

COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Presentations and Roundtable

ACZISC Meeting #59

Date: Wednesday and Thursday, 20-21 January 2010

Location: Maritime College of Forest Technology, Hugh John
Flemming Forestry Centre, Fredericton, NB

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***PLEASE NOTE: "Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada"
is a subset of the Minutes of ACZISC Meeting #59,
held on 20-21 January 2010 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 were made; they are online at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm>:

Power Sharing in the Coastal Zone: Shifting Roles of Government in Community-based Coastal Management: Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada, presented the research associated with his PhD thesis (Cardiff University). The research identified the need for a 'shifting' role for governments in sharing power with community-based partners. It also indicated that governments can indeed, over time, rely on community-based organizations to take on many management functions that are best-placed for delivery at the local level (*i.e.* subsidiarity).

Finding, Getting, and Using Indicator Data for the Gulf of Maine: Christine Tilburg, ESIP Program Manager, briefed participants on the EcoSystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP). The Partnership was formed in 2006 by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to assess the health of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem through the use of indicators. She described the ESIP Indicator Reporting Tool, reviewed the datasets currently available in the ESIP Tool and gave examples of the kinds of questions that the ESIP Tool can help to answer - for details, see <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/esip>.

Overview of the State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report: Justin Huston, NS Fisheries and Aquaculture, described the Report as a baseline to determine future trends with regards to the physical, ecological, and socio-economic characteristics of the coast. The Report examines six priority coastal issues in more detail: Coastal development; Working waterfronts; Public coastal access; Sea-level rise and Storm events; Coastal water quality; and Sensitive coastal ecosystems. The report materials, including Fact Sheets on the priority coastal issues, are available at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/coast/state-of-the-coast.htm>.

GeoNB - New Brunswick's Spatial Data Infrastructure Initiative: Bernie Connors, Service NB, reported that GeoNB is being implemented by Service NB in collaboration with several provincial and municipal government departments. He described GeoNB as a free tool to provide online access to geographic information about the Province, including property maps, aerial photos and topographic maps. Goals include: reducing duplication of spatial data and services; improving data access and sharing, and data quality and reliability; and reducing costs and effort on projects requiring spatial data. Bernie provided a live demonstration of the GeoNB Map Viewer, the application for viewing the maps and aerial photos using any web browser - <http://www.snb.ca/geonb>.

ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES and UPDATES ON ACZISC RELATED PROGRAMS

COINATLANTIC: Paul Boudreau, ACZISC Secretariat, reported the following:

- DFO Maritimes has agreed to extend the secondment of Paul Boudreau as COINAtlantic Project Manager to the end of March 2010. DFO is leading discussions on support for the secondment from other partners for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
- In mid-November, GeoConnections implemented the new version of the GeoConnections Discovery Portal (GDP) that has been under development for the past two years. As a result of the change, the COINAtlantic Search Utility (CSU) (<http://coinatlantic.ca/searchutility.html>) became inoperable. Rudimentary searching was re-established before Christmas. Subsequent testing has identified additional problems. These are being communicated to the GeoConnections staff to try and recover the functionality that was available with the previous version of the GDP.
- Alternative search methodologies are being investigated by a work group led by COINAtlantic personnel. One option is to publish KLM files with appropriate attributes and use Google to search them. If successful, this approach would allow the CSU to move away from searching a single centralized metadata catalogue towards a system that would facilitate the searching of many different catalogues and independent metadata records.
- Paul is a member of the national NRCan/DFO Marine Cadastre Joint Task Force which will be preparing a business case for the development and establishment of a national marine cadastre. It is expected that this task will take between 18 months and two years to complete. The cadastre would facilitate access to geospatial information on rights, responsibilities and restrictions associated with coastal and ocean space and resources.
- Work continues to get additional information layers published and registered for access and use by COINAtlantic. Two specific layers of interest are the license boundaries that are managed by the Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) and the shellfish closure areas that are managed by DFO.
- ACZISC members are encouraged to identify and to contribute to the development of use cases that would demonstrate the applicability of COINAtlantic to ICOM in Atlantic Canada. Potential use cases that are already in development include aquaculture management, shellfish closures and protected areas management.
- Efforts are still underway to develop support for the publication and registration of data layers from non-governmental organizations. This work builds on the successful collaboration of the ACZISC/COINAtlantic, the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability, CoastalCURA, St. Mary's University and Environment Canada with regards to NGO Geomatics training.

