Strategic Planning Session. No core activities will be dropped. Members were asked to provide feedback on the "Draft ACZISC Outcomes" document (copy attached), to identify additional outcomes and to provide examples from their jurisdiction to support the Outcomes.

ACTION 35.10: *Members to review the draft summary ACZISC Outcomes document and to provide feedback to the Secretariat by 28 February 2002 re:*

- *Outcomes which have not been documented to date*
- *Examples from their jurisdiction to support as many of the Outcomes as possible*

ACTION 35.11: *Secretariat to prepare a draft ACZISC 2002-2003 Workplan which incorporates the Outcomes and distribute the Workplan to members by 31 March 2002 for feedback*

10-YEAR CELEBRATIONS: Andy Sherin reported that he and the Secretariat had discussions re the upcoming ACZISC 10-year celebrations. He suggested the following be considered:

- ACZISC Meeting #36 (9 May in Halifax) would be shortened to accommodate presentations in the afternoon. One of the presentations would be made by a senior bureaucrat. The other presentations would highlight ACZISC accomplishments over the last 10 years and the future direction for the ACZISC.
- The presentations would be followed by a reception.
- Invitations for the presentations and reception would be sent primarily to past members and senior personnel from the jurisdictions/agencies represented on the ACZISC.

Members agreed with these suggestions. George Borgal suggested that members prepare bulleted items for the roundtable part of the meeting to speed up proceedings on 9 May.

Additional feedback was requested from the members.

ACTION 35.12: *Members to provide additional suggestions ASAP for celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the ACZISC to Andy Sherin (sherin@agc.bio.ns.ca)*

ACTION 35.13: Secretariat and Andy Sherin to organize presentations and events, in association with ACZISC Meeting #36, to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the ACZISC on 9 May 2002 in Halifax

COMMUNICATIONS: The ACZISC Communications Working Group is chaired by Mike Butler. He stated that, in addition to the Secretariat, ACZISC 'communication' was the responsibility of all members. Several members provided examples of how they did this. Mike reminded members that assistance from the Secretariat is available on request.

The major ACZISC communication activities continue to be:

ACZISC Update: The ACZISC monthly Updates continue to be distributed by email mid-month. The Updates are also available on the ACZISC website in the 'What's New' section. Members are encouraged to submit items for inclusion in the Updates. Positive feedback re the Update is received regularly. The mailing list for the Update is approximately 1400. However, the Update is distributed much more widely because several of the recipients distribute it to their own networks of contacts. Some recipients send selected items to target audiences.

Discussion:

Mark Costello commented that the Update was an excellent newsletter and communication tool for the ACZISC.

George Borgal stated that the Update should be highlighted during the upcoming 10-year anniversary celebrations.

Faith Scattolon enquired if it would be possible to obtain the DFO component of the mailing list. Other members indicated that they would also like to obtain the list for their jurisdiction. Mike responded that this was possible but that the lists should not be used for mailouts other than by the ACZISC Secretariat.

ACTION 35.14: Secretariat to provide to members by 28 February 2002 a list of individuals from their respective jurisdictions who are on the distribution list for the ACZISC Update, if possible

ACZISC Website: The website continues to be updated almost on a daily basis. The website design will be reviewed in 2002-03. Members are encouraged to submit items for inclusion in the website.

Larry Hildebrand commented that the number of links to the ACZISC website had increased significantly.

ACZISC Coastal Zone Info: The 2-page information bulletin contains a summary of information on ACZISC activities and is distributed at appropriate workshops and conferences, together with business cards. An issue has been prepared for the OMRN reception at Saint Mary's University scheduled for 19 February.

Faith Scattolon suggested that an issue of *Coastal Zone Info* be prepared for the upcoming ESSIM Forum on 20-21 February in Bedford.

ACTION 35.15: Secretariat to prepare a Coastal Zone Info newsletter for the upcoming ESSIM Forum

Minutes of ACZISC Meetings: The minutes are distributed to the participants of ACZISC meetings and made available in the 'Documents' section of the ACZISC website. Their availability is announced in the ACZISC Update.

Mike stated that the Secretariat would appreciate input from members on communications issues and asked for volunteers for the Communications Working Group. Marianne Janowicz volunteered to be part of the Group.

DATABASE DIRECTORY: The ACZISC Database Directory Working Group (DDWG) is chaired by Claudette LeBlanc; she reported the following:

- The Atlantic Canada Information Portal (ACIP) is a collaborative initiative of the ACZISC and the GeoConnections Secretariat. It is the Atlantic Canadian window on the GeoConnections Discovery Portal, the prime discovery and access component of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure.
- Since the last meeting efforts have been focused on updating the NS and NB components of the ACZISC Directory for transfer into the GeoConnections Discovery Portal/ ACZISC Atlantic Canada Information Portal (ACIP). This has been done with the collaboration of GeoNova in NS (Ed Light) and GIMAC in NB (Dave Finley).
- Future efforts will also focus on improving the functionality of ACIP, with emphasis on maintenance over the long term and its usability for coastal and marine applications. Input from ACZISC members would be appreciated. ACIP is located on the ACZISC website at <http://www.dal.ca/aczisc/portal>.
- The ACZISC DDWG (and ACZISC members) will consider the future evolution and growth of ACIP beyond metadata.

