

# ***COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA***

## ***Roundtable and Presentations***

### ***ACZISC Meeting #51***

**Date: Wednesday and Thursday, 30-31 May 2007**

**Location: Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre  
Fredericton, New Brunswick**

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**PLEASE NOTE: "Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada" is a subset of the Minutes of ACZISC Meeting #51, held on 30-31 May 2007 in Fredericton, New Brunswick.**

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

# ***COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA***

## ***PRESENTATIONS***

The following presentations (available online at [aczisc.dal.ca/docs.htm#ACZISC](http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs.htm#ACZISC)) were made:

- **A New Approach to Marine Resources Management: the Southwest New Brunswick Marine Resources Planning Initiative** by *Susan Farquharson, SWNB Marine Planning Office*
- **Boundary Delimitation in Marine Protected Areas: A Report on the Boundaries Session at the SAMPAA VI Conference** by *Sam Ng'ang'a Macharia, DFO Maritimes*
- **An Overview of the National Workshop on Coastal Management Areas** by *Russell Henry, NB Departments of Agriculture and Agriculture and Fisheries*

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

**FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA:** John Legault, DFO Gulf Region, Oceans and Science Branch, reported that, after years of review, research and consultations, the Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management (GoSLIM) Initiative had produced some major reports:

- An Ecosystem Overview Report - a background document describing the physical, chemical, biological and social environment of the Gulf of St. Lawrence - has been produced. DFO Science Branch used the report to identify Ecological and Biological Significant Areas (EBSAs) within the Gulf. Ten of the areas were identified as satisfying most of the criteria used for the EBSAs. The areas that partially satisfy the criteria will also be considered for 'special' management, research and protection.
- A final Ecosystem Overview Report was prepared for the Northumberland Strait. The report and its recommendations will guide the development of an Ecosystem Risk Assessment which will provide a means to prioritize management options and strategies.
- The Ecosystem Risk Analysis is an adaptation of the process established by the US EPA to provide a systematic method of collecting and analyzing existing data and information related to environmental stressors and the activities that generate them. The multi-step process includes community consultation to establish local visions and goals and the impediments to achieving them. The stressors are then assessed by experts and mitigation techniques are examined. The Management Options can then be directed to best deal with the issues by including the community of interest (including those who generate the stressor) in implementing corrective measures. A key to success is bringing the right people into the process at the right stage.
- DFO has set up a website using QUICKPLACE, an information / use organization software, to assist in the sharing of information and data among various stakeholders and members of organizations in and outside government institutions.

QUICKPLACE provides the functionality of MS Outlook through the internet. The website is located on servers at the Collectivité ingénieuse de la Péninsule acadienne (CIPA).

- Four portals have been established: Regional Committee on Oceans Management (RCOM) Portal; Smart Watershed and Coastal Communities Portal; Aquatic Ecosystem Knowledge Portal; and Aquatic Food Knowledge Portal.

Steve Forbes, DFO, Canadian Hydrographic Service - Atlantic, reported the following:

- DFO has bought back its rights from Nautical Data International for the distribution of CHS electronic charts and data. As a result, CHS has assumed responsibility for the production, marketing and sales and distribution of its digital charts and data, including licensing value-added resellers and dealers. A new business model is being developed.
- CHS is conducting multi-beam bathymetric surveys in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Canada-Atlantic in the Bay of Fundy and the St Lawrence estuary and Gulf from Gaspé to Anticosti Island. The Bay of Fundy data will be used in tidal power research.
- Multi-beam bathymetric surveys were carried out last year in Placentia Bay, NL. The data will be used in charting.
- CHS has collaborated with the Surveys and Mapping Division of the NL Department of Environment and Conservation on a shoreline mapping project for Northern Labrador. A vertical datum has been established. The acquisition of high resolution photography has been completed. An updated shoreline will be produced for use in navigation by next year's shipping season. The photography will also be used for search and rescue operations.
- The establishment of the Atlantic Tsunami Warning System was recently announced by Public Security Minister Stockwell Day. The Tsunami Warning System is part of the Water Level Network and uses the same equipment and procedures already in place to issue storm surge warnings. The enhancements made to the existing system to allow tsunami warnings will also improve the capacity to predict storm surges, which are much more frequent events on the East Coast.