COASTAL ZONE CANADA 2010: Larry Hildebrand, Chair of the CZC 2010 Program Committee, and Grant Gardner, President of the CZC Association, reported the following:

- CZC 2010 is scheduled for 25-29 July 2010 in Charlottetown, PEI. The theme is "Healthy Oceans – Strong Coastal Communities: Voices for Change" – see <http://www.gov.pe.ca/czc2010>.

- Activities include paper and panel sessions, discussion cafés, workshops and training sessions.
- A PEI Coastal Policy Planning charrette has been scheduled. A charrette is a problem-oriented multi-participant session that provides a work forum to collaboratively tackle specific issues in planning and design.
- The deadline for submitting abstracts is being extended to 26 February and the deadline for early registration to 15 April.
- The main Conference will be preceded by the Youth Forum on 23-25 July.

GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA: Justin Huston, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, reported the following:

- An overview of the State of Nova Scotia's Coast report was provided by Justin. The Government will use the information in the Report and feedback from coastal stakeholders to develop a Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy - <http://www.gov.ns.ca/coast/state-of-the-coast.htm>. Copies of the report materials, including Fact Sheets, were distributed.
- The NS Government and the Government of Canada as represented by DFO, EC and NRcan are developing an MoU for a Coastal Management Framework. The MoU will focus on implementation, roles and responsibilities, coastal research, and information sharing and dissemination.
- With regards to education and awareness, the Province is working with partners to establish a Coastal Research Network, initially within the academic community.
- COINAtlantic has been identified as the web portal/delivery mechanism for information sharing and dissemination. GeoNOVA will focus on accelerating and coordinating coastal mapping and developing provincial standards.
- World Oceans Day (8 June) will be celebrated on the Halifax waterfront earlier this year on Friday, 4 June to facilitate student group participation and to accommodate schedules at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA: Rollin Andrew, Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB), reported the following:

- The focus of the Branch is mainly in agri-environmental issues and in the land/water interface.
- AESB Atlantic workplan priorities include water supply, water quality, climate change and adaptation, and outreach.
- Watershed management research projects in Atlantic Canada have recently been funded for four years, including: stream mitigation / Havelock, NB; water quality / Annapolis River (sub-system of the Cornwallis Basin); nitrogen and phosphorus at a site in PEI; and the impact of agriculture on water yield and quality / Black Brook, NB.
- Work is ongoing at 20 sites with regards to conservation.
- An agro-meteorology pilot project is underway, focusing on applied research.
- AAFC hosted a Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture on 10-11 December 2009 in Moncton, NB. This was part of series of workshops being held across Canada to develop a climate change strategy and to identify priority actions for adaptation. Mike Butler noted that Andy Sherin had represented the ACZISC at the Workshop in Moncton.

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

- The Minister responsible for Parks Canada and the President of the Haida Nation recently signed a marine agreement that commits the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation to share in the planning, operations and management of the marine waters surrounding the Gwaii Haanas protected area in southern Haida Gwaii.
 - o The Gwaii Haanas Marine Agreement is an important step toward establishing these waters as a National Marine Conservation Area Reserve. The Agreement complements the partnership that began with the signing of the Gwaii Haanas Agreement in 1993 for the land-based area.
 - o The proposed boundaries of the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve encompass an area of approximately 3400 square kilometres of the Hecate Strait and the Queen Charlotte Shelf Marine Regions. Together with the existing national park reserve, this would result in over 5000 square kilometres of protected area from the mountains to the sea floor.
- Parks Canada has let a contract for a marine regional analysis study of the Bay of Fundy. The contract will be posted on MERX until 9 March (approx.). The Bay of Fundy comprises one of Parks Canada's marine regions on the Atlantic coast.

Tim Hall indicated his interest in discussing the terms of the marine regional analysis study of the Bay of Fundy with Parks Canada personnel. Rob indicated that he would identify the appropriate contacts.