Cameron Wilson added the following:

- Krista Fraser, on secondment from the NSGC to GeoConnections, has been working with Claudette to build metadata content and database connections based on widely adopted standards. Krista has accepted a position with the Government of PEI as of next Monday. As an interim measure Ottawa staff will continue the program.
- Discussions have been initiated with Dave Finley to second a resource person from Service NB to replace Krista.

Both Cameron and Claudette expressed their appreciation of Krista's enthusiasm and contributions to the 'cause'.

ACTION 35.16: Participants to review the Atlantic Canada Information Portal (ACIP) by 31 March 2002 re its functionality and ease of use and provide feedback to Claudette LeBlanc (leblancc@fox.nstn.ca)

ACTION 35.17: Claudette LeBlanc to organize a meeting of the ACZISC Database Directory Working Group and interested members by 30 April 2002 to review the comments made by ACZISC members and to consider the future evolution and growth of ACIP and the connectivity of databases in Atlantic Canada

Shawn Dalton enquired if there is an indication that the availability of metadata increases the use of data for decision-making. Cameron responded that user statistics were available from GeoConnections.

COASTAL MAPPING: Mike Butler reported on behalf of the Coastal Mapping Working Group. He stated that Bob Maher and Tim Webster (Centre of Geographic Sciences) and Brent Rowley

(Champlain Institute/EIT) would be preparing an overview document on the coastal high-resolution data collection projects undertaken in the region last year and the subsequent analysis of the data. The paper will include the economic benefits resulting from the collaboration and the successes and lessons learned. This will assist in the development of new collaborative efforts.

The ACZISC, the Champlain Institute and CoGS had played a coordinating role, including initial negotiations and costing re the sensors, the aircraft mobilization and some of the subsequent groundtruthing. A number of papers have been prepared and presentations made on individual components of the high-resolution data collection project.

Discussion:

Andy Sherin added that the results of the PEI component of the high resolution data collection and analysis project would be released shortly as Geological Survey of Canada Open File 4261.

Cameron Wilson stated that he would like to follow up on making the data readily accessible.

Dave Wartman commented that the data would not be made accessible until the resulting publications have been published in journals, etc.

Andy added that other issues such as data quality would have to be addressed before the data is released.

Dave stated that the PEI project would be used as a template for other projects on climate change impacts and adaptation.

DATA EXCHANGE AND STANDARDS: The Data Exchange and Standards Working Group is co-chaired by Andy Sherin, Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic. Andy reported on items of interest:

- GeoConnections Framework Node has funded a project proposal submitted by Patrick Dupont, DFO Laurentian Region, for shoreline definitions.
- Discussions have taken place with George Borgal re inter-operability. This will be considered within the context of the ACZISC Strategic Plan.
- A co-chair is being sought for the Working Group to replace Réjean Castonguay who retires on 31 March.

6. **ACZISC 2002-2012 STRATEGIC PLAN**

Jessie Davies summarized the results of the ACZISC Strategic Planning Session held yesterday (29 January 2002) in Fredericton and the resulting Action Items:

- There is a lot of interest in continuing the work of the ACZISC. Participants at yesterday's meeting did not indicate a major change in direction in core activities for the Committee and the Secretariat. However, additional activities were identified. At the next session, efforts will have to be made to "focus" the discussions.
- Funding is an obstacle that has to be overcome. The horizontal nature of the ACZISC has many benefits but makes it more difficult to access funds.
- Jessie welcomed additional feedback.

Discussion:

Brent Rowley commented that he did not like the name of the Committee but did not have an alternate suggestion.

Gerard Costello agreed but stated that it may be a problem to change the name which has become well known.

Mark Costello added that it might be helpful if a brief vision statement followed "ACZISC".

Andy Sherin commented that the ACZISC was a vehicle to enable the discovery of data.

Mike Butler stated that currently the name/vision is "ACZISC: A guide to coastal information in Atlantic Canada".

Jessie Davies commented that one of the primary goals of the ACZISC was to "influence". The ACZISC does different things for different members. This can be difficult to get across and describe briefly.

Joel Richardson enquired who the target audience was.

George Borgal responded that the target audience was the funders and the broad group of individuals with an interest in coastal issues.

Ed Light suggested that the broad groups be identified in the Strategic Plan.

Dave Wartman stated that it is important to relate the activities of the ACZISC to the individual members' mandates and to show the relevance of the activities.

Cameron Wilson stated that he would send resource documents to Jessie to assist in identifying the user community.

ACTION 35.18: Members to provide feedback on the 1st draft of the ACZISC Strategic Plan and the 1st Strategic Planning Session to Jessie Davies (jdavies@unb.ca) by 8 February 2002

ACTION 35.19: Jessie Davies to email the 2nd draft of the ACZISC Strategic Plan to the Secretariat on 15 February 2002 for review

ACTION 35.20: Secretariat to email the 2nd draft Strategic Plan to members on 22 February 2002 for their review and comments

ACTION 35.21: Members to send comments on the 2nd draft Strategic Plan to the Secretariat by 8 March 2002

ACTION 35.22: Secretariat to organize the 2nd Strategic Planning Session on 8 May in Halifax in association with ACZISC Meeting #36

7. PRESENTATION: SPATIAL FUSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

Dave Finley introduced Bernie Connors, the Geomatics Specialist with the Department of Environment. Bernie is a graduate of CoGS and UNB and is currently chair of GIMAC.

