

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Roundtable and Presentations

ACZISC Meeting #46

Date: Wednesday and Thursday, 21-22 September 2005

Location: Johnson Geo Centre, 175 Signal Hill Road
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

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PLEASE NOTE: “Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada” is a subset of the Minutes of ACZISC Meeting #46, held on 21-22 September 2005 in St. John’s, NL.

To download the Minutes and Coastal Activity reports of ACZISC meetings, access the ACZISC website at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs.htm>.

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations were made:

- **Integrated Management Planning in Placentia Bay**
by Dawn Mercer, Oceans Biologist, DFO
- **Creating A SmartBay - Technology Solutions for Integrated Management in Placentia Bay**
by Randy Gillespie, Vice-President, CCMC
- **Management of Wastes from Seafood Processing**
by Laura Park, Oceans Biologist, DFO
- **Fish By-Products Availability and Utilization**
by Trevor Thomas, Senior Engineer, NL Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- **Coastal Planning in the Coast of Bays**
by Steve Moyse, Policy, Planning and Research Analyst,
NL Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

The presentations are available at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs.htm#ACZISC>.

ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES and UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Tim Anderson, DFO NL Region, Oceans and Habitat Management Branch, reported the following:

- **Marine Debris:** The Oceans Management Division has developed a poster/brochure which highlights key concerns related to marine debris, including:
 - Plastics and other synthetics form the largest component and are the most harmful because they do not rot or biodegrade.
 - Plastics are more harmful on the water and in the water column as they can kill fish and marine mammals.
 - Solutions include recycling, proper disposal and education. Focussed sessions with fishers, harbour authorities, municipalities, schools, etc. are planned.
- **Status of MPAs – Gilbert Bay and Eastport:**
 - Regulations were posted for public comment from 18 June to July 18. No comments were received.
 - The DFO Minister has approved the regulations. Final approval is expected at a Treasury Board meeting scheduled for 26 September.
 - An announcement on designation is expected between 28 September and 19 October.
- **Waterford Estuary (Ireland) / Newfoundland and Labrador Festival of the Sea:** The inaugural event was held in Ireland over 10 days from 27 May to 6 June. The NL Steering Committee included representatives of Regional Economic Development Boards, various provincial government departments and DFO. Seminars included:
 - Coastal heritage – the history of the NL cod fishery and Irish fisheries
 - Historical links between NL and Ireland
 - Coastal Futures focussed on Integrated Management (IM) planning for coastal areas. Items discussed included: promotion of IM best practices; engagement at the community level; public awareness; and funding/support mechanisms.

- Plans are underway to host the Festival/conference in the Southern Avalon region in 2006.

Paul Boudreau, DFO Maritimes Region, Oceans and Habitat Branch, reported the following:

- The Oceans and Habitat Branch of the DFO Maritimes Region has implemented a new organizational model made up of three Divisions reporting to Carol Ann Rose, Regional Director, Oceans and Habitat:
 - Oceans and Coastal Management Division, led by Joe Arbour
 - Habitat Protection and Sustainable Development Division, led by Paul Boudreau
 - Environmental Assessment and Major Project Division, led by Ted Potter.
- Fisheries Act Renewal: DFO is undertaking an engagement process regarding Fisheries Act Renewal. Changes will be based on consultations with stakeholders carried out over the past few years. The intent is to provide greater clarity and coherence with regard to how DFO meets its mandate. Contacts in each Region can provide more information.
- Salmon Presence Absence Tracking (SPAT): A mapping exercise is underway to document Inner Bay of Fundy (IBOF) salmon distribution. IBOF salmon have been selected for the highest level of protection under the federal Species at Risk Act. Maps of three zones have been developed using information related to fish passage barriers, locations of salmon stocking for preservation of the gene pool, and electrofishing results:
 - Areas where development and other activities will likely not be allowed - shown in red.
 - Areas upstream from barriers to salmon passage and for which there should not be any concerns - shown in green.
 - Areas for which there are concerns and activities will need to be scrutinized by DFO - shown in yellow.
- It is expected that the end product will be a hard-copy map that can be carried by field staff.

Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes Region, Oceans and Habitat Branch, reported the following:

- The 1st meeting of the ESSIM Initiative Multi-stakeholder Advisory Body will be held on 5-6 October in Halifax. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce representatives to the planning process and one another, develop ground rules and terms of reference for the advisory body, determine an appropriate process for reviewing the draft ESSIM Integrated Management Plan, and begin examining initial sections of the draft Plan. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for November and January.
- A series of ESSIM community workshops are being planned: 18 October in Shelburne; 20 October in Sydney; 25 October in Sheet Harbour/Moser River; and 26 October in Guysborough. The workshops will provide a final opportunity for comment on the ESSIM IM Plan.
- The Regional Committee on Ocean Management (RCOM) was established earlier this year in response to the need for senior-level policy and regulatory coordination and a coherent regional management framework to achieve integrated ocean management in the ESSIM area. RCOM is co-chaired by Neil Bellefontaine, RDG, DFO Maritimes and Rosalind Penfound, DM, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and currently includes representatives from all ocean-related federal and provincial departments in NS. An RCOM meeting will be held in Halifax in October. It has been proposed that NB and PEI eventually join RCOM for coordination of the OAP Regional Implementation Committee across the region.
- The Atlas of Human Activities on the Scotian Shelf will be released next month in hard-copy format. Efforts will be made to make it available on the WWW.
- An Ecological Overview and Assessment Report (EOAR) has been completed for the Bras d'Or Lakes. It will undergo a scientific peer review in Eskasoni this fall.
- DFO, in collaboration with NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries Service, will be producing an EOAR for the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy.
- Consultations are still ongoing for the Musquash Estuary MPA area of interest; it is expected to reach final designation this fall.

Dick MacDougall, Canadian Hydrographic Service - Atlantic, reported on the following:

- Field Program:
 - A new Simrad EM710 multibeam system installed on CCGS Matthew this year was used to collect security data for DND in the approaches to Halifax as a trial before completing corridor surveys of ferry routes on the south coast of Newfoundland. CHS then completed surveys for a narrow inshore corridor from Cape Mugford to Cape Chidley in Labrador and several corridors out to the open sea to allow vessels to sail into ports of refuge. CHS is planning to survey Makkovik Bank for NRCan and then examine shoals in the approaches to Cartwright in support of charting.
 - Revisory surveys have been conducted in a number of Newfoundland ports.
 - The CCGS Creed did multibeam surveys in Placentia Bay in support of NRCan's Geoscience for Ocean Management (GOM) program. These will all be used for the Placentia Bay-Grand Banks LOMA and the Smart Bay project. The Creed also collected multibeam data for NRCan in the Northern Gulf of St Lawrence this year - in support of NRCan's GOM Program and for use as base mapping for the Gulf of St Lawrence Integrated Management (GOSLIM) initiative.
 - CHS, NL Surveys and Mapping, Parks Canada, the Labrador Inuit Association and the Search and Rescue Directorate have partnered to acquire aerial photography in northern Labrador. CHS will have access to the shoreline data for use on new charts.
 - CHS is updating existing charts and producing one new chart in support of the Voiseys Bay Nickel Company (VBNC) operation under a Joint Project Agreement. CHS is producing the charts from hydrographic data acquired via contract by VBNC. Navigational aids are being installed now and shipping is expected to start this winter.
 - The charting projects listed in the minutes of ACZISC Meeting #45 (June 2005) are continuing.
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS): The work to establish the outer limits of the continental shelf is headed by the Director, CHS Atlantic and the Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, Atlantic. An RFP for multibeam surveys off the Grand Banks resulted in bids exceeding the available budgets so no contract was awarded. The plan is to pool the 2005 funds with the 2006 funding and issue a new RFP for 2006. Plans are advancing for a March 2006 Arctic over-ice refraction seismic survey based out of CFB Alert. It will be a joint Canada – Denmark project. The goal is to determine if Lomonosov Ridge is a prolongation of the continental shelf.
- Atlantic Tsunami Warning System:
 - Plans are progressing to have an interim tsunami warning system in place for Atlantic Canada this fiscal year. Existing tide gauges will be upgraded with new sensors and linked to a server that can be monitored by the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center. The seismic network is already linked.
 - EC / Canadian Weather Service has been working on standard warnings to send out when a possible tsunami is detected, for example, to Public Security and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC) which will alert local emergency organizations.
 - Tsunami models are being developed for first arrival times at different points in Atlantic Canada from different sources. These models have also been used to identify the ideal location of tide gauges for early detection. It is possible that new gauges may be installed as part on an interim system but major changes will not occur until there is longer term funding to maintain a more robust system.
 - A full warning system requires long term funding - early detection gauges possibly on Hibernia and a platform in the Sable Island area, detailed mapping of the coastal area in areas of large population and areas at risk from tsunami and storm surges, refined forecast models and training in interpretation of tsunami signals as well as enhanced emergency measures plans. Tsunamis in Atlantic Canada are rare but storm surges occur yearly and trigger the similar forecasting and emergency measures in areas at risk of flooding.
- Nautical Data International (NDI): A NL court has approved the NDI bankruptcy proposal to pay creditors over a three-year period. The NDI suit against DFO for \$109 million damages and \$5 million punitive damages claimed as a result of the 4 January 2005

