

ACZISC



ATLANTIC COASTAL ZONE
INFORMATION STEERING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #71

Wednesday, 15 January, 2014.

Room 230, Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre, 1350 Regent St, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Wednesday, 15 January, 2014.

Salon E, Fredericton Inn, 1315 Regent St., Fredericton, New Brunswick.

UPCOMING ACZISC MEETINGS

- **7-8 May 2014:** ACZISC Meeting #72, Halifax, NS
- **17-18 September 2014:** ACZISC Meeting #73, Charlottetown, PEI
- **14-15 January 2015:** ACZISC Meeting #74, St. John's, NL
- **6-7 May 2015:** ACZISC Meeting #75, Fredericton, NB

PARTICIPANTS (¹ ACZISC member; ² Advisory Committee member; ³ Director, ACZISC Association)

Name	Affiliation	Email	Telephone #
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Tim Hall ¹	Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region	tim.hall@dfo-mpo.gc.ca	902-426-4116
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Grant Gardner ^{1, 2, 3}	Coastal Zone Canada Association and Memorial University	ggardner@mun.ca	
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PARTICIPANTS (continued)

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Abby Pond	Executive Director, St. Croix International Waterway Commission		506-466 7550
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Emily Rideout	Coastal Strategist, Coastal Secretariat, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture		902-247-3710
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Tim Vickers	Executive Director, ACAP St. John		506-652-2227
Peter Wells ¹	Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, Dalhousie University	oceans2@ns.sympatico.ca	902-237-0600 (cell)
Bill Whitman ¹	Manager, NS Coastal Secretariat, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture		902 638-2026

Additional contact information for ACZISC Members is available on the ACZISC's [website](#).

1. *WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS*

Andy Sherin, Director, ACZISC Secretariat, called ACZISC Meeting #71 to order at 0900 hrs on Wednesday, 15 January 2014. He welcomed members and guests. A roundtable introduction of all of the participants followed.

2. *AGENDA and MINUTES*

The provisional agenda for ACZISC Meeting #71 was approved. The draft minutes of ACZISC Meeting #70 (11-12 September 2013, St. John's, Newfoundland) were reviewed and approved. The final [minutes](#) are posted online.

3. **STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS**

The action items from Meeting #69 were reviewed by Andy Sherin. All of the action items have been completed or are in progress.

4. **PRESENTATION and DISCUSSION**

- **Updates on Climate Tools and Coastal Adaptation Projects in New Brunswick,** Prativa Pradhan, Environment and Local Government New Brunswick.

The meeting presentations are posted [online](#).

5. **ACZISC ADMINISTRATION**

ACZISC MEMBERSHIP: No changes since the last meeting.

ACZISC BUDGET, FINANCIAL REPORT: The ACZISC budget for April 2013 - March 2014 fiscal year was distributed and reviewed. Andy Sherin noted and thanked members who had already made contributions.

ACTION 71.1 *ACZISC Secretariat to request the Chair to call a meeting of the ACZISC Association Board of Directors.*

ACTION 71.2 *Members to expedite payment of their 2013-2014 contributions to the ACZISC.*

7. **PRESENTATION and DISCUSSION**

- **GeoNB - Progress 2008 to 2013,** Bernie Connors, Service New Brunswick.
- **Recent ACAP St. John Projects: Marsh Creek Restoration Initiative (MCRI),** Tim Vickers, Executive Director.

The meeting presentations are posted [online](#).

8. **ACZISC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- In fall 2013 the ACZISC Secretariat worked with six Masters students from the Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University. The students were part of the Management Without Borders (MWB) course at Dalhousie University. They worked on a project called "Improving Outreach and Communications for the Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee". The [full report](#) is available on our website to anyone who is interested in reading it.

- The report makes many valuable recommendations on a number of topics including: the use of social media, newsletters, website design, and newsletter sponsorship. The Secretariat is considering these and implementing where we can. There is one recommendation the group made that would require more input from the ACZISC members. This recommendation is largely as a result of the MWB group's own confusion in determining who the ACZISC is, especially in connection with our desire to raise revenue by attracting sponsors for the Coastal Update Newsletter.

- "The ACZISC is strongly encouraged to consolidate its organizational branding under the COINAtlantic moniker. The ACZISC should solicit the support of its members via surveys and other consultations for this change."

- This is an area where the ACZISC Secretariat has been challenged in the past few years when explaining the nature of the organization to prospective members, new members and new representatives of existing members. This consideration is also relevant to the current [ACZISC Strategic Plan](#).
- A discussion on this subject included comments from ACZISC Meeting #71 participants that lead to the decision that consultation on the issue should be continued and that there was fairly good support for what the student's report suggests.