Richard Eisner, DFO Maritimes Region, Innovation Office, reported the following events/presentations (confirmed) of interest to ACZISC members:

- 4-6 June 2007: Geomatics Atlantic, St. John's – presentation on Creating a Canadian Ocean Biogeographic Information System
- 11-12 June 2007: Annual Meeting of the Federal Partners in Technology Transfer, Halifax – keynote presentation on assessing the value, effectiveness and impact of technology transfer on the public good
- 20 June 2007: Oceanography at BIO is hosting a talk on CO<sub>2</sub> and ocean acidification by Bill Kirkwood, Associate Director of Engineering, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
- 22 June 2007: BIO is hosting delegates of the American Fisheries Society. The tour will consist of presentation on Atlantic diadromous fishes and the interactions with other projects. The group is interested in habitat and management studies and projects re Species at Risk.
- 2-4 October 2007: The 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Ocean Biodiversity Informatics will be held at BIO - [www.marinebiodiversity.ca/OBI07](http://www.marinebiodiversity.ca/OBI07).

- 17-21 October 2007: DFO, EC, DND and NRCan will showcase their projects and technologies during BIO Open House. The public is invited to attend. A special 'client day' will also be scheduled.
- 24 October 2007: The Innovation Office is hosting an exhibit and presentations on National Centres of Expertise to the delegates of the Ocean Innovation 2007 Conference, scheduled for 21-23 October in Halifax - [www.oceaninnovation.ca](http://www.oceaninnovation.ca). The exhibit and presentations will focus on the Rise of Maritime Simulation, the theme of the Conference.

Past/ongoing activities:

- Richard made a COINAtlantic presentation on behalf of the ACZISC at the Biodiversity Discovery Corridor Workshop held from 28 February - 2 March in St. Andrews. The intent was to get the membership of the Centre for Marine Biodiversity involved in the activities and goals of COINAtlantic.
- Benthic habitat mapping is being carried out collaboratively by DFO and NRCan's GSC - Atlantic. The main tools used are imaging systems, both stills and video.
- NS Power has received Sustainable Development Technology Canada funds for a pilot study of tidal power (current) in the Bay of Fundy. DFO scientists will assist with the numerical modelling of currents, the CEAA review of the project and the environmental impact studies.
- The Innovation Office responded to the various requests for input to the Oceans Action Plan II. Comments focused on projects to promote Ocean Technology and for Ocean Science Technology Partnerships. The recommendations were not accepted.
- The NaGISA Project - [www.nagisa.coml.org](http://www.nagisa.coml.org) - is a Census of Marine Life project. NaGISA members are producing the first global census of nearshore habitat. The recently established NaGISA Atlantic Ocean office is coordinated by Dr. Gerhard Pohle and Lou Van Guelpen of the Huntsman Marine Science Centre (HMSC). Discussions are ongoing re establishing DFO-sponsored monitoring sites in NS and PEI.
- DFO and the Centre for Marine Biodiversity are collaborators in the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN). \$35 million was awarded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for the creation of the OTN, headquartered at Dalhousie University. The OTN will integrate research in 14 key regions of the world's oceans. Research will focus on five multidisciplinary themes: ocean physics and modelling; the biology and behaviour of highly migratory marine living resources; the impact of climate change; resource management; and the international social and legal framework for oceans.

Sam Ng'ang'a Macharia reported the following on behalf of Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes Region, Oceans and Habitat Branch:

- Carol Ann Rose, Regional Director, Oceans and Habitat Branch, DFO Maritimes will officially retire as of 15 June. Mike Murphy is acting in the position as of 22 May until the competition has been resolved.
- The Musquash Estuary was designated an MPA under Canada's Oceans Act, the first in NB. The Estuary remains an area of high biological productivity with a variety of coastal habitats. Studies have identified it as one of the last ecologically intact estuaries in the Bay of Fundy region.