decision to terminate the agreement has not yet been heard. Statements from NDI and DFO are available in the August 2005 issue of Boating Industry Canada Newsweek (<http://www.boatingindustry.ca/BICSep2005/News/newsarchive2005-09-05.htm>).

- North Atlantic Cooperation Research Group: Representatives from NORA, a North Atlantic cooperation research group formed under the Council of Nordic Ministers, were in NL and NS this week to discuss cooperative research possibilities. Information on NORA is available at http://www.nora fo/docs/NORA_screen.pdf.
- Senior DFO Staff Changes: Dr. Savi Narayanan has been confirmed as the CHS Director General. She is also the functional head of Oceanography in DFO. The line reporting of CHS and the Ocean Science Division is to the respective Regional Directors of Science but national coordination and functional direction are provided by the DG. DFO has a new Senior Associate Deputy Minister, Lucie McClung. Faith Scattalon has been confirmed as the Associate Regional Director General of DFO, Maritimes Region.
- Science Renewal:
 - DFO Science is realigning its Program Activities to address the Department's three main priorities: Healthy and Productive Aquatic Ecosystems, Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Safe and Accessible Waterways. These also feed into the Government of Canada priorities. Science functions are grouped into Research, Monitoring, Scientific Advice, Products and Services, Data Management, and Science Management.
 - A Science Management Board is being established within DFO to assist Science in setting priorities. It is chaired by the Deputy Minister and includes the Assistant Deputy Ministers of Science, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management, and Oceans and Habitat, as well as a Regional Director General representing regional priorities for the Pacific and for the Atlantic, and the chair of the DFO Science Advisory Council. The program ADMs and the RDGs will bring issues forward for which there is a need for Science input. The ADM Science will bring in issues raised by DFO Policy and Coast Guard and the needs of other government departments for DFO Science input. In theory the Management Board will identify priority issues and Science will develop workplans to address the priorities. The first meeting of the Board to initiate the process will be in October 2005.

The following report was provided by John Legault, DFO Gulf Region, Oceans and Habitat:

- Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management initiative and the Oceans Action Plan:
 - The Oceans Act established a new legislative and policy framework to modernize the management of Canada's oceans-related activities. The framework is founded on Sustainable Development, Integrated Management and the Precautionary Approach.
 - For the past 4 years, the Gulf Region, in partnership with the Québec and the Newfoundland and Labrador Regions and the National Headquarters, has been building the foundation for the development of a Gulf-wide integrated management plan: the Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management initiative (GOSLIM). Several documents have been prepared by the GOSLIM team, including:
 - Identification of ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSA)
 - An Ecosystem Overview Report (EOR) for the Gulf of St. Lawrence (GSL) - a literature review of the ecosystem components of the GSL
 - First draft of a governance study
 - GOSLIM Communication plan
 - The first draft of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for: Oil and Gas; Aquaculture; Marine Transportation; Land-based Activities; and Commercial Fishing.
 - The Gulf of St. Lawrence was declared as a Large Oceans Management Area under the Oceans Act (there are 4 others in Canada). Funds have been allocated under the Oceans Action Plan (OAP) to establish an integrated management planning process for the Gulf.
 - The OAP describes how the Oceans Act is going to be implemented with four main categories of activities:
 - International Leadership - Sovereignty and Security

