

# **SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK BAY OF FUNDY MARINE RESOURCES PLANNING (MRP) INITIATIVE**

**Background on the formation of the Marine  
Advisory Committee (MAC)**

**September, 2012**



# Beginnings: September 2004

- view the website  
<http://bofmrp.ca/home/index.php/site/background>
- The Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Planning Process (BoFMRPP) was launched in September 2004
- It was anticipated that the plan would provide a basis for taking informed decisions under federal and provincial legislation
- The resulting outcome, “The Plan”, is the establishment of the Marine Advisory Committee (MAC) making recommendations to governments

## Previous committee membership

- Jessie Davies, Co-Chair
- Harvey Millar, Co-Chair
- Dave Giddens
- Philip Ells
- William Hanley
- Kim McKinley
- Tim Paul
- Michael Rouse
- Klaus Sonnenberg
- Robert Stephenson
- Robert Sweeney
- Greg Thompson
- Nell Halse and John Eldridge resigned due to time constraints but have expressed support for the process

## Past stages of the process

1. Planning the process for building a plan.
2. Public engagement and consultation
3. Final report and recommendation to government, “Preferred Future of the Bay”
4. Government feedback, agreement to focus initially on three areas ( Advisory structure , C&P areas, Economics Study)
5. Revised request to government and government’s subsequent establishment of this committee

## Areas the public felt improvements were required

- **Resource Management & Decision-Making :** A voice and transparency in decision making (“people want a say”).
- **Marine Ecosystem Conservation:** Need to protect sensitive areas (spawning areas/unique habitats).
- **Marine Access:** Need for more/equitable access to the marine environment for economic/non-economic uses.
- **Healthy Coastal Communities & Sustainable Livelihoods:** Ensure that new development benefits...does not undermine.
- **Research and Monitoring:** Need for best available science information for better/informed decision making.

# 10 GOALS

- *Minimize user conflict issues in the planning area.*
- *Create more transparency and predictability in decision-making.*
- *Incorporate a conflict resolution framework for use by all governing bodies and users.*
- *Develop a communication system by which the public can be aware of, and involved in, marine planning.*
- *Relate to, and influence, plans that are active in the planning area.*
- *Integrate traditional, social and cultural (including FN's) values in decision making processes.*
- *Maintain healthy marine ecosystems (productivity/biodiversity) through the use of measurable indicators.*
- *Conservation of sensitive communities and unique habitats.*
- *Maintain and protect coastal access for all marine users.*
- *Foster and support new economic opportunities that incorporate wise use of marine space and resources.*

# Primary MRP Recommendations

- Government needs to address community issues and concerns with the major themes of:
  - Greater **community engagement/participation** in government processes and decision-making;
  - Consideration of **community values** in decision-making; and
  - Increased **transparency, accountability** and **access to information**.

# The final request to governments

- Establishment of a Marine Advisory Council for 3-year trial term, with a **communications strategy**
  - Utilize the Community Values Criteria as a decision support tool in making recommendations to fed/prov. departments on relevant policies, processes, strategic matters and activities or issues of significant public interest.
  - Maintain Government Secretariat to support the process.



# Government's Review

- All New Brunswick and Federal members of the Regional Committee on Coastal and Oceans Management were given the opportunity to review the report.
- Provincial review coordinated by NB DAAF.
  - Nine departments reviewed and provided comments (DAAF, DELG, DNR, DOE, BNB, DOT, IGA, TAP, AAS).
- Federal review coordinated by DFO. Four departments reviewed and provided comments (DFO, EC, ACOA, Parks Canada). CEAA and TC also commented on earlier version of the Terms of Reference (Jan. 2011).

# Concerns from Government Review

- Ensure no duplication of existing processes and do not add another layer.
- Perception of setting up something new during a period of government restraint.
- Advisory Council's role and scope needed to be clearly delimited.
- Change name from "Council" to "Committee".

# Agreed upon Path Forward

- Government remains committed to enhancing community input into decision making through:
  - The establishment of the three year pilot initiative creating the **Southwestern New Brunswick Marine Advisory Committee** .
  - The continuation of a Government Secretariat to support the initiative.

# Highlights of the New Terms of Reference

- New Terms of Reference has provided greater clarity for the Committee
- Co-chaired on a rotating basis by the **Deputy Minister of NB DAAF and the Maritimes Regional Director of Fisheries and Oceans, with a citizen co-chair**
- Fewer meetings (3 per year vs. 10) and 15 Members (vs. 12) to ensure better cross-sector views
- Annual performance reporting and an evaluation in the third year to ensure if the Committee “adds value” to existing processes

# Expected Outcomes

- The Marine Advisory Committee:
  - Provides advice and recommendations to federal and provincial governments on relevant policies, processes, strategic matters, or issues of significant public interest related to new or existing activities from a non-sector community-based perspective.
  - Uses the Community Values Criteria as a decision support tool in developing their recommendations and advice.

# Expected Outcomes

- The Marine Advisory Committee:
  - Uses local knowledge in developing their recommendations and advice.
  - Has interaction and communication with local community members, prior to making recommendations or providing advice to government.
  - Adds value to existing processes without duplicating them.

# Expected Outcomes

- Governments have:
  - Enhanced citizen engagement on issues seen as a high priority by receiving recommendations from this committee .
  - Increased their transparency in the development or review of policies and strategies, management of activities and the allocation of space in the area.
  - Through web-based tools there is increased communications with coastal residents.

# Discussion and Questions...

[www.bofmrp.ca](http://www.bofmrp.ca)