- The partners involved in the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI) have signed the Bras d'Or Charter. The purpose of the Charter is to develop an overall management plan for the Bras d'Or Lakes watershed ecosystem and to facilitate its implementation by governments and other stakeholders.
- OAP funding has been directed to the health of the oceans, primarily to MPAs – both individual and networks. The Gulf of Maine project has also received funding.
- In addition to the GIS projects for Salmon Presence Absence Tracking (SPAT) and the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) initiative, the Oceans and Habitat Branch is now beginning to develop a spatial planning, risk assessment and decision support system for the Upper Bay of Fundy. This is being done in partnership with the Species at Risk program.

**SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY:** Nadine Gauvin, SGSLCS, reported the following:

- The Coalition AGM and annual workshop entitled 'Planning for Sustainability: From Vision to Action at the Community Level' were held in Stellarton, NS on 24-26 May. The workshop was well attended and the roundtable sessions prompted lively discussion. A recommendations report is being produced; it will be distributed to members, decision-makers and posted on the Coalition website.
- The proposed theme for the 2008 workshop is the 'Social Economy'. The event will be held at a location in Gaspésie, Québec.
- The Coalition is busy with the following activities:
  - This year, the Coalition will become the coordinating body for the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP). Three summer students have been hired to carry out CAMP activities in NB, NS and PEI.
  - CAMP data will be posted on the Aquatic Ecosystem Knowledge Portal referred to earlier by John Legault. This will facilitate faster analysis of the results.
  - The Coalition's Indicators Advisory Committee, with DFO, are looking at setting up a sediment sampling exercise in response to the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Initiative Working Group's recommendations report.
  - A summer student will be hired to research ways to identify and secure funds for the Coalition. The student will be guided by the Fund/Development Working Group.
  - Proposals aimed at securing grants will be prepared and submitted.

**NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA:** Bob Taylor and Andy Sherin, NRCan, Geological Survey of Canada – Atlantic, reported the following:

- The Earth Sciences Sector (ESS) has published a Business Plan for 2006-2009; the Plan is available at [ess.nrcan.gc.ca/pri/index\\_e.php](http://ess.nrcan.gc.ca/pri/index_e.php).
- NRCan is conducting a North Star process similar to that conducted in Agriculture and AgriFood Canada (AAFC) and Environment Canada (EC). Three new strategic outcomes have been developed focused on three themes: economic opportunities, environmental responsibility and safety, and security and governance. As part of the North Star process a Natural Resources Policy Framework is under development.
- The Atlantic Tsunami Warning System, recently announced by Public Security Minister Stockwell Day, is integrated with the ESS seismic monitoring network.
- A study on nitrate cycles in groundwater conducted by AAFC, ESS and the PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will be used to develop better

agriculture practices. The report entitled “Consequences of climate changes on contamination of drinking water by nitrate on Prince Edward Island” is available at [adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/projdb/pdf/109\\_e.pdf](http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/projdb/pdf/109_e.pdf).

