

An Overview of the Draft Coastal Strategy

October 5, 2011

Presented to the Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

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Outline

- Background and process-to-date
- Seeking feedback
- Strategy overview
- Priority issues: goals, objectives, actions
- Next steps

Background & Process-to-Date

February 2008

Coastal Management Framework

- » defined whole-of-government commitment
- » established priority coastal issues
- » called for the development of the Coastal Strategy

| COASTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| THE VISION | THE WHAT: A healthy and well-protected coast that sustains the highest quality of life for current and future generations. |
| THE MISSION | THE WHY: To address coastal issues in Nova Scotia through effective leadership, coordination and collaboration. THE MISSION DESCRIBES THE LONG-TERM ORGANIZATIONAL APPROACH TO ACHIEVING THE VISION. |
| THE GOALS | THE HOW: 1. Coastal and ocean issues in Nova Scotia are addressed through collaboration and ongoing cooperation. 2. Nova Scotia develops ongoing regional coastal focus in coastal and ocean issues and innovation. 3. Nova Scotia's engagement on fully functioning now and in the future. |
| THE STRATEGIC THRUSTS | THE GOALS OVERVIEW: WHAT IS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE VISION? 1. Building and maintain an ongoing understanding of Nova Scotia's coastal and ocean issues. 2. Facilitate the collection, research, management and exchange of coastal and ocean information. 3. Coordinate effective decision making on coastal and ocean issues. 4. Increase the opportunity and capacity of the public to engage on coastal and ocean issues. |
| THE SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES | THE STRATEGIC THRUSTS: DESCRIBE THE ENHANCING DIRECTION NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS IDENTIFIED IN THE VISION. 1. Municipal, provincial and federal governments have a shared understanding of Nova Scotia's priority coastal and ocean issues. 2. Relevant provincial stakeholders have a shared understanding of Nova Scotia's coastal and ocean issues. 3. A provincial mechanism exists to integrate ongoing coastal and ocean issues and opportunities into coastal management processes. 4. The majority of Nova Scotians are aware of and have an understanding of Nova Scotia's coastal and ocean issues. 5. The Government of Nova Scotia is recognized locally, nationally and internationally as the most competent source for coastal information related to Nova Scotia. 6. Public and private research and monitoring programs are addressing Nova Scotia's coastal and ocean issues. 7. The Provincial Coastal Network is the key provincial body for information exchange. 8. The Provincial Coastal Network is the key provincial body for coordinating decision making on coastal and ocean management issues. 9. The Government of Nova Scotia has a clear understanding of stakeholder interests and concerns related to coastal and ocean issues. 10. The Government of Nova Scotia has a clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities and priorities of municipal, provincial, federal and devolved governments as they relate to coastal management. 11. The Government of Nova Scotia is able to respond to public inquiries on coastal management through a multi-departmental leader process. 12. The Government of Nova Scotia is supporting community based initiatives to address priority coastal and ocean issues. 13. Emerging coastal and ocean management policies are shared proactively with key coastal stakeholders. 14. The public has a clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities and priorities of municipal, provincial, federal and devolved governments as they relate to coastal management. SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES (1-4 YEARS) ARE THOSE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE STRATEGIC THRUSTS. |
| THE PATH FORWARD: | THE STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES: 1. Assess the role of Nova Scotia's coast and establish a Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy. 2. Develop a coastal web portal. 3. Establish a coastal research network. 4. Engage in MOU with the Government of Canada to coordinate the coastal and ocean management efforts. 5. Identify and expand public education and awareness related to priority coastal issues. 6. Inventory and coordinate EMAP mapping initiatives in Nova Scotia. 7. Promote provincial leadership and contribution to ongoing coastal management initiatives. THE STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES DESCRIBE THE ACTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA WILL UNDERTAKE TO ACHIEVE THE SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES. |

Background & Process-to-Date

February 2008

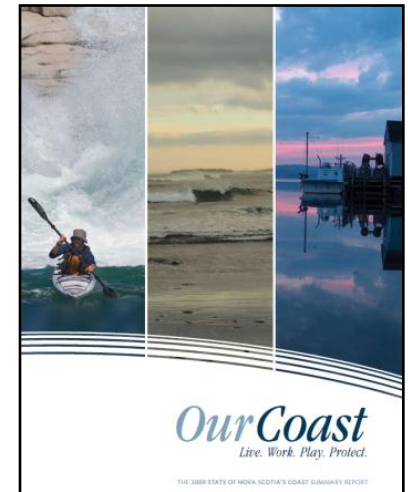
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Dec 2009

State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report

- » focused on priority coastal issues
- » baseline information, trends & gaps



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May - July 2010

Public Consultation

- » feedback on *State of Nova Scotia's Coast* report
- » priorities/ideas for Coastal Strategy



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November 2010

What We Heard Report

- » Provides an overview of feedback received from public and municipal consultation



www.gov.ns.ca/coast

Elements of the Strategy

- Coordinating action on “priority coastal issues”
- Corporate, whole-of-government approach
- Builds on existing priorities, programs and resources
- Scale-able depending on priorities and resources
- Aligns with related corporate strategies (Water Strategy, Natural Resources Strategy, Climate Change Action Plan, jobsHERE)

Elements of the Strategy

- Goals, objectives and actions for the priority coastal issues
 - Coastal development
 - Working waterfronts
 - Public coastal access
 - Sea-level rise & storms
 - Coastal ecosystems & habitats
 - Coastal water quality
 - Governance

