

Netawek Ikjikum

Voice of the Ocean

Newsletter of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

Vol. 7 Issue 1, August 2011

**For your copy see center pullout of
*Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 -2020
and the Aichi Targets***

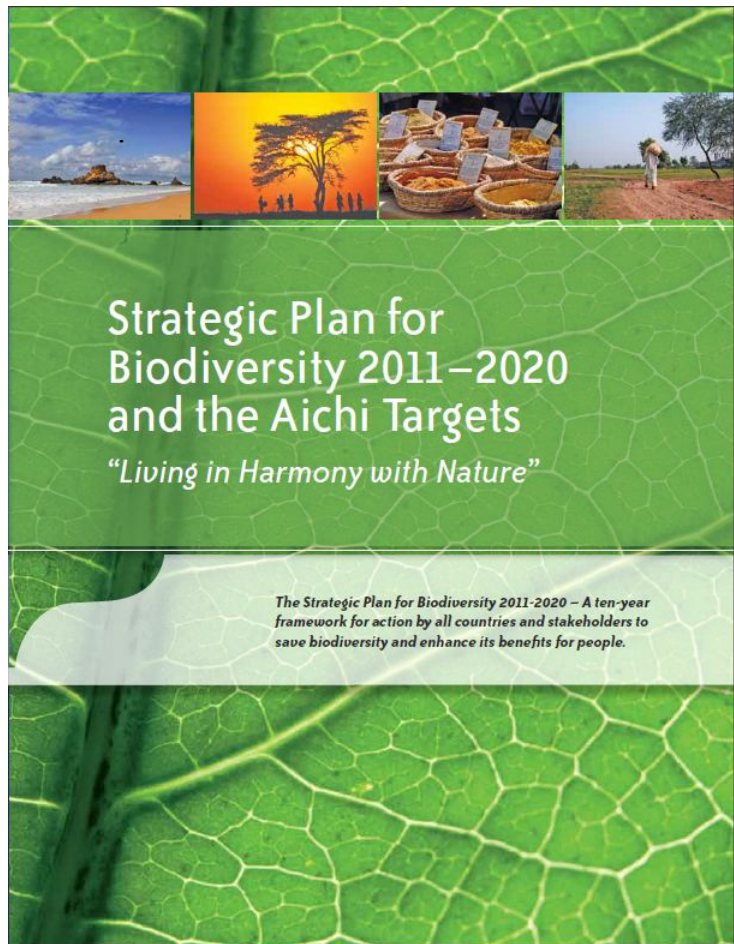
Living

in

Harmony

with

Nature



MAARS Priorities to Implement the 2011-2020 Aichi Targets

By MAARS Director Roger J. Hunka

The Strategic Plan for the Decade of Biodiversity 2011-2020, announced in Nagoya, Japan during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10), is a 10 year framework of urgent goals and action targets for all countries and stakeholders to undertake to save biodiversity, sustainably use biodiversity and equally share in the benefits of Biodiversity for all people "Living in Harmony with Nature."

Reproduced within this issue of Netawek Ikjikum are the twenty (20) Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These twenty (20) targets were developed to meet five strategic goals:

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society. Strategic Goal A includes Four (4) Targets: Target 1, Target 2, Target 3, and Target 4.

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use. Strategic Goal B includes six (6) Targets: Target 5, Target 6, Target 7, Target 8, Target 9, and Target 10.

Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. Strategic Goal C includes three (3) Targets: Target 11, Target 12, and Target 13.

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. Strategic Goal D includes three (3) Targets: Target 14, Target 15, and Target 16.

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building. Strategic Goal E includes four (4) Targets: Target 17, Target 18, target 19, and Target 20.

The Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council has followed international developments leading to the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992*. The CBD, in measure, reflects the international community's growing concern over the unprecedented loss of biological diversity. Human destruction of biodiversity has inspired negotiations for a legally binding instrument aimed at reversing this alarming trend. The negotiations were also strongly influenced by the growing recognition throughout the world of the need for the *"fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources."*

These three (3) key objectives of the Convention: "the conservation of biological diversity", "the sustainable use of its components", and the "fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources" are embodied within the 42 articles, and two (2) annexes of the CBD.

The CBD is the first global comprehensive agreement to address all aspects of biological diversity: genetic resources, species, and ecosystems. It recognizes - for the first time - that the conservation of biological diversity is "a common concern of humankind" and an integral part of the development process. In 2002, the international community at the *United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development* (Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002), for the first time in UN history, adopted the unqualified term "Indigenous Peoples" and the "vital role" which Indigenous Peoples have in sustainable development in its official political declaration:

"We reaffirm the vital role of Indigenous Peoples in sustainable development."

Since the introduction and adoption of the CBD, concerted efforts on the element of Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) did not begin until 1998 when a "regionally balanced expert panel on Access and Benefit Sharing" was established at the 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 4), in May 1998 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

At COP 10, on October 29, 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising From Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity* was adopted. (See the article in this issue "*Highlight Summary on the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity*" on Page 11)

When we look at the five (5) strategic goals and the twenty (20) targets to be met within the decade "Living in Harmony with Nature 2011-2020" we clearly see the need to do something to help humanity reach the collective vision: .

"By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."

Humanity must go forward and see the real world of Earth, Water, Rock, Fire and Biodiversity by tearing off the veil that blurs vision about progress and development, under which we presently live. We must begin to see clearly our need to "Live in Harmony with Nature". We cannot separate ourselves from biodiversity or the planet Earth.

For our part the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) of the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC) and IKANAWTIKET have determined to focus our efforts on:

Strategic Goal B: Target 6

"By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits."

Strategic Goal D: Target 14

"By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable.

Strategic Goal E: Target 18

"By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels."

Throughout our work in the coming years, the results of our efforts on these targets will be shared with our community and our readers in future issues of *Netawek Ikjikum* and *Mawqatmuti'kw*.

Atlantic Bluefin, Atlantic Sturgeon, and 38 others added to species at risk list

By *IKANAWTIKET* Facilitator Joshua McNeely

Upon the invitation from Dr. Marty Leonard, Chair of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), MAARS Director Roger Hunka and IKANAWTIKET Regional Facilitator Joshua McNeely attended the May 1-6 COSEWIC Spring Species at Risk Assessment Meeting in Charlottetown, PEI.

Though only able to take in two days of the week-long assessment meeting, both Roger and Joshua were impressed with the amount of work accomplished (the assessment of 18 new species and review of 22 others). The professionalism and quality of discussion by the 30 voting members and their alternates at the table lends credence to the vital first step of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) process to determine if a species should be protected under the Act.

The job of assessing species status is difficult, as many compounding factors threaten species survival, both now and in the distant future. For example, what impacts will future economic development in Canada have on species, when in fact; we do not know how that development may proceed in the wake of one global recession and standing on the edge of another? Compounding this is a lack of detailed and long standing scientific records for most species. Scientists admit that when the whole body of science is considered, only a miniscule portion is devoted to understanding such things as marine life, polar life, and small animals and plants. Also, the scientific process is ill-equipped to explain complex ecosystem or habitat interactions. To make scientifically defensible recommendations on species current and projected status is difficult, to say the least. Recently, COSEWIC is attempting to integrate Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge into assessments; though a long road of mutual understanding and reconciliation still lies ahead.