- The ESS Groundwater Mapping program publishes a newsletter. To subscribe, email the Program Manager at [Alfonso.Rivera@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:Alfonso.Rivera@nrcan.gc.ca).
- In order to determine the thickness of sediments on the Nova Scotia margin for the extension of Canada’s boundary under the UN Commission on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), an extensive seismic survey will be conducted in June in water deeper than 3500 m.
- As reported at earlier meetings, the Secure Canadian Energy Supply program of ESS is conducting an oil and gas resource assessment in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and gathering data for a similar exercise in the Labrador Sea.
- The Canadian Spatial Reference System is conducting a height modernization project to transform the vertical datum from a monument-based datum to a space-based datum (*i.e.* using GPS). The project consists of gathering and analyzing technical data to establish the space-based datum and a communication initiative to inform and prepare users of the change.
- Activities at the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) in Dartmouth, NS include multi-beam bathymetric surveys with CHS in the Bay of Fundy, and the St Lawrence estuary and Gulf from Gaspé to Anticosti Island. Maps and other summary information are being produced for Placentia Bay, NL, including a virtual fly through the multi-beam images (see [www.smartbay.ca/whatsnewFrame.html](http://www.smartbay.ca/whatsnewFrame.html)). Marine contaminant activities are in the analysis stage.
- Activities with coastal communities included a cooperative airborne laser mapping survey with the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) in mid-May 2007. The survey was completed by Laser Map Image Plus, Québec. GSCA provided ground validation surveys for a number of coastal types and are awaiting the airborne lidar data. The survey covered mostly the watershed of the Halifax /Dartmouth Bedford area, the coastline to Three Fathom Harbour and Chezzetcook and a large section around Musquodoboit to Martinique Beach.
- GSCA is also working with the municipal planners from Conception Bay South, NL who are concerned about a new residential development along their shores. GSCA provided surveys of shoreline changes nearby.

Bob Taylor reported the following on behalf of Ryan Hennessey, C-CIARN Coastal Zone Office:

- The Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN), including the Coastal Zone office, will come to a close on 30 June.
- Recent work has focussed on a poster outlining climate change adaptation strategies in the coastal zone. The office also convened a workshop on climate change issues related to agriculture in the coastal zone of Atlantic Canada at the regional meeting of Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration in Moncton mid-March. The workshop summary will be released before the end of June.
- The Coastal Zone office has provided funding for the Halifax-based Ecology Action Centre to host a “Coastal Future Learning Centre”. The one-day session will be held on 6 June 2007 from five NS Community College campuses linked by video-conferencing and distance learning technology. The session will focus on the changing climate and coastal conditions. For information, email [coastal@ecologyaction.ca](mailto:coastal@ecologyaction.ca).

- C-CIARN Coastal Zone will be present on Oceans Day at the Halifax waterfront to answer questions and raise awareness about impacts and adaptation to climate change.
- In the Great Lakes region C-CIARN sponsored the distribution of an educational workbook on the Great Lakes and Climate Change for schools located near Lake Huron.

Jacques Grondin, NRCan, Canada Centre for Cadastral Management (CCCM), reported the following:

- Mark Corey was recently appointed as the ESS ADM. Mr. Corey was the architect of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure within ESS – the initiative under which GeoConnections was established.
- The CCCM has traditionally played two roles in the management and maintenance of an efficient survey system that supports the property rights system on Canada Lands: the delivery of client department survey programs, and the regulation of boundaries and surveys. These roles will continue to be delivered through the following programs.
  - Property and Boundary Surveys for the Government of Canada (PBSG): Under this program CCCM manages the property and boundary surveys and geomatics services required by the Government of Canada on Canada Lands. These include surveys for Comprehensive Land Claims, Specific Claims, First Nation Reserves (including additions thereto), National Parks and heritage lands (e.g., canals, historic sites, etc). The majority of surveys are outsourced to the private sector and made official after processing through the Canada Lands Survey System.
  - The Canada Lands Survey System as a Service to Government: The Canada Lands Survey System (CLSS) supports the formal registry systems that record property rights on Canada Lands. All legal surveys on Canada Lands are processed through the CLSS, be they for government departments or private sector organizations. The system conveys official status to surveys for land administration, transfer or dispute resolution. The CLSS includes a legislative framework, standards, cadastral information systems and processes and legal archive required to support multiple property rights regimes operating on Canada Lands. The Canada Boundary Management and Property Systems Program was recently integrated within the Canada Lands Survey System service to government.
  - Canada-US International Boundary Commission: The International Boundary Commission, as required by the Treaty of Washington 1925 with the United States, maintains a well-defined international boundary line and vista. Boundary maintenance involves inspection, monument restoration and maintenance, resurveying and vegetation clearing. These responsibilities also include regulating activities within the vista and providing advice to government on disputed areas.
- At a recent planning session, CCCM developed its vision statement and mission to describe the general direction for the organization, including promoting the development of a marine cadastre. Even though the development of a marine cadastre has yet to be funded, the management of the Canadian ocean space is still a key issue within government. Therefore, CCCM will actively continue its discussions with DFO and other stakeholders with regards to the establishment of a Marine Cadastre.