Bernie described Spatial Fusion as a tool for delivering access to maps and data over a network. The network can be intranet or the internet. The user views and queries the maps and data with a web browser; the complex GIS operations are "hidden" to the user. Spatial Fusion has been developed by CARIS, based in Fredericton, over a period of 5 years. Copies of Bernie's overheads are attached.

Bernie followed the description of Spatial Fusion with an online demo of his Department's environmental applications of the technology. The databases accessible by the system include: topography, property information, watersheds, protected wellfields, tanks, dumps and domestic wells. Access to the system is restricted to the NB Government because some of the data are confidential. A public Spatial Fusion demo is available on the CARIS website. Other vendors have developed similar systems, e.g., ESRI, Intergraph.

Discussion:

George Borgal enquired if the individual databases could be manipulated by the user.

Bernie replied that they could if a custom applet was acquired for the network.

Dave Finley stated that CARIS has developed an application prototype which emulates the NB property browser.

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

PRIVATE SECTOR/CHAMPLAIN INSTITUTE: Brent Rowley reported on two coastal-related projects currently underway by the Champlain Institute:

- A study is being conducted for the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission. It is a 3-phase project consisting of a user needs/inventory, a report with recommendations, and finally implementation of a pilot GIS for Atlantic Salmon management. Phase 1 has been completed and the report is currently being written.
- A wetlands study is being carried out for Adirondack Park in New York State. The project involves using colour infrared aerial photography and fieldwork to update land use and wetland area maps for the Park and suggesting a methodology for ongoing wetlands monitoring. Aerial photography has been analyzed and map updates are underway. Fieldwork is planned for the spring of 2002.

GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK: Dave Finley, Service New Brunswick, reported the following:

- SNB is a Crown Corporation; one of its 4 lines of business is the development and improvement of the Province's land information infrastructure (LII).
- SNB annually receives a sum of money from the Province which it manages on behalf of the Province to develop the LII based on priorities set by NB government departments. Priorities are established through the interdepartmental Geographic Information Management Advisory Committee (GIMAC).
- To date interest has been largely on land-based databases but there is an increasing interest in coastal and seaward databases.
- Projects receiving highest priority last year were: Geo-referenced civic addressing database; Structured administrative boundaries – which has a marine component; Provincial softcopy digital orthophoto database; Enhancements and updating of the topographic database; and Improvements to the DTM files – "wave removal".
- GIMAC has ranked project proposals for the coming year. SNB is currently developing a workplan based on these priorities and available resources.
- Réjean Castonguay is retiring from SNB at the end of March after 30 years of service. His corporate knowledge and expertise will be difficult to replace.

Brent Rowley enquired if the level of funding to the private sector for NB mapping contracts was being maintained. David replied that it was.

Marianne Janowicz, Environment and Local Government, reported the following:

- The *NB Wetlands Conservation Policy* was released in December 2001 for public input. The new policy, which will eventually be reflected in legislation, aims to prevent the loss of significant wetlands in the Province and to ensure the continuation of their important ecological functions. Today only 4% of NB's land base remains as wetland habitat. All proposed developments in or within 30 metres of a wetland greater than one hectare will be subject to a development review process. That process has not yet been identified. In the meantime, development in wetlands of 2 hectares or more is covered by EIA regulations or requirements for Watercourse Alteration Permits.
- In the very near future the Minister of the Environment and Local Government will be releasing a document, intended to inform New Brunswickers about the Government's *Coastal Areas Protection Policy*. Public information sessions will be held in March throughout the Province. Once the information sessions have been completed, an implementation strategy will be submitted to Government outlining both regulated and unregulated mechanisms for adoption of the policy.
- The next step in policy development is a marine planning exercise. This will bring together the *Coastal Areas Protection Policy* with the marine component into a *Coastal Zone Policy*.

GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA: Ed Light, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs, reported the following:

- The Province of Nova Scotia's Land Information Services Division has undergone a major restructure. The Division has been renamed Registry and Information Management Services (RIMS) and is part of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. Several business registries in NS are being brought under the Department. For more information, access <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/>.
- RIMS still has responsibility for Property Records and Geographic Information and now has a new service branch - Information Management Services. The Province's mapping agency, the NS Geomatics Centre (NSGC), reports directly to RIMS.
- The primary areas of activity for RIMS' geographic information activities are: an organizational review of the NSGC; a review of the NS Topographic strategy; and a 5-year strategic planning exercise for the interagency geomatics efforts known as GeoNOVA.
- Geographic Information Services is partnering with the provincial Department of Transportation and Public Works on a data warehousing exercise. This effort will put technology to the test in collecting data at source and ensuring the source data are incorporated into the NS Topographic Database. RIMS has also partnered with GeoConnections on the GeoBase initiative, as a first contributor to a national foundation data set. NS will contribute data related to the hydrographic layers of the Province's primary database.
- The Province is also negotiating with GIS vendors to streamline province-wide software license acquisition and maintenance. First efforts are with ESRI Canada but it is anticipated that other vendors will be consulted in the near future.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Gerard Costello, Canadian Hydrographic Service, reported the following:

- Surveys and charts:
 - Five new charts are underway for the south coast of NF.
 - The coastal chart scheme (1:40,000) and small-scale offshore charts are progressing for northeast NF (Notre Dame Bay and White Bay).
 - New multibeam surveys have been completed in key traffic areas and ports in Placentia Bay, NF to respond to the dramatic increase in tanker traffic in the region. Four new S57 ENC's have been released and CHS is consulting with clients regarding new requirements in the area.
 - Other surveys of note include those carried out for the Bras d'Or Lakes habitat/resource mapping and Georges Bank habitat mapping. The Bras d'Or mapping is part of CHS' continued support of a DFO initiative - Science for Integrated Management of the Bras d'Or Lakes. CHS efforts include multibeam seabed mapping and coordinating activities with First Nations scientific groups. The Georges Bank survey is a joint project between CHS, the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and the scallop industry to produce multibeam-based imagery and habitat maps of the Bank in order to more effectively manage the scallop resource and understand the nature of the habitat.
- CHS is in the process of implementing a national Source Data Base (SDB). The SDB is Oracle-based with tools including the HHcode technology for effective validation, storage and retrieval of large volumes of data. The SDB will be integrated with existing database systems - CHS Directory and Product Data Base. CARIS Hydrographic Production Database (HPD) will be implemented to manage non-bathymetric source data.
- CHS and National Defence are working on a joint Data Capture project. The plan is to establish a digital database of all existing bathymetry in coastal and offshore areas in eastern Canada. DND requires the data to develop accurate seafloor models for long-range acoustic surveillance. There are similar requirements for the Arctic and west coasts. Progress will depend on resources available. This should accelerate the CHS goal of having a more complete digital bathymetric database.

- An intensive effort is underway in CHS to bring all the existing paper charts to a basic standard, primarily to transform them to a datum that can be used with GPS and to make them bilingual in accordance with Federal policy.
- CHS and the Geological Survey of Canada at BIO are continuing to work on assessing and preparing data in the coastal/offshore and the Arctic in anticipation of Law of the Sea ratification. Accurate bathymetric and geophysical models are required in order to establish the various maritime boundaries, in particular the extent of the continental margin under Article 76.
- The volume of Cruise ship traffic is increasing in eastern Canada, in particular in NF and Labrador. CHS has received requests for new charts of many scenic fiords and coastal routes.
- CHS is now ISO 9001:2000 certified for all of its activities in all regions. This is the result of an intensive 2-year effort to implement this internationally recognized Quality Management System.

Tim Anderson, DFO NF, reported the following:

- The first oil was produced from the Terra Nova field mid-January 2002.
- A Committee has completed hearings and submitted its report with recommendations concerning development of the White Rose offshore oil field. On the basis of the report, the CNOBP has approved the project subject to 30 conditions. To date the developer (Husky) has not indicated if or when development will proceed.
- Cruise ships make ~70 port visits in NF and Labrador each year, many near ecologically sensitive sites such as national parks, bird sanctuaries, etc. Issues such as graywater /blackwater discharge, oily bilge water and garbage disposal have been raised. DFO NF Region is preparing a paper on the industry that will consider potential pollution issues, oil spill and emergency preparedness, infrastructure requirements, habitat effects, vessel safety and search and rescue. The paper coincides with a similar initiative in the Pacific Region.
- CHS recently held public consultations on charting priorities for Labrador. In addition to briefs from the Cruise Ship Authority and marine industry, a presentation was given on the need for updated charts in the proposed MPA at Culbert Bay in southern Labrador.
- Briefing documents are being prepared for Wayne Follett, the new Acting Regional Director General for DFO NF Region and Robert Thibault, the recently appointed DFO Minister.

Faith Scattolon, DFO Maritimes Region, reported the following:

- The new DFO Minister, Robert Thibault, is the first DFO Minister from NS since 1932.
- To celebrate its 40th anniversary, BIO will be holding open houses on 25-28 April. The Open House will feature displays of marine life, tours of research ships and talks. For information, access <http://www.bio.gc.ca/openhouse2001.htm>. 40,000 people attended the last Open House.
- Wendy Watson-Wright has been appointed the new DFO Science ADM.
- Paul Boudreau has been named Acting Division Manager of the Habitat Management Division, DFO Maritimes.
- DFO did not receive additional funding for implementing Canada's Oceans Strategy (COS) in the recent federal budget. This will impact on DFO's ability to launch new initiatives this fiscal year; however, existing initiatives will proceed. As well, consultation on COS and the Integrated Management framework is planned for this year.
- An Oceans Task group will be established under the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM). This will be a key vehicle for federal/provincial discussions and consultation on the COS. It is expected that provincial fisheries departments will take a lead role in liaising with other provincial departments in regard to discussions at the CCFAM Oceans Task Group meetings.
- The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) Forum will be held on 20-21 February at Mount Saint Vincent University in Bedford. A planning group composed of federal/provincial/NGO/industry representatives is organizing the Forum. To date over 100 participants have registered. Participants are being provided with two discussion documents:

ESSIM: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities and *ESSIM: Development of a Collaborative Management and Planning Process*.

- DFO has been fortunate to receive funding through the oil/gas industry funded ESRF for a two-year deep sea corals research program. DFO has brought Pal Mortenson from Norway to BIO as a PDF to lead the project. This past year, there have been two directed research surveys – one on the *Hudson* which covered the Gully, Northeast Channel and the Shelf Slope, and the 2nd on the *Martha Black* (in collaboration with Dalhousie University) using the ROPOS submersible in the Northeast Channel. Results from the surveys are currently being analyzed. Very positive discussions have taken place with the fishing industry in regards to measures to protect deep sea corals in the Northeast Channel.
- A draft Gully Management Plan will be released as the basis for consultation with other agencies, industries and ENGOs this spring. The draft Management Plan will also include proposed regulatory measures. The intent is to finalize the management plan through the spring and summer and introduce regulations into the formal regulatory approval process at the same time.
- Nationally DFO is implementing measures to improve access to guidelines, habitat inventories and regulatory requirements related to DFO's habitat management program and to improve the integration of the Habitat Management and Navigable Waters Protection Programs. In NS, DFO has been working with the NS Department of Environment and Labour on a prototype website "Do I need a Permit" for activities occurring in or impacting on the aquatic environment. DFO is building on the prototype to develop a DFO Habitat Management coastal activity authorization assistance site. The project is at the pilot stage.
- Funding has been obtained for CCG Maritimes security for marine communications and for Small Craft Harbours.

