

MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #2

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Date: February 19, 1992 - 13:00 hrs.

Location: Boardroom, LRIS
1660 Hollis Street, 6th Floor
Halifax, Nova Scotia

PRESENT:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Tel. No.</i>
Don Amos	Public Works Canada	902-426-5356
Paul Bellemare	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	902-426-3497
Paul Boudreau (alternate for Paul Bellemare)	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO Geomatics Secretariat)	902-426-7564
Michael Butler, Chairperson	LRIS/CMP	902-424-5835
Larry Hildebrand	Environment Canada	902-426-9632
Peter Hill	Communications Canada	902-426-3810
Claudette LeBlanc, Secretariat	LRIS/CMP	902-667-7231
Lincoln MacLeod	Nova Scotia	902-485-8991
Neil MacNaughton	Newfoundland and Labrador	709-729-3239
Mary Ogilvie	New Brunswick	506-453-3908
Jim Ramsay	Prince Edward Island	902-368-4075
Andrew Sherin	Energy, Mines and Resources Canada	902-426-7582
Paul Thrasher (observer)	Communications Canada	902-426-3810
Eric Topple (representing John Major)	Transport Canada	902-426-6163

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

Michael Butler, Chairperson, called ACZISC Meeting #2 to order at 13:00 hrs and welcomed participants. A roundtable introduction of participants followed. Committee appointments made since the last meeting were announced: Neil MacNaughton, Director of Surveys and Mapping, Department of Environment and Lands, is the Newfoundland and Labrador representative; Mary Ogilvie, Director of Planning, Geographic Information Corporation, is the New Brunswick representative; and Andrew Sherin, Geoscience Data Systems Manager, Atlantic Geoscience Centre, is the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources representative. It was also announced that Paul Thrasher, Radio Inspector, Communications Canada, is replacing Peter Hill as the DOC representative. An up-to-date list of Committee members is attached.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING #1**

The Agenda for meeting #2 was adopted by the Committee members.

The minutes of ACZISC Meeting #1 were approved with the following revisions made by Paul Bellemare to his reports:

DFO/ACOA PROPOSAL & HYDROGRAPHIC CHARTING: Paul Bellemare briefed the participants on the \$25 million proposal (\$5 million over 5 years) to develop a coastal zone information infrastructure. The proposal was submitted by DFO to ACOA under the Cooperation Agreement. The proposal has been signed by the DFO Deputy Minister and support is currently being sought from the four Atlantic Provinces. The proposal focuses on job creation, initially at the low skill/high tech level but leading to high skill/high tech employment.

CHS has earmarked \$9.6 million to establish an infrastructure for Electronic Hydrographic Charting. The project will be funded by the Green Plan following recommendations by the Brander Smith Panel on Tanker Safety.

ICOIN PROJECT OFFICE: The Atlantic ICOIN Task Force, chaired by Paul Bellemare, was established to develop an Action Plan for the implementation of ICOIN. In its final report submitted to DFO and the Champlain Institute, the Task Force recommended the establishment of an ICOIN Project Office. The Office, funded by DFO for the next 3 years and now operational, is managed by Hank Jones of MEDS (Marine Environmental Data Service) under the guidance of the ICOIN Steering Committee. The ICOIN Project Office is mandated to provide a national perspective for DFO's ICOIN activities; a priority of the Office is the development of a national database directory. The ACZISC will have access to the services provided by the ICOIN Project Office.

3. **TERMS OF REFERENCE (2nd Draft)**

Draft #2 of the ACZISC's proposed *Terms of Reference* was circulated and reviewed briefly (copy attached).

ACTION: Committee members to review Draft #2 of the ACZISC proposed *Terms of Reference* and provide further comments to the Chairperson by March 31, 1992.

ACTION: Secretariat to revise the ACZISC *Terms of Reference* according to comments received from the Committee members and distribute Draft #3 by April 30, 1992 for further discussion at the next meeting.

The participants also reviewed a draft schematic depicting components of the Atlantic Canada Coastal Zone Information Infrastructure. It was suggested that the schematic be revised to include the Inter-Agency Committee on Geomatics, and the private sector, which could be represented by the geomatics associations, i.e. Champlain Institute, Geomatics Association of NS, Geomatics Industry Association of NB and the Nfld Association of Technical Industries.