Rhian Evans reported the following on behalf of Tony Turner, GeoConnections Secretariat:

- The next funding opportunity announcement will be released on 6 June. This funding opportunity is of an integrated nature, covering seven funding envelopes: strategic planning, capacity building, user needs assessments, thematic data, data standards, regional atlases, and geospatial decision support systems – see [www.geoconnections.org/en/opportunities/getDoc=778](http://www.geoconnections.org/en/opportunities/getDoc=778).
- The GeoConnections program is planning to release an integrated funding announcement three times over the next year.
- New opportunities and relevant news items are distributed via the GeoConnections mailing list. To subscribe, access [www.geoconnections.org/en/subscribeForm](http://www.geoconnections.org/en/subscribeForm).

#### **MIRAMICHI RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (MREAC):**

Harry Collins reported the following:

- MREAC has completed a State of the Environment Report for the Miramichi. The authors are John Allen and Peter Eaton. The document is an update of the 1992 report produced by Mick Burt. It will be posted at [www.mreac.org](http://www.mreac.org).
- An Interpretation Centre will open on 22 August for the Oxbow Village / Augustine Cove Mi'kmaq Heritage Park in Red Bank. The project was funded by several partners.

**GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND:** Albert MacDonald, PEI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, reported the following:

- The report on the public consultations on managing land and water on a watershed basis in PEI includes recommendations under six broad categories: governance on a watershed basis; policies, regulations and programs; education/awareness; research and technical support; organization and structure; and funding. The report on consultations, the Guide to Watershed Planning and other documents are available at [www.gov.pe.ca/go/watershedconsultations](http://www.gov.pe.ca/go/watershedconsultations).
- An oceans policy paper is being prepared.
- A lidar mapping project proposal is being developed for the entire Island. Some funding will be provided by Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada.
- Restructuring of some departments will likely take place as a result of the recent provincial election and change of government. The new Cabinet will be announced on 13 June.

**ATLANTIC PROVINCES COUNCIL ON THE SCIENCES:** Grant Gardner, Memorial University and APICS Treasurer, reported the following:

- Mike Butler and Claudette LeBlanc gave a presentation on the ACZISC at the spring meeting of the APICS Council in Moncton. The APICS Council consists of the Deans of Science or their delegates from all of the Atlantic Canadian universities, the chairs of the APICS disciplinary committees, and representatives of the NRC, BIO, HMSC and member community colleges. The Council provides a conduit to academic researchers and educators throughout Atlantic Canada.
- The 2007 CMOS-CGU-AMS Congress is currently taking place in St. John's, NL. The event is hosted by the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographical Society, the Canadian Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society.
- The Geomatics Atlantic 2007 Conference is scheduled for 4-6 June 2007 at the Marine Institute, Memorial University in St. John's, NL. Workshops will take place on 5 June. The theme is *Coastal and Marine Geomatics*.

- The 2008 summer meeting of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography will be held on 8-13 June 2008 in St. John's. A preliminary call for sessions has just been issued.
- The Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) is coordinating events associated with World Oceans Day on 8 June. CWF and its collaborators, including the Coastal Zone Canada Association, now speak in terms of "Rivers to Oceans Week (ROW)", which reflects the important links between land and water that occur in coastal zones. CWF has produced a teaching kit and poster that are distributed to schools across Canada and to collaborating partners. They also maintain and promote a list of ROW activities.

**GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK:** Marianne Janowicz, NB Department of Environment, reported the following:

- The NB Department of Environment will be coordinating with Nova Scotia to complete the Canadian portion of the Atlas on Marine Management Areas in the Gulf of Maine, based on a format established by NOAA. This is to fulfill an action item in the new Gulf of Maine Action Plan.
- The Beach Users Working Group is dealing with aquaculture equipment left on beaches. The location of the equipment is being identified. It will be removed from the beaches, if not removed by the owners. The focus areas are Deer Island and Campobello Island. A process will then be put in place to identify Best Management Practices for aquaculture beach use.
- The Coastal Areas Protection Policy and the Wetlands Policy are still without regulations but are being applied.
- The NB Fisheries Summit was held in February 2007 in Moncton. The theme was a *Common Vision - Common Future*. Following the Summit, stakeholder action groups were established to deal with market-related activities, as well as with processing, harvesting and governance issues. Representatives of industry will work with government officials to prepare recommendations that address the issues identified during the Summit.
- RCOM will be meeting in Charlottetown at a date to be determined. The Committee's terms of reference are being prepared for review at the meeting.
- Efforts will be made to revive the senior-level NB steering committee responsible for collaboration regarding marine management. Russell Henry and Marianne are members of the Working Group. One of the issues to be discussed is collaborative mapping.
- The National Programme of Action Atlantic Team's Management of Contaminated Dredge Material Working Group has completed a project to assess the present management framework for dredge disposal in Atlantic Canada. NB and PEI were found to have the most stringent regulations re dredging. Discussion on the recommendations will now occur with the relevant agencies to attempt to develop a framework that reflects jurisdictional concerns.
- Guidelines have been prepared for the disposal of waste from pleasure craft. Several marine pump-out stations have been installed for this purpose throughout the Province.
- The NB Government is supporting the Government of Canada's opposition to the LNG terminal in Head Harbour Passage.
- An announcement has been made re the projects that will receive funding support from the Environmental Trust Fund in 2007-2008. Several of these are projects that will develop watershed management plans and upgrade malfunctioning septic

- systems in the coastal zone.
- The Gulf of Maine Council Habitat Conservation Sub-committee is finalizing a paper on habitat classification. A workshop is planned for the fall. John Roff, Vladimir Kostylev and Maria Recchia are involved.
- The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) is experiencing financial difficulty. Funding applications will be submitted and a presentation will be made next week to the NB Task Force on Non-Profit Organizations.

**PARKS CANADA:** Rob Thompson, Atlantic Service Centre, reported the following:

- Parks Canada continues to devote most of its resources to the establishment of National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs) on Canada's west coast and the Great Lakes. Nevertheless, work continues on the Feasibility Study for the Îles-de-la-Madeleine study area in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Background studies and research are ongoing. The appointment of the local Advisory Committee has not yet occurred and, as a result, formal public consultation has not yet commenced. Senior level discussions continue on a number of fronts to help move the project forward.
- Parks Canada's interest in the South Coast Fjords area in Newfoundland as a possible NMCA remains strong. Local community support is also clearly evident, e.g., the town of Burgeo. Provincial government support is essential to launch the Feasibility Study. There is no recent progress to report.
- The Feasibility Study for a national park in the Mealy Mountains area in Labrador is well underway. This includes a large area with a significant coastal component. If successful, this would be the 9<sup>th</sup> national park in Atlantic Canada. Several issues remain to be resolved between Parks Canada and the Province and with aboriginal communities.
- In New Brunswick, there is renewed interest in the possible expansion of the Fundy National Park westward toward the Salmon River. Current discussions on the expansion are linked to the completion of the Fundy Trail. Work on the trail has been ongoing for several years. The area in question contains one of the largest undeveloped coastlines in the Province.

