

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

## ***Roundtable and Presentations***

### ***ACZISC Meeting #55***

**Date: Wednesday and Thursday, 24-25 September 2008**

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

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#### ***PARTICIPANTS*** (<sup>1</sup> ACZISC member; <sup>2</sup> Advisory Committee member; <sup>3</sup> Director, ACZISC Association)

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| Tim Hall <sup>1, 2</sup>         | Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region, Oceans and Habitat Branch                           | 902-426-4116                 |
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***PLEASE NOTE: “Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada”  
is a subset of the Minutes of ACZISC Meeting #55,  
held on 24-25 September 2008 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-ACZISC.htm>.***

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

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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

**Update on the Southwest NB Bay of Fundy Marine Resources Planning,**  
*by Andrew Breau, NB Agriculture and Aquaculture, and Fisheries*

**Update on the NB Coastal Areas Protection Policy,**  
*by Paul Jordan, NB Environment*

**Using Risk Assessment for Integrated Management,** including speaking notes (in rhyme), *by John Legault, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

**Grand Banks Marine Representative Areas - Potential Area Identification for Parks Canada,** *by Norval Collins, CEF Consultants*

**COINAtlantic Concept and Wireframe Demonstration**  
*by Paul Boudreau, ACZISC Secretariat*

**Managing and Administering Coastal and Marine Spaces - COINAtlantic Marine Cadastre Prototype,** *by Michael Sutherland, University of West Indies*

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

**COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION / CONFERENCE SERIES:** Grant Gardner, President, CZCA, reported the following:

- The 8<sup>th</sup> Coastal Zone Canada Conference (CZC) was held on 25-29 May 2008 on the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC.
- A Conference Statement and Call for Action has been prepared and will be distributed to CZC 2008 participants and communicated to key decision makers throughout government, the private sector and the NGO community.
- The action items in the Statement were reviewed, including the need to more fully integrate the youth component of the CZC conferences into the 'main' conference.
- The Association will be working closely with the Government of PEI and other partners to plan the CZC 2010 Conference.

Kelly Cantelo, PEI Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development, provided an update on the Coastal Zone Canada 2010 Conference:

- The Coastal Zone Canada (CZC) 2010 Conference has been scheduled for 24-29 July 2010 at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, PEI.
- A CZC 2010 Steering Committee is being formed, including representatives from EC, DFO, watershed groups, the PEI Department of Environment, UPEI, and First Nations.
- The theme is "Healthy Oceans – Strong Coastal Communities". Possible sub-themes Include: Climate Change; Watershed Planning; Coastal Economies;

- Marine Protected Areas; Renewable Offshore Energy; Alternate Land Use; Wind Energy; Integrated Information Management; and Aquatic Invasive Species.
- A CZC 2010 Facebook account has been created at <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=27661087534>.
- Efforts will be made to ensure that CZC 2010 is a Green Conference. The event will be as paperless as possible, hybrid cars will be used for transportation, etc. Environment Canada's Green Meeting Guide will be used to plan the event – see [http://www.ecogouvernement.gc.ca/F5B1C0BC-741C-4493-B4B7-B0D56BBE6566/Green\\_Meeting\\_Guide\\_07.pdf](http://www.ecogouvernement.gc.ca/F5B1C0BC-741C-4493-B4B7-B0D56BBE6566/Green_Meeting_Guide_07.pdf).
- An event planner has been hired for the Conference.
- Participants interested in becoming involved in planning for CZC 2010 to contact Kelly Cantelo ([kdcantelo@gov.pe.ca](mailto:kdcantelo@gov.pe.ca)).

**NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA:** Tony Turner, GeoConnections, reported the following:

- The GeoConnections program is scheduled to end on 31 March 2010. A review was carried out recently on budget forecasting and program rationalization for the remainder of the program. The possibility of extending it for an extra “wind down year” to 2011 is also being discussed.
- A process, led by the GeoConnections policy team, is underway to prepare for a third GeoConnections program. A report from a June 2008 “sustainability of the CGDI” workshop has been prepared. Note that the sustainability of the CGDI (the infrastructure) is not dependent on the future existence of GeoConnections (a funding and partnership program). Other programs associated with infrastructure, including GeoGratis, the Discovery portal and the promotion of online standards and use of web-based tools and services, will very likely continue regardless of the future of the GeoConnections program.
- Aside from managing existing environmental projects (approximately half of all projects funded by GeoConnections), the current priorities for the remainder of the program include support for the following multi-agency initiatives:
  - o Integrated Landscape Management (ILM): This effort, which also includes watersheds and marine management, will link a national multi-agency network of ILM practitioners through a knowledge sharing process. Environment Canada, with the support of the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), is coordinating activities such as sharing ILM research and best practices, tools and technologies to measure and model landscapes at a regional scale; developing a knowledge base surrounding cumulative effects; and developing an understanding of regional decision-making processes and the contribution of geospatial data to those processes. Four pilot studies have been targeted to receive funding. Two are located in Atlantic Canada - the Bras d'Or Lakes Institute Ecosystem Research (Cape Breton University) and the NL Department of Natural Resources. GeoConnections is investing over \$1M in the ILM initiative.
  - o Environmental Assessment: This is a multi-agency, corporate capacity building process. GeoConnections is working with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) to help the CEAA and its partners to develop a geospatial information management capacity in support of project-based environmental assessment and regional environmental assessment (REA). REA is an emerging approach designed to assess the cumulative

environmental effects arising from multiple projects and related developments. A Business Case was prepared for this initiative. Future activities envisioned include web enabling national EA related datasets, assisted by the latest tools and technologies. One federally led, multi-stakeholder, regional pilot study to demonstrate integrated approaches to support REA is intended to be funded. This project will also take part in the ILM knowledge sharing activities.

- COINAtlantic web portal: This multi-agency system project, led by the ACZISC, has the objective to provide one-window discovery of, and access to, a variety of distributed geospatial data and other related information held by federal and provincial departments and other agencies operating in the coastal and ocean region of Atlantic Canada. GeoConnections is providing additional technical advice and assistance to help ensure the system is interoperable with the current and future versions of the GeoConnections Discovery portal and other targeted data catalogues. GeoConnections is pleased to learn of the vision to communicate and expand the 'COINAtlantic approach' to the other coastal and ocean regions of Canada.

**FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA**: Charlie O'Reilly, Canadian Hydrographic Service - Atlantic, reported the following:

- Field Surveys:
  - CHS is continuing coastal multibeam mapping of Northern Labrador. This mapping has been ongoing for the past several years. Partners include NRCan, C-Core, Memorial University and Freeport Resources Inc (a BC-based company interested in beach sand mining of garnet minerals).
  - The third and final year of multibeam mapping of the Bay of Fundy is being completed for the Geoscience for Ocean Management (GOM) Program led by NRCan. Partners include the Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic), CHS and various provincial tidal power interests.
  - Multibeam surveys continue this fall along the south coast of Newfoundland (Port aux Basques and from Ramea to the Penguin Islands).
  - Revisory surveys of Shelburne Harbour, Mahone Bay and North Sydney have been completed.
  - Work has begun in the Charlottetown / Point Prim area of the Northumberland Strait for DFO's Ecosystem Science multibeam mapping.
- Nautical Publications: Ten new charts for coastal Labrador are planned for production within the next few years.
- Tides and Currents:
  - Real-time water levels are now available for emergency management purposes via Environment Canada's Atlantic Storm Surge / Tsunami Warning System. An example of signal detection for a recent small sea surface anomaly in Newfoundland was shown.
  - Several submersible tide gauges were deployed throughout the Bay of Fundy to acquire year-long observations. These data are necessary to determine accurate high and low water thresholds, vertical datums and to acquire analytical information in support of bathymetric surveys and tidal modeling.
  - CHS hosted a meeting of the International Hydrographic Organization Tidal Committee (IHO-TC) on 23-26 October 2007 - see <http://www.iho-ohi.net/english/committees-wg/tc.html>. This was the first meeting of the IHO-TC in North America.

