

# MINUTES OF ACZISC MEETING #55

## Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

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

**Location:** Room 224, Maritime College of Forest Technology  
Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre  
1350 Regent Street, Fredericton, NB

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Tel. No.</b>
Paul Boudreau	ACZISC Secretariat, COINAtlantic	902-494-7452
Andrew Breau	NB Departments of Agriculture and Aquaculture, and Fisheries	506-453-3737
Michael Butler <sup>2</sup>	ACZISC Secretariat and International Ocean Institute - Canada	902-494-1977
Kelly Cantelo	PEI Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development	902-368-5790
Colin Casey	NB Aquatic Data Warehouse	506-365-8927
Harry Collins	Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC)	506-778-8591
Norval Collins <sup>1, 3</sup>	CEF Consultants	902-425-4802
Bernie Connors	Service NB	506-444-2077
Geoff Coughlan	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, NL Region, Oceans and Habitat Management (for Ray Finn <sup>1</sup> )	709-772-3469
Faye Cowie	NB Aquatic Data Warehouse and Watershed Technologies	506-365-8927 506-365-7763
Grant Gardner <sup>1, 2, 3</sup>	APICS and Memorial University	709-737-3259
Nadine Gauvin <sup>1</sup>	Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability	506-858-4495
Russell Henry <sup>1</sup>	NB Departments of Agriculture and Aquaculture, and Fisheries	506-457-6922
Tim Hall <sup>1, 2</sup>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region, Oceans and Habitat Branch	902-426-4116
Terry Johnston	University of New Brunswick and Fisheries and Oceans Canada	506-447-3259 506-529-4531
Paul Jordan	NB Department of Environment	506-444-3611
Claudette LeBlanc	ACZISC Secretariat	902-494-1977
John Legault <sup>1</sup>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gulf Region	506-851-6221
Ed Light <sup>1</sup>	Service NS and Municipal Relations	902-424-0173

## ***PARTICIPANTS (cont'd)***

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Affiliation</i></b>	<b><i>Tel. No.</i></b>
David Matthews	Public Works and Government Services Canada (for William Blight <sup>1</sup> )	506-851-2475
Sean Weseloh McKeane	NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (for Justin Huston <sup>1</sup> )	902-424-5830
Charlie O'Reilly	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Hydrographic Service – Atlantic (for Steve Forbes <sup>1</sup> )	902-426-5344
Anthony Pouw	Environment Canada, Environmental Emergencies	902-426-5894
Flemming Rasmussen	National Defence, Formation Environment (for Carol Lee Giffin <sup>1</sup> and Kyle Penney <sup>1</sup> )	902-427-0550
Michael Sutherland	University of West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago	868-662-2002 (ext. 2564)
Rob Thompson <sup>1</sup>	Parks Canada	902-426-3445
Jane Tims <sup>1</sup>	NB Department of Environment	506-457-4846
Tony Turner <sup>1</sup>	Natural Resources Canada, GeoConnections	613-992-1407

### ***1. WELCOME and INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS***

Mike Butler, Director, ACZISC Secretariat, called ACZISC Meeting #55 to order at 0840 hrs on Thursday, 25 September 2008. He welcomed members and guests. A roundtable introduction of all of the participants, listed above, followed. Mike thanked the NB Departments of Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Natural Resources for sponsoring the meetings.

### ***2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA, and REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING #54***

The provisional agenda for ACZISC Meeting #55 was reviewed and approved.

The draft minutes of ACZISC Meeting #54 were reviewed and approved. The minutes will be posted at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/54min.pdf>.

Nadine Gauvin recommended that the ACZISC reduce its paper usage and become more 'green' by distributing the information packages (minutes, etc.) for ACZISC meetings in electronic format only. The other members strongly endorsed this recommendation.

***ACTION 55.1: Secretariat to distribute information packages for ACZISC meetings in electronic format only***

### 3. ***STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS***

The action items from Meeting #54 were reviewed and will be discussed further under the relevant agenda item. All of the action items were either carried out or are in progress, other than the following: Tim Hall, Patrick Shea, Justin Huston and Secretariat to further revise the discussion paper on the benefits and role of the ACZISC in information sharing. The document will be revised for review at an upcoming meeting of the ACZISC.