Whether we agree or not with a particular COSEWIC assessment and for all the uncertainties though, Canada has adopted a precautionary approach in SARA, as well as several other Acts and a National Framework. COSEWIC is a vital element in the Precautionary Approach under SARA. The Precautionary Approach states that “where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent the reduction or loss of a species”.

Not only does COSEWIC assess species, but it also is tasked under SARA to independently set the priorities of

which species are in need of assessment, based solely on the best available knowledge at hand. Since SARA has established the COSEWIC assessment as the first step in a legislated process, which must lead to a Cabinet decision of “to List” or “not to List”, in effect the COSEWIC assessments force government to act by showing that there are “threats of serious or irreversible damage” (the first part of the Precautionary Approach). This begins a government process under SARA to determine and implement “cost-effective measures to prevent the reduction or loss of a species” (the second part of the Precautionary Approach).

Even if Cabinet subsequently refuses to List a species under SARA for political or economic reasons, Canada is still not off the hook. The *Convention on Biological Diversity* requires conservation to be a *whole of society* and a *whole of government* approach across all sector’s plans, policies, and programs. For Aboriginal Peoples, that means that under SARA, government must at a minimum consult to: 1) evaluate the reported “threats of serious or irreversible damage” (COSEWIC assessments) and 2) develop “cost-effective measures to prevent the reduction or loss of a species” (input into socio-economic assessments and the Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement with listing recommendation to Cabinet; and later in the development of recovery strategies, action plans, and management plans). Regardless of a Cabinet SARA Listing decision, under the CBD Canada must still take specific management and recovery measures, which requires the full and effective participation of Aboriginal Peoples.

Thus far, COSEWIC has put the federal, provincial, and territorial governments on notice about 635 species at risk in Canada (473 of those have been Listed under SARA). Through this unique mix of an independent COSEWIC, a Precautionary Approach, and the development of working relationships under the umbrella of SARA and the CBD, Aboriginal Peoples do have a place at the table, at least about this one aspect of biodiversity.

Atlantic species added to the COSEWIC list this spring are:

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna – Endangered
 Macropis Cuckoo Bee – Endangered
 Barn Swallow – Threatened
 Eastern Meadowlark – Threatened
 Atlantic Sturgeon – Threatened



Municipalité des Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Communications Department

For immediate use

PRESS RELEASE

Forum on hydrocarbons in the Gulf of St. Lawrence

Coastal communities ask for a federal commission

Magdalen Islands, April 9, 2011 – Coastal communities agree on the need for an integrated approach in the oil and gas projects in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. More than 100 participants travelled to take part in the Forum on the exploration and the exploitation of hydrocarbons in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and have asked the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency for a commission to deepen the issues of drilling projects. The representatives of coastal communities believe that the complexity of issues related to the development of the hydrocarbon industry in the marine environment requires a pause for further reflection and learning, and also to give a chance to the populations to voice their opinions about the project.

“Coastal Communities are calling for a pause to review the regulatory and environmental framework of potential oil and gas drilling, wherever it may be in the Gulf”, summed up the mayor of Magdalen Islands, Joel Arseneau. “Many questions remain unanswered and coastal communities want to be reassured about the impact of the hydrocarbon industry on fisheries, tourism and their environment.”

The interprovincial Forum brought together elected representatives of coastal communities, municipal and governmental officials as well as representatives of fisheries, tourism and environmental associations for two days in the Magdalen Islands. The participants attended nine conferences about the current state of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the legislative question, some examples of offshore drilling and the environmental, social and economic impacts. Exchanges of views in the workshops helped to identify common ground and develop ideas for joint actions. Magdalen Islands citizens also participated in the Forum and attended conferences, which added to the success of the event.

In response to an invitation from the Magdalen Island municipality, it is the first time that coastal communities are working together to develop a common vision on the current state and future of the region they share, the Gulf. The Forum is therefore the first step toward a coordinated approach. The participants showed their willingness to remain in contact to continue their exchanges. Moreover, they have become aware of their responsibility to work within their respective communities to develop their opinions and reach consensus.

In preparation for more than six months, the Forum benefited from the support of many volunteers and the collaboration of many municipal employees. The Forum also made possible through the support of several financial partners: the Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife, the Conference Regionale des Elus de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the Caisses populaires Desjardins des Îles, the Centre de recherche sur les milieux insulaires et maritimes and the group CTMA.

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Information: Elena Haratsaris, communications advisor
418 986 3100 #328 – 418 937 6713 (cellphone)
eharatsaris@muniles.ca

Magdalen Islands Oil and Gas Forum – April 8th and 9th 2011

Recommendations

(Translated from the original document)

- Develop a management system and an integrated territorial approach for the Gulf. This approach must be conveyed to our respective governments.
- Call upon the Federal Government (ministry of the Environment) and the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) to begin a Panel Review (“Board of examiners”) that would cover the entire Gulf, as required by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.
- Ask the ministry of Oceans and Fisheries to establish our knowledge of the Gulf ecosystem and proceed with a review of the impacts of exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons on the fisheries industry and fisheries resource in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; ask the ministry to give a notice as to whether or not hydrocarbon development can be done in a context of the protection of the resource and if so, that the ministry dictate the conditions required.
- Undertake a revision of the model of the Boards and in this framework, ensure a greater involvement of coastal communities, aim for greater transparency and eliminate conflicting roles regarding, among others, worker safety and distribution of permits.
- Establish mechanisms and create the means to promote participation, consultation, representation and the distribution of information to the different coastal communities of the Gulf and in turn encourage local elected officials, local actors and other organisms involved in regional development in each Gulf province.
- Create a model for the distribution of royalties that takes into account certain parameters such as the proximity of the coastal communities to the sites of exploration and exploitation and the level of risk incurred.

North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty Centennial

By *IKANAWTIKET* Facilitator Joshua McNeely

This year, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first international treaty to address wildlife conservation – the *North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty of 1911*.

The *North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty* was a dramatic step for species conservation; and most experts agree that if not for the Treaty, the North Pacific Fur Seal would most likely be extinct today. The Treaty was so effective that it continues to be

studied today as a good model for other international environmental treaties. The main lessons of the Treaty for diplomats and State governments to learn today are that economics alone cannot be allowed to steer our course. For the good of biodiversity, the good of people, and the good of international relations, States must take a principled approach toward conservation by:

- proclaiming good faith in the treaty process,

- enforcing tough sanctions against those who violate the treaty, and
- maintaining a political will to meet the treaty objectives, even in the face of global uncertainties.

A History of International Sealing

European merchants began harvesting seals and walrus in earnest in the late 17th century, when whale populations began to diminish after a century of international whaling. Like whaling merchants, they loaded their stocks with only the most profitable part of a seal or walrus – the bio-oil; which was used in Europe as a “clean” source of energy (compared to coal). The rest: meat, skin, and bone, was wastefully discarded and entire populations were decimated in a few decades. For example, by the beginning of the 18th century, very few walrus were left in Atlantic Canada – to this day, the once abundant, Atlantic Walrus is extirpated from the Maritimes Region. For merchants, the loss of walrus and seals in the Atlantic mattered little – massive new colonies of seals were discovered in the Pacific. Like the whalers and sealers before them, the new generation of Pacific sealers thought only of profits and that the new supply of bio-oil would be never ending – they too were wrong.