John Legault, DFO Gulf Region, Oceans and Habitat, reported the following:

The Gulf Region has been chosen, and it's something to boast  
As a Centre of experts to manage our coast  
The Northumberland Strait was selected  
Where data is being collected  
To determine which stressors are affecting it most

We've just had a workshop, we held it out west  
To examine R A tools and pick out the best  
If EORs or just maps were used  
Participants felt quite abused  
The conclusion was that we need lots more to test

The TFK data is twelve years of age  
It needs a fresh update and so I've engaged  
The Southern Gulf Coalition  
To undertake the new edition  
And to add community values in this stage

There are also some projects at a national scope  
That need so much data that it is difficult to cope  
The SECOA exercise  
And Regional AOIs  
Will we finish by next meeting ...I don't think so – nope.

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

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) Forum Workshop will be held on 25-26 November at Pier 21 in Halifax. The focus of the Workshop, hosted by the ESSIM Stakeholder Advisory Committee, is the implementation of the ESSIM Plan. Other Workshop topics include: marine spatial planning; integrated coastal management in NS; ICOM and environmental assessment; case studies from other integrated management efforts; MPA network planning; and information and mapping in support of ICOM. Participation in the event is encouraged. For information, email [essim@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:essim@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca).
- As part of the Health of the Oceans (HoTO) initiative, DFO Maritimes is in the process of identifying a candidate Area of Interest (AOI) for the establishment of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) on the Scotia Shelf. Staff are currently evaluating ecological layers. The first public consultation will take place at the ESSIM Forum Workshop.
- The Oceans and Coastal Management Division (OCMD) has completed its staffing and reorganization into two sections: Integrated Management (headed by Glen Herbert) and Conservation Planning (headed by Maxine Westhead).
- Under the Canada/US Transboundary Steering Committee (DFO/NMFS), a Working Group is developing an Ecosystem Overview for the Gulf of Maine. A draft will be available in the winter of 2009. It will be peer reviewed later in the year.
- DFO Maritimes is developing an Ecosystem Approach to Management framework. The approach is to develop management responses to address cumulative impacts

of human activities. Internal workshops will be held, to be followed by external consultation.

- Through a multi-stakeholder workshop, the first draft of a recovery strategy for Northern Bottlenose whale is complete. This will be distributed for public input later this year.

Geoff Coughlan, DFO NL Region, Oceans and Habitat Management Branch, reported the following:

- Placentia Bay/Grand Banks Large Ocean Management Area (PB/GB LOMA):
  - o Science has identified a series of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and valued ecosystem components (Conservation Objectives - COs) for the PB/GB LOMA.
  - o Information is being compiled on each of the COs and EBSAs to allow a preliminary assessment and subsequent ranking of the COs. High priority COs selected by this process will undergo a formal Science Assessment in 2009.
  - o A Conservation Objectives Workshop was held on 20 May 2008 to provide clarification on COs by expanding upon DFO's efforts towards prioritizing these Science considerations into an operational context.
  - o The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the PB/GB LOMA Committee is tentatively scheduled for 30 October 2008. TORs for the Committee will be tabled for adoption, and the skeletal outline for the IM Plan will be presented for consensus.
  - o In addition to the above, work has been carried out in developing a socio-economic overview for the PB/GB LOMA, including the identification of parameters and variables to be included.
- Area of Interest (AOI) for Marine Protected Area Establishment: An internal Area of Interest (AOI) Regional Selection Process working group has been formed. Informal discussions have taken place with representatives of FFAW, GEAC, CAPP, CNLOPB, WWF, CPAWS, EC, PC and the Province to update them on DFO's plans and activities. The EBSAs map formed the basis of discussion at each bi-lateral discussion. Formal consultations are planned this fall with the membership of these groups.
- Placentia Bay and Coast of Bays Coastal Management Areas: The IM Plan for Placentia Bay was accepted at the AGM held in June 2008. It is hoped that the IM Plan for Coast of Bays will be accepted at its meeting on 14 October. The meeting will also feature an update on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in the Coast of Bays.
- Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management:
  - o The inaugural meeting of the Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management (GOSLIM) western Newfoundland and southern Labrador (WNSL) Sub-Committee was held in Corner Brook on 10 June. The Sub-Committee of relevant stakeholders will contribute western Newfoundland/southern Labrador perspectives on issues and priorities for the GOSLIM initiative.
  - o The Sub-Committee contributed to developing the broader GOSLIM Strategic Plan (multi-year) and three region working groups on Areas of Interest for MPA establishment.
  - o The NL Social Economic and Cultural (SEC) Overview has been completed. The DFO Gulf and Quebec Regions expect to have overviews completed by March 2009. The next step is to bring together these three studies to assess SEC objectives and prepare a SECOA document for GOSLIM.