- Health of the Oceans
- Oceans and Science Technology
- Integrated Oceans Management for Sustainable Development
- Within the Gulf Region, Health of the Oceans, Science Technology and Integrated Oceans Management for Sustainable Development are the priorities that will be addressed - in particular the initiation of integrated resource management aimed at ecosystem-based management (EBM), the development of ecosystem objectives to plan EBM, and seabed mapping.
- Phase 1 of the OAP consists of a series of interrelated initiatives that build on progress made to date that will set the foundation for achieving longer-term objectives. Subsequent phases of the OAP will take advantage of lessons learned in Phase I.
- This year DFO Gulf Region is concentrating its efforts on stakeholders, including: consultations and information sessions; invitations to participate in the process; and setting up working groups and task forces. "Stakeholders" includes federal and provincial governments, First Nations, other government departments, industry, NGOs and ENGOS.
- The Northumberland Strait Project:
 - Resource declines and environmental changes have been documented in the Northumberland Strait for many years by fishermen, industry and community groups. Some of these observations include: more shellfish harvesting closed zones; the increased presence of invasive species; increased contaminants; eutrophication which appears to encourage harmful algal blooms and the development of large algal mats; destruction of eel grass beds; more fish plant effluents; more shoreline development and erosion; and more sediments in the water.
 - In the spring of 2005, a report was prepared on "Environmental Conditions in the Northumberland Strait and their Effects upon the Fisheries". Building on the results of this report a working group was formed with the objective to gather more information and fill the data gaps and assess the stressors within the system and develop action plans to deal with them. Sources of information will include: Data Mining (researchers, government departments and agencies, NGOs); Traditional Fisheries Resource Data Base; Traditional Knowledge; Stakeholders Knowledge; Aboriginal Knowledge; and Public Consultation.
 - The project will undertake the preparation of an Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report (EOAR), as defined under the Oceans Action Plan, to scope the issues and identify the gaps as well as identify approaches for public input, scoping of issues, analysis, and policy and program changes.
 - The EOAR will contain descriptions of the following: physical systems; atmospheric components; oceanographic components; geological components; biological systems; biota components; habitat components; human systems; socio-economic components; ecological assessment; pressures and stressors; threats and impacts on ecosystem components; biodiversity related issues; ecosystem relationships; and identification of key areas.
 - Meetings are presently being organized to: finalize the course of action; update the communications strategy; confirm support of federal and provincial agencies; confirm costs and funding sources; and identify immediate short term research opportunities.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS: David Boyce, Southeast Environmental Association, reported the following:

- Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP):
 - The ACAP groups met in Moncton in mid August to discuss the future of the ACAP Program. The possible expansion into Labrador and the development of a Results-based Management and Accountability Framework (RMAF) to guide Program reporting were topics under discussion.
 - Joint projects being proposed by the community groups include:
 1. Riparian zones and biodiversity - a valuation of insect populations

2. Energy efficiency for low-income households (part of the National Affordable Housing Energy Efficiency Program - NAHEEP)
 3. Air quality and local community effects
 4. Communicating local impacts of climate change.
- SEA is making progress with the ResEau project to make most of the water quality information of the 14 ACAP groups available via the CGDI.
 - The fall meeting of the ACAP groups will be held in the Annapolis Valley in conjunction with the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN). Seminars will be held on community-based monitoring efforts and protocols. CARP has completed a survey of the monitoring that each ACAP group undertakes. The report entitled "Ecological Monitoring and Reporting: A Survey of the Atlantic Coastal Action Program" is available on the ACAP website at <http://atlantic-web1.ns.ec.gc.ca/community/acap/default.asp?lang=En&n=C76D3248-1>.
 - Southeast Environmental Association (SEA):
 - The Three Rivers area of Montague, Brudenell and Cardigan has been designated a Canadian Heritage River. To be so designated, a river must be proven to possess the requisite natural values, historical importance and recreational potential. Strong public support must also be demonstrated. The management plan for the watershed will be available online on the SEA website (<http://www.seapei.ca>). More information on the Canadian Heritage Rivers is available at <http://www.chrs.ca>.
 - Within the Three Rivers watershed the Nature Conservancy of Canada recently completed the purchase of the remaining two-thirds of Boughton Island, a 600 acre offshore island. The purchase price was \$2.3 million.
 - SEA is pursuing the development of an artificial reef in the Northumberland Strait. There have been declining catches of certain species including the commercially important lobsters and scallops. There is a scallop dragging exclusion zone off the South East corner of the PEI that would provide an ideal test area. Talks are proceeding with groups that have completed similar projects in other regions. A concern is that invasive species may colonize the artificial reef structures.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA: Cameron Wilson, GeoAccess Division, Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, reported the following:

- A new Branch has been created in the Earth Science Sector: the Information Management and Dissemination Branch. Jeff Labonte is the acting Director General. The Branch's sub-units are the GeoConnections Secretariat and the Information Management Division.
- The 100th anniversary celebration of the Atlas of Canada will take place in 2006. It will feature a number of activities, including a large meeting in Ottawa from 18-21 June of most of the Canadian geographic associations. Details are available at <http://www.geoplace.com/uploads/GeoTecEvent/hm/intro.asp>. It was suggested that the ACZISC should consider holding a meeting in Ottawa in conjunction with this event.

