

Ne'tawe'k Ikiikum

Voice of the Ocean

MAARS Quarterly Communiqué

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Eco-centric vs Homo-centric World View

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Interconnected: to be connected one to the other.

Interdependent: to be mutually dependent.

What do these two terms really mean? We hear our elders speak about days long gone when people lived off the lands and waters, in harmony with our natural world. We have all heard stories about those times, when one could walk across rivers on the backs of spawning salmon. We have heard about our tenacity for survival when there were days of want. We have heard about times when the communities raised children, worked, played, and mourned together. Sharing and caring did not have to be spoken, it was natural.

We see connection with our living world in our young children who can befriend an elder or who cry when a bird dies. Today, despite our great technological advances, when we look at society and ourselves, we see that we are living in a world filled with pollutants, crime, environmental destruction, insensitivity to life, wars, starvation, and much more. For some, this raises the question: What are we missing?

Why do we drive SUVs
when we know

that we are polluting the air? Why do we work at the pulp mill when we know that a forest was cleared to provide our paycheck? Why do we continue to fish areas when we know the stocks are only a fraction of what they used to be?

We are constantly asked by elders and youth: Do we know what we are doing? We often dismiss them because they are either "living in the past" or "too young to understand the real world". With our great preoccupation to secure food and shelter, we have somehow lost sight of the purpose of life. Do we live in an illusion of economic prosperity?

For some years now, governments and scientists with western concepts have been trying to articulate the impact that humankind has or will have on the environment and its biological diversity. Western conservation pioneers like John Muir (1838-1914) and Rachel Carson (1907-1964) fought against the foundation of western society; the "homo-centric world view" that promotes the idea "...[man was to] fill the earth and

Continued on Page 13.



Challenges in Environmental Management in the Bay of Fundy-Gulf of Maine

Article by MAARS team member Amanda Facey

The beautiful Fairmont Algonquin hotel in St. Andrews, New Brunswick was the setting for the 7th Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) Workshop, which was held October 24-27. New Brunswick Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisor, Barry LaBillois, and MAARS Oceans & Aquatic Resources Biologist, Amanda Facey, attended the workshop.

BoFEP promotes the ecological integrity, vitality, biodiversity and productivity of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem, in support of the social health and economic sustainability of its coastal communities. BoFEP facilitates and enhances communication and collaboration among all people interested in understanding, sustainably using and conserving the resources, habitats and ecological processes of the Bay of Fundy. The Bay of Fundy Workshops are held periodically and are an important part of this vision.

The theme of this workshop was "Challenges in Environmental Management in the Bay of Fundy-Gulf of Maine". A wide range of topics were covered. Over eighty scientific papers and posters were presented in various sessions and included the following subjects:

Biodiversity and ecology: Discovery Corridor Initiative;

Environmental issues;

Biodiversity and ecology: regional initiatives;

Climate change and adaptation;

Salt marshes: physical environment;

Resource management;

Salt marshes: biological environment and restoration;

Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy mapping: integration of biological information into seafloor mapping;

Monitoring and management: community-based programs;

Sea bird ecology, prey and contaminants;

Monitoring and management: ecosystem approaches; and

Near-shore fish ecology and interactions.



The collective proceedings of these workshops form a broad, reliable and growing compendium of up-to-date information about the Bay of Fundy and its natural resources. For more information about BoFEP, visit www.bofep.org.



FRCC and Maritime Aboriginal Peoples meet to discuss "Plight of the Atlantic Lobster"

Article by MAARS team member Amanda Facey

On October 17, the Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (FRCC) held a session for Aboriginal Peoples regarding the current review and evaluation of the 1995 report to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, *A Conservation Framework for Atlantic Lobster*. The FRCC, which provides advice to the Minister on long-term conservation strategies, has been holding consultations to gather information and input from stakeholders. The sessions will help the FRCC to understand the elements of the report that were successful and those that failed. The FRCC will then develop a set of recommendations that will assist in the sustainable use of the resource in today's fishery. The meeting was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Moncton, New Brunswick. Thirteen representatives from the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC) and the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) attended.

A presentation was given to the FRCC outlining suggestions, issues and concerns of MAPC and its partners. For more information on the review and evaluation of *A Conservation Framework for Atlantic Lobster* and/or the FRCC, visit www.frcc.ca.