- As for the PB/GB LOMA, the goal is to establish and implement a relevant process (that would align with the CO process) to determine social/cultural and economic objectives.
- As part of the EBSAs process NL Region identified more than 190 marine sensitive areas in western Newfoundland and southern Labrador in consultation with resource users and conservationists. These are currently being mapped for use by DFO and other partners as a planning tool.
- GOSLIM Coastal Management Areas: NL currently supports Integrated Management Initiatives in three GOSLIM areas:
  - Bay St. George/Port au Port Peninsula - BSG/PAP Marine and Coastal Resources Steering Committee: In 2007-2008, the Steering Committee completed a validation exercise of the boundary for the BSG/PAP CMA, and an analysis and assessment of issues identified during multi-stakeholder sessions held in April 2007. In 2008-2009, the Steering Committee will identify priority items from the results of the issues analysis and assessment and develop a multi-year strategic/action plan.
  - Bay of Islands - ACAP Humber Arm Environmental Association: In 2007-2008, ACAP facilitated a meeting to engage community stakeholders in discussions regarding local issues and also facilitated meetings with stakeholders to endorse the Bay of Islands as a CMA. In 2008-2009, ACAP will seek broader endorsement of the Comprehensive Environmental Management Plan for the Bay of Islands area, and continue to create an awareness of the marine and coastal areas.
  - Great Northern Peninsula - Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Steering Committee: In 2007-2008, the ICZM Steering Committee engaged in several planning sessions to identify goals and objectives and developed a multi-year strategic/action plan for the Great Northern Peninsula. In 2008-2009, the ICZM Steering Committee will seek broader endorsement of the multi-year strategic/action plan.
  - In February 2008, DFO hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual CMA meeting, bringing together representatives from the three CMAs to share ideas and discuss work initiatives and coastal issues.
- Marine Protected Areas:
  - Monitoring programs are ongoing: cod monitoring for the Gilbert Bay MPA and lobster for the Eastport MPA.
  - The report entitled "Assessing Marine Protected Areas as a conservation tool: a decade later, are we continuing to ensure the viability of the lobster population at Eastport, Newfoundland" has gone through the DFO internal review process.
  - The Gilbert Bay and Eastport Monitoring reports (methods and general trends) will be completed by early October.
  - Proceedings of two MPA Regional Update and Science Workshops are ready to be submitted to the Ocean and Coastal series for the NL Region.
- Marine Debris: An educational DVD is currently in production with the official launch planned for Oceans Day 2009.
- Coldwater Coral Centre of Expertise: DFO NL Region was recently chosen to house the Centre. Jason Simms has been named the manager.
- Northern Labrador Community-based Coastal Resource Inventory (CCRI): The pilot phase was conducted in two communities - Nain and Rigolet. Initial planning for the next phase is underway and interviews and mapping will be completed for

- three more communities this fiscal year.
- Offshore TEK: A pilot project was undertaken in 2007 as part of GOSLIM (West Coast NL) NAFO Subarea 4Ra, in partnership with FFAW. The data collection protocol was similar to that used for the CCRI. Additional partners are being identified (e.g., CAPP, DFO Science).