Also, in the 1790s the fur trade opened with China. The lucrative commodity switched from bio-oil to seal fur and between 1790 and 1820, fur sealing exploded across all oceans, including the Arctic and Antarctica shelves. Island rookeries were literally stripped of millions of both males and females; the pups left to starve, awaiting parents who would never return. Nearly driven to extinction by the mid-1800s were the expansive fur seal populations of the Galapagos, Guadalupe, and Juan Fernandez islands.

In the North Pacific, the main fur seal colony was discovered in 1786 – the Pribilofs Islands in Alaska. Realizing that fur seals were quickly going extinct in other parts of the world, some efforts were made to regulate the sealing in the early to mid-1800s. However, when the islands were purchased by the United States in 1867, American sealing escalated to 100,000 pelts per year between 1870 and 1890.

The US government optimistically deemed this to be a “safe level as long as no other large scale harm occurred”. On top of this, the United States banned other countries from sealing in the Bering Sea; however, non-American sealers simply began hunting seals at sea (pelagic sealing). The at-sea harvest was particularly devastating. Some accounts indicate that the loss, because seals sink when they die, was over 90 percent.

The Need for a Treaty

The United States, Canada, Russia, and Japan each blamed the other for the devastation and they could not work out any better terms for managing the commercial harvests – both on the islands and the pelagic hunt. The United States claimed its exclusive rights on Pribilofs and the others claimed rights in international waters. With only economics to govern the hunts, all were racing for the last seal, what is commonly called “The Tragedy of the Commons”.

By the early 20th century, when the Pribilofs population was a mere 130,000 fur seals, only two options were left: 1) the default scenario of an extinct species or 2) to take a new direction in international relations to have faith in each other and collectively manage a species. On July 7, 1911, the four States signed the *North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty*, with the three aims: 1) the conservation of fur seals (through the ban on pelagic hunting), 2) the sustainable harvest of Pribilofs Island seals by American sealers, and 3) the equitable sharing of benefits (money and/or pelts) from the American seal hunt. This last element was key in that the “pay-out” from the United States to the three other signatory States enticed them to police their flagged vessels against pelagic sealing. [These same broad objectives – conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable access and benefit-sharing – were used as the foundation for our modern *Convention on Biological Diversity*.]

The need for the *North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty* was clear – we cannot allow economics alone to govern our actions. The Treaty had immediate effects and the Pribilofs population rebounded quickly to several millions of healthy breeding seals. Unfortunately, the Treaty fell apart during World

War II, but the United States and Canada kept the principles of the Treaty alive until a new interim treaty was signed in 1957, with extensions until 1984. The Treaty was implemented by the United States through the *Fur Seal Act, 1966* and also set precedent for the US to later enact other key conservation legislation, such as the *Marine Mammal Protection Act, 1972*.

However, in the 1970s, the North Pacific Fur Seal numbers began to fall sharply. No one is quite sure why the population has dropped to around 1 million seals, but most scientists are sure that it is a complex formula of toppling dominoes, which began with the catastrophic slaughter of several keystone species, including whales, walruses, and seals. Subsequently, the interest in sealing also waned in the 1970s and the interim Treaty lapsed in 1984, which also marked the permanent closure of the commercial land harvest by the United States. Today, the dominoes continue to fall, be repositioned, and fall again, because of our increasing demands on the ocean: fishing, oil and gas, ocean pollution, acidification, destruction of reefs, and human induced climate change. In many cases, the stressors are so numerous and complex that we lack the scientific capacity to begin to understand our cumulative impacts.

Some believe that humans have so drastically altered the state of the oceans since the beginning of the 15th century that it can never go back. Others point to the dramatic positive effects that the 1911 *North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty* had for over seven decades – if only we could expand those principles and objectives to encompass broader biodiversity issues we may one day return to a cornucopia of life. One thing is for certain, the legacy of whaling and sealing will reverberate for many decades and centuries to come. It is up to us to decide where we direct our efforts: Do we exacerbate the pendulum swing or do we try to find balance and hopefully some restoration?

We must continually remember our past, be vigilant of the present, and always steer a true course toward a better future. There is much that can be learned from the *North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty*. History has shown that through our international treaties

and national and provincial acts, we can be resolute to work together in good faith, with fair terms, and a political will for conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable benefit sharing of the world's bounty. To be effective this must be done at international and local levels for species. This was the understanding of modern governments which began with the *North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty*. Since that time, we have built upon that understanding to recognize that these principles and objectives must be integrated into the development of all economic and social policies and strategies which we use to govern ourselves (an Ecosystem-Based Principle). The onus of the burden of proof is now on the proponent to prove “no harm” and that must be considered before granting approvals (a Precautionary Principle). Furthermore, this must be done as a movement of the whole of society with leadership from the whole of government (the Principles of Responsibility with Democracy and Active Citizenship).

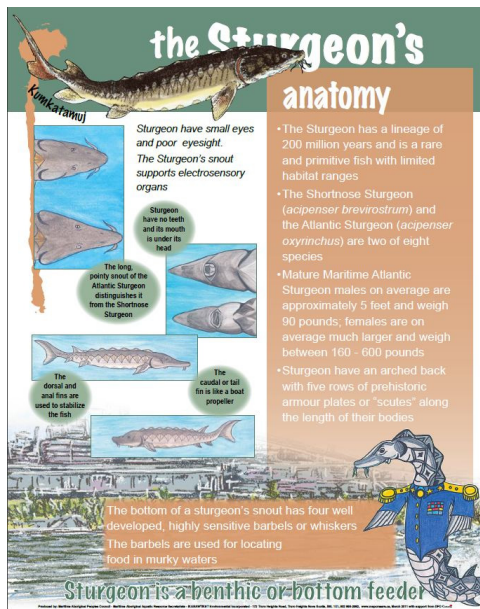
Unfortunately, in this article we did not have the space to discuss the significant impacts that resource exploitation and international conservation treaties have on Indigenous Peoples. The Pribilofs islands are inhabited by the Aleuts. Both the indiscriminant slaughter of seals and the ban of commercial sealing on the islands greatly affected the liberty and well-being of the Aleuts, which is still felt today. From the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):

“In 1870, the government determined to treat the islands as a business monopoly, a paradigm that continued for more than one hundred ten years. Aleuts, indigenous to the region, provided the mainstay labor force just as they had for the Russians. They became wards of the government, and according to some, “slaves of the harvest”. Their civil liberties would be compromised for more than eighty years.”