Dolores Durant, GeoConnections Secretariat, reported the following:

- The new GeoConnections program will receive all of its funds following the passing of all of the budget bills in the House. In the mean time, much preparation work is being done to define future projects.
- Phase 2 of the GeoConnections program will be built on four 'planks': users, content, technology/operations, and coordination.
- The users plank is focusing on environmental/ sustainable development, safety, health and aboriginal issues. It will focus on common priorities of those Communities of Practice. Focus group sessions will be held to help define user needs.
- The content plank will look at providing distributed and framework datasets that are required by the user communities as well as helping to create regional atlases.
- The technology and operations plank will continue to work with existing partners (provincial, federal and national) as well as new partners to maintain, operate and expand the technical standards and infrastructure of the CGDI as required by the user Communities of Practice. There will also be a targeted innovation program aimed at filling

- gaps in the infrastructure.
- The coordination plank will work at supporting consistent geomatics policy development federally and nationally to reduce duplication and improve use of the CGDI.
- The Connections e-newsletter informs readers of GeoConnections developments, opportunities, partnerships, etc. – to subscribe email info@geoconnections.org. The GeoConnections website at <http://www.geoconnections.org/CGDI.cfm/> provides additional information.

Jacques Grondin, Geomatics Canada, reported the following:

- Geomatics Canada, Earth Science Sector, has a new organizational structure:
 - Canada Centre for Cadastral Management
 - International Boundary Commission
 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing
 - Atlas of Canada
 - Geodetic Survey Division
 - Mapping Services Branch
 - Aeronautical and Technical Services
 - Centre for Topographic Information (Ottawa)
 - Centre for Topographic Information (Sherbrooke)
- The Canada Centre for Cadastral Management (CCCM) is the unit formerly known as the Legal Surveys Division.
- The CCCM is working to develop and maintain a reliable modern property rights infrastructure on Canada Lands, including Canada's offshore.
- The CCCM's programs are: Canada Lands Survey System; Geomatics for aboriginal property rights infrastructure; Geomatics for northern development; Geomatics for sustainable development of natural resources; and the Canada/USA international boundary maintenance and 1925 treaty implementation.
- The Surveyor General of Canada Lands has prepared a White Paper entitled "Marine Cadastre in Canada's Offshore". The paper is intended to develop awareness among NRCan's senior managers about the role of cadastral systems in the context of good governance and sustainable development and to promote its relevance. It is also intended to identify an Earth Science Sector strategy for promoting, developing and implementing a marine cadastre concept for Canada.

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: Darren Hicks, Natural Resources, reported the following:

- The Department, in collaboration with NL Hydro, funded a consultant's study on wind energy for the Province. The study report indicates that the entire Province has potential for wind energy generation. Benefits are being identified in the context of an overall energy plan for the Province. An Energy Plan discussion paper is being prepared and will be available soon.
- Efforts are also being to identify potential energy efficiencies.
- A Strategic Environmental Assessment is being carried out for the west coast of Newfoundland. Spots where encroachment is occurring are being identified. A geological survey is continuing to monitor coastal retreat.

Darren reported the following on behalf of Mike Warren, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture:

- The Government is continuing to consider an organizational structure for coastal zone management in the Province. A proposal is being prepared by the Departments of Environment and Conservation; Natural Resources; Innovation, Trade and Rural Development; Tourism; and Fisheries and Aquaculture. These developments have been brought to the attention of senior bureaucrats.
- The Government is working on a formal agreement with federal government departments – DFO and EC – related to a framework for CZM and policy.
- A network similar to the NS Provincial Ocean Network may be implemented.

- Mike is attending relevant conferences and other events to identify leads and champions and related initiatives.