Coastal Development

Goal

Coastal development that accommodates natural coastal processes

Objectives

- Build and maintain buildings and infrastructure in locations and in ways that minimize impacts to and from the natural coastline
- Manage provincially regulated activities to minimize impacts to and from the coast

Coastal Development

Actions

- Establish coastal development standards
- Partner with municipalities to create municipal planning strategies and land-use by-laws for coastal areas
- Incorporate up-to-date knowledge about coastal processes in provincial policies
- Increase awareness and knowledge about coastal landscapes, processes, and resources

Working Waterfronts

Goal

- Working waterfronts that are safe, efficient and support a mix of industry and community uses

Objectives

- Increase the ability of local communities to manage and use working waterfronts
- Maintain and enhance industrial access to working waterfronts

Working Waterfronts

Actions

- Identify and address the priority needs of working waterfronts
- Develop tools and resources for planning and capacity building that support economic activities and address safety issues
- Adapt successful models from Nova Scotia and other jurisdictions

Public Coastal Access

Goal

- Public access to the coast

Objectives

- Increase the number of public access points to the coast
- Increase the quality and diversity of public access to the coast

Public Coastal Access

Actions

- Create an inventory of existing public access points
- Increase education and awareness about public access and citizens' rights and responsibilities
- Protect and enhance public access on Crown lands
- Remove barriers and create incentives for private landowners to allow public access

Sea Level Rise & Storm Events

Goal

People and property safe from coastal hazards

Objectives

- Buildings and infrastructure should be located, built and maintained in a manner that minimizes impacts from rising sea levels and storms
- Prepare communities for storm-related emergencies

Sea Level Rise & Storm Events

Actions

- Assess the vulnerability of communities to coastal hazards
- Establish coastal development standards
- Partner with municipalities to create municipal planning strategies and land-use by-laws for coastal areas
- Implement policies so that provincial funding of coastal infrastructure takes into account coastal hazards
- Ensure that emergency management planning reflects the best available knowledge of coastal hazards
- Educate property owners and the development community about how to minimize risks from coastal hazards

Coastal Ecosystems & Habitats

Goal

- Conservation of sensitive coastal areas

Objectives

- Sustain natural coastal landscapes, processes, and prevent biodiversity loss
- Coordinate marine and land-based conservation efforts
- Focus restoration efforts on priority coastal areas

Coastal Ecosystems & Habitats

Actions

- Map coastal ecosystems
- Prioritize coastal areas for conservation and restoration
- Establish coastal development standards
- Protect more coastal land in Nova Scotia
- Review key legislation
- Work in partnership with the federal government on marine conservation planning
- Coordinate and strengthen restoration programs

Coastal Water Quality

Goal

- Coastal water quality that supports healthy ecosystems, recreation, fish harvesting and aquaculture

Objectives

- Water quality at public beaches meets or exceeds health standards
- Improve water quality in areas where marine harvesting takes place

Coastal Water Quality

Actions

- Establish provincial coastal water quality standards and thresholds
- Improve and integrate coastal water quality monitoring
- Identify and prioritize areas impacted by poor coastal water quality and reduce pollution sources
- Establish coastal development standards

Governance

Goal

Governments and citizens working together to better manage the coast

Objectives

- Improve public awareness and knowledge of the coastal environment, economy and people
- Share information among departments, governments, and the public
- Create opportunities for Nova Scotians to address coastal issues in their communities
- Improve cooperation among departments and levels of government

Governance

Actions

- Create a lead body for coastal management within the Government of Nova Scotia
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of governments in coastal management
- Establish coastal development standards
- Partner with municipalities to create planning strategies and land-use by-laws for coastal areas
- Find ongoing and consistent ways to engage Nova Scotians in the Coastal Strategy

...continued...

Governance (continued)

Actions

- Strengthen provincial participation in integrated coastal planning initiatives
- Develop and implement education and awareness initiatives to inform Nova Scotians about coastal issues
- Continue support for research, community development and stewardship projects
- Improve on-line access to coastal information and mapping
- The Minister responsible for the lead body will report to Nova Scotians annually on the progress of the Coastal Strategy

Seeking Feedback on the Draft Strategy

- *Do the goals and objectives establish the right overall direction, in terms of developing an effective coastal strategy?*
- *What actions do you think are most likely to achieve the goals and objectives?*
- *What actions do you think are most important?*
- *How can you or your organization/community help achieve the goals and objectives?*
- *What can the provincial government do to encourage and support your help?*

Online feedback form



Coastal Strategy 2011

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Issue: Governance

Feel free to respond to any or all of the following questions related to Governance. If you do not wish to provide input on a particular question or issue please press "next" to move to the next priority issue.

[Governance] Do the goals and objectives set the right direction for the issue?
See pages 9-10 of the draft Coastal Strategy

[Governance] What actions do you think will be the most effective for achieving the goals and objectives?
What actions do you think are the most important?
See pages 10-11 in the draft Coastal Strategy

Overview of Consultation

- Draft strategy posted online at www.gov.ns.ca/coast
- Stakeholders and sectors notified by email of release and feedback mechanisms
- PON Secretariat staff will respond to requests for information and presentations
- Public feedback submitted through online survey tool. Submissions will be posted online for public review following consultation period.
- Issue specific working groups coordinated by Dalhousie University to provide additional feedback

Next Steps & Timelines

- Public consultation on draft strategy
 - October-November 2011
- Gov to Gov consultations on draft strategy
 - ongoing
- Final Coastal Strategy
 - Summer 2012

Ongoing Engagement

- Release of the final Coastal Strategy is not the end of public engagement
- Many objectives and actions will require ongoing engagement, ranging from traditional consultation to collaborative partnerships

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