### 4. ***UPCOMING ACZISC MEETINGS***

The upcoming ACZISC meetings are scheduled for:

**21-22 January 2009: Meeting #56, Halifax, NS (subsequently rescheduled to 22-23 January 2009)**

**13-14 May 2009: Meeting #57, Charlottetown, PEI**

**23-24 September 2009: Meeting #58, St. John's, NL**

**20-21 January 2010: Meeting #59, Fredericton, NB**

### 5. ***ACZISC ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION***

**ACZISC MEMBERSHIP:** The following changes in membership were announced:

- **NB Department of Environment:** Jane Tims, Manager, Integrated Planning, has replaced Marianne Janowicz as the representative for the Department on the ACZISC. Marianne has retired from the NB Government and has moved to PEI.
- **Industry Canada:** Brian McShane, Senior Manager, Technology Partnerships Canada and Innovation, Policy, Analysis and Intelligence, has replaced Mike Sheen as the representative for the Department on the ACZISC. Mike has accepted a position with Veteran Affairs Canada in Charlottetown.

Russ Henry reported that the appointment of Jim McKay as Deputy Minister of NB Fisheries may assist with securing funding support for the ACZISC. He added that support could also be sought via the NB Working Group on Collaboration on Marine Planning Issues. He suggested that a presentation by the Secretariat on ACZISC activities could be made at an upcoming workshop of the NB Working Group.

***ACTION 55.2: Russ Henry to look into scheduling a presentation by the Secretariat on ACZISC activities at an upcoming workshop of the NB Working Group on Collaboration on Marine Planning Issues***

Efforts will continue to engage other departments and agencies with mandates relevant to the ACZISC.

The list of ACZISC members was distributed. Members were asked to review their contact information and to email the Secretariat if changes are needed.

**ACZISC BUDGET, FINANCIAL REPORT AND FUNDING:** The ACZISC Association 2008-2009 financial report (to 31 August 2008) was distributed and reviewed. Mike urged members with outstanding dues to pay these ASAP to avoid the cash flow problems experienced throughout 2007-2008, resulting in the use of Claudette's personal line of credit to cover shortfalls.

Mike reviewed the status of the IOI-Canada contract with the ACZISC:

- This ongoing contract (\$50K per year + expenses) is for Mike Butler to serve as Director (half-time) of IOI-Canada, also based at Ocean House, Dalhousie University. IOI is a network of 25 centres located around the world; the headquarters are in Malta.
- The major activity of IOI-Canada is the organization and delivery of the 8-week "IOI Training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management", which has been delivered in Halifax annually since 1981. The courses are attended by 15-20 participants, mostly from developing countries. The 2008 course was held from 21 May - 18 July 2008. A number of ACZISC members participated as lecturers and/or module leaders. The next course is scheduled for 20 May to 17 July 2009 - see <http://internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca> for details.
- IOI-Canada and the other partners in a project funded by the NIPPON Foundation are organizing a workshop on Ecosystem-Based Management in the Caribbean on 10-12 December in Barbados. The ACZISC Secretariat is preparing a paper for presentation entitled "Spatial Data infrastructures in Support of Ecosystem Based Management and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Caribbean". The paper is based in part on COINAtlantic and Canada's experience in developing the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure.

Mike stated that the Secretariat staff would not be able to participate significantly in additional revenue generating projects this fiscal year because of the significant number of person days committed to the COINAtlantic/GeoConnections project.

***ACTION 55.3 Members to pay 2008-2009 dues ASAP to ensure adequate cash flow***

**ACZISC WORKPLAN:** Mike Butler distributed copies of the ACZISC 2008-2009 Workplan and the updated Strategic Plan for 2008-2012.

Mike stated that the Workplan activities and deliverables are based on the thrusts and enabling objectives identified in the ACZISC Strategic Plan. He reported that the Strategic Plan had been updated recently based on the results of a survey of members' priorities and subsequent discussions at ACZISC Meeting #53 in Charlottetown (January 2008) and #54 in St. John's (May 2008).

Members reviewed and discussed the status of activities and deliverables. The milestones associated with the COINAtlantic / GeoConnections project (Appendix 1) were highlighted.

**ACZISC ICOM WORKING GROUP:** The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) Working Group is co-chaired by Tim Hall, DFO Maritimes and Patrick Shea, NL

Fisheries and Aquaculture. The ICOM WG met yesterday (24 September). Agenda items included:

- a presentation and discussion on the **Southwest NB Bay of Fundy Marine Resources Planning Initiative**, by *Andrew Breau, NB Agriculture and Aquaculture, and Fisheries*
- a presentation and discussion on the **NB Coastal Areas Protection Policy**, by *Paul Jordan, NB Environment*
- a presentation and discussion on **Using Risk Assessment for Integrated Management**, by *John Legault, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gulf Region*
- a review of ICOM policy issues by participants.

The presentations are available at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm>.

The action and information items resulting from the past two ICOM Working Group meeting were as follows:

***ACTION 55.4:*** *Tim Hall, Patrick Shea, Justin Huston and Secretariat to further revise the discussion paper on the benefits and role of the ACZISC in information sharing*

*Secretariat to post the revised discussion paper on the ACZISC website*

***ACTION 55.5:*** *Secretariat and ICOM WG co-chairs to organize a meeting of the ICOM Working Group in conjunction with ACZISC Meeting #56*

**ACZISC ASSOCIATION:** The ACZISC Association was established in 2003 to act as the legal entity and fiscal agent for the ACZISC Committee.