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

- The Coalition is hosting the Social Economy and Sustainable Societies Summit on 5 December 2008 in Bonaventure, Québec. The purpose of this event is to strengthen partnerships between all Southern Gulf stakeholders. The goal is also to develop a key set of recommendations for adoption by the participants to enhance the positioning of watershed organizations and other natural resources based associations as important contributors to the social economy of their respective regions – <http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/summit2008>.
- The Status of Women Canada sponsored project, ‘Women in Coastal Communities - Securing a Healthy, Economic Future’ is progressing well. Eight learning sessions (2 in each of the provinces of NB, NS, PEI and QC) will commence in early October. The sessions are targeted for low-income women to help them improve their economic situation. These sessions will identify the tools and resources necessary to start a small business.
- The Coalition will be applying to GeoConnections for funding under the category of Capacity-building to train member organizations to enter and retrieve data using the online regional sustainability atlas. The goal is to improve decision-making processes and ecosystem management planning.
- This past summer the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) engaged 25 community organizations throughout the three Maritime Provinces. With funding support from DFO and Service Canada, the Coalition hired three summer students to help coordinate the CAMP sampling activities.
- Environment Canada funding was recently approved for the Coalition to pursue the outcomes of its 2007 research project on medicine gatherers. The next phase, ‘Sharing climate change related traditional medicine knowledge in First Nation communities in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence region’, includes working with four First Nation band councils to incorporate important recommendations into their land-use planning and with developing climate change adaptation strategies.
- The next Coalition Steering Committee meeting is at 10am on 26 September at the Gulf Fisheries Centre in Moncton. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- For more information on all Coalition activities, see <http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca>.

**GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA**: Sean Weseloh McKeane, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, reported the following:

- State of Nova Scotia’s Coast Report:
  - o The “State of Nova Scotia’s Coast Report” will cover key trends relating to the Province’s coastline including: natural; socio-economic; and built coastal environments – using State of Environment reporting methodology.
  - o The report will also include the following supplementary resources: summary report (approximately 15 pages); PowerPoint presentation on key trends; 6 priority issue fact sheets (coastal development; water quality; sensitive coastal ecosystems / habitats; public coastal access; working waterfronts; sea-level rise

- o and coastal storm events).
- o The consulting firm CBCL Ltd was hired in early September to complete the study (anticipated completion date: March 2009).
- o The project is currently in the information gathering stage; CBCL will be presenting an annotated table of contents to the Provincial Ocean Network (PON) for review and input in October / November.
- Regional Adaptation Cooperative:
  - o The Atlantic Provinces (NB, NL, NS and PEI) are working together on a project to assess vulnerability to climate change. This project proposal will be submitted to NRCan.
  - o The focus areas are coastal communities, inland waters, and coastal infrastructure.
  - o Jacques Whitford has been hired to assist with writing the proposal (due at the end of October 2008).
- Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC): NS is hosting the GOMC Secretariat this year. Secretariat responsibilities rotate yearly among the various Provinces / States within the Gulf of Maine / Bay of Fundy area.
- NS Strategy Coordination:
  - o Public consultations have been completed for NS's water and natural resources strategies. Reports on public feedback are available on the respective Department websites: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water/waterstrategy.asp> and [http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/voluntary\\_planning.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/voluntary_planning.asp).
  - o Staff for the strategies that have linkages to coastal management and land-use issues (Natural Resources / Coastal / Water / Climate change) are working together to facilitate coordination across provincial government.

