



Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Overview and Assessment

**Progress Report
September 26, 2006**

AMEC Earth and Environmental, a Division of AMEC Americas Limited

Goals of Presentation

- **Review of progress relative to the:**
 - **Project Statement of Work**
 - **Technical Workshops**
 - **Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Reporting Process**

Statement of Work

1. Coordination of the overall study
2. In-depth literature review, data mining and gap analysis process
3. Integration of information from relevant parallel processes
4. In-depth socio-economic analysis of the Northumberland Strait ecosystem and its resources
5. Technical consultations
6. Recommendations for further research
7. Public engagement and consultations on finding
8. Preparation of draft EOAR
9. Final workshop to complete consultations and the EOAR

Statement of Work

1. Coordination of Overall Study

- Regular Status Reporting to DFO
- Schedule and cost control measures in place
- Participation in Working Group/Technical Review Committee Meetings
- Website development/population/maintenance
- Weekly conference calls within AMEC Team

Statement of Work

2. In-depth Literature Review, Data Mining and Gap Analysis

- Annotated data library of approximately 800 references complete (with some references still forthcoming)
- Data from federal, provincial and NGO sources including draft EOARs for discrete areas within the Strait
- Distributed to TRCs for feedback/comment on its comprehensiveness relative to each members area of expertise
- Gap analysis initiated – to be advanced during the Technical Workshops

Statement of Work

3. Integration of Information from Relevant Parallel Processes

- Identification of, discussions with, and reporting of parallel processes ongoing within the Strait, such as:
 - Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability (Coalition-SGSL)
 - Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC)
 - Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP)
- Objective is to determine what the respective groups are doing and whether process integration would be practical and advantageous. This process is ongoing.

Statement of Work

4. In-depth Socio-economic Analysis of the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem and its Resources

- Undertaken by team leads Jacques Paynter (Socio-economics), Michael Gardner (Fisheries) and Jamey Smith (Governance).
- Focus to date has been on fisheries with preliminary work wrapping up and next step is a series of interviews (*i.e.* fisheries associations, provincial representatives).
- An examination of traditional and local knowledge by team lead Chris Milley.
- A dedicated workshop for Governance issues.

Statement of Work

5. Technical Workshops:

- Physical Environment
- Biota
- Marine Environmental Quality
- Governance

Discussed further in the presentation.

Statement of Work

6. Recommendations for Further Research

- Direct Outcome of the Technical Workshops
- To be captured in Proceedings Report
- Upon review, will be available to the TRCs

Statement of Work

7. Public Engagement and Consultations on Finding

- Bilingual website which provides links to data such as relevant reports, status reports and technical review committees.
- Media Coverage? Ongoing discussions with DFO.

Statement of Work

8. Preparation of Draft EOAR

- Underway – to be discussed further in presentation.

Statement of Work

9. Final Workshop to Complete Consultations and the EOAR

- Purpose is to present, validate and reach consensus on the content of the draft EOAR.
- Expected to be coordinated for early in the New Year.

Technical Workshops

Four 1-Day Technical Workshops schedule for:

Topic	Date (2006)	Location	Venue
Physical Environment	October 12	Moncton, NB	GFC boardroom and auditorium
MEQ	October 18	Stellerton, NS	NS Museum of Industry
Biota/Biology	October 20	Summerside, PEI	Loyalist Inn
Governance	October 26	Moncton, NB	GFC boardroom and auditorium

Technical Workshops

Objectives:

To enable focused attention by those scientifically and technically knowledgeable in the respective fields to:

- consider the information/data/studies available to date,
- collectively identify what information/data/studies are required but not presently available to facilitate understanding/management of the ecosystem in the Strait, and,
- develop specific recommendations/actions for acquiring the necessary information.

Specifically, these Technical Workshops are not open consultation forums.

Technical Workshops

Participants:

- To be attended by those scientifically and technically knowledgeable in the respective fields.
 - Government, academia, consulting and scientific community.
- TRC members associated with the disciplines.
- AMEC Team.

Technical Workshops

The workshops will address the primary issues encountered in the Strait in relation to the respective discipline fields:

Workshop Discipline	Primary Issues
Physical Environment	Sea floor changes, coastal erosion, tide and current patterns
MEQ	Increased sedimentation, shore-based inputs, climate change
Biota/Biology	Decline in commercial fisheries stocks, inshore versus offshore data availability
Governance	Human impacts/socio-economics, institutional framework (including mandate (legislative, regulatory, policy, other), authority, responsibility, physical and technical jurisdiction, stakeholder integration, public communication, and programs and funding)

Technical Workshops

Topics for Discussion:

- Situation description (physical environment, marine environmental quality, biota/biology, governance).
- Issues analysis.
- Available data / information and relation to issues.
- Gaps in knowledge.
- Human impacting activities.
- Potential effects management.
- Next steps, further research needs and associated funding opportunities.