**ENVIRONMENT CANADA:** Kathryn Parlee reported the following on behalf of Larry Hildebrand, Sustainable Communities and Ecosystems and Jackie Olsen, Strategic Integration:

- Budget 2007: Funding for Keeping Our Oceans Clean was announced in the 2007 federal budget. This included an announcement of support for increased collaboration with international partners on ocean and transboundary water matters and support for creating a number of new MPAs. Of particular interest for this region was a reference to provide support for the Gulf of Maine project and the creation of an MPA around Sable Island – 2 projects that EC Atlantic Region has and will continue to be actively involved in.
- Gulf of Maine Ecosystem Indicators Partnership (ESIP): ESIP, a committee of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, is developing indicators for the Gulf of Maine and integrating regional data for a new web-based reporting system for marine ecosystem monitoring. Activities of ESIP initially centre on convening regional practitioners in six indicator areas: coastal development, contaminants and pathogens, eutrophication, aquatic habitat, fisheries and aquaculture, and climate change.

- ESIP is currently working on developing the interactive web-based mapping tool with funding received from GeoConnections. The initial focus is on the contaminants and eutrophication indicator data. Development of the application is now ongoing and a functional system is anticipated by the end of this year.
- ESIP and the Gulf of Maine Climate Change Network (CCN) are co-hosting a one-day workshop on 11 June 2007 in St. Andrews, NB. This is the inaugural event for the new Climate Change Network. The workshop will focus on possible impacts of climate change on ecosystems in the Gulf of Maine region and implications for indicators and monitoring. ESIP will also be providing updates on its six subcommittees and discussing ideas for moving forward on indicator development and achieving its goals over the next 6 months.
- ESIP and the Gulf of Maine GulfWatch Monitoring Program are partnering to conduct a coastal manager user needs assessment. GulfWatch is a chemical-contaminants monitoring program that measures contaminants in blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) to assess the types and concentration of contaminants in coastal waters of the Gulf of Maine. GulfWatch data for eleven contaminants are available in an interactive web-based map that enables users to explore geographic patterns and changes over time in the Gulf of Maine. The user needs assessment will focus on a review of the existing GulfWatch website and interactive map and identify changes and/or tools that could be incorporated to improve the site and make the information more useful for coastal managers. ESIP has partnered in this assessment because of the links to the contaminants and eutrophication subcommittees and to improve its interactive online tool that is currently being developed.
- Atlantic Coastal Action Program: Southcoast Labrador ACAP has now hired its Executive Director. Over the next few months the group will be recruiting volunteers and developing priorities for its activities. Happy Valley-Goose Bay ACAP is currently in the process of hiring an Executive Director.
- Participants may be interested in NOAA's Digital Coast: Legislative Atlas - [www.csc.noaa.gov/legislativeatlas/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/legislativeatlas/).

**PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA:** Michel Goguen, Geomatics and Spatial Technology, reported the following:

- The Department has purchased a multibeam system: a Reson SeaBat 7125 with 0.5° resolution and dual frequency. It will be used for inspection of structures, e.g., wharves and breakwaters.
- The Department is involved in the investigation of problem areas with DFO, e.g., CCG navigational aids support.
- This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Confederation Bridge. Bill Blight was the PWGSC project engineer for the Bridge.
- Michel will be moving to Burlington, ON this summer where he has accepted a position with CHS.

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK:** Katalin Komjathy reported on research related to coastal issues at the UNB Department of Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering:

- Ocean Mapping Group: Seabed Mapping Projects - [www.omg.unb.ca/omg/Projects.html](http://www.omg.unb.ca/omg/Projects.html).
- Marine Cadastre and Information Management Research Group:
  - Technical Report: M. Hutchison: Toward A Consensus Building Within Canada's Aquaculture Industry: Design of A Framework for Addressing Conflict,

- Information Management and Public Consultation - [gge.unb.ca/Pubs/Pubs.html](http://gge.unb.ca/Pubs/Pubs.html)
- Technical Report: M. Sutherland: Marine Boundaries and Good Governance of Marine Spaces [gge.unb.ca/Pubs/Pubs.html](http://gge.unb.ca/Pubs/Pubs.html)
- Research in progress: T. Johnston: The Potential Use of Geographic Information Systems as a Decision-Making Tool Within Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Research in progress: K. Komjathy: Ocean and Coastal Information Management Strategy: A Systems Engineering Approach
- Research in progress: R. White: Ocean Observation Systems in Atlantic Canada
- A panel discussion was hosted on 11 May 2007 by UNB and the Canadian Council on International Law: (Not So) Innocent Passage: International Law and the Passamaquoddy Bay LNG Terminal Controversy.
- The US Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) is using a marine cadastre developed at UNB.

**CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY:** Bruce Hatcher reported the following:

- Bruce is the University's Chair in Marine Ecosystem Research, and Director of the revitalized Bras d'Or Institute at the University.
- He currently is focusing on the use of synoptic ecological tools (e.g., remote sensing, numerical modeling) for management decision support in coastal ecosystems. This is being tested in the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI).
- The Bras d'Or Lakes are a hydrodynamically complex inland sea that provide diverse habitats for benthic biota and their dispersive life stages. The oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), its preferred settlement substratum (the eelgrass, *Zostera marina*), and its protozoan parasite (*Haplosporidium nelsoni*) comprise a network of bio-geographic elements that are functionally linked to each other, and to the ecologic and economic health of Cape Breton.
- The goal is to model the connections among these species and their habitats in terms of the fluxes of larvae and spores under typical and extreme forcing conditions in both hind cast and fore cast modes.
- Airborne, hyperspectral remote sensing (CASI) is used to map the spatial distribution of oyster habitat. A spectral library is being built.
- The preliminary results were reviewed, as well as the remaining work to be done.

**GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR:** The following was reported on behalf of Tammy Keats, NL Department of Environment and Conservation:

- The Policy and Planning Division received \$23 million to help support clean air and energy efficiency projects associated with the Climate Change Action Plan (2005). The funding will be used to move forward on clean-energy related projects, which may include: measures to improve the energy efficiency of public buildings; greenhouse gas reductions through enhanced waste management techniques, including methane gas recovery and utilization; and climate change innovations funding to support energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas production, particularly in rural and remote areas. An application package is being put together for those interested in submitting a proposal for consideration.
- Early in May the Pollution Prevention Division began to implement a \$200 million multi-year Provincial Waste Management Strategy to ensure effective and efficient

management of solid waste in Newfoundland and Labrador. The strategy will establish a waste diversion program and waste management regions, develop modern standards and technology, maximize economic and employment opportunities, result in the closure of 80% of all waste sites in the Province and assist with a public education program. Capital costs will be supported through an allocation of approximately 30% of the Gas Tax revenue.

- Dr. Amir Ali Kahn, Manager of Hydrologic Modelling, Water Resources Division was invited to present at the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Monitoring for Environment and Security international meeting, sponsored by the European Space Agency and held in Frascati, Italy. The focus of his presentation was the Badger River ice monitoring system that has been developed in collaboration with C-CORE.
- The Department provided OceanNet with \$20K in support of its NL Environmental Action Team program. One of the main goals of this program is to empower communities to take responsibility and initiate activities that protect the environment, in particular areas around and within coastal communities.
- The pilot year for the Environmental Science Curriculum Project will be completed in the next few weeks. The objective of the project was to develop and implement a new high school environmental science curriculum for Grade 9, including a curriculum guide, student textbook and teacher resource package. This resource package will profile current environmental issues using Newfoundland and Labrador case studies. The project is being developed jointly between the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Education in cooperation with nine other federal and provincial partners.

The following was reported on behalf of Patrick Shea, NL Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture:

- Preparation of the Discussion Paper for the NL Strategy and Policy Framework on Coastal and Ocean Management is ongoing.
- Preparation is also ongoing for the draft Issues Scan of specific coastal and oceans areas. The document will be edited and refined before making it public.
- The Department is continuing to partner with DFO in five Coastal Management Areas (CMAs) and two Large Ocean Management Areas (LOMAs). While new funding for these initiatives was not identified in the federal budget, planning is ongoing to fulfil the commitment to develop a policy and the research potential associated with a Federal - Provincial agreement on the coast and oceans.
- This year, the Department has partnered with the Department of Environment and Conservation on planning for Oceans Day. A student will be involved in this event.