For more information on the impact of the fur seal trade on the Aleuts see: Pribilof Islands: A Historical Perspective – http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/noaa_documents/NOS/ORR/TM_NO_S-ORR_17/HTML/Seal_Islands.html
The AMIQ Institute: The Aleuts of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska – www.amiq.org/aleuts.html

Sturgeon Booklet and Posters

By Summer Student Leah Gerrior



the Sturgeon's anatomy

Kumk'awuj

Sturgeon have small eyes and poor eyesight. The Sturgeon's snout supports electrosensory organs

Sturgeon have no teeth and its mouth is under its head

The long, pointed snout of the Atlantic Sturgeon distinguishes it from the Shortnose Sturgeon

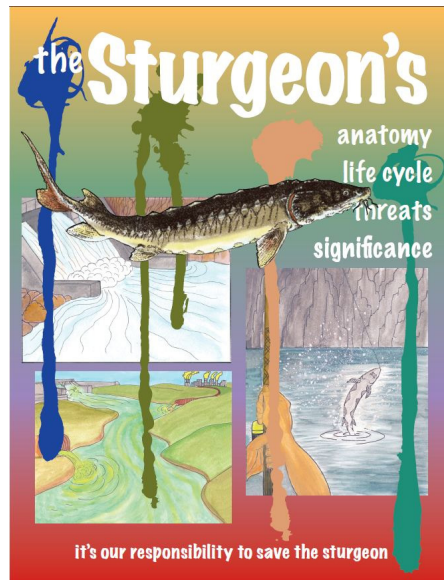
The dorsal and anal fins are used to stabilize the fish

The caudal or tail fin is like a boat propeller

The bottom of a sturgeon's snout has four well developed, highly sensitive barbels or whiskers. The barbels are used for locating food in murky waters

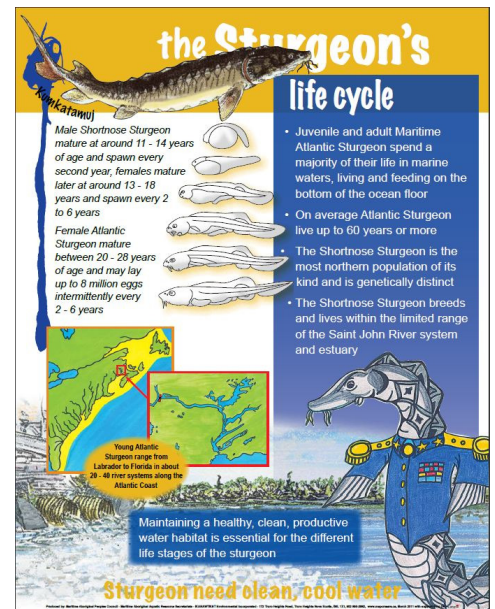
Sturgeon is a benthic or bottom feeder

- The Sturgeon has a lineage of 200 million years and is a rare and primitive fish with limited habitat ranges
- The Shortnose Sturgeon (*acipenser brevirostrum*) and the Atlantic Sturgeon (*acipenser oxyrinchus*) are two of eight species
- Mature Maritime Atlantic Sturgeon males on average are approximately 5 feet and weigh 90 pounds; females are on average much larger and weigh between 160 - 600 pounds
- Sturgeon have an arched back with five rows of prehistoric armour plates or "scutes" along the length of their bodies.



the Sturgeon's anatomy life cycle threats significance

it's our responsibility to save the sturgeon



the Sturgeon's life cycle

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Male Shortnose Sturgeon mature at around 11 - 14 years of age and spawn every second year, females mature later at around 13 - 18 years and spawn every 2 to 6 years

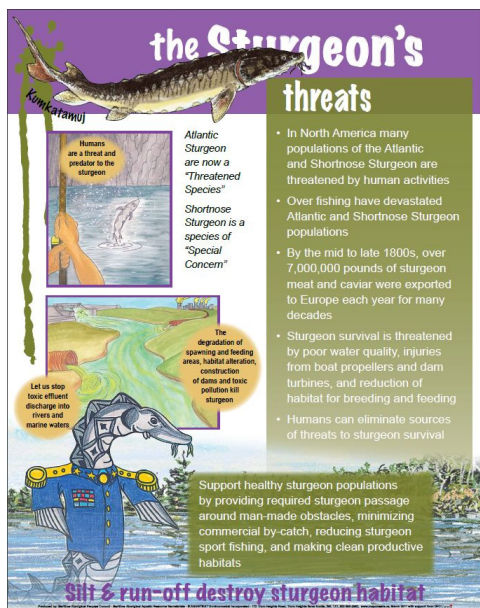
Female Atlantic Sturgeon mature between 20 - 28 years of age and may lay up to 8 million eggs intermittently every 2 - 6 years

Young Atlantic Sturgeon range from Labrador to Florida in about 28 - 48 river systems along the Atlantic Coast

Maintaining a healthy, clean, productive water habitat is essential for the different life stages of the sturgeon

Sturgeon need clean, cool water

- Juvenile and adult Maritime Atlantic Sturgeon spend a majority of their life in marine waters, living and feeding on the bottom of the ocean floor
- On average Atlantic Sturgeon live up to 60 years or more
- The Shortnose Sturgeon is the most northern population of its kind and is genetically distinct
- The Shortnose Sturgeon breeds and lives within the limited range of the Saint John River system and estuary



the Sturgeon's threats

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Humans are a threat and predator to the sturgeon

Atlantic Sturgeon are now a "Threatened Species"

Shortnose Sturgeon is a species of "Special Concern"

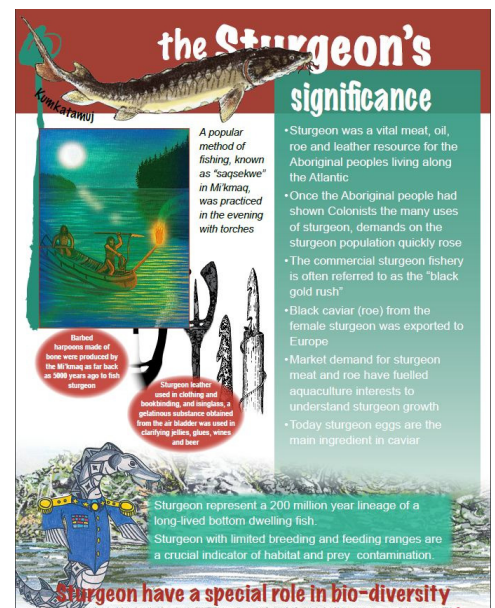
The degradation of spawning and feeding areas, habitat alteration, construction of dams and toxic pollution kill sturgeon

Let us stop toxic effluent discharge into rivers and marine waters

Support healthy sturgeon populations by providing required sturgeon passage around man-made obstacles, minimizing commercial by-catch, reducing sturgeon sport fishing, and making clean productive habitats

Silt & run-off destroy sturgeon habitat

- In North America many populations of the Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon are threatened by human activities
- Over fishing have devastated Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon populations
- By the mid to late 1800s, over 7,000,000 pounds of sturgeon meat and caviar were exported to Europe each year for many decades
- Sturgeon survival is threatened by poor water quality, injuries from boat propellers and dam turbines, and reduction of habitat for breeding and feeding
- Humans can eliminate sources of threats to sturgeon survival



the Sturgeon's significance

Kumk'awuj

A popular method of fishing, known as "saagakeew" in Mi'kmaq, was practiced in the evening with torches

Barbed bone hooks made by the Mi'kmaq on fish hooks are 5000 years old to fish sturgeon

Sturgeon leather used in clothing and bookbinding, and ingotins, a gelatinous substance obtained from the air bladder was used in clarifying jellies, glues, wines and beer

Sturgeon represent a 200 million year lineage of a long-lived bottom dwelling fish. Sturgeon with limited breeding and feeding ranges are a crucial indicator of habitat and prey contamination.