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA: Trevor Rankin, GeoConnections, reported the following:

- GeoConnections is approaching the final year of the current phase of its mandate. A proposal is in development to extend the program beyond 2010-2011 but a decision is not expected until the late spring of 2010.
- The program is continuing to deliver on existing commitments and wrapping up existing projects through to 31 March 2010.
- As mentioned earlier, Trevor has replaced Tony Turner as the GeoConnections representative on the ACZISC. Tony has accepted another position at Environment Canada.
- 22 January 2010 is the extended deadline for abstract submission to the “Canadian Geomatics Conference and the International Society for Photogrammetry and of Remote Sensing (ISPRS) 2010”, scheduled for 15-18 June in Calgary. Interested members of the ACZISC are encouraged to submit abstracts for this GeoConnections-supported event - see <http://www.geoconf.ca> for details.

Jacques Grondin, Surveyor General Branch, reported the following:

- The Surveyor General Branch will be working collaboratively with DFO with regards to the implementation of a multi-purpose Marine Cadastre of Canada's ocean space, as a core element of coastal and ocean governance.
- An NRCAN/DFO Marine Cadastre Joint Task Force is being established. The Task Force had its first meeting yesterday (19 January) in Fredericton. Agenda items included a discussion of the Task Force management structure.
- Task Force members currently include NRCAN personnel (Brian Ballantyne, Daniel Fortin, Jean Gagnon, Jacques Grondin, José M'Bala and Steve Minnie), DFO

personnel (Tim Hall and Mark Waddell), Paul Boudreau (ACZISC/COINAtlantic) and Sue Nichols (UNB).

- Membership will be expanded to include additional DFO representatives. Contact with the Provinces will be maintained via the ACZISC.
- The Task Force will oversee the development of a business case for the Marine Cadastre. 'Power users' will be interviewed.
- Other Task Group activities include policy research, the identification of case studies and activities which would benefit from a Marine Cadastre, and the identification of transboundary issues.

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

- DFO Maritimes Region is continuing public and bilateral consultations on its proposed three Areas of Interest. Initial reaction has been mixed but DFO is finding that as people get more information they are more prepared to discuss potential options. The consultation period is scheduled for completion on 12 February, but there is a possibility of an extension. Brief socio-economic profiles of each of the candidate sites are now available and updates are available on the DFO website – see <http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/e/ocmd/mpa/aoi-e.html>.
- DFO is continuing its collaboration with the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to develop a web-based "State of the Environment Report for the Gulf of Maine". Present status is that a Context Document has been prepared and is in final review. In addition three "theme papers" have been identified for the initial release: "Climate Change and its Effect on Humans"; "Invasive Species"; and "Emerging Issues". There is a possibility that others may be ready for the initial launch, planned for June 2010 in conjunction with World Oceans Day and the 20th Anniversary of the Gulf of Maine Council celebrations.
- The Regional Committee on Coastal and Ocean Management (RCCOM) met in late November. RCCOM is the senior Federal-Provincial coordinating body for coastal and oceans management within the three Maritime Provinces. A broad range of issues were discussed including updates on the Area of Interest process, local integrated management projects, COINAtlantic and a variety of departmental initiatives.

Jennifer Hackett, DFO Maritimes Region, Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch, reported the following:

- Oceans Day will be celebrated on June 8th at the beginning of the 'Rivers to Oceans Week' (8-14 June 2010). The week will end with Canadian Rivers Day - <http://www.cwf-fcf.org>. Activities are being planned for the Halifax waterfront by DFO, the NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and several NGOs, as in previous years. Mike Butler mentioned that the ACZISC and IOI-Canada will be exhibitors as in previous years.
- In 2008, the UN General Assembly decided that, as from 2009, June 8th would be designated as World Oceans Day.
- Oceans Day has been celebrated by many countries following the UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- A World Oceans Day Facebook group for the Maritimes has been set up at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&viewas=0&gid=80131866937>.

Peter Wells suggested that a representative of the Oceans Day organizing group may wish to contact the Dalhousie School of Journalism to discuss the preparation of a video of Oceans Day celebrations by a student.