CNSOPB: Eric Theriault reported the following:

- The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) is responsible for regulation of petroleum affairs and safe practices offshore Nova Scotia. The Board's principal responsibilities include: issuance of licences and approvals for offshore activities; the health and safety of offshore workers; protection of the environment; review of industrial benefits; and data collection and archiving.
- Eric reported on 3 R&D funding opportunities:
 - The Panel for Energy Research and Development (PERD) is funded and administered by NRCan. It is focused on the (non-nuclear) energy sector and its economic and environmental impacts. The program is not exclusive to the petroleum sector. It funds interdepartmental work by federal departments and agencies.
 - The Atlantic Canada Petroleum Institute (ACPI) is primarily funded through the oil industry and other partners. The secretariat is housed on the Dalhousie University campus. The program funds research activities related to the offshore petroleum sector. Further details may be found at <http://www.acpi.ca>
 - The Environmental Studies Research Funds (ESRF) is a research program that sponsors environmental and social studies. It is designed to assist in the decision-making process related to petroleum exploration and development on Canada's frontier lands. Funding for the ESRF is provided through levies on frontier lands paid by interest holders. The ESRF is directed by a Management Board consisting of government, industry, and public representatives. The National Energy Board (NEB) provides the secretariat for the Management Board.
- Last year an ESRF project produced the *Atlas of Ecologically and Commercially Important Area in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence* (hard-copy circulated). The Atlas, produced by Jacques Whitford Environment Ltd, is available on the ESRF website at <http://www.esrfunds.org>.
- The levies, or dollars for research, for 2002 are anticipated to be in excess of \$1 million. There are a variety of projects approved. The projects of interest to the ACZISC are: Mapping of Spawning and Nursery Areas in Eastern Canada; Waste Discharge (*i.e.* air emissions, drill

mud, etc); Effects of Seismic Surveys upon Groundfish Catch Rates - An Opportunistic Study; Seabird and Marine Mammals, and Deep Water Corals.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Bill Horne reported that the Environmental Protection Branch is participating in the following:

- Environmental Assessment (EA) Issues: EC provides EA advice as a federal department with expert knowledge and/or as a potential Responsible Authority under CEAA to the CNSOPB.
 - New production developments near Sable Island: PanCanadian's Deep Panuke gas project is presently at the early stages of a comprehensive EA study under CEAA; Sable Offshore Energy Incorporated is expanding production fields, Tier 2 of the Sable gas project. This expansion includes well sites Alma, Glenelg, and South Venture.
 - Exploration Wells on the Scotian Shelf including: deep water drilling by Marathon, Chevron, PanCanadian (6 locations), and Kerr-McGee; shallow wells by PanCanadian, and Canadian Superior.
- Offshore Waste Treatment Guidelines: The 1996 guidelines of waste discharges from oil and gas drilling and operations are presently being reviewed and revised. The revised guidelines are expected to be made available in early 2002 for a period of 30 days for public comment.
- Developed annual work plans for 2002 involved an MOU between EC and CNSOPB, involving compliance guidelines, evaluation of the Offshore Chemical Guidelines, audits of offshore activities, environmental assessment guidelines, etc.
- Two ESRF projects are underway:
 - Oiled bird study on the Grand Banks and Scotian Shelf near Sable Island is nearing completion. Value \$60 K.
 - Installation of a Sable Island Air Shed Station to monitor and assess localized impacts of air emissions, *i.e.* NO_x and SO_x, VOCs and particulates, primarily from offshore oil and gas platforms. Value \$100 K.
- Other Issues include: Developing and improving a web-based sensitivity mapping application that is password protected to be used by the Regional Environmental Emergencies Team in responding to emergency situations; Participation and presentation of EC position on oil and gas exploration activities to the Panel Review Commissioner for Cape Breton; and Involvement with Dr. Ken Lee, DFO, and others to organize a DFO Atlantic Zone Science Advisory Committee to coordinate and promote science research related to offshore oil and gas activities.

Dave Wartman, Meteorological Service of Canada, reported the following:

- MSC Atlantic responsibilities include environmental (weather, air quality, etc.) forecasting, environmental monitoring, climate change and atmospheric science.
- MSC is undergoing a national transition exercise called 'Focusing for the Future'. It is fiscally driven and may potentially have large impacts on the scope and degree of the program.
- Some of the science programs that MSC is involved in are:
 - Centre for Marine Environmental Prediction - a multi-disciplinary coupled modelling initiative
 - High Water Events in Southeastern Newfoundland - R&D investigation
 - Climate Change Impacts - various studies including the PEI Sea Level Rise project and ecosystem effects-related studies
 - Coastal Ocean Data Assimilation and Prediction System - R&D work and operational implementation of a storm surge prediction system has been completed. Further development is ongoing.
 - Oil Spill Modelling - Currently operational; further efforts are focused on the integration of real-time currents.