Sturgeon have a special role in bio-diversity

- Sturgeon was a vital meat, oil, roe and leather resource for the Aboriginal peoples living along the Atlantic
- Once the Aboriginal people had shown Colonists the many uses of sturgeon, demands on the sturgeon population quickly rose
- The commercial sturgeon fishery is often referred to as the "black gold rush"
- Black caviar (roe) from the female sturgeon was exported to Europe
- Market demand for sturgeon meat and roe have fuelled aquaculture interests to understand sturgeon growth
- Today sturgeon eggs are the main ingredient in caviar

The information booklet with the four posters on the Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon were produced by the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council/ Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate and IKANAWTIKET. The booklet and posters contain information with illustrations on the two species of Sturgeon found in Atlantic Canada. The information booklet provides a more detailed explanation about the Atlantic Sturgeon and Shortnose Sturgeon. The four accompanying posters highlight four topics discussed in the booklets: Anatomy, Life cycles, Threats and Significance. The anatomy poster highlights anatomy characteristics which distinguish the Atlantic Sturgeon from the Shortnose Sturgeon. The life cycle poster contains information about the Sturgeon's life cycle and the different growth stages and preferred habitats. The threats poster highlights threats and human activities which have led to the Atlantic Sturgeon now identified as a "Threatened Species" and the Shortnose Sturgeon as a "Species of Concern." Sturgeon are a living fossil of over 200 million years and a vital biodiversity of the ecosystem now shared by humans. The Mi'kmaq people of North-East, North America have harvested Sturgeon long before any contact, indeed for several millenniums using a variety of trapping and spearing innovations and technologies developed for a 6 to 13 foot, 100 to 200 pound fish without teeth.

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World Oceans Day – June 3, 2011

By NS AMDO Franz Kesick

The Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC), Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) and IKANAWTIKET Environmental Incorporated attended the Oceans day Celebrations at the Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax on June 3, 2011. This year we were accompanied by Chief & President Grace Conrad of the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS).



Although the weather did try to cooperate with us, it did, in fact drizzle for a good part of the day. Through ingenuity and the acquisition of some items lying around the pier, we were able to construct a protective device to keep our hand-outs and other articles somewhat dry.

This year MAPC/MAARS handed out a set of four posters (see page 14) explaining the life, anatomy, habitat and threats of the Atlantic and Short-nosed Sturgeon, as well as towels that had the Ocean's Day Logo (Youth, the next wave of Change) embossed in the middle of the towel accompanied with a wrap around poster explaining the endangered Right Whale, Leatherback Turtle, Cusk, Sturgeon and the Winter Skate that were also embossed with the Ocean's Day Logo.



The weather did not seem to have a huge impact on the number of visitors stopping by the many booths and displays that filled the Museum of the Atlantic and out onto the pier surrounding it. We handed out over 700 hundred towel packs and over 2800 posters in total. Once again Sean Weseloh-McKeanee did an excellent job of organizing and facilitating another excellent Ocean's Day. Well done Sean.



Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Targets

“Living in Harmony with Nature”

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 – A ten-year framework for action by all countries and stakeholders to save biodiversity and enhance its benefits for people.

Biological diversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. It provides for food security, human health, the provision of clean air and water; it contributes to local livelihoods, and economic development, and is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction. In addition it is a central component of many belief systems, worldviews and identities. Yet despite its fundamental importance, biodiversity continues to be lost. It is against this backdrop that the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with the purpose of inspiring broad-based action in support of biodiversity over the next decade by all countries and stakeholders. In recognition of the urgent need for action the United Nations General Assembly has also declared 2011-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity.

The Strategic Plan is comprised of a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and 20 ambitious yet achievable targets, collectively known as the Aichi Targets. The Strategic Plan serves as a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and it promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Strategic Goal A: *Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society*

- › **Target 1:** By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- › **Target 2:** By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- › **Target 3:** By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.
- › **Target 4:** By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

Strategic Goal B: *Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use*

- › **Target 5:** By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to

zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

- › **Target 6:** By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- › **Target 7:** By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- › **Target 8:** By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- › **Target 9:** By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- › **Target 10:** By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Strategic Goal C: *Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity*

- › **Target 11:** By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem

THE VISION

“By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”

THE MISSION

“Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet’s variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach.”

services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.

- › **Target 12:** By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- › **Target 13:** By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- › **Target 14:** By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- › **Target 15:** By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- › **Target 16:** By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic

Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- › **Target 17:** By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- › **Target 18:** By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
- › **Target 19:** By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
- › **Target 20:** By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resources needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.



What's Next

The development of national targets, and the updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), will be key processes in fulfilling the commitments set out in the Strategic Plan. To support countries in these efforts, the Secretariat, together with global and regional partners and with the generous support of the Government of Japan and other donors, will be convening a series of regional and subregional capacity-building workshops throughout 2011 and 2012. The workshops will build on the success of a first series of Capacity Development Workshops for NBSAPs and Biodiversity Mainstreaming held in 2008 and 2009. For further information on these workshops please see www.cbd.int/nbsap. Additional information on the Strategic Plan can be found on www.cbd.int/sp2020.



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

World Trade Centre · 413 St. Jacques Street, Suite 800

Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9

Phone: 1 (514) 288 2220 ·

Fax: 1 (514) 288 6588

E-mail: secretariat@cbd.int

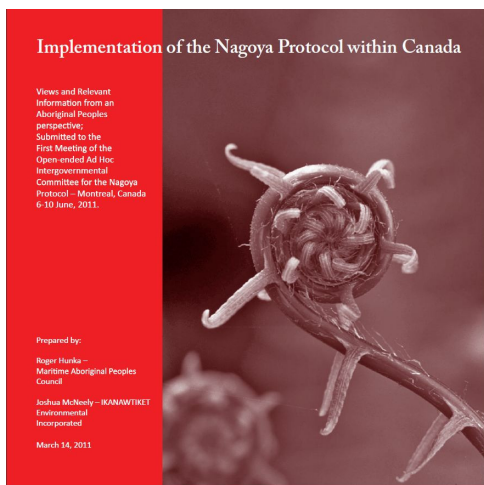
Website: www.cbd.int

Highlight Summary on the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity

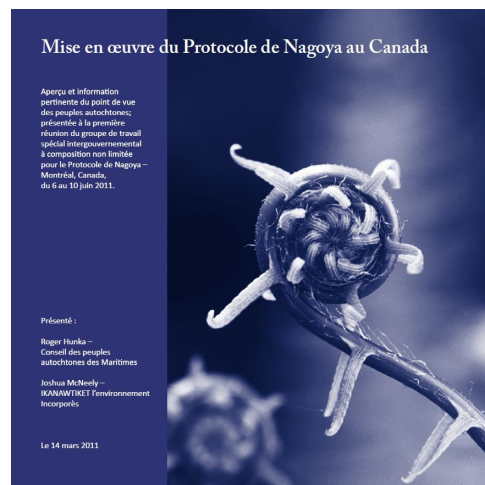
By MAARS Director Roger J. Hunka

As I had indicated in an earlier article concerning the subject of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council and IKANAWTIKET attended the first meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol in Montreal, Canada, 6-10 June, 2011. *The Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (ICNP 1 Final, volume 9, #551, Monday, June 13, 2011 available at: www.iisd.ca/biodiv/icnp1) has a fairly concise 14 page summary of the Committee meeting. The results on Capacity Building, Awareness Raising, Compliance Mechanisms and the Closing Plenary are fairly reported. This first meeting is preparatory for the second meeting (ICNP 2) tentatively scheduled for April 23-27, 2012 in Delhi, India and the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) scheduled for October 8-19, 2012 in Hyderabad, India.