Marc Ouellette, DFO Gulf Region, Oceans and Habitat Division, reported the following:

- In 2007, as part of Canada's new National Water Strategy, the federal government announced five-year funding for various initiatives to protect fragile marine environments, counter pollution and strengthen preventive measures.
- The Health of the Oceans Initiatives (HOTO) (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/management-gestion/healthyoceans-santedesoceans/index-eng.htm>) comprise 22 distinct components that are led by five federal departments and agencies: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, Environment Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and Parks Canada. DFO's component resulted in the creation of four Oceans Centre of Expertise:
 - o State of the Oceans Reporting (SOTO), based in Vancouver, BC (Pacific Region);
 - o Traditional Ecological Knowledge (CETEK), based in Winnipeg, MA (C&A Region);
 - o Cold Water Corals and Sponge Reefs (CWCSR), based in St. John's, NL (Newfoundland Region); and
 - o Coastal Management (CECM), based in Moncton, NB (Gulf Region).
- The objective of the CECM is to clarify DFO's role in coastal zone management in relation to its federal, provincial and territorial partners; to focus its efforts in the development of ecosystem-based frameworks and tools in relation to cumulative effects and risk assessments; and to leverage products and practices presently developed for large oceans management areas (LOMAs). This will be achieved via a network of regional, national and international experts validating approaches and also contributing to the overall knowledge base of coastal management practices. Roland Cormier is the Director of the CECM and Marc Ouellette is the Coordinator.
- A workshop on "Geospatial risk characterization: tools for ecosystem-based approaches to support integrated decision making" will take place on 24-26 February 2010 at BIO in Dartmouth, NS. ACZISC members are invited to participate.

Matthew Hardy, DFO Gulf Region, Oceans and Habitat Division, added that the staff of the Oceans Program and the Oceans Centre of Expertise on Coastal Management were working closely on risk-based assessment and priority setting. DFO Gulf Region staff are also working closely with the Province and in particular with the Northumberland Strait science group.

Geoff Coughlan DFO NL Region, Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch, reported the following:

Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management (GOSLIM): Western Newfoundland and Southern Labrador

Social, Economic and Cultural Overview and Assessment (SECOA):

- The Western Newfoundland and Southern Labrador SECOA report completed in August 2008 is now being used as a basis to identify possible SEC objectives for the NL portion of the Gulf of St. Lawrence LOMA.
- A Working Group of the GOSLIM Western Newfoundland and Southern Labrador Sub-Committee met four times in 2009 to review the report and draft objectives. The final report of the Working Group will be available for review by the GOSLIM Western Newfoundland and Southern Labrador Sub-Committee at their next meeting expected in the spring of 2010.
- The Western Newfoundland and Southern Labrador SECOA report was also used in 2009 to contribute a Newfoundland and Labrador perspective to the Gulf of St. Lawrence SECOA summary report completed in the fall of 2009.

Conservation Objectives (COs):

- GOSLIM has now begun prioritization of COs for the Gulf of St. Lawrence based on characterization and analysis of risks to key marine ecosystem components and properties – similar methodology to that developed for the Placentia Bay/Grand Banks Large Ocean Management Area (PB/GB LOMA). NL will complete the analysis of those COs associated with Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas 9-10 off western Newfoundland and southern Labrador. This is expected to be completed by March 2010.

Coastal Management Areas:

- DFO continues to work closely with three multi-stakeholder coastal planning committees established in western Newfoundland. Primary objectives are to promote greater awareness and appreciation of the coastal area and to develop practical spatial planning tools.
- Bay of Islands:
 - o DFO Oceans is currently partnering with the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Humber Arm Environmental Association to develop a surface contamination model for the Bay of Islands coastal area. The model will be a web-based product available to environmental emergency responders, regulators and planners with a tool to project pathways of movement and areas of shoreline contact for surface contaminant spill throughout the Humber Arm, Bay of Islands. The model is based on previously collected current and shoreline classification data as well as available traditional/cultural information.
- Bay St. George/Port au Port Peninsula (BSG/PAP):
 - o The BSG/PAP Marine and Coastal Resources Steering Committee has identified the mapping of significant coastal and marine areas as a priority for 2009-2010. The project involves identification of significant areas based on local knowledge. Significant coastal and marine areas are those that support social, cultural, economic and ecological interests throughout the area.
- Northern Peninsula:
 - o The Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Steering Committee on the Great Northern Peninsula completed a significant coastal and marine areas

mapping initiative in March 2009. Their focus for 2009-2010 will be on making these maps available to potential users throughout the area and beyond via their existing website and as a hard-copy atlas.