Ed Light, Service NS and Municipal Affairs, reported the following:

- GeoNOVA continues to develop/enhance its geographic catalogue of geographic information and services. Version 1.2 will include improvements to all three tiers of the catalogue: edit (custodian); search; and administration tools
- GeoNOVA partnered with NS Environment to develop the Wind Atlas of Nova Scotia. The Atlas was launched this month - <http://www.nswindatlas.ca>.
- The GeoNOVA Steering Committee has requested that the GeoNOVA Secretariat report on the opportunities and gaps in education. This fall the Secretariat will conduct roundtables with employers, academics (secondary and post secondary) and potentially recent graduates. The roundtables will focus on the issues each group faces in applying geomatics tools, techniques, principles and practices.
- A model for data sharing is being developed for GeoNOVA. The GeoNOVA Data Exchange will focus on partnerships for data sharing. The Working Group will deliver a draft Exchange model to the GeoNOVA Steering Committee in January 2009.
- GeoNOVA also continues to work with the NS Government's Corporate IT Operations in order to determine the feasibility of a data warehouse model to assist with the delivery of the Exchange.

**PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA:** Dave Matthews, PWGSC, reported the following:

- The Geomatics and Spatial Technology unit supports the work of the Real Property section of PWGSC.

- Areas of responsibility in the marine sector include transportation and navigation, and primary data acquisition.
- Environmental issues have become a significant factor in the Department's activities, including locating and remediating 'problematic' situations, and planning to avoid these problems in the future.
- PWGSC often works closely and shares data with CHS.

**MIRAMICHI RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE:** Harry Collins, MREAC, reported the following:

- The Miramichi watershed covers 23% of the New Brunswick landmass. It includes a large estuary, an extensive coastal zone and barrier islands. The watershed extends 54 km inland.
- MREAC (<http://www.mreac.org>) is one of sixteen Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) sites located throughout Atlantic Canada. The ACAP program, initiated by Environment Canada in 1991, is currently undergoing a review.
- The NB Environmental Trust Fund is a strong supporter of the NB-based ACAP sites.
- MREAC's eighteen core programs are focused primarily on environmental monitoring and watershed management.
- The "State of the Environment Report for the Miramichi Watershed - 2007" is available at <http://www.mreac.org/newsletters/SOERfinal.pdf>. The report is an update to the 1992 report.
- MREAC is carrying out a study of freshwater mussels as a possible indicator species. The study, scheduled for completion in 2010, has received financial support from the NB Wildlife Trust Fund.
- MREAC is also involved in a Water Classification project in partnership with the Province. This process should last a minimum of four years.

**GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK:** Russell Henry, Agriculture and Aquaculture, and Fisheries, reported the following:

- Jim McKay has been appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Aquaculture, and Fisheries. He was formerly the Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.
- Tidal Energy:
  - o Eleven crown land leases of 25 hectares each have been awarded to Irving Oil, in partnership with the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, to evaluate the potential for development of in-stream tidal power in the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick - <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/nr/2008e0767nr.htm>.
  - o The current focus of the NB Government is on developing a policy for allocating crown lands for in-stream tidal power generation.
- Integrated Marine Planning:
  - o The draft Strategic Plan for the Southwest NB Marine Resources Planning initiative is scheduled for review by late October. A Community Forum will be held in February 2009 to review the draft Plan and discuss its implementation. It is anticipated that the Strategic Plan will be finalized and signed by the Steering Committee members by March 2009. The Southwest NB initiative may be used as a model for conducting marine planning in other regions of NB.
  - o The Northumberland Strait planning exercise, initiated because of concerns with the decline of lobster catches, has led to the development of an integrated management plan for the Strait. A meeting of NB and NS Government

personnel will be held on 17 October to discuss future developments. This will be further discussed by the Regional Committee on Oceans Management (RCOM) and provincial personnel at a meeting on 6 November in Moncton.