Neil MacNaughton, Environment and Conservation, reported the following:

- The Surveys and Mapping Division is a central service group for the government and the public. It coordinates the provincial geomatics strategy and facilitates integration of geo-spatial data. The Division has five core programs:
 - Topographic mapping: Provides standard digital base mapping
 - Geodetic surveys: Maintains network of markers and GPS reference systems
 - Aerial photography: Coordinates procurement, maintains repository and reproductions
 - Geographical names: Administers authorization and records
 - Geomatic strategy: Provincial coordination and standards.
- Surveys and Mapping has signed a five-year agreement with NRCan for the National Road Network. An agreement is being developed for the National Hydrographic Network.
- New orthophoto mapping is being produced. 25% of the Island will be complete by the end of the year.
- The Province has been working to reconcile provincial toponymy data with federal data.
- The Surveys and Mapping Division has teamed with Memorial University to develop MapsNL (<http://www.mapsnl.ca>), an OGC-compliant map viewer integrating WMS layers for Newfoundland and Labrador. Layers include NL provincial topographic base mapping at 1:50,000 and larger, map and air photo indices, administrative boundaries, road network, survey control monuments, geographical names, etc. Linkages are provided to the National Atlas of Canada, the DFO GeoPortal, etc. A users guide is available on the MapsNL website.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES COUNCIL ON THE SCIENCES / MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY: Grant Gardner, Associate Dean of Science, MUN, reported the following:

- Candidates have been nominated for two new Tier 2 Canada Research chairs at Memorial University – one in Seabed Imaging and Seabed Processes, and the other in Marine Biotechnology. A decision will be made early next year.
- The CZC 2004 Committee is planning a series of events this year to raise awareness of interest in CZM in Newfoundland. The first of these events will be a visit by Dr. Nicholas Coch, a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer. Dr. Coch will deliver a public lecture on the susceptibility to hurricane damage for northeastern U.S. and eastern Canada.

Cyr Couturier, Chair of the Aquaculture Program/Lecturer/Researcher, School of Fisheries, Marine Institute, reported the following:

- The Coastal Zone Management Advanced Diploma Program at the Marine institute, headed by Keith Mercer, has been renamed the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management Diploma Program. The Program focuses on the bio-ecological and socio-ecological elements of coastal zone development and management. A Masters online program is being developed and will be available soon.

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR MARINE COMMUNICATIONS: Randy Gillespie, Vice-President, reported on the upcoming Ocean Innovation conference:

- The event is scheduled for 23-26 October in Rimouski, QC. The theme is *Operational Challenges in Northern Waters*.
- Day 1 will focus on a variety of issues related to the Arctic and explored through an investigation of The Northwest Passage and day 2 will focus on Mapping and Monitoring.
- The goal of Ocean Innovation is to provide an opportunity for industry, government and academic representatives to develop new business and collaborative activities, to network and to help promote Canadian ocean technologies to the world.

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

- GeoNOVA has recently finalized 25 web mapping services (WMS) for distribution via the

GeoNOVA Portal at <http://geonova.ca>. The WMS incorporate data from more than 100 layers of base and thematic data. In addition access has been made available to 4 web feature services (WFS) and 6 Internet clients.

- To ensure the sustainability of the GeoNOVA Portal, a business and technical model has been adopted which includes both service level and data exchange agreements with all who contribute or take advantage of the Portal's present and longer term deliverables.
- GeoNOVA has also held quarterly meetings with its 70 municipal partners to strengthen municipal partnerships. It currently is finalizing 55 municipal agreements.
- GeoNOVA is working with the NS Geomatics Centre in finalizing the NS Government's policy on its Spatial Reference System and an operational policy related to a Large Scale Mapping Program. The latter is now in effect and the former will go through additional user consultations in the fall.
- GeoNOVA will host its first Geomatics Conference on 3-5 October. At this conference users and data providers will look at a variety of policy related issues that continue to impact the geomatics community and strongly influence the goal of making data more easily accessible. As well GeoNOVA will take the geomatics message to several groups of Grade 9 and 12 students, in support of a Department of Education pilot Geomatics 12 program commencing this school year.

Justin Huston, Agriculture and Fisheries, reported the following:

- Representatives of the NS Provincial Ocean Network (PON) will be making a presentation on coastal management to NS Deputy Ministers at the end of October. Resourcing will be a focus of discussions.
- NSDAF is considering the development of a web-based decision support tool to strengthen municipal coastal and watershed planning of land-based activities that affect the coastal and marine environment. The system would provide information about priority issues, contacts for expert advice, relevant federal and provincial laws and regulations, best management practices, and access to planning tools. The project could serve as a model for other provinces in Atlantic Canada. A project description was circulated to participants.