ACTION 71.3 *ACZISC Secretariat to schedule a conversation regarding the ACZISC/ COINAtlantic names at the next ACZISC Meeting in Halifax, May 2014 and consult with ACZISC members prior to that meeting.*

9. FUTURE OF ICOM POLICY DISCUSSIONS AT THE ACZISC

- A Discussion was held to inform the direction of the ACZISC Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) Working Group which has not been meeting for a number of years. Tim Hall, one of the ICOM Working Group Chairs led the conversation. There was support for the continuation of the working group but no clear direction for moving forward was reached.
- From a 2008 'ACZISC Working Groups: Operating Guidelines and Terms of Reference' Document:

OPERATING GUIDELINES

The Working Groups will:

- coordinate their activities with the ACZISC Secretariat.
- be composed of members and non-members with the relevant expertise and/or interest in the Working Group activities.
- meet in conjunction with ACZISC meetings, or as required. Meetings may take place in person and/or via teleconference.
- report on their activities at the ACZISC meetings.
- strive for broad representation from the ICOM stakeholder community.
- identify potential collaborative projects.
- seek the endorsement of the ACZISC prior to starting projects.
- establish and maintain linkages and partnerships among members, other personnel and with other organizations.

INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Mandate:

The ICOM Working Group will advocate the implementation of integrated coastal and ocean management in Atlantic Canada and will maximize collaborative opportunities, in particular with reference to policy issues.

Terms of Reference:

The ICOM Working Group will:

- provide a forum to share best practices and standards
- raise awareness of initiatives and research related to ICOM

- identify information needs
- identify potential collaborative policy and operational projects

ACTION 71.4 *ACZISC members to continue considering the role of the ICOM working group for the future.*

10. *ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES and UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS*

Andy Sherin invited participants to provide an overview of programs and activities within their jurisdiction related to ICOM, geomatics and coastal mapping. He requested that notes be provided to the Secretariat to assist with the preparation of accurate minutes. Minutes will be posted in the [Meetings](#) section of the website.

ACTION 71.5 *Participants to email notes re their roundtable presentation to Alexi Baccardax Westcott at ACZISC@dal.ca.*

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Tim Hall, Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch, Maritimes Region, reported the following:

- DFO Maritimes Region is currently finalizing the Scotian Shelf Regional Oceans Plan. The planned release date is the end of March 2014.
- Currently in the process of updating Scotian Shelf fisheries catch and effort mapping series for 2008-2012.
- As part of the Regional Oceans Plan, an analysis of Ecologically & Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) for the Scotian Shelf, including the Bay of Fundy, is being conducted, including an examination of the ecological value and current threats. Related to MPA network Planning. This is to be published next year via web and / or a DFO Technical Report.
- The Coastal Zone Canada 2014 Conference is scheduled for 15-19 June 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The conference theme is: Our Coasts: Legacies and Futures. 20 January 2014 is the extended deadline for submitting abstracts. See the conference website for more details - <http://www.czca-azcc.org/czc-zcc2014>. Opportunities for sponsorship are available.

GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK:

Bernie Connors, Service New Brunswick, reported the following:

- See the presentation “**GeoNB - Progress 2008 to 2013**” posted [online](#).

Prativa Pradhan, Department of Environment and Local Government, reported the following:

- See the presentation “**Updates on Climate Tools and Coastal Adaptation Projects in New Brunswick**” posted [online](#).

MARITIME ABORIGINAL AQUATIC RESOURCE SECRETARIAT: Barry LaBillois, reported the following:

- The Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariat (MAARS) works with the aboriginal councils in the Maritimes. One MAARS project in Mill River PEI found salmon as well as other species, conducted community engagement, electroseining and education. In a joint NB and NS project educational tours in the inner Bay of Fundy salmon rivers were conducted. Signs describing these ecosystems using Mi'kmaq names have been installed. In Lake Eutopia, NB two species of smelts were found, one was found spawning in only one particular stream. They will continue this project over the next few years.

ACZISC SECRETARIAT: Andy Sherin, reported the following:

- CoastGIS 2015 and ICAN 7 will be held in South Africa in May 2015.
- Digital Earth 2015 will be held in Halifax in October 2015.

ACAP ST. JOHN: Tim Vickers, Executive Director, reported the following:

- See the presentation "**Recent ACAP St. John Projects: Marsh Creek Restoration Initiative (MCRI)**" posted [online](#).

SCIENCE ATLANTIC: Trevor Avery, Aquaculture & Fisheries Committee Chair, reported the following:

- Science Atlantic is a charitable association of 18 institutions in Atlantic Canada composed of 10 discipline-specific committees. The Aquaculture & Fisheries Committee and the Biology Committee are hosting their annual joint conference 14-16 March 2014 at Mount Saint Vincent University. This marks the 24th A&F and 44th Biology conference. The A&F conference is open to undergraduate and graduate students and often has industry participation at/in the conference proceedings. As well, industry supplies many student presentation awards.
- The Aquaculture & Fisheries Committee connects science education in the areas of aquaculture and fisheries with research being conducted by undergraduate and graduate students. The conference is the main outlet for such research projects and provides a high-quality, professional, and engaging platform from which students can gain experience in research dissemination.
- We encourage all ACZISC members to watch for Science Atlantic conferences, to participate when called upon, and to come out to see the wonderful research being conducted by the next cohort of young scientists in Atlantic Canada.

GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA: Chantel Nixon, Department of Natural Resources, reported the following:

- The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is at the stage of deciding the objectives of their coastal program. They have two active projects: the Bras D'Or coastal ponds, how stable they are and storm history research with some data collection. In the

future the program will look at a real time coastal flooding model, and developing coastal maps selecting the areas with highest risk first.

ST. CROIX INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY COMMISSION: Abby Pond, Executive Director, reported the following:

- In autumn 2014 the SCIWC and the International Joint Commission will host a St. Croix Watershed Science Forum in St. Andrews, NB. Themes are climate change, integrated watershed management, fisheries and traditional ecological knowledge.
- The SCIWC is also updating its watershed management plan and will be seeking input from stakeholders in the upcoming year
- The SCIWC will be participating in the climate change vulnerability assessment projects taking place in Charlotte County (led by St. Croix Estuary Project and Eastern Charlotte Waterways)
- The SCIWC has a new executive director, Abby Pond. BSc. Biology, MSc. Climate Change Management.
- We will be seeking participants and speakers/panellists for the Science Forum in the next four months. Submissions and suggestions welcome.

BAY OF FUNDY ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP: Peter Wells, reported the following:

- The 10th BOFEP Science Workshop will be held in Halifax Nova Scotia during the Coastal Zone Canada Conference in June 2014. Two sessions to be held during the week of CZC2014 are: 'Sediment Dynamics in an Evolving Coastal Zone' and 'Does Information Matter? A Critical Question for the Future of Coastal Zone Management'. With the later organized by the Environmental Information Use and Influence Research group at Dalhousie University.
- The GulfWatch contaminants project of the Gulf of Maine Council is still conducting sampling.
- 'Save Ocean Science' organization arose from scientific, municipal, environmental, and educational and industry interests in southwest New Brunswick. They maintain a broad focus looking to the future ocean science needs of our region and Canada.

- *Grant Gardner was the roundtable judge and Peter Wells was the winner.*

10. COINATLANTIC GEOSPATIAL TOOLS WORKSHOP

- **COINAtlantic - Coastal and Ocean Information Network Atlantic: *Reliable Access - Best Information - Informed Decisions***

- The Coastal and Ocean Information Network Atlantic (COINAtlantic) is an initiative of the ACZISC. It is working to provide open access to data, information and applications relevant to Atlantic Canada. The COINAtlantic Geospatial tools include: the [COINAtlantic Search Utility \(CSU\)](#) for finding on-line geospatial information; and the [COINAtlantic Geocontent Generator \(CGG\)](#) for publishing geospatial information on-line.

- **Presentation and Discussion: COINAtlantic Geospatial Tools Overview.** This presentation is posted [online](#).

11. GEOCONTENT GENERATOR TUTORIAL

- The participants were further introduced to the [COINAtlantic Geocontent Generator](#) and were walked through the [tutorial](#).

12. SEARCH UTILITY TUTORIAL

- The participants were further introduced to the [COINAtlantic Search Utility](#) and were walked through the [tutorial](#).

13. INTRODUCTION TO COASTBASE.CA

- [Coastbase](#): is a database of information on priority coastal issues in Atlantic Canada. It is intended to help facilitate greater networking and collaboration on coastal research initiatives, to promote informed decision-making, and to make information about coastal issues more accessible to policy-makers, coastal managers, stakeholders, and the public. CoastBase was developed by the Coastal Research Network Secretariat at Dalhousie University with support from the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Environment Canada. Participants were introduced to the website and the wiki submit option. Similarities and differences with the COINAtlantic tools were discussed.

14. DISCUSSION: FEEDBACK ON COINATLANTIC TOOLS

- A short discussion was held on feedback on the COINAtlantic tools. Reception was good. Ideas for improvements arising from this type of session are brought to the COINAtlantic Management Committee; however improvements are subject to funding. Participants noted that the map view window is small, especially on a laptop, where it appears bigger on a desktop monitor. There was also a discussion on the subject of what information is being made available via WMS and what is not (the more information distributed this way the better utility the CSU has). THE ACZISC /COINAtlantic can only suggest to its members and associates in the wider coastal and ocean management community that more information be made available to the internet in this way.

15. ADJOURNMENT

- ACZISC Meeting #71 adjourned at 1200 hrs on Thursday, 16 January 2014.