Preparatory for these important international meetings on ABS, the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council has produced the document *"Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol within Canada: Views and Relevant Information from an Aboriginal Peoples perspective; Submitted to the First Meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol – Montreal, Canada 6-10 June, 2011"* (also available in French and Spanish).



English



French



Spanish

We noted some important considerations which must be accepted by Canada, appreciating that:

"At the national level, no two countries share identical political and legal experiences, especially on the subject of Indigenous knowledge, biodiversity governance, and ABS. The structure and operational framework of any ABS Clearing-House should be negotiated in the context of a country's particular reality. For instance, in Canada, Aboriginal Peoples have been tending sources and carrying forward Aboriginal knowledge about genetic diversity and genetic practices for many millennia. Aboriginal knowledge about the assess, use, and conservation of a vast diversity of genetic material has sustained and advanced the continuum of Aboriginal Peoples, in some cases for over 10,000 years. Through transfer of Aboriginal knowledge to other Canadians, in some instances

willingly and in many more instances through unscrupulous exploitation of Aboriginal Peoples, the reality exists that Aboriginal Peoples' knowledge is the grandfather or forerunner of what we term today as bio-technology."



The First meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity

The geographic boundaries of the Federation of the Peoples of Canada include: three oceans, two of the longer and larger river systems in the world, four massive fresh water lakes and two extremely large bays. There are 13 Marine Bio-regions and 15 Terrestrial Eco-regions in Canada. Within these bio-regions and eco-regions, there is a vast natural wealth and diversity. Over 73 nations of Aboriginal Peoples continue on Traditional Ancestral Homeland territories from ocean to ocean to ocean, communicating in 11 Language Families of 53 languages, transporting knowledge, which in many instances can be traced back to sources of biodiversity 10,000 years plus years ago.

The real world knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples knowledge (IK) about the secrets and uses of biodiversity is tried, tested and understood in the Indigenous Peoples laboratory of time, change, effects and results from the use of biodiversity resources. A laboratory far more extensive than the modern lab, testing and trying to understand properties and effects within short periods of a few months or (5,10,15 or 20 years at most).

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of genetic resources, as the third pillar of the CBD, is very significant and monumentally important to Indigenous People throughout the world, including Aboriginal Peoples within the Federation of the Peoples of Canada.

A fundamental document affirming and reaffirming the rights of Indigenous Peoples is the United Nations declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted on September 13, 2007. Key rights that have a bearing on ABS are:

Article 26.1 "Indigenous Peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired."

Article 26.2 "Indigenous Peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired."

Article 29.1 "Indigenous Peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programs for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination."

Article 31.1 "Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions."

Article 31.2 "In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights."

Article 32.1 "Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources."

Article 32.2 "States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, waster or other resources.

Article 32.3 "States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact."

Article 34.1 "Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with the international humans rights standards."

None of us can deny that developed States in most instances have a "veiled eye" on bio-prospecting and bio-piracy on Aboriginal Peoples Traditional Ancestral Homeland Territories. Bio-prospecting and bio-piracy have not abated in Canada, nor other countries throughout the globe. Bio-prospecting and bio-piracy without the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) or Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) denies Indigenous Peoples life, progress, and fair and equitable treatment from the use of their resources and their knowledge. The rampant race by pharmaceutical corporations and plant and seed conglomerates shows no signs of abatement.

In this series of articles about the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, I copy the brief history from the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (Volume 9, #551) leading to the Protocol:

COP 4: (May 1998 in Bratislava, Slovakia) established an expert panel on ABS, which held two meetings (October 1999, San José, Costa Rica; and March 2001, Montreal, Canada) and developed a set of recommendations, including on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), approaches for stakeholder involvement and options to address ABS within the CBD framework.

COP 5: (May 2000, Nairobi, Kenya) established the Working Group on ABS to develop guidelines and other approaches on: PIC and MAT; participation of stakeholders; benefit-sharing mechanisms; and the preservations of traditional knowledge.

- ABS 1:** At its first meeting (October 2001, Bonn, Germany), the working group on ABS developed the draft *Bonn Guidelines on ABS*, identified elements for a capacity-building action plan, and considered the role of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in the implementation of ABS arrangements.
- COP 6:** At its sixth meeting (April 2002, The Hague, the Netherlands), the COP adopted the *Bonn Guidelines on ABS* and also considered the role of IPRs in the implementation of ABS arrangements and the relationship with the *Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights* (TRIPS) of the *World Trade Organization*.
- WSSD:** In the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation*, the *UN World Summit on Sustainable Development* (WSSD) (September 2001, Johannesburg, South Africa) called for negotiating, within the CBD framework, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. “We reaffirm the vital role of indigenous peoples in sustainable development.”
- ABS 2:** At its second meeting (December 2003, Montreal, Canada), the ABS working group debated the process, nature, scope, elements and modalities of an international ABS regime and also considered measures to ensure compliance with PIC and MAT, and capacity building.
- COP 7:** At its seventh meeting (February 2004, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), the COP adopted the Action Plan on capacity building for ABS, mandated the ABS Working Group to elaborate and negotiate an international ABS regime and set out the terms of reference for the negotiations.
- ABS 3 & 4:** At its third and fourth meetings (February 2005, Bangkok, Thailand, and January 2006, Granada, Spain), the ABS Working Group produced draft text compilations to serve as the basis for future negotiations. It also considered additional approaches to compliment the *Bonn Guidelines on ABS*, including an international certificate of origin/source/legal provenance, measures to support compliance with PIC and MAT, and options for indicators for ABS.
- COP 8:** At its eighth meeting (March 2006, Curitiba, Brazil), the COP instructed the *ABS Working Group* to complete its work with regard to the international ABS regime at the earliest possible time before COP 10 in 2010. The COP also requested the Working Group on Article 8(j) to contribute to the mandate of the ABS Working Group on issues relevant to traditional knowledge.
- ABS 5 & 6:** At its fifth and sixth meetings (October 2007, Montreal, Canada, and January 2008, Geneva, Switzerland), the ABS Working Group focused on the main components of the international regime on ABS, including fair and equitable sharing of benefits, access to genetic resources, compliance, traditional knowledge and genetic resources, and capacity building. In Geneva, the Working Group produced a short and concise working document on the international regime, consisting of sections on the main components and lists of items "to be further elaborated with the aim of incorporating them in the international regime" in the case of agreement in principle or "for further consideration" in the case of disagreement or need for further clarification.
- COP 9:** At its ninth meeting (may 2008, Bonn, Germany), the COP adopted a roadmap for the negotiation of the international regime, ensuring that the ABS Working Group will meet three times before the 2010 deadline for the completion of negotiations. The COP also established three expert groups and instructed the ABS Working Group to finalize the international regime and to submit an instrument/instruments for the consideration and adoption by COP 10. The three expert groups (concepts, terms, working definitions and sectoral approaches; compliance; and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources) each met once between December 2008 and June 2009.