- The Oceans Working Committee of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) will be meeting on 21 October in St. John's to address the resolutions passed at NEG/ECP Conferences. Duplication of effort with other IM groups will also be discussed.
- This year, the NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is hosting the Secretariat for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. The GoM Working Group, chaired by Justin Huston, will be meeting on 6-7 October in Kennebunkport, Maine. The agenda will include discussions re a Gulf of Maine Summit, tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2010.
- NB Government personnel and DFO Maritimes personnel are developing a draft MoU for IM in the Bay of Fundy. BC Government personnel will be contacted to discuss the Canada-BC MoU re IM on the Pacific Coast.
- The Province supports the concept of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) but only within the context of the Integrated Planning process and as a tool for marine/coastal planning.

**CEF CONSULTANTS:** Norval Collins reported the following:

- New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are both moving ahead with some pilot tidal power developments. A test site has been selected in the Minas Channel west of Black Rock near Parrsboro in Nova Scotia. Minas Basin Pulp and Power is responsible for the test facility where 3 different types of turbines will be installed. Background studies are underway and CEF is developing a background report on fisheries and fish migration.
- CEF is continuing to prepare an environmental assessment for the SEIFish project, a DFO-led research project examining the behavioural effect of seismic surveys on groundfish. Public meetings will be held in Halifax and St. John's in November.
- CEF is helping to organize a trade mission on climate change to Washington, DC in mid-November. The mission coincides with the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Technologies to be held on 16-20 November 2008 in Washington - <http://web.mit.edu/ghgt9/index.html>.
- The International Association of Impact Assessment is holding a conference on Cumulative Effects Assessment on 6-9 November in Calgary, AB - <http://www.iaia.org/modx/index.php?id=386>. CEF is helping to organize a climate change session at the Conference.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE:** Flemming Rasmussen, MARLANT Formation Environment, reported the following:

- DND participated in the recent DFO-sponsored Northern Bottlenose Whale Recovery Strategy development meetings and is awaiting the consolidated final version of the Strategy.
- DND is very pleased with the progress made in 2008 on COINAtlantic re its transition from concept to "beta" version release. DND looks forward to using the system.

**ENVIRONMENT CANADA:** Anthony Pouw, Environmental Emergencies, reported the following:

- **Shoreline Sensitivity Mapping:**
  - o The Environmental Emergencies Section has developed a GIS to assist with minimizing the environmental impacts of spills involving oil or other hazardous substances. The GIS incorporates environmental data, such as: the biological species present, shoreline type, distinctive physical features of the area which could hamper cleanup efforts, human activities typical of the coastal area, and the cleanup infrastructures required to deal with a spill situation.
  - o The shoreline sensitivity study for Newfoundland has been completed; 206 maps have been produced. Efforts are now focused on Voiseys Bay in Labrador.
  - o The shoreline sensitivity mapping for NB and PEI has been updated. The mapping for NS will also be updated.
  - o A working group is reviewing the resources required to move E-MAP, the web mapping interface for the sensitivity mapping - <http://www.e-map.gc.ca>, to a new architecture.
- **Regional Environmental Emergency Teams (REETs):** In 1973, Environment Canada set up REETs to give advice on how to prevent, plan for and respond to environmental emergencies. The REETs include representatives from federal and provincial government agencies responsible for environmental protection, and from private industry. A meeting of the Atlantic REET is scheduled for 22-23 October 2008 in St John's, NL.

**ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY:** The following notes were provided (post-meeting) by Don Hogan, ACOA:

- Funding has been announced recently for a new Marine Base in Holyrood, located a half-hour's drive from St. John's, NL – refer to the press release at <http://www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/e/media/press/press.shtml?4199>.
- The Holyrood Marine Base will:
  - o include research labs in support of ocean technology and testing of new products for the sector;
  - o serve as a base for two research vessels, Remote Operated Vehicles and Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, and associated training and research;
  - o include two wet labs for biological, applied fisheries and marine research;
  - o support R&D activities by the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science, Memorial University of Newfoundland; and,
  - o house up to 50 faculty/researchers and include a seminar facility and classrooms.