Technical Workshops

Format of Workshop:

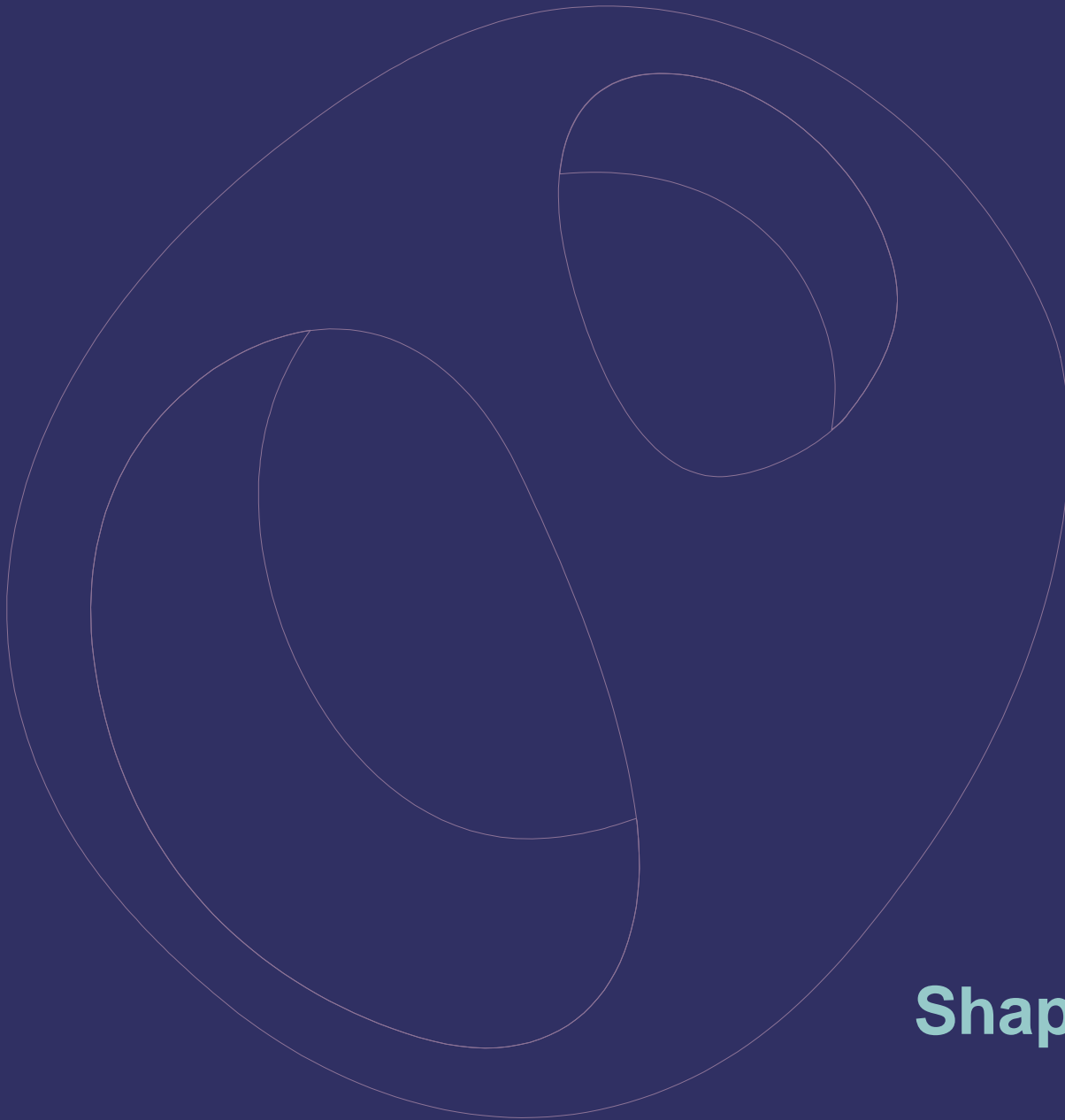
- Opening plenary presentations explaining the workshop process, project description, guidelines and overview of the structure of the EOAR;
- Opening plenary discussion session oriented to overall issues, state of information, etc;
- Concurrent breakout sessions: dealing with different components of the topic in question;
- Closing plenary session providing breakout groups the opportunity for reporting results of their session, further discussion on issues, a summary of the major themes and results of the workshop, and actions and recommendations to move forward.

EOAR Reporting Process - Coordination

- Coordination of reporting process underway internally
 - Standard Table of Contents
 - Primary and Supporting Section Authors Assigned
 - Relative Level of Effort Determined
 - Due Date Set

EOAR Reporting Process - Timeline

- Working backwards from project completion date when developing the reporting timeline
 - Internal submission timeline – November 24th
 - DFO submission timeline – December 10th
 - Help ensure timing secured for final workshop, TRC review and feedback
 - Finalize EOAR.



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