- Hurricane Research - focused on extra-tropical transition with activities including aircraft flights into storms in coastal areas
- Water Science - focused on freshwater with potential inclusion of coastal areas.

Larry Hildebrand reported the following:

- An evaluation of the total economic impacts (direct, indirect and induced) of the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) to the economy of Atlantic Canada is currently underway. A contract between EC and Gardner Pinfold Consulting Economists Ltd. will produce, by the end of March, an estimate of the economic impacts for the period 1997-2001, what the outputs of the ACAP program would have cost the Department had those same outputs been provided by the government, and an overall assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the community-based approach to project/program delivery.

PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA: Michel Goguen reported following:

- The Department is still in the process of entering its mapping data into a database accessible to clients and staff.
- The Department is planning the input of historical data into the database.
- There is more and more demand for historical data, because of budget constraints and the need to reduce duplication and become more efficient.
- Data from other agencies are being used more and more.
- Over 200 sites across Canada will be surveyed in 2001-2002 for monitoring purposes (environmental, structures, navigational channels) and for engineering projects.

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

- Following the recent Cabinet shuffle, Herb Dhaliwal (formerly DFO) is the new Minister for NRCan.
- Future GeoConnections activities will focus on supply and demand: network development, statistics re usage, development of portals, identifying "communities of practice", alignment with government priorities, e.g., clean water, clean air, security.
- Geomatics Accord: The purpose of the Accord is to create a framework to allow federal, provincial and territorial government agencies to collaborate and provide support for geomatics initiatives; and focus their efforts on more efficient geomatics data collection, distribution, and maintenance. 7 of 13 jurisdictions have signed the Accord - Alberta, BC, NS, Manitoba, Ontario, PEI and Yukon.
- Framework: GeoBase is an NRCan led national initiative whereby the Federal and Provincial/Territorial governments have agreed to work together with all stakeholders to ensure the availability of quality base geographic information over all of Canada in the short and long runs. The Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG) has endorsed the GeoBase concept and established a committee to direct its implementation.
- Two National Atlas of Canada projects are underway:
 - Atlas Web Redesign: The overall objective of this project is to address and correct those issues on the Atlas web site identified by the previous client survey that are preventing the Atlas of Canada's target audiences from effectively accessing its web based content.
 - Next Generation Atlas Engineering Study: The objective of this project is to lead to the next generation Atlas which is an integral part of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI), has access to data from repositories of other agencies and allows other agencies to overlay their information on maps from the Atlas through the use of open interfaces.
- Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP): The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) will begin accepting proposals for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP). The CAP will fund projects in four areas:

Metadata Creation and Implementation Projects; Metadata Trainer Assistance Projects; Clearinghouse Integration with OpenGIS Services; and Joint Canadian/US Spatial Data Infrastructure Project. The open period for submission of proposals closes 15 March 2002.

Andy Sherin, Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic, reported the following:

- The federal provincial Ocean Mining Initiative will shortly make available the documents produced over the several years of investigation. These documents include scoping documents on environmental impacts and socio-economic benefits. Information on the future of the initiative will likely be available by the next meeting of the ACZISC.
- The Canadian Geoscience Knowledge Network, partially funded by GeoConnections, is in the process of developing and updating metadata for the federal, provincial and territorial geoscience agencies, including GSC Atlantic. This new metadata will become part of the GeoConnections Discovery Portal and relevant collections and products will be part of the Atlantic (ACZISC) portal.
- The federal government has released three discussion documents on "A Canadian Perspective on the Precautionary Approach/Principle". The brochure was circulated to attendees (copy attached). The documents can be accessed through the websites of the participating Departments. The NRCan site is http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sd-dd/pubs/pa_e.html. Comments are being sought.
- The report *Impact of Sea Level Rise on Prince Edward Island* from the Climate Change Action Fund project will be released shortly as Geological Survey of Canada Open File 4261. Copies can be ordered from through the GSC Atlantic's CoastWeb website. Notification of availability will be announced in the GSC Monthly Circular.
- There have been several organizational changes at the Earth Science Sector of NRCan. Two new offices have been formed to encourage synergistic projects within the Sector and to define the Sector's response to departmental and government priorities. The Geomatics Canada office will be headed by Francois Faucher, former Director General of the Mapping Services Branch. The Geological Survey of Canada office will be headed by David Boerner, former Director of the Continental Geoscience Division.

INDUSTRY CANADA: Geoff Lewis reported the following:

- Alan Rock has replaced Brian Tobin as Minister of Industry.
- Claire LePage has been appointed the Regional Executive Director for Atlantic Canada. She was formerly Deputy Minister with the NB Department of Agriculture.
- Three Marine and Ocean Technology workshops were held in Atlantic Canada before Christmas. Meetings are planned for Québec, Ontario, Alberta and BC. The steering committee met in St. John's in November and will meet again in BC in February. Ocean Mapping is one of the key areas for which IC is to identify technology areas for future R&D. A web-based mechanism will be established to facilitate information transfer and feedback.
- The Energy and Marine Branch (EMB) is establishing a national Shipbuilding and Industrial Marine Advisory Committee (SIMAC). This was one of the initiatives announced last spring in the New Shipbuilding Policy Framework. The 1st meeting will be held in the spring.
- There has not been any announcement regarding government plans for new vessel procurements and none are anticipated.
- Canadian participation in Oceanology International 2002 will include ~25 exhibitors. About one third of these are suppliers to the ocean mapping sector. For information, access <http://strategis.gc.ca/oceans>

APICS/HMSC: Mark Costello, Executive Director, Huntsman Marine Science Centre reported the following.