More FRCC Lobster Meeting News

From October 31 to November 2, MAARS Director, Roger Hunka, attended the FRCC Atlantic Lobster Round Table in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The FRCC selected from their consultation meetings of August, September, and October, key Atlantic lobster interests throughout the Atlantic Provinces of Canada to provide observations, comments, and input about the sustainability of the Atlantic lobster fishery. The round table session involved approximately sixty participants from various sectors of the lobster fishing industry. FRCC members and staff, DFO science, biologists, enforcement, and management from the Region, as well as Ottawa, attended. The format focused on four topics: 1. Resource Conservation, 2. Fishing Effort and Enforcement, 3. Management, 4. General Plenary.



Each topic began with a general introduction, followed by consultation findings, and then a breakout into four pre-determined round tables where participants held in-depth discussions.

The FRCC report is scheduled to be released in the spring of 2007.

FRCC Round Table participants, Lord Nelson, Halifax, Nova Scotia



On September 21, 2006, MAPC MAARS Director and NS CARDA attended the first Atlantic Forum of the Shipping Federation of Canada Environmental Policy Planning Session at the Port of Halifax. The Shipping Federation of Canada is taking the lead to develop and promote an Environmental Policy which will help define Action Plans responsive to the special issues faced by the shipping industry plying the waters of the Atlantic. The process will help to prioritize environmental issues for the Shipping Federation to target efforts with responsive action plans.

Planning an Environmental Policy puts the Shipping Federation ahead. This lead begins to address ESSIM and demonstrates an ocean user taking into account the state of the ocean and its impacts on the ocean.

Article by MAARS team member Franz Kesick



Pictured is Leslie-Ann Davidson, Biologist from St. Andrews, New Brunswick, discussing the Buffer Zone concept.

Article by MAARS team member Franz Kesick

NS CARDA attended a Scallop Fishing Area 24 Advisory meeting at the Museum of Industry in Stellarton on October 16, 2006. The meeting discussed the opening of the scallop fishery and the management plan.

Dr. Donna Hurlburt made a presentation on Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge at the Atlantic Canadian Species at Risk Conference held at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, on October 24, 2006. Dr. Hurlburt is a member of the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-committee (ATKS) of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Dr. Hurlburt is also an NCNS member and serves as a steering committee member for the MAPC "Ikanawtiket Initiative".





WINNIPEG NACOSAR WORKSHOP

Article by Iknawtiket Joshua McNeely

The National Aboriginal Council On Species At Risk (NACOSAR), the Aboriginal advisory body to the Minister of Environment and the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC) on the implementation and administration of the Species At Risk Act (SARA), held their second National Species at Risk Workshop for Aboriginal Peoples in Winnipeg. The November workshop was entitled "Species at Risk, Our Heritage, Our Responsibility" and follows last March's workshop in Kelowna, BC. This NACOSAR workshop brought together over thirty Aboriginal speakers from across Canada who presented SARA related projects, and discussed obstacles, solutions, ideas, needs, and concerns encountered when trying to implement activities to preserve traditional and contemporary ways of life.



Pictured are 18 CAP delegates, the largest contingent to a NACOSAR conference, representing Traditional Homelands Peoples across Canada.

Photo by Robert McDonald, Director of Public and Media Relations, Metis National Council.

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) nominated a strong contingency of over eighteen CAP delegates to go to the Winnipeg workshop. Included in the MAPC and MAARS contingency was Roger Hunka (MAPC Director), who also made a presentation, Amanda Facey (OARB), Joshua McNeely (SAR Iknawtiket), and several delegates from NCNS, NCPEI, and NBAPC. The MAPC MAARS group made up the largest contingent of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples delegation. CAP was pleased to see the number and diversity of its affiliated Native Councils united and resolute in their conviction to support one another and 'move forward' as one voice on SARA.

The interconnectedness and interdependence of all life in all worlds (mineral, plant, animal, element, and spirit) was talked about in almost every presentation. Notable presentations included:

- ☼ Walpole Island's fight with the Ontario government to manage its 54 at risk species;
- ☼ The Blood Tribe of the Blackfoot Peoples' successes in unilaterally implementing recovery measures for the Swift Fox and Burrowing Owl;
- ☼ How COSEWIC and the ATK Subcommittee work and the challenges they face in assessing the true status of wildlife;
- ☼ Several talks about different Aboriginal groups and communities either not being engaged or ignored by governments. This is causing mistrust and mismanagement;
- ☼ Presentations on how the loss of biodiversity and our traditional lifestyles have resulted in changes in our diets and medicines and thus, our health.