- The Directors of the ACZISC Association are: Norval Collins, Brad Fay, Grant Gardner, Randy Gillespie and Brent Rowley (chair).
- The Executive Officers are: Michael Butler, President; Claudette LeBlanc, Vice-president; and Jennifer Barr, Secretary/Treasurer.
- The AGM of the Association will be held in conjunction with ACZISC meeting #56.

***ACTION 55.6:*** *Secretariat to organize a meeting of the ACZISC Association Board of Directors and the Annual General Meeting of the Association*

## **6. ACZISC SECRETARIAT SUCCESSION PLANNING**

Mike Butler reported that draft succession criteria and guidelines have been prepared by the ACZISC Secretariat as part of the planning process for replacing the Secretariat staff following their retirement.

Members reviewed the guidelines and provided comments. The draft guidelines will be further revised by the Secretariat based on these comments. Job descriptions will also be prepared.

***ACTION 55.7:*** *Secretariat to further revise the succession criteria and guidelines for the ACZISC Secretariat*

***ACTION 55.8:*** *Secretariat to prepare job descriptions for the Director, the Project Officer and the Finance Officer (based on their contracts with the ACZISC Association), and the COINAtlantic Project Manager*

***ACTION 55.9:*** *Secretariat to organize a meeting with the Advisory Committee and other interested ACZISC members to further discuss succession and make recommendations to the ACZISC on the staff selection process*

## **7. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

Norval Collins, CEF Consultants, made a presentation on the **Grand Banks Marine Representative Areas - Potential Area Identification**. The study was carried out for Parks Canada by CEF Consultants and CBCL Ltd. The ACZISC Secretariat's role in the study was to facilitate access to information and contacts.

Norval commented that the information compiled for the Canada/US East Coast of North America Strategic Assessment Project (ECNASAP) was very valuable for the Grand Banks study. The 2-year ECNASAP project (1994-1996) consisted of an inshore component which focused on shellfish resource rehabilitation and an offshore component which focused on Atlantic groundfish stocks – distribution maps for 99 groundfish species off the east coast of North America are available at [http://specialprojects.nos.noaa.gov/product/pdfs/96ecnasap\\_groundfish.pdf](http://specialprojects.nos.noaa.gov/product/pdfs/96ecnasap_groundfish.pdf). ECNASAP was coordinated by the ACZISC in Canada and by NOAA in the US.

## **8. COINATLANTIC**

Paul Boudreau, COINAtlantic Project Manager, reported on **COINAtlantic**, the **Coastal and Ocean Information Network** (<http://coinatlantic.ca>). COINAtlantic will be a single point of entry for users to search, find and access environmental information based on geographic and thematic layers. The aim is to support decision-making by coastal and ocean managers and users of coastal and ocean space and resources. COINAtlantic is being established within the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI) and with the support of several partners, including GeoConnections and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Paul demonstrated the online beta version of COINAtlantic. He requested that participants provide feedback – see <http://coin.dmsolutions.ca/coinatlantic/>.

Paul summarized the tasks resulting from the Project Implementation Plan:

- ***Direct the development and installation of the prototype Web Mapping Application***
- ***Test the prototype Web Mapping Application, the WMS services, and documentation***
- ***Organize and conduct COINAtlantic Management Committee and Advisory Committee meetings***
- ***Make presentations on COINAtlantic at appropriate venues***
- ***Develop a communication plan***
- ***Further develop a sustainability plan***
- ***Initiate the development of training materials***
- ***Organize of NGO training sessions***
- ***Prepare and submit financial / milestone reports to GeoConnections.***

Paul reported on the COINAtlantic Workshop held on Wednesday, 24 September. Agenda items included: a review of the COINAtlantic concept, a demonstration of the COINAtlantic wireframe, a report on activities, a discussion on client/user needs, and a presentation on the COINAtlantic marine cadastre prototype. Paul summarized the action items resulting from the COINAtlantic session.

***ACTION 55.10:*** ***Participants to review the online beta version of COINAtlantic at <http://coin.dmsolutions.ca/coinatlantic/> and email comments to Paul Boudreau ([COINAtlantic@dal.ca](mailto:COINAtlantic@dal.ca)) by 22 Oct 2008***

***ACTION 55.11:*** ***Participants to email comments to Paul Boudreau on the draft scoping document for the next phase of the COINAtlantic / GeoConnections project (the basis for a short term funding proposal) - click on "Phase II Proposal" at <http://www.marinebiodiversity.ca/COINAtlantic/development-implementation-sustainability>***

***ACTION 55.12:*** ***Tony Turner to circulate the draft COINAtlantic scoping document ASAP to GeoConnections personnel for comment***

***ACTION 55.13:*** ***Tony Turner to provide the Secretariat with a list of GeoConnections funded projects in Atlantic Canada.***

Refer to the Project Milestones in Appendix 1 on pages 19-20 for additional details.