In addition to developing Terms of Reference, it was agreed that the ACZISC must develop a Work Plan to use as guide for its activities.

ACTION: Secretariat to develop a draft ACZISC Work Plan for review and discussion at the next ACZISC meeting.

4. **ROUNDTABLE REVIEW OF COASTAL ZONE ACTIVITIES**

The ACZISC members and other participants provided brief updates on the status of various coastal zone programs and other activities.

ACZISC DATABASE INVENTORY: Paul Bellemare stated that the *Environment Canada Catalogue of Environmental Data in Atlantic Canada* (1990) and the Champlain Institute *Directory of Marine Data Sets* (1991) were now available in digital form. The combination of these two directories will form the basis of draft #1 of the ACZISC Directory of Databases.

ACTION: Paul Boudreau (CHS/DFO) to distribute Draft #1 of the ACZISC Directory of Databases in WordPerfect format to the Committee members by March 18.

Draft #1 will be supplemented with additional information and, in addition, unverified information will be verified. The structure of the ACZISC Directory will be compatible with the Directory currently being developed by the Data and Information Committee of the Gulf of Maine (GOM) Marine Environment Program. A copy of the proposed GOM structure is attached.

The ACZISC Secretariat will be responsible for maintaining and distributing copies of the ACZISC Directory of Databases.

ESRF RFP (Newfoundland): The AGC has been contacted for comments on the evaluation criteria for this RFP re an Environmental Sensitivity Atlas for Coastal and Offshore Western Newfoundland. The Nfld and Labrador Department of Environment and Lands has been approached by private sector companies for data covering western section of the Province; copyrights may restrict the availability of this information.

NOAA STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT PROJECT: Michael Butler circulated a document which outlines the NOAA Strategic Assessment Project. This initiative is being led by Stephen Brown of NOAA who has carried out interviews with several of the ACZISC members. Paul Bellemare stated that any exchange of data between Canada and the US must lead to benefits for the Region. An "umbrella" under which this exchange would take place must be identified. Peter Ricketts of Saint Mary's University, one of the individuals contacted by NOAA, is provisionally organizing a workshop in June on this topic.

SENSITIVITY MAPPING: A Sensitivity Mapping Workshop was held at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO) from February 17 to 19. Paul Boudreau stated that this regional Workshop focused on identifying data holdings and types of program activity, and the building of links between existing programs. An Implementation Plan for Sensitivity Mapping will be prepared based on Workshop conclusions, which include a list of parameters to be mapped, i.e. generic information, themes specific to sensitivity mapping, and infrastructure. The Workshop participants recommended the building of distributed

systems to provide access to data. A Workshop Summary will be distributed at the end of March.

A similar regional Workshop was held for the west coast in BC in January. A requirement for a national workshop to address this subject from a national perspective was recognized.

Funds for Sensitivity Mapping are being made available through the Green Plan based on recommendations by the Brander Smith Commission on Tanker Safety.

COMMUNICATIONS CANADA: Peter Hill reported that the Regional Emergency Telecommunications Committee, chaired by DOC, addresses the issue of communications for responding to emergencies. Portable communication kits (voice or facsimile) are available to users on a trial basis.

NEW BRUNSWICK: Mary Ogilvie reported that NB was currently lacking a strong focus for coastal zone management due to a shortage of funds. However, a recently formed sub-group of the Mapping Sub-committee of the NB Geographic Information Mapping Advisory Committee (GIMAC) will address the issue of Coastal Zone Mapping requirements in the Province. The Coastal Zone Mapping Committee is chaired by Rao Irrinki, Department of Natural Resources and Energy. Mary Ogilvie is Secretary to GIMAC.

The NB Geographic Information Corporation (NBGIC) is a crown corporation governed by a Board of Directors composed primarily of private sector representatives. The NBGIC, through LRIS Amherst, is developing a digital index system and as such would be interested in the deliverables of the SNC/AXSES Inc Proposal being submitted to ACOA (refer to page 7 for further details).