2009-2010 Negotiations: The ABS Working Group met four times between COPs 9 and 10 (April 2009, Paris, France; November 2009, Montreal, Canada; March 2010, Cali, Columbia; and July 2010, Montreal) assisted by expert, informal and regional consultations. During the first two meetings, delegates consolidated a draft. In Cali, the Working Group Co-Chairs circulated a draft protocol text but due to procedural wrangling the meeting was suspended. The resumed meeting in Montreal, using the interregional negotiating group (ING) format established in Cali, worked in good spirit on the draft protocol text, reached agreement on non-controversial provisions, and made progress on certain difficult issues, including the relationship with other instruments and compliance with domestic ABS requirements. Delegates also identified key issues that required further compromise, including scope and pathogens, derivatives and the concept of utilization of genetic resources, and mechanisms to support compliance. With several sets of brackets remaining, the Working Group held an additional meeting of the ING, which convened in September 2010, in Montreal. While the meeting achieved some progress towards an improved common understanding on derivatives and the concept of utilization, key issues remained outstanding.

COP 10: During COP 10, held from 19-29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, the ING met to continue negotiations on several key elements of the protocol. Towards the end of the meeting, informal ministerial consultations were held to discuss a compromise proposal put forward by the Japanese COP Presidency, where agreement was reached on a package relating to the remaining outstanding issues, including: the concept of utilization and derivatives and related benefit-sharing; the provision on scope; non-arbitrary access procedures; traditional knowledge-related issues, including a provision on publicly available traditional knowledge that was eventually deleted; special considerations with regard to human, animal or plant health emergencies and food security issues; the issue of temporal scope and a related proposal on multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism to address benefit-sharing for genetic resources and traditional knowledge that occur in transboundary situations or for which it is not possible to grant or obtain prior informed consent (PIC); and compliance-related provisions on checkpoints, information requirements and the international certificate of compliance. The COP adopted the clean text of the Protocol submitted by the informal ministerial consultations, as part of a "package" including also the new CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization.

The Indigenous Peoples and local communities attending the first Intergovernmental Committee meeting (ICNP 1) of June 5-10, 2011, Montreal, Canada continued to press two fundamental requirements: Indigenous Peoples and their civilizations predate many of the present day modern States in which they are nested. Some of those States, including Canada, and the United States of America are leading members of the so termed “developed” or “industrialized countries.”

Several centuries of colonial domination, cultural denial, dispossession and other forms of derogation and degradation, with dishonest dealings, have relegated Indigenous Peoples to the status of minorities. In those developed countries, including Canada, Indigenous Peoples are now under the threat of cultural extinction. Consequently, in Canada, while Aboriginal Peoples may be located on federal Indian Act Reserves or may continue on their Traditional Ancestral Homeland Territories, there is no radical disparity in the socio-economic status when compared to other Indigenous Peoples in the developing or underdeveloped world. Unlike the situation of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, other Indigenous Peoples have, in many instances, experienced

"Settler Withdrawal". In that regard, the issues of capacity building, capacity development and strengthening human resources and institutional capacities on ABS are as much an imperative for Indigenous Peoples nested within a developed country as it is for Indigenous Peoples within developing countries. Aboriginal Peoples of the Federation of the Peoples of Canada still contend with political institutions which do not fully understand the traditional knowledge and worldview of the Aboriginal Peoples.



The First meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity

It was often repeated by the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council to co-chairs and States' Delegates that "Indigenous Peoples and local communities must have full and effective participation", rather than mere involvement. In other words, Indigenous Peoples must be accorded status equivalent to that of States when negotiating international instruments which affect Indigenous Peoples and their human rights as declared in UNDRIPs. Full and effective participation must be consistently reflected in any recommendations forthcoming from this meeting.

Several UN documents, agencies and bodies seized with the subject of Indigenous Peoples, sustainable development, Indigenous Knowledge, mainstreaming the CBD or ABS, require the recognition, promotion, and full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples as a minimum standard for the survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world. For States to not promote and respect that minimum fundamental standard, perpetuates historic injustices and feeds the false doctrines of superiority and dominance, which in part fuel bio-prospecting and bio-piracy to the detriment of the Indigenous Peoples of the world.

Bio-pirates are racing each other with little thought or consideration for Indigenous Peoples Rights to their resources and rights to their Traditional Knowledge, innovations and practices associated with the customary use of biological resources. Bio-pirates do not consider Indigenous Peoples contemporary uses, prospective uses or those uses yet to be developed from their resources, nor the cumulative, indigenous knowledge (IK) of Indigenous Peoples continuing to live in harmony with nature within their Traditional Ancestral Homeland Territories.

Incidental Catch in Canadian Large Pelagic Fisheries

By NB AMDO Barry LaBillois

Barry LaBillois AMDO MAARS attended a meeting at the St. Andrews Biological Station on July 11-12 2011 with Maritimes Regional Science Advisory Process for Incidental Catch in Canadian Large Pelagic Fisheries. The meeting was to address concerns directed towards six key species; Bluefin Tuna (Endangered), Porbeagle Shark (Endangered), Shortfin Mako (Threatened), Blue Shark (Special Concern), Leatherback Turtle (Endangered), and Loggerhead Turtle (Endangered) as well as discarding of swordfish. The meeting was organized into three main themes: 1) level of observer coverage, 2) managing discards of all targeted species and 3) controlling incidental mortality for non-targeted species.

The existing observer program provides critical information on the catch composition of the pelagic longline fishery. This information is currently used for estimating by-catch and discards. The meeting confirmed that this information is useful, but concluded that various modifications are required to improve its quality. Such changes could include in-season review of actual deployments in relation to the sampling design, species-specific sampling schemes that recognize temporal and spatial population boundaries, periodic review of the sampling design and objectives, a set of clearly



defined targets for by-catch, and better communication between DFO Science and observers. The development of the observer sampling scheme requires extensive coordination among multiple sectors and industry, led by fisheries management. In the collection of the data, alternative methods of measurement have been proposed.

The Eastern Canadian Pelagic longline fishery has reduced effort since 2007 (although landings have not declined). There were fewer active vessels in 2010 and fewer sets, trips and sea days compared to 2006, most noticeable among the smaller classed vessels. Under the existing target at-sea observation scheme, fishing trips should have roughly an equal probability of being selected to carry an at-sea observer; however, the findings presented at the meeting showed that this was not the case. Though spatial and temporal targets and realized levels of observer coverage did concur in many instances, there were still areas and time periods of considerable fishing effort that was not observed. Larger vessels and many smaller vessels making longer duration trips were disproportionately over-sampled by observers.

The existing sampling schemes and target levels of observer coverage was evaluated for the seven study species to determine if they could obtain the levels of precision required to evaluate present and future conservation objectives.

The participants agreed that the current sampling strategy could be improved to be made more practical and informative, if careful consideration were given to clearly defining the objectives. Clear objectives on preferred sampling strategies included assigning target levels for the precision by which by-catch is estimated.

Where possible, real-time or near real-time reporting should be conducted so that in season adjustments can be made to the allocation of observers. Better communication between DFO science and the company contracted

to conduct at-sea observations is required so that guidance can be provided when changes to the sampling strategy are required. It is recommended that DFO continue to explore alternatives, including video-based monitoring, fishers self-sampling programmes and the use of VMS data for estimating fishing effort.

Another area needing improvement is the observance and documentation of post-release health condition and mortality of “live release” by-catch. A comprehensive set of standards and guides are needed to help observers more consistently categorize the condition of released by-catch. This could take the form of a field manual with photographs and increased at-sea observer training. The most appropriate methods for determining post-released mortality would involve a combination of field observation and survival information from satellite archival tag studies, implemented during regular fishing operations.



Among the species considered at this meeting, the highest priorities for a comprehensive study of post-released mortality are Porbeagle Shark and Loggerhead Turtle. DFO Committed to undertake a study on Loggerhead Turtle starting this summer and on Porbeagle Shark by 2013.

Unfortunately, the meeting did not get to all agenda items; additional work is required. It was recommended that separate processes be established to evaluate methods for determining the level of dead discards of Bluefin Tuna, Swordfish, Shortfin Mako, Porbeagle and Blue

shark. Other key issues include the development of best practices for estimating dead discards and setting the appropriate observer coverage for each by-catch species, which takes into account the special characteristics and vulnerabilities of that species.

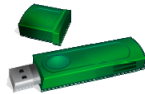
It was noted that the work plan to address incidental catch in the Canadian large pelagic fisheries is a “living document”. It was recommended that it should be adjusted to focus more on knowledge gaps. It was recommended that DFO examine other Atlantic Fisheries which target pelagic species (e.g. Bluefin tuna and shark) or incidentally take large pelagic species as a by-catch (e.g. herring purse seine, mackerel trap net, herring gillnet and ground fish fixed gear). Such examinations should reveal valuable insights about by-catch, as well as, identify those who do not report. With this improved body of knowledge, DFO could set the appropriate observer coverage levels on a fishery-by-fishery and boat-by-boat basis, which is adaptive throughout the fishing season to changes in species migration and habits.

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Changes at MAARS

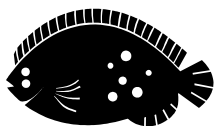
MAARS’ is pleased to welcome Roddie Milton to the team. Roddie Milton has extensive experience in aquaculture both in shellfish and finfish grow out facilities. Aside from the responsibilities as an Aquaculture Marketing Development Officer (AMDO), because of his experience Roddie will devote more time to assisting L’nu fisheries and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island in the investigation, identification, planning and hopefully execution of an aquaculture facility in PEI. The facility would be a grow out finfish facility.

Welcome aboard Roddie, hopefully by our next issue we will have a good picture of you other than the one at Ocean Day 2011 (on back cover).

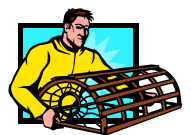
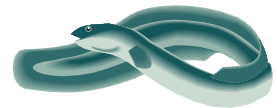


Throughout the months of April, May, June & July 2011, the MAARS Staff attended many Fishery: Stakeholders/ Advisory/ Committee/ Area Meetings, Science Workshops, Oceans Planning & Management Sessions.

Listed is a very small sample of predictable interfaces between MAARS and the Fishing Industry, Government and Science.



1. MAARS staff meets with the DFO SARA staff for a meeting about the cusk, spiny dogfish, basking shark and a review of the socio-economic impact analysis for the blue shark and shortfin mako.
2. MAARS Director Roger Hunka with NS AMDO Franz Kesick attends a Hydrocarbons in the Gulf of St. Lawrence workshop held on the Magdalen Islands, QC.
3. MAARS Director Roger Hunka with IKANAWTIKET Facilitator Joshua McNeely attends the Spring COSEWIC assessment meeting in Charlottetown, PEI.
4. PEI AMDO Roddie Milton attends an Atlantic Salmon Action Committee meeting in Charlottetown, PEI.
5. IKANAWTIKET Facilitator Joshua McNeely attends the Inner Bay of Fundy (iBoF) Atlantic Salmon Recovery Team Meeting in Amherst, N.S.
6. IKANAWTIKET Facilitator with IKANAWTIKET volunteer Jeff Stevens attends the Atlantic Whitefish Recovery Team meeting in Lunenburg, N.S.
7. MAARS staff attend the 2011 World Oceans Day festivities held on the Halifax waterfront to promote MAARS. "Youth the next wave of change".
8. MAARS Director Roger Hunka with IKANAWTIKET Facilitator Joshua McNeely attends the First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, QC.
9. MAARS Director and Mime'j Seafoods Manager Tim Martin with NCNS Chief Grace Conrad meet with Minister Sterling Belliveau to discuss the aquaculture strategy being developed for the province of Nova Scotia, how to involve Aboriginal People in changes to the Nova Scotia Fisheries Act, Regulations and programs for fishers.
10. MAARS Director Roger Hunka and IKANAWTIKET Facilitator Joshua McNeely attends an Atlantic Aboriginal Protection of Species Committee meeting in Dartmouth, N.S. and hosts a 2nd meeting in Truro, N.S.
11. NB AMDO Barry LaBillois attends a Recovery Potential Assessment meeting meeting to discuss Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, in St. Andrews, N.B.
12. NS AMDO Franz Kesick with IKANAWTIKET Facilitator Joshua McNeely attends an ECELAW Environmental Assessment Workshop meeting in Halifax, N.S.



Netawek Ikjikum

Voice of the Ocean

In this issue:

- MAARS Priorities to Implement the 2011-2020 Aichi Targets
- Atlantic Bluefin, Atlantic Sturgeon, and 38 others are added to species at risk list
- Forum on hydrocarbons in the Gulf of St. Lawrence
- Magdalen Islands Oil and Gas Forum – April 8th and 9th 2011
- North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty Centennial
- Sturgeon Booklet and Posters
- World Oceans Day
- Highlight Summary on the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Incidental catch in Canadian large pelagic fisheries

Netawek Ikjikum is a free communiqué profiling the **Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate** activities.

Compiled by
MAARS
Print & Layout by
902.843.7000



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Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

Collectively advancing the rightful share to Atlantic Aquatic Resources and Aquaculture Operations for the sustained, viable economic growth of the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples

MARITIME ABORIGINAL PEOPLES COUNCIL-COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT BODY
A partnership of the Native Council of Nova Scotia,
New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council & Native Council of Prince Edward Island

MAPC-MAARS

172 Truro Heights Road
Truro Heights, Nova Scotia
B6L 1X1

Tel: (902) 895-2982 Fax: (902) 895-3844 Email: maars@mapcorg.ca

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