- The Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences is a 40 year-old organization of Atlantic universities and research organizations. It hosts an annual conference for Biology and Aquaculture students – this year in Moncton on 8-10 March 2002. The next Council meeting is at Saint Mary's University on 13 April 2002. APICS is influential in coordinating activities

- through universities, because the Council is composed of faculty Dean's, and it has a range of committees that provide a bottom-up link to universities.
- The Huntsman Marine Science Centre, located in St Andrews, NB, is a 32 year-old, not-for-profit independent organization, providing services in research and education. It has a public aquarium, and extensive research laboratories and fish holding facilities for aquaculture research. It provides about 20 university and 20 high school field courses each year, and courses for teachers, elementary schools, and workshops for industry. Of most relevance to ACZISC is that it has the primary identification centre for marine life in Atlantic Canada, namely the Atlantic Reference Centre. This is a joint venture with DFO. Current activities include putting all collections data into a database that will go online as part of the global Ocean Biogeographic Information System. Dr Costello is the chair of OBIS, which is the data server for the Census of Marine Life (<http://www.coml.org/>).
 - The Centre of Marine Biodiversity is a new organization of individual researchers, including graduate students, and staff in universities, government agencies and NGOs. The Executive Director, Dr Ellen Kenchington, is based at BIO. The Centre's members have obtained several \$ million in research funding from a variety of sources. It is hosting the 1st national workshop on Marine Biodiversity 26-28 February 2002. Several members, notably DFO, the HMSC ARC, MIDI and AC CDC, have large databases related to marine biodiversity and developing these into on-line systems.

NATIONAL DEFENCE: George Borgal reported the following:

- A new Maritime Security Regime in the Atlantic Region is being implemented as a consequence of the September 11 terrorist attacks. This has resulted in the examination of a new range of maritime vulnerabilities; this will be input to the Interdepartmental Maritime Security Working Group being chaired by Transport Canada. To date, the following analyses are underway: petroleum and gas (draft completed); shipping (draft completed); ports; fishing; cruise; and vulnerability > threat > risk > mitigation.
- OCIEP and the RCMP should be welcomed as ACZISC members. Consideration should be given to approaching the Canada Customs Revenue Agency to determine if there is interest in becoming an ACZISC member.
- ACZISC members should consider their relationship to ACZISC in terms of other forms of security such as Commercial, Information and Economic. This would provide much greater relevance to assist member in identifying contributions to, and value added received from, the ACZISC mandate
- Members are encouraged to discuss surveillance information exchange with DND, preferably on a quid pro quo basis. George provided a brief explanation of CANMARNET, a potential model for an ACZISC marketplace, and offered to provide a more detailed briefing at an upcoming meeting, or individually to those interested.

C-CIARN: Kathryn Parlee reported on the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Network:

- In response to the Kyoto Protocol, NRCan, with the support of the Climate Change Action Fund, formed the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Network (C-CIARN). The mission of C-CIARN is to build a network of researchers and stakeholders that will help develop credible information on the vulnerabilities of Canada to climate change, and identify the most significant impacts and adaptation options to anticipate and prepare for changes that are expected during the 21st century.
- C-CIARN has six regional offices (Atlantic, Northern, Québec, Ontario, Prairies and BC) and seven national sectoral offices (Agriculture, Coastal Zones, Fisheries, Forestry, Health, Landscape Hazards and Water Resources). The Atlantic regional office is located at Dalhousie University and the national Coastal Zones sector office is located at BIO.
- The C-CIARN Coastal Zones sector will focus on climate change impacts and adaptation issues related to Canada's coastal regions. The network will deal with national coastal impacts and adaptation issues, as well as more specific issues relevant to different coastal regions (*i.e.* Atlantic, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence, Pacific and North). This network will provide an excellent

venue for coastal researchers and stakeholders to openly communicate, discuss research and/or issues of concern, seek collaborative partners, develop strong interdisciplinary relationships, identify knowledge gaps and develop research priorities. Membership in the network is free and will provide opportunities to network, assistance with finding resources, access to a database of past and present coastal impacts and adaptation research, access to a list of coastal researchers and stakeholders, information programs on coastal climate change impacts and adaptation, funding announcements, events notification, and more.

- For more information on C-CIARN, access <http://www.c-ciarn.ca>.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK: Sam Ng'ang'a, Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering, UNB, reported on the GEOIDE Good Governance Project:

- Good Governance of Canada's Oceans depends on knowing what resources (living and non-living) there are to govern; who holds the rights and responsibilities for their safe and orderly conservation, distribution and exploitation; and the spatial limits (boundaries) of those rights and responsibilities.
- The objectives of the UNB's 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 tools for Marine Boundary Delimitation; and to communicate the results of the research to decision-makers through a series of national workshops.
- Several case studies have been investigated in order to accomplish the above-mentioned objectives. The deliverables of the project will include demonstrations of how geomatics technologies can be used by decision-makers to identify the socio-economic, legal, and environmental impact of boundary uncertainties, evaluate boundary alternatives, and resolve the issues. One such demonstration, built around the CARIS Spatial Fusion Software, involves the proposed Musquash MPA case study. The results are expected to have immediate applications elsewhere in Canada. They will also assist Canada in continuing to be an international leader in ocean governance and marine geospatial data infrastructure.
- For more information, access <http://www.unb.ca/GGE/Research/OceanGov/main.html>.

UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS

BAY OF FUNDY ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP: Marianne Janowicz reported that the 5th Bay of Fundy Science workshop would be held on 13-16 May 2002 in Wolfville, NS. Tomorrow (31 January) is the deadline for submission of abstracts. Further Information on BoFEP is available at <http://www.auracom.com/~bofep/>

Larry Hildebrand added that BoFEP is refining its long-term strategic plan, supporting a growing number of issue-specific working groups and continuing to share information and explore partnership opportunities among the many and diverse constituents around the Bay of Fundy.

COASTAL ECONOMIC STUDIES: Tim Anderson reported that the federal/provincial study entitled *Estimating the Value of the Marine, Coastal and Ocean Resources of Newfoundland and Labrador* is continuing and is due to be released at the end of March.

Mike Butler reported that the federal/provincial study entitled *The Value of the Ocean Sector to the Economy of Prince Edward Island* would also be completed by the end of March. The study includes a section on environmental economics.

COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION AND CONFERENCES: Larry Hildebrand reported that the Coastal Zone Canada Association would be hosting its 5th biennial coastal zone conference in Hamilton, ON from 23-28 June 2002. Organized as a partnership between EC,

Pollution Probe and the United Nations University, the Conference will explore approaches and experiences in transboundary ecosystem management from around the world. "Managing Shared Waters" will bring together the freshwater and coastal/marine communities to discuss and debate lessons learned and how to advance the management of these shared ecosystems in a more efficient and sustainable fashion. Abstracts are due by 15 February.

The Baseline 2000 background document, prepared by Jens Sorenson for CZC 2000, is being updated. It includes an inventory of coastal zone initiatives worldwide. The number of initiatives has doubled in two years. It will be made available on the web upon completion.

The CZCA is one of ~20 coastal associations around the world. Efforts are being made to coordinate the activities of these associations and to share information. Representatives of several associations will be meeting in May at the Coastal Society Conference in Galveston, Texas and in Hamilton during CZC 2002.

Tim Anderson reported that CZC 2004 would be held in St. John's, NF. A meeting of the organizing committee is scheduled for 6 February.

FUNDY FORUM: Claudette LeBlanc reported that the next Fundy Forum Timed Discussion will be on the topic 'Wharves and the Bay of Fundy' and will take place from 18 February - 1 March. A Timed Discussion on 'Biological Marine Invaders' was held from 29 October - 9 November 2001. For information on registering and to access past discussions, access <http://www.fundyforum.com>

Two new features have been added to the Fundy Forum website:

- The 'Faces of Fundy' features reports by Lesley Carter and Maxine Westhead on the livelihoods of people from coastal communities/projects. Maxine has reported on lobster fishing and Lesley has created a virtual tour of the Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre.
- A list of maps of the Bay is being compiled.

GULF OF MAINE COUNCIL ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: Larry Hildebrand reported that the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment was finalizing its 3rd five-year Action Plan (2001-2006). This ecosystem initiative, primarily government-focused, will focus its attention on habitat protection/restoration and the reduction of toxics that threaten human and ecosystem health in the Gulf. The Council will also be exploring its role in climate change and emerging environmental and economic issues. The Council will be meeting in Sackville, NB on 5-6 June.

OCEAN MANAGEMENT RESEARCH NETWORK: Mike Butler reported that the OMRN aims to link all those across Canada with an interest in research relating to the management of ocean uses. Funded initially by DFO and SSHRC, the Network includes researchers in the humanities and social sciences, as well as interested natural scientists, ocean-oriented organizations, industry members, community and regional organizations, and governmental staff. The three OMRN nodes and leaders are: Science and Local Knowledge - Alison Gill (agill@sfu.ca); Integrated Management - Fikret Berkes (berkes@ms.umanitoba.ca); and Sustainability - Peter Sinclair (peters@mun.ca).

An OMRN reception will be held at Saint Mary's University on 19 February – all ACZISC members are invited. An OMRN workshop entitled "Science, Local Knowledge and MPAs" is scheduled for 19-22 June at the Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB. A national OMRN Conference entitled "Canada's Oceans: Research and Policy" is scheduled for 25-27 October 2002 in Ottawa.

The OMRN Secretariat is based at Saint Mary's University. Tony Charles is the Director, Mike Butler the Associate Director and Alison Evans the Program Director (omrn@stmarys.ca).

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY: Larry Hildebrand reported that the Coalition, a sister organization to BoFEP, will be holding its 2nd AGM in Miramichi, NB on 12-13 April. The Coalition is also completing its strategic plan and continuing to lend support to its constituent members. The Coalition website will be launched in the very near future. In collaboration with the Sustainable Communities initiative of NRCan, the Coalition has hired a GIS Coordinator to assist communities in the region to implement GIS systems.

9. ***ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS***

Mike Butler announced that there were a number of publications on the side table for review.

He announced that the Oceans Explorations IDEAS series would be rebroadcast on CBC Radio One in February. An announcement will be made in the ACZISC February Update.

10. ***OTHER BUSINESS***

No new business was discussed.

11. ***ADJOURNMENT***

ACZISC Meeting #35 adjourned at 16:30 hrs.