

Netawek Ikjikum

Voice of the Ocean

Quarterly Newsletter of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

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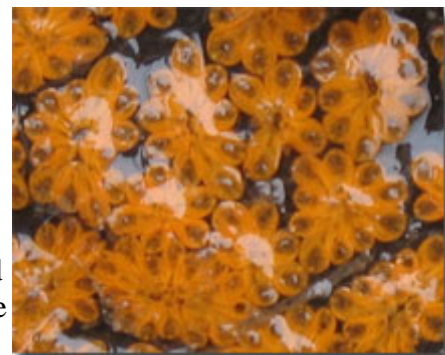
Island Aquaculturists Meet to Discuss Colonial Tunicate Impacts

On October 9th, 2008, MAARS CARDA Tim Hainer and L'nu Fisheries Limited President Jordan Crane joined other PEI Aquaculturists to discuss with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans the impacts that *colonial tunicates* are having on the mussel and oyster industry.

Tunicates are simple filter feeding organisms that often resemble sponges. They can be either solitary individuals with well defined body geometries or colonial which grow in dense cluster mats. The *colonial tunicates* that have thus far been identified within PEI bays are the *goldenstar* and *violet tunicates* while the solitary tunicates identified thus far are the *clubbed* and *vase tunicates*.

Mussel growers from the northeastern bays expressed frustration to DFO because of the perceived trivialization of the infestations of *colonial tunicates* which have been found in the bays that they use for mussel aquaculture. The message that growers had for the Provincial Government and DFO is that *colonial tunicates* are devastating for the industry. Due to *colonial tunicates* infestations, the industry is reporting that many mussels aren't being sold in a timely manner as the competition for food from *tunicate* populations is extending the time needed for mussels to reach marketable size. Growers also told DFO that they are seeing more *goldenstar tunicates* this year than *violet tunicates*.

Issues such as invasive species and biosecurity are of the utmost concern to L'nu Fisheries Limited as they threaten the economic viability of L'nu Fisheries' newest mussel aquaculture initiative. It is vitally important for L'nu Fisheries Limited to gather best practices, management and effective decision- making to efficiently manage our community mussel leases. We need to be vigilant on waters that could be infested by *colonial tunicates*.



Musquash Estuary Marine Protected Area

By Mike Murphy, Regional Director, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch Maritimes

On December 14, 2006