- They will also revise the website to provide interested users with greater access to other coastal planning and mapping tools relevant to the Northern Peninsula area.

Placentia Bay/Grand Banks Large Ocean Management Area

Social Economic and Cultural (SEC) Considerations: A SEC Workshop was held in St. John's on 17 November 2009 to further advance the setting of social, economic and cultural objectives for the LOMA Integrated Management Plan.

Communications:

- Amy Tucker a MUN Geography graduate student is conducting research on communication mechanisms within and between sectors represented on the LOMA Committee.
- The DFO Oceans Division has been working with the Marine Institute School of Ocean Technology/SmartBay to establish a website for the PB/GB LOMA.

Mapping and Marine Cadastre:

- The DFO Oceans Division has been in talks with the Marine Institute School of Ocean Technology and NRCan regarding the organization of a workshop on seabed mapping for the PB/GB LOMA.
- Following Jacques Grondin's presentation at the last ACZISC meeting in St. John's, DFO Oceans NL Region has sent a letter of support to NRCan regarding the development of a marine cadastre.

Conservation Objectives: At the Conservation Objective Workshop held on 20 October 2009, four main Integrated Management planning themes were selected for the PBGB LOMA. These themes are based on the results of the assessment undertaken by DFO Oceans to examine threats to valued ecosystem components within the LOMA, as well as the level of concern within the LOMA committee. The themes are: Aquatic Invasive Species; Atlantic Cod; Corals and Sponges; and Marine Habitat.

Coastal Management Areas:

- Placentia Bay (PB):
 - A PB Integrated Management Planning Committee meeting was held in late fall with presentations/discussions on Green Crab in Placentia Bay, the Vale Inco Long Harbour Processing Plant, and the CPAWS Guide of Special Marine Areas in Newfoundland and Labrador (<http://cpawsnl.org/2009/07/cpaws-nl-releases-the-special.php>). The next meeting is scheduled for 10 February 2010 in Arnold's Cove.
 - PB Integrated Management Planning Committee is also working with the Fish Food and Allied Workers (FFAW) union to hold another Green Crab Sub-Committee Meeting. Action planning is ongoing and two topics of focus for PBIMPC include Green Crab in Placentia Bay and the South Coast Risk

Assessment. The Committee is very interested in working in collaboration with others on these two important issues.

- A draft newsletter on Integrated Management in Placentia Bay is being developed as a communication tool to increase awareness.
- Coast of Bays (COB) Region:
 - A COB Coastal Planning Committee meeting was held in early December. Presentations included Aquatic Invasive Species in NL, as well as the CPAWS Guide of Special Marine Areas of NL.
 - The COB Coastal Planning Committee and COB Corporation are currently organizing an Oceans Conference to be held in Harbour Breton in April 2010. This conference will bring together regional stakeholders and various government departments and agencies to discuss matters of mutual interest and to learn from each other with respect to using and developing our coastlines and bays.

Marine Protected Areas:

- Committee meetings for both the Gilbert Bay and Eastport MPAs will take place in the coming weeks.
- A Regional Advisory Process (RAP) on Gilbert Bay was held and a draft RAP report has been circulated to participants.
- DFO Science will host a RAP for Eastport (date TBD).
- The management plans for both Gilbert Bay and Eastport will undergo a 5-year review.

Coral and Sponge Center of Expertise:

- The Status Report on Coral and Sponge Conservation in Canada is being translated. We anticipate it will be available by the end of February.
- A Coral/Sponge web atlas is in the early stages of development; initially the atlas will be intranet (only available to DFO employees).

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: Nicole Hynes, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA), reported the following:

- The NL Government is involved in several of the projects and initiatives described by Geoff Coughlan, DFO NL Region.
- Discussions are continuing between DFA and DFO in an effort to improve collaboration.
- The Province is continuing its development of a Provincial Coastal and Ocean Strategy and Framework. A policy paper was sent to Cabinet in December for their review.
- Brian Delaney, formerly ADM DFA, has been appointed Assistant Secretary to Cabinet (Economic Policy).
- A presentation on activities in the Ocean Sector was made at the last meeting of the Provincial Coastal and Oceans Network (PCON). A conference is planned for next spring.
- The Province is meeting with Parks Canada officials to discuss park designation and development.
- Meetings are taking place to 'set the stage' for a planned meeting of the Regional Oversight Committee on Oceans Management (ROCOM).

GOVERNMENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK: Rob Capozzi, Department of Environment, reported the following:

- In 2003, the NB Government released the NB Coastal Areas Protection Policy (<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0371/0002/Coastal-E.pdf>) and the NB Wetlands Conservation Policy (<http://www.gnb.ca/0078/publications/wetlands.pdf>).
- Enforcing the policies has been problematic because they are subject to 'interpretation'.
- The Department is now working to produce 'Designation Orders' for general and specific activities covered by the policies.
- A clear directive is being prepared to enforce 30 metre buffers. This will be submitted to Senior Management and then to Cabinet for approval.

Russ Henry, Departments of Agriculture and Aquaculture, and Fisheries, reported the following:

- The Province is focusing on two major marine planning initiatives: Southwest NB and the Northumberland Strait.
- Southwest NB Marine Planning initiative:
 - o The Marine Plan Development Steering Committee submitted its report entitled "The Preferred Future of the Bay" to the NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture, the NB Department of Fisheries, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada in March 2009.
 - o The plan was reviewed by 9 provincial departments and 7 federal departments. Joint recommendations have been prepared which will have broad reaching impacts. The agencies have agreed to develop community values criteria and a communication framework.
 - o A series of workshops is being planned.
- Northumberland Strait Ecosystem initiative:
 - o The Northumberland Strait planning exercise, initiated because of concerns with the decline of lobster catches, is now focused more on habitat and water quality.
 - o An action plan will be prepared to address the issues identified in the ecosystem overview report prepared by the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Initiative Working Group. The report includes recommendations in the context of the physical, chemical, biological and human environments.
- A draft in-stream tidal energy policy is being completed. After it is reviewed by the priority and planning committee of cabinet, it will be made available to the public for their input. A statement for offshore wind power is also being prepared.
- There are plans to update the study entitled "The Economic Value of Marine-Related Resources in New Brunswick - for the 1995-1997 period", published in 2000.
- A federal/provincial workshop will be held next week to review the criteria and data used in the identification of an MPA area of interest in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence by DFO Gulf Region.

SOUTHERN GULF OF ST LAWRENCE COALITION ON SUSTAINABILITY:

Chantal Gagnon, SGSLCS, reported the following:

- The final bilingual report for the Social, Economic and Cultural Overview and Assessment (SECOA) project for the Northumberland Strait will be available in

early 2010. Both the SECOA team and the Coalition-SGSL made presentations on this initiative at the Conference of the Ocean Management Research Network last October in Ottawa.

- Activities related to the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) this winter include designing and preparing signs and brochures to attract additional volunteers for the monitoring programs, and to increase the visibility of the CAMP.
- The Coastal Erosion monitoring project has received some media attention. The next step is to enter the sites in the Coalition's online Atlas at <http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca/projectsworkshops.php> and to present findings to communities to increase awareness about the importance of community coastal monitoring.
- The Status of Women Canada project 'Women in Coastal Communities – Using easy tools to better understand finances' has been completed. Videos and reports from the project will soon be made available on the Coalition website.
- The Coalition-SGSL has heard that the Community University Research Alliance (CURA) application for a university and community research project on climate change adaptation and governance in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence region has been tentatively approved. CURA involves many groups and three universities: the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), Université de Moncton, and Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR). This alliance will help to improve relations and communications between the Gulf of St. Lawrence estuary and the Southern Gulf regions.
- The next meeting of the Coalition Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for 5 March 2010.
- The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Coalition-SGSL is tentatively planned for the end of the Rivers to Oceans week (6-12 June 2010).