NOVA SCOTIA COASTAL ZONE ISSUE GROUP/LRIS COASTAL ZONE PROGRAM:

The Coastal Zone Issue Group, chaired by Lincoln MacLeod, has held three meetings to date. The Group, acting as Scientific Authority to the NS Coastal Zone Program being implemented by LRIS Amherst, is identifying the deliverables of the Coastal Zone Program in cooperation with LRIS. The NS Coastal Zone Program is currently focusing its activities on the Annapolis River and estuary. Deliverables are:

- a database of the Atlantic Region at 1:2,000,000 with topographic information and basic themes
- a database of NS at 1:500,000 with topographic information and basic themes
- a database of Annapolis County at 1:50,000 with topographic information and basic themes
- a database of the shoreline of the Annapolis Basin at 1:10,000 with topographic information.

The Coastal Zone Issue Group is cooperating with CARP (Clean Annapolis River Project) as a trial project for its activities. The Group will identify institutional processes, including community involvement, which will be necessary for effective implementation and longevity of the Annapolis River Project.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR: Neil MacNaughton stated that Nfld currently has no strong focus for coastal zone management. The Province, however, has a long-term plan to provide digital NTS base map coverage for the entire Province. As part of a provincial/federal agreement, Nfld has contracted out the structuring of NTS digital map files obtained from Energy, Mines and Resources Canada. The structuring of the 1:250,000 files will be complete by March 31. To date, twenty-one of the 1:50,000 are

complete with several under way. Other scales available are 1:500,000, 1:1,000,000 and 1:1,500,000 (refer to attached document).

A technical committee has been established to review and make recommendations on standards. It will base its activities on the study commissioned by NB.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: The report of the Royal Commission on Land Use released in October 1990 and entitled *Everything Before Us* addresses some of the Island's coastal zone management issues. Jim Ramsay reported that the moratorium on development in a 500 metre coastal zone corridor above the high water mark will probably be reviewed. Coastal zone management policies are adopted by the Executive Council.

Digital base map coverage at 1:10,000 is available for the entire Province. In addition, one third of the PEI property boundaries are digitized. In anticipation of the Fixed Link, the property boundary information has been digitized for the Borden area.

PUBLIC WORKS CANADA: Don Amos reported that Public Works is carrying out coastal surveys in digital format for various clients. It is providing channel and harbour specific data to CHS. The Department uses both CARIS and ArcInfo file formats.

The Environmental Review process re the Fixed Link is complete and announcements expected soon. In anticipation, the GIS Group at Public Works Canada is preparing a database of structures, encumbrances, etc. for the end points of the Fixed Link, Borden and Cape Tormentine.

COAST GUARD: Eric Topples updated the participants on the status of the CANUSLANT exercise being planned by the Canadian and US Coast Guards. It has been scheduled for the last week of September 1992 off the coast of Yarmouth.

The Coast Guard is primarily a user rather than a producer of coastal zone information. For example, it requires appropriate coastal zone mapping to respond to assessments relating to the Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA). The lack of appropriate mapping is hindering this process.

ACTION: John Major and Larry Hildebrand to report and distribute information on the Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA) at the next ACZISC meeting.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA: Paul Bellemare reported that the \$25 million proposal submitted by DFO to ACOA to develop a coastal zone information infrastructure is awaiting provincial support. High level government personnel must be sensitized to the issue of coastal zone management. A draft Strategy for Coastal Zone Management has been developed and will be discussed by the three Atlantic Canada DFO Regions. A presentation will be made to the three RDGs (Regional Director General) in April.

DFO is also developing a new Habitat Management policy.

ACTION: Paul Bellemare to report and distribute information on the DFO Strategy for Coastal Zone Management and the new Habitat Management Policy at the next ACZISC meeting.

ATLANTIC GEOSCIENCE CENTRE (AGC): Andy Sherin distributed a pamphlet on the Scotian Shelf Basin Atlas and a table of contents for the Grand Banks of Newfoundland Basin Atlas (copy attached). Both atlases are part of the East Coast Basin Atlas Series being produced by the AGC. The atlases define regional structure, stratigraphy and geochemistry of the sedimentary basins with maps (1:2,000,000 scale), plots, charts and illustrations. Several of the maps were reviewed by the participants.

Andy Sherin provided the Secretariat with a schedule of AGC Nearshore Field Activities for 1992. The areas to be surveyed include:

Newfoundland: Baie d'Espoir, North East Nfld, and Brooke Pond (Western Nfld)

New Brunswick: Bouctouche

Nova Scotia: Chedabucto Bay, Eastern Shore.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA: Larry Hildebrand advised the meeting participants that DOE has formed an Integrated Applications Group.