NATIONAL DEFENCE: Kyle Penney, Formation Environment, Maritime Forces Atlantic, reported the following:

- Formation Environment supports MARLANT by providing technical advice regarding Hazardous Material Management, Natural Resource Conservation, Marine Environmental Protection, Contaminated Sites, and Environmental Management Systems.
- The MARLANT Operations Area Management Plan, completed and distributed to the Ships and the Operational Planning staff, will undergo a trial period this year. Comments received will be incorporated to continually improve the program. This will enable operations to be conducted to achieve the training objectives, minimize potential impacts on the environment and sustain the areas for future uses. As part of this program, MOUs are being developed for data acquisition on an ongoing basis with agencies that gather relevant data.
- The wind turbine project is continuing with two wind turbines now proposed for the Osborne Head property.
- A clean-up of McNabs Island by MARLANT personnel was conducted during Environment Week. The event was very successful with 40+ personnel participating.
- Underwater investigations at potential Unexploded Ordnance sites will be conducted this fall at 12 sites, mainly in the mouth of the St. Lawrence River and the east coast of Nfld.

CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD: Eric Theriault, Environmental Affairs, reported the following:

- The CNSOPB is the independent joint agency of the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia responsible for the regulation of petroleum activities in the NS offshore area.
- The Board is conducting two oil spill investigations jointly with EC Enforcement. Its goals for all such investigations are to identify the cause and circumstances of the incident and to determine if any regulations were contravened. The Board also seeks to learn as much as

possible to help prevent similar occurrences in the future. The two incidents under investigation are:

- Exxon Mobil: On 22 August 2004, approximately 4000 litres of diesel spilled at the North Triumph platform. The cause was a crack approximately 2 inches long in a fuel filter on a diesel generator. The incident is still under investigation.
- Marathon Canada: On 26 August 2004, there was a discharge of 354 cubic metres of synthetic-based drilling mud at the Crimson F-81 well onto the ocean floor, at a water depth of over 2 kilometres. The cause of the discharge has been identified as a flaw in a rubber compound seal ring inside of a flex joint, which is part of the riser mechanism connecting the drillship to the well on the seafloor. The Board will not be pursuing charges against Marathon, as the discharge was due to an unforeseeable and unpreventable mechanical defect and Marathon did not violate any regulations during operations. An incident report has been published on the Board's website at <http://www.cnsopb.ns.ca>.
- Hunt Oil is planning to conduct a seismic program in the Sydney Bight area, during the November - December period. This program continues to generate public interest. A thorough public review and hearings on this project were conducted in 2001-02 by Dr. Theresa MacNeil.
- The Board prepared a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Misaine Bank area. The purpose of the SEA is to assist the decision-making process in determining whether exploration rights should be offered in the area assessed. The assessment provides an overview of the existing environment in the Misaine Bank area. Moreover, it discusses the potential environmental effects associated with offshore oil and gas exploration activities, identifies knowledge and data gaps, highlights issues of concern, and makes recommendations for mitigation and planning in the area. The draft was published for public comment and advice. The Board is finalizing the SEA and expect the final report to be published soon. It will be available on the CNSOPB website.
- The final abandonment of the Cohasset-Panuke oil development project has begun.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION:

Leslie Grattan reported the following:

- NEIA's mission is to promote the growth and development of the environmental industry of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- NEIA is a strong supporter of solid waste management. It recently invited Barry Friesen, Solid Waste Resource Manager, NS Department of Environment and Labour to speak to members regarding NS' advances in solid waste management.
- NEIA is also focusing on developing a response to oil spills in the Province. Concern over the impact of a major oil spill was highlighted after the Prestige oil spill off the coast of Spain in 2002.
- NEIA hosted the international Oil Spill Conference in St. John's in November 2003. The focus of the event was to foster a proactive approach to the planning and management of wastes in response to a marine oil spill. Areas of the Province, primarily Placentia Bay, have been identified as being at high risk due to high levels of tanker vessel traffic. The Conference proceedings are available at <http://www.newfoundlanoilspill.com/2003OilSpillProceedings.pdf>.
- As a result of the 2003 Conference, Environment Canada issued a contract for a study to identify procedures for dealing with the wastes from marine oil spills. The report is available from NEIA in hard-copy format and on CD.
- A follow-up Oil Spill Conference is scheduled for 28-29 November 2005 in St. John's. The Conference will profile integration models from several countries. It will provide a forum to discuss the models, the importance of public and community stakeholder involvement and the merits of responsible response operations. Conference brochures were distributed. Details are available at <http://www.oilspillconference.com>.

PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA: Michel Goguen, Real Property Services, reported the following:

- The Way Forward is a wide-ranging strategy led by PWGSC to find innovative ways to

deliver services smarter, faster and at a reduced cost, and to improve how the Government of Canada does business (<http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/b2k5/text/index-e.html>).

- The Way Forward focuses on achieving efficiencies in three key areas: procurement, property management, and use of information technology. The strategy also includes leading the government's efforts to green its operations, by buying environmentally sound products and services and improving the energy efficiency of government buildings.
- The emphasis is on savings and efficiencies and private sector partnering – but not at the expense of regional presence.
- Recent changes include a requirement that all government departments and agencies use mandatory standing offers for the purchase of certain goods and services.
- Several planning initiatives and studies are being carried out in regards to real property and information technologies, including geomatics.
- Business will be carried out as usual this year.

PARKS CANADA AGENCY: The following report was provided by Rob Thompson, Atlantic Service Centre:

- **Magdalen Islands NMCA Feasibility Study:**

- An internal Parks Canada group will be meeting during the 1st week of October to develop draft NMCA conservation targets for consideration during the feasibility study. The required mineral and energy resource assessment (MERA), *i.e.* a first phase compilation and analysis by NRCan of existing information, is scheduled for later this autumn.
- No active formal public consultation is underway yet. Informal discussions have begun with community representatives and stakeholders. Parks Canada has engaged a project assistant on the Islands to assist the project manager.
- A meeting has taken place with leaders of the Gaspé Mi'kmaq. The information provided to them has also been provided in a letter to senior representatives of various Mi'kmaq associations in PEI, NB and NS, with an invitation to engage in discussions with Parks Canada. DIAND claim negotiation officials are kept informed.
- The advisory committee is not yet in place. The appointments will be made by the Minister.
- The Minister has not yet selected the 5th possible National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) to undergo a feasibility study. Another location in Atlantic Canada remains a possibility. Local expressions of interest have come from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador.

UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS

COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION AND CONFERENCES: Grant Gardner reported that Coastal Zone Canada 2006 and the Youth Forum were scheduled for 12-18 August 2006 in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT. The theme is *Arctic Change and Coastal Communities*. The intent of the Conference is to raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by residents of the Arctic coastal zone in the face of rapid changes occurring in Arctic marine ecosystems. While the focus is on coastal and ocean issues in the north, contributions from coastal areas around the world are encouraged, recognizing that many of the drivers of coastal change, and the adaptation of people to them, are common to many parts of the world. Details are available at <http://www.czc06.ca>.

Mike Butler reported that Bob Thwaites had suggested that the ACZISC organize an interactive panel for CZC 2006, similar to the panel that was organized for CZC 2004 in St. John's. Members agreed with this suggestion.

OCEAN MANAGEMENT RESEARCH NETWORK: Mike Butler reported that the 2005 National OMRN Conference is scheduled for 29 September - 1 October 2005 in Ottawa. The theme is *Canada's Oceans: Research, Management and the Human Dimension*. The

Conference provides a forum for ocean and coastal researchers, managers and policy-makers to share ideas and to discuss the current state of knowledge, research gaps and national priorities for the use and management of Canada's three oceans. Access http://www.omrn.ca/eng_conference2005.html for details.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY: David Boyce reported the following:

- The AGM of the Coalition will take place in Miramichi, NB next May. The AGM will feature a Conference and Trade Show entitled "Sustainable and Renewable Energy Technologies in Atlantic Canada", scheduled for 11-13 May 2006. The theme is *Finding the Power to Prosper*. For information on the Conference, email Harry Collins, Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee, at mreac@nbnet.nb.ca.
- The Coalition has submitted a project proposal entitled "Tools for Community Planners" in response to a call for proposals by the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program.
- There is interest from the GSC (Bob Taylor), C-CIARN Coastal Zone (Kathryn Parlee) and SEA (David Boyce) in creating a guide to sand dune restoration for Atlantic Canada. Most of the dune habitat is located within the Southern Gulf region. The Coalition may lead this project.
- For information on the Coalition, access <http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca>.