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY: Grant Gardner reported the following:

- ACZISC meeting organizers are encouraged to make the meeting agenda known to coastal zone researchers in local institutions who might wish to sit in on some of the presentations but might not be familiar with ACZISC. Students can also be invited if space permits. Where possible, presentations on local coastal management research can also be incorporated into the program.
- Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) are becoming more sophisticated, and can be very useful in collecting data from nearshore areas. Memorial University is developing expertise in the technology, and significant provincial and federal funds were granted to a researcher in engineering to further his work on AUVs.
- The lobster fishery is a significant contributor to the economy of the Atlantic Provinces, and many initiatives have been taken to preserve and improve the lobster fishery. Assessing the success of those initiatives typically involves using economic indicators such as landed value, a common fisheries measurement. A new research program at Memorial, being undertaken as part of our Community-University Research Alliance, will investigate using reproductive value as a measurement tool. Reproductive value is well-known in population biology, but has not been applied in studies of commercial fisheries. Its use may provide an independent way of measuring the impact both of fishing and of initiatives to protect and improve fish stocks.
- Many ACZISC members are involved in Oceans Day activities. The Canadian Wildlife Federation is one of the lead agencies in coordinating Oceans Day events, and has

expanded Oceans Day into 'Rivers to Oceans Week'. CWF produces a number of teaching and outreach aids related to Rivers to Oceans week, and those materials are available for distribution at activities during that week. More information can be found on the CWF website at <http://www.cwf-fcf.org>.

BAY OF FUNDY ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP, INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE - CANADA AND DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY: Peter Wells reported the following:

- BoFEP is a virtual institute that focuses on the Bay of Fundy and its watersheds. It is dedicated to promoting the conservation, protection and restoration of the ecosystem, in support of the social well-being and economic sustainability of its coastal communities. BoFEP is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year.
- The 8th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop was held on 26-29 May 2009 in Wolfville, NS. The theme was 'Resource development and its implications in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine'. The Proceedings are available at http://www.bofep.org/bofep_workshops.htm.
- The BoFEP Fundy Issues fact sheets describe environmental issues confronting the Bay. Issue #30 entitled "Tweaking Tidal Technology: Harnessing Fundy's Phenomenal Tides?" is available at http://www.bofep.org/fundy_issues.htm.
- BoFEP and the ACZISC are participating with Dalhousie University in a SSHRC-funded research study on the use of environmental information and its influence. Project activities will include the analysis of a number of user needs studies
- Peter will be serving as the Ocean Sciences Module Leader for the 2010 IOI-Canada Training Programme on Ocean Governance.

KOREA MARITIME INSTITUTE: Jiyeon Choi, Senior Researcher, Marine and Coastal Policy Division, Korea Maritime Institute, reported the following:

- Jiyeon is currently a Visiting Scholar at IOI-Canada (January to December 2010). She is a Senior Researcher with the Marine and Coastal Policy Division of the Korea Maritime Institute in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Institute is funded by the Prime Minister's Office.
- Research carried out by the Coastal Policy Division includes marine policy development, ecosystem protection, and integrated coastal management (ICM). In the Republic of Korea, ICM is a shared responsibility of the national and local governments.
- Jiyeon's research has focussed on: 'Survey of the Coastal Condition of Korea', 'An Integrated Approach to Management of Land and the Coastal Zone', 'Development of Coastal Indicators and Survey Guidelines' and 'Studies on Inventories and a Sustainable Use of Tidal Flats in Korea'. In addition to these topics, her research interests include human-environment relations and conflict management.

EIT GROUP: Brent Rowley reported that one of the companies in the EIT Group was a participant in a contract to carry out bottom mapping off the west coast of Greenland. The project is now in the report writing stage.

SABLE ISLAND PRESERVATION TRUST: Rick Welsford reported the following:

- Sable Island is one of the 16 Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) sites located throughout Atlantic Canada.

- The Trust sponsors research projects that focus on the study and protection of the wildlife and environment of Sable Island, including projects related to: habitat, species at risk and the challenge of working in the offshore.
- Lidar surveys were conducted last summer in collaboration with partners.
- Funding has been provided under the Government of Canada's Health of the Oceans Initiative to undertake activities toward designating Sable Island as a National Wildlife Area (NWA). A Prospectus on a Sable Island NWA is being drafted. It will include an overview of how NWAs are established and managed and describe particular issues relevant to the designation process. Once the Prospectus has been finalized, it will be released for comment.
- The Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF), formerly the Bluenose Atlantic Coastal Action Program (BACAP), and partners have organized a Species at Risk Stewardship Workshop, scheduled for 25-27 February 2010 in Wolfville, NS.

Peter Wells added that a recent issue of the magazine *Saltscapes* had featured an article on Sable Island written by Zoe Lucas.