The Department is working with Enterprise Cape Breton in developing a coordinated integrated resource management plan for the Bras d'Or Lakes. The plan is currently moving into the public consultation phase. A Task Force established to guide the process will be making recommendations re a geomatics information system to support the management plan.

DOE is developing a national coastal zone management policy under the Marine Environmental Quality (MEQ) framework. The process will be "top down".

ACTION: Larry Hildebrand to report on DOE's Integrated Applications Group and the National Coastal Zone Management Policy under development at DOE at the next ACZISC meeting.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

Several documents were circulated for review. An ACZISC newsletter is currently being developed by the Secretariat. Members will be contacted in March/April re input.

ACTION: At subsequent meetings of the ACZISC, participants to provide Secretariat with brief summaries (preferably in digital form - WordPerfect or ASCII) of their presentations. This will facilitate the production of minutes and other ACZISC documents, e.g., newsletter and annual report.

6. **ACOA ATLANTIC GEOMATICS ALLIANCE FUNDS: COASTAL SECTOR**

Michael Butler briefed the participants on his visit to ACOA in Moncton. ACOA is identifying individuals to review the geomatics proposals which will be submitted to the

Atlantic Geomatics Alliance. Butler offered the assistance of the ACZISC to comment on proposals dealing with the coastal zone.

7. **PRESENTATIONS BY PRIVATE SECTOR**

Presentations were made to the ACZISC on coastal zone proposals being submitted to the Atlantic Geomatics Alliance:

• **PASSAMAQUODDY PROPOSAL**

In the absence of consortium representatives, the status of the proposal was reviewed by Michael Butler. The consortium developing the proposal is headed by the Strategic Ventures Corporation (SVC) of Fredericton. Other consortium members include ADI Ltd, Geodat Information Services, Washburn and Gillis Associates, and Ocean Systems Training.

The objective of the proposed project is to develop a functional ICOIN - Information Management System and to implement an ICOIN node for the Passamaquoddy/St. Croix area of NB. The project will result in the following products:

- Computer system design including software and hardware
- User information requirements study
- Structured databases
- Application software
- Training program
- Marketing program.

• **SNC/AXSES INC PROPOSAL**

Ian Clayton of AXSES Inc. and David Lowry made a presentation on behalf of the consortium developing a proposal for submission to ACOA. A draft copy of the proposal was circulated for review. The consortium is actively seeking matching funds and support for the proposal from the ICOIN Project Office, NOAA, Communications Canada, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Atmospheric Environment Service (AES) and Conservation and Protection of DOE, and the Data and Information Management Committee of the Gulf of Maine Marine Environment Program.

The proposal focuses on building links and tools to update databases to meet user requirements for dynamic data sets. Product features include:

- FMG Info Atlas - a database (refer to attached document on FMG) which will allow the user to navigate through data and to structure data
- GeoAXSES - a full topological GIS system
- Collaborative Networking - point-to-point initially, followed by value-added networks; the network would be GIS independent
- Simulations - hindcast and forecast capabilities
- Emergency Response Modelling
- Real-time Wind/Sea Data Feeds.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Presentations were made by Michael Butler re the ACZISC to the Shelburne Community Development Group and the NS Coastal Zone Issue Group.

The issue of standards was scheduled to be addressed at this meeting by Tim Evangelatos, CHS, chairperson of the Standards Sub-committee of the IACG (Inter-Agency Committee on Geomatics). However, this was not possible due to the travel constraints of this fiscal year. This presentation will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

As recommended by the ACZISC members, the Secretariat will organize future meetings on a quarterly, full-day, rotational basis in Atlantic Canada. It was proposed that the meetings take place mid May, August, November and February. Ad hoc meetings can be held if circumstances warrant. If possible, meetings should take place in conjunction with other events, e.g., relevant conference, to ease the burden on travel budgets.

ACTION: Committee members to notify the Secretariat of relevant events occurring in their area which would coincide with the proposed schedule of ACZISC meetings.

ACZISC Meeting #3 is tentatively set for 09:00 hrs - Wednesday, May 20, 1992 at a location to be determined.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

ACZISC Meeting #2 was adjourned at 16:30 hrs.