## 8. **PLANNING FOR COASTAL ZONE CANADA 2010**

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

- CZC 2010 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 should contact Kelly.

***ACTION 55.14:*** *Participants interested in becoming involved in planning for the Coastal Zone Canada 2010 Conference (24-29 July in Charlottetown) to email Kelly Cantelo ([kdcantelo@gov.pe.ca](mailto:kdcantelo@gov.pe.ca))*

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

Mike Butler invited participants to provide an overview of ICOM-related programs and activities within their jurisdiction. He requested that notes be provided to the Secretariat to assist with the preparation of accurate minutes and the report of coastal activities, which will be posted in the ACZISC documents section of the website – <http://aczisc.dal.ca>.

***ACTION 55.15:*** *Participants to email their roundtable notes to Claudette LeBlanc ([leblancc@ca.inter.net](mailto:leblancc@ca.inter.net)) by 25 Oct 2008*

**COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION / 2008 CONFERENCE:** 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 promoted 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.

**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.ihonline.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 Center 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:
  - 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 (COs) 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 PBGB 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 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 BOI 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 WNSL 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, SGSLCS, 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 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 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 among the various Provinces / States within the Gulf of Maine / Bay of Fundy area yearly.
- 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:

- Tim 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.
  - o 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 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 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:
  - The Environmental Emergencies Section has developed a GIS for use in 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.
- The shoreline sensitivity study for Newfoundland has been completed; 206 maps have been produced. Efforts are now focused on Voiseys Bay in Labrador.
  - The shoreline sensitivity mapping for NB and PEI has been updated. The mapping for NS will also be updated.
  - 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:
  - include research labs in support of ocean technology and testing of new products for the sector;
  - serve as a base for two research vessels, Remote Operated Vehicles and Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, and associated training and research;
  - include two wet labs for biological, applied fisheries and marine research; support R&D activities by the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science, Memorial University of Newfoundland; and,
  - house up to 50 faculty/researchers and include a seminar facility and classrooms.

## 10. ***ADJOURNMENT***

ACZISC Meeting #55 adjourned at 1615 hrs on Thursday, 25 September 2008.

## COINATLANTIC / GEOCONNECTIONS PROJECT MILESTONES

Milestone Name	Milestone Components	Milestone Completion Date
<b>Initiation phase</b>	Administrative procedures documentation COINAtlantic corporate identity Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Validated implementation plan User requirements document GeoConnections milestone report #1 GeoConnections financial statement #1	March 31, 2008
<b>Design Phase</b>	Communications plan Application and service design documentation Design analysis and documentation Architecture documentation Data layer readiness report Data modelling and layer testing Design recommendations Initial strategies document Data principles protocols described Sustainability plan report and recommendations Steering Committee endorsement of design Design document Web Mapping Application (Version 1) online GeoConnections milestone report #2 GeoConnections financial statement #2	June 30, 2008
<b>Build Phase</b>	Revised code and documentation of revisions Programming installation and testing (various collaborators) Web service code, system documentation, testing results Testing WMS services, documentation (various collaborators) Products online (various collaborators) Draft training materials for review Revised sustainability plan Approved build phase document Advisory Committee recommendation WMS/WFS online (various collaborators) Phase 1 revised WMS/ WFS online GeoConnections milestone report #3 GeoConnections financial statement #3	September 30, 2008

<b>Milestone Name</b>	<b>Milestone Components</b>	<b>Milestone Completion Date</b>
<b>Implementation Phase</b>	Phase 2 WMS/WFS online (various collaborators) Web Mapping Application (WMA) (Version 1) online Report on promotion communications (Phase 1) NGO training sessions - initiated Revised WMS/ WFS online (Phase 2) GeoConnections milestone report #4 GeoConnections financial statement #4	December 31, 2008
<b>Project Consolidation Phase</b>	Report on promotion communications (Phase 2 and Phase 3) Revised WMS/WFS online (Phase 3) Revised WMA – version 3 online Next steps workshop Secure WMS/WMF/WMA GeoConnections milestone report #5 GeoConnections financial statement #5	March 31, 2009
<b>Project Conclusion Phase</b>	NGO training sessions – completed Final sustainability plan Advisory Committee documented recommendations and comments GeoConnections final report GeoConnections final financial statement	June 30, 2009