MAPC applauds CAP, and particularly Alastair McPhee, for his complete dedication to SARA and inspiration for Native Councils to become involved. Thank you, Alastair.



Climate Change and Thermal Sensitivity of Commercial Marine Species

Article by MAARS team member Amanda Facey

On October 24th, the Huntsman Marine Science Centre hosted a workshop to present some results of a three-year research project entitled Climate Change and Thermal Sensitivity of Commercial Marine Species. After presentation of the results, workshop attendees were invited to give feedback on the project and suggest ways of improving it. MAARS New Brunswick Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisor, Barry LaBillois, and Oceans & Aquatic Resources Biologist, Amanda Facey, traveled to St. Andrews, New Brunswick to attend the meeting.

The investigation aims to identify thermal sensitivities of thirty-three economically important marine species of fish, shellfish and seaweeds from the near shore waters of eastern Canada, including species with their northern or southern limits near Canadian waters. Each of the thirty-three species falls into at least one of three categories: capture fishery, aquaculture and/or bio-invader. The thermal limits for survival of each species throughout its life will be compared to climate change predictions for a 4°C increase in ocean temperature.

The researchers are trying to identify the thermal parameters for a number of characteristics for each target species. Thermal parameters include minimum and maximum temperatures controlling a species' distribution limits and optimum temperature.

The project provided three major outcomes: identification of the critical thresholds in species life stages and survival (vulnerability and sensitivity to climate change and barriers to adaptation), a ranking of species by their vulnerability to climate change and identification of the potential change of the future distribution of species under projected changes. The information will be compiled and summarized to show the most vulnerable characteristics of the species in terms of thermal parameters. Target species will then be ranked based on vulnerabilities to temperature change.

For more information on this project, visit www.geog.mcgill.ca/climatechange.



Bringing ESSIM to the NCNS Community

Article by MAARS team member Franz Kesick



Glen Herbert, with Oceans and Coastal Management Division of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), presented the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) Plan to over sixty-five delegates and over fifty guests attending the Native Council of Nova Scotia 32nd Annual General Assembly in Truro, Nova Scotia, on September 17, 2006.

Mr. Herbert explained several aspects of the ESSIM Plan including the background on Integrated Oceans Management, the ESSIM Initiative, Vision Statement, Goals, Guiding Principals, the Collaborative Planning Model, and the role of the Regional Stakeholder Advisory Committee on Oceans Management (RCOM).

Pictured is Glen Herbert against the slide presentation he presented on ESSIM to the Native Council of Nova Scotia's 32nd Annual General Assembly in Truro on September 17, 2006. For more information about ESSIM, visit the ESSIM website (<http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/e/essim/essim-intro-e.html>).

MAPC/MAARS has been involved, representing the interests of the NCNS, and is continuing to ensure that the plan does not stray away from being a "People's Plan".



Working Group on Alternative Management Models

Article by MAARS team member Barry LaBillois

On October 6, 2006 Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resource Secretariate Director, Roger Hunka, and Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisors, Barry LaBillois and Tim Hainer, attended the "*Alternative Management Models Working Group*" in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

NB CARDA, Barry LaBillois, will be the lead representative for the Maritime Region Native Councils on the "*Alternative Management Models Working Group*". The meeting was co-chaired by Bob Allain, Regional Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture Management for DFO, and Clary Reardon, Marine Advisor, Groundfish, for the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The management of the fishery occurs within a framework of engagement and shared stewardship between DFO, the Maritime Provinces, Industry, Aboriginal Communities and other stakeholders. The design for an improved management model is required to reflect the interest and stake of many parties in the economic and social well-being of coastal communities and families. The Alternative Management Models Working Group's mandate is to examine practical and affordable alternatives for the management of key commercial fisheries occurring within the prescribed area

of the Northumberland Strait such that the short, medium and long term economic viability of fishers and the sustainability of fisheries are achieved.

Representation to the working group and terms of reference were discussed. MAPC raised the point that it represents three Native Councils where each Council's community has interests and access to the Northumberland Strait and must be factored in this working group.

The working group is expected to prepare a progress report for approval by the Minister's steering committee of Deputy Ministers and the subsequent presentation to a follow up meeting of Provincial and Federal fishery Ministers.

The "*Alternative Management Models Working Group*" is expected to provide interim and final reports of its discussions, conclusions, and recommendations to the steering committee on the dates to be set by the steering committee. Where possible, recommendations will be arrived at by group consensus.



Some participants at the working group.



Pictured, left to right, MAARS Director, Roger Hunka, SAR Ikanawtiket, Joshua McNeely, and Canadian Wildlife Service Biologist, Andrew Boyne.

MAARS met with Andrew Boyne, Wildlife Biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service, at the MAARS office in Truro, Nova Scotia on Friday, November 3, 2006.

The meeting served as an introduction to exploring collaborative approaches and sharing information and knowledge about Recovery Teams, and developing Recovery Strategies for species listed under SARA. SAR Ikanawtiket needs to effect a better interface with the Recovery Strategy Teams in the Maritime Region for the MAPC Native Councils to participate effectively in the implementation of SARA.

Modernizing the Fisheries Act

Article by MAARS team member Amanda Facey

On November 14, members of the Native Council of Nova Scotia, Native Council of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council and the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate attended a meeting at the Gulf Fisheries Centre in Moncton, New Brunswick. In attendance from Fisheries and Oceans Canada were Gilles Belzile - Director General, Policy Coordination and Liaison (Ottawa), Jim Jones - Regional Director General (Moncton), Robert Allain - Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Branch (Moncton), Janice Poirier - Interim Director, Aboriginal Fisheries (Moncton), and Kathi Stewart - Regional Manager, Aboriginal Fisheries (Dartmouth). The purpose of this meeting was to update and discuss proposed updates to the Fisheries Act with the MAPC MAARS partners.

The meeting was scheduled and convened specifically for the Native Councils of MAARS, and it was very informative and helpful.



Pictured, left to right, Bob Allain, Gilles Belzile, and Janice Poirier.



Members of the MAPC MAARS partners and the three partner Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishery Entities' (ACCFE) Managers held a MAARS/ACCFE Managers' meeting on November 16, 2006. The meeting focused on sharing of best practices developed by the three Native Councils and their Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries in the Maritimes and also focused on improvements to the structural administrative arrangements of the NBAPC and NCPEI Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries.



DFO Communications Relay



Fishing for sediment in the Strait: An update on a research project conducted by DFO and fishermen's groups

Submitted by the Department of Fisheries and Ocean Canada, Gulf Region

For several days this summer and fall, fishers in the Northumberland Strait were out in their boats in search of a rather out-of-the-ordinary catch - they were fishing for water.

More precisely, they were taking water samples over the sides of their boats. The fishers have been helping the Department of Fisheries and Oceans conduct a research project to examine how much sediment, or total suspended solids, is in Northumberland Strait waters. DFO asked members of the Maritime Fishermen's Union, the Northumberland Fishermen's Association and the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association to come on board to help make the project happen. The fishers were quick to agree.

The water sampling project is part of the work being done on behalf of the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Study working group. The group, which includes fishers, scientists, environmentalists and others, was formed last year to investigate declining stocks in the Strait. They are trying to determine reasons for declines and whether or not anything can be done to improve the situation.

The water sampling project has been high on the priority list for members of the working group, in particular fishers in the group. Fishers have reported seeing more mud on their traps, nets and ropes in the past 10 years or so than they have in quite a while. Working group members want to know whether there is in fact more sediment, if some areas of the Strait are worse than others and where the sediment might be coming from, be it from shoreline erosion, agriculture practices, land development, the Confederation Bridge or other sources. Sediment can smother a fish or crustacean and choke off its oxygen supply.

After funding was provided in August, fishers began their work. Samples were gathered from one tip of the Strait to the other, from Richibucto, NB, to Wood Island, PEI, to Caribou, NS, and many points in between. Plastic sampling bottles were provided by DFO. Fishers were paid for their expenses and agreed to collect samples while out fishing commercially. Most samples were taken at the surface but in some cases samples were also taken from different depths - at 6, 15 and 30 feet below the surface as well as 3 feet off the bottom. Notes were taken to record the latitude and longitude of the sample location, the depth of the water, time of day, weather conditions as well as the sampler's name. DFO made arrangements for the samples to be taken to their research lab at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, DFO's research station in Dartmouth, NS, for analysis.

Over the course of the summer and fall more than 200 samples were taken. DFO scientists working on the project feel this should be enough to give them an idea of how much sediment is in suspension in the water of the Strait, at least on those particular days. Right now the water samples are still being analyzed. Eventually they'll be compared to sedimentation data collected in the past. Watch for another update on this project in the near future.



Northumberland Strait Summit Working Group #2, Economic Diversification

Article by MAARS Team Member Tim Hainer

On October 6th, 2006, MAARS Director, Roger Hunka, joined by the Community Aquatic Resource Development Advisors (CARDAs) for Prince Edward Island (PEI) and New Brunswick (NB), Tim Hainer and Barry LaBillois respectively, attended the working group on “*Economic Diversification of the Northumberland Strait fisheries*”, held in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

The “*Economic Diversification Working Group*” is one of three working groups formed to respond to the concerns and recommendations brought forth during the July 31st Fisheries Summit held in PEI. The working group is co-chaired by Mr. Michel Audet, Regional Director of Policies and Economics branch for Gulf DFO and Mr. Louis Arsenault, Director of the New Brunswick Marine Resources Development branch of the NB Department of Aquaculture and Environment. Also in attendance were fishing association representatives from PEI, NB, and NS, and processing industry representatives.

The working group has been tasked to map out a strategy which will bring about improved economics for the benefit of individual fishers and communities alike. The working group process will involve, but is not limited to, exploring issues such as the optimization of lobster industry returns, increasing the value of herring and mackerel fisheries, species enhancement, offshore aquaculture, emerging species, ecotourism and alternative approaches to scallop fishing. The need to have Atlantic wide marketing initiatives with greater cooperation among provinces and interested stakeholders was also discussed as being an issue of importance. Numerous other issues, concerns, needs and interests are likely to arise as the working group strives towards achieving its goals and objectives.

For the Native Councils' Aboriginal Peoples of the Maritimes, improving the economics of the Northumberland Strait fishery is an important issue. In the face of environmental degradation, over-subscribed fisheries, and changing global climate, optimizing the worth of available natural-life resources will play a key role in improving the socio-economic situation of Aboriginal Communities.

MAARS's interest is to ensure that the three Native Council Communities': views, issues, positions, and ideas are raised, understood, and considered in the decision making process for economic diversification of the Northumberland Strait's fishing resources.





SAR IKANAWTIKET

Co-ordinating  Linking  Informing  Partnering  Involving  Educating

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Species at Risk Ikanawtiket (ee-gone-aawh-dee-get, meaning 'pathfinder' in Mi'kmaq) has been very busy over the last few months adding a few building blocks for the SAR Ikanawtiket Initiative. With partnerships being developed, our community members can begin to act upon our rights and responsibilities recognized by the Species At Risk Act (SARA). Ikanawtiket has met with several representatives from provincial and federal governments, government advisory organizations, non-government organizations, community groups, and industry.

Our interconnectivity and interdependency with our natural world is one theme that is coming out more often in our meetings with Aboriginal Peoples from across Canada and is being advanced more by Aboriginal Peoples at meetings with government officials and non-government organizations.

Sherman Boates, a respected conservationist in the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is tirelessly pushing SARA, not as an end product, rather as a beginning point or a focal point to saving the world from ourselves.

At a recent National Aboriginal Council On Species At Risk (NACOSAR) meeting in Winnipeg on November 7-9, our esteemed elder, Bill Lightbown, called on all Aboriginal Peoples from across Canada to stand together on Species at Risk, because it is a Peoples Act.

SARA will only survive if there is enough collective political will by the Peoples of Canada to overcome the economic pressures of our current western society. Society itself must change its thinking about natural life. Aboriginal Peoples have the knowledge and can help society change to respect our living environment. The Aboriginal Peoples of Canada are diverse and, as a single group, represent the diversity of our collective history, culture,

and social standing that is Canada. Aboriginal Peoples of Canada recognize the true form of our natural world, everything is interconnected and interdependent on all life giving forces. The only group of Canadians that can set a course for change in thought and help save our living world, planet earth, from ourselves may be Aboriginal Peoples.

Ikanawtiket is starting to advance and share knowledge. Our community members are, in turn, beginning to share with one another. Even though the MAPC SAR initiative is only a few months old and much of its foundation is still being formed, we are slowly building momentum. As with SARA, it is our Native Council communities which will ultimately determine if MAPC SAR Ikanawtiket will succeed or fail.

Ikanawtiket is currently seeking financial support for initiatives and support to establish teams of elders and youth to become involved in Habitat Stewardship initiatives.

The Community Ikanawtiket for Species At Risk (CISAR) proposal will team up with Recovery Strategy team leaders to discuss and share knowledge about a species at risk, its habitat, threats, possible solutions, and actions. Team members will also learn how to engage their communities in species at risk activities and how to inform, educate, link, partner, involve, and co-ordinate further species at risk activities. The Native Council community members in all three Maritime provinces interested in this CISAR initiative or wishing to know more about SAR Ikanawtiket's work and role should contact:

Joshua McNeely, Ikanawtiket Regional Facilitator, by phone at (902)895-2982.



COSEWIC ATK-SC MEETING

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

SAR Ikanawtiket, Joshua McNeely, and MAPC MAARS Director, Roger Hunka, attended the meeting of the Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada (COSEWIC) Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee (ATK-SC) in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, on September 26th. This meeting was scheduled to discuss the Status Reports currently in preparation, and also to work on establishing guidelines for gathering ATK from community members.

The ATK-SC, on its first day, invited guests to talk with the ATK-SC. For almost seven hours, guests, including MAPC MAARS, raised many issues. This helped everyone to better understand the ATK-SC's position and its importance to COSEWIC and the scientific community.

By the nature of their backgrounds, ATK-SC members hold an eco-centric world view of our natural world and are not restricted like western scientist counterparts who assess the status of a species or its habitat from set singular approaches. Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge holders look at all aspects of the species, which can include other animals, plants, rocks, tides, winds, and so forth. Both world views and approaches are important and each can compliment the other so that we can gain a broad understanding of our whole natural world and make better decisions about how we interact and how interconnected and interdependent all life forms are.

One large problem currently being faced by COSEWIC in general is the 'referral for reassessment' process granted to the Minister of Environment by the Species At Risk Act. If the Minister does not agree with the assessment, he/she may return the assessment to COSEWIC and ask for it to be reassessed. However, SARA is silent on how this process is to proceed, nor does it attach any time-lines. Several species have been referred back to COSEWIC for reassessment (most believe this is because the government thinks it too costly to list the species under SARA). Since there is little evidence by the Federal Government which supports a change in the COSEWIC designation for several of these species, there is a high probability that some species will go into a never ending, back and forth loop between COSEWIC and the Federal Government. Unless attitudes towards SARA and our natural world change, people will continue to be a large part of the problem.

There is also the outstanding issue of ATK-SC appointments. SARA requires that the ATK-SC members be appointed by the Minister. To date, this distinguished group of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge holders as the ATK Sub-Committee of COSEWIC has not received their letters of appointment from the Minister. MAPC, finds this long overdue confirmation inexcusable.



Eco-centric vs Homo-centric World View, continued from the cover

subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Although Carson and Muir were successful in sparking a few relatively small movements in western society to preserve our natural world, they faced insurmountable opposition from industry and governments. As a result, they failed to convince western society as a whole that humankind is part of our natural world, interconnected and interdependent.

Loss and contamination of drinking water; flooding of homes; forest fires; loss of crops from droughts; increasing rates of cancer caused by environmental contaminants; loss of fish stocks from over-harvesting; destructive fishing methods; health problems brought about by poor air quality, and much more, no longer leave any doubt that our conscious maltreatment and neglect of our environment in pursuit of wealth has had a profound negative impact on humankind and our living environment.

Western society is built upon economics. Despite all the evidence that our economic practices are destroying our natural world and ourselves, we still view our natural world through a filter which only allows us to see bottom-line dollar figures. This means that every question faced by our governments and industry concerning environmental impacts, wildlife recovery, and our use of the natural world is decided upon by weighing economic costs versus economic benefits.

Our natural world, and thus the very fabric of life, is reduced in our values to be a matter of dollars and cents. Wealth creation holds the trump card. The economy is innocent unless proven guilty. Our natural world must prove its case against armies of the politically and financially powerful. Can the faint voices of humanity, peoples whose lives are governed by those same powerful economic forces, change the thinking of industrial representatives and governments?

Legislation like the Fisheries Act, Oceans Act, Provincial Forestry Act, Species at Risk Act, Canadian Environmental Protection Act, and others, are written especially to address conservation of our natural

world and its resources. Are we taking a step forward in conservation? The evidence is pointing to us taking backward steps. Why?

The answer lies in our view of the natural world and how we approach conservation. Some governments have adopted conservation principles similar to those of Gifford Pinchot (1865-1946) and Aldo Leopold (1887-1948). These two influential American resource managers are considered the first to marry conservation to the economy. Thus, today the term conservation has little to do with preserving our natural world and, instead, refers to the best economic use of our natural world for the benefit of a very small but diverse species...humanity. This is the homo-centric world view, to rule and have dominion over the earth with man at the centre.

Interconnected and interdependent are not mere entries under 'I' in the dictionary. They are a way of viewing our natural world, the "eco-centric world view".

We have proven that humankind is not separate from our natural world and that we cannot manage Creation at arms length. We must recognize that we are all a part of one another, each connected with and dependent upon every other part of Creation for our very existence.

Every decision we make, every action we take, will either harm or benefit each and every part of Creation.

We should begin to listen, with our hearts, to our children the next time they mourn the loss of a bird. We should heed the lessons of our elders who have watched our disconnection from our natural world. We should re-examine our place within the living world.

Loss of connections means loss from Spirit.

Continued on the next page.



Eco-centric vs Homo-centric World View, continued from Page 13.

To conserve based on wealth creation, economic development, alone means that we are only justifying our collective loss of our natural world and its environmental integrity to feel better about ourselves.

Governments, industry, and society have to develop a new mind set. Consider *economic development*, *social progress*, and *environmental integrity* as interconnected and interdependent. Make decisions that are also interconnected and interdependent.



Atlantic Canadian Species at Risk Conference

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Species At Risk (SAR) practitioners from all around Atlantic Canada gathered in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia for a two day conference in October entitled "Linking Science and Communities in Recovery". SAR Ikanawtiket, Joshua McNeely, and NS CARDA, Franz Kesick, attended this event which discussed:

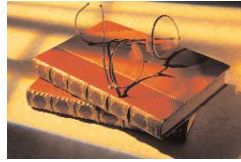
1. How to make SARA a 'user-friendly' interface for addressing larger biodiversity problems;
2. First hand descriptions of problems that recovery teams, Aboriginal groups, community groups, researchers, and governments are faced with when implementing recovery measures;
3. Obstacles and successes specific groups, such as the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, Quebec-Labrador Foundation, and Nova Scotia Nature Trust had in their SARA work;
4. How the decisions for listing, not listing, identifying recovery objectives, and defining critical habitat have had and will have on communities across Atlantic Canada, especially Aboriginal communities.

Joshua also attended the Recovery Training Workshop on identifying threats, establishing goals and objectives, and defining critical habitat for recovery strategies and the Public Engagement Training Workshop immediately following the conference.

There is no one 'textbook' approach to the recovery of our natural world. We can have all the meetings we want, fill out mountains of forms, and spend billions of dollars and still never save a single species. It is only with a thorough understanding of the species, its habitat, and all the other factors, including Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge holders involvement in planning, the flexibility to adjust plans and expectations to meet the ever changing needs and circumstances, will we begin to see real recovery strategies and results. Species recovery starts with community knowledge, effort, and specifically tailored strategies, ongoing management, and a variety of community stewardship actions to save the biodiversity of our natural world.



New to our MAAQS Library



Some knowledge acquired by the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate General and Technical Information Database and Research Library and Repository include:

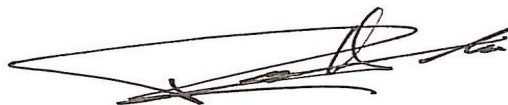
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Merry Christmas

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continuing on traditional ancestral homelands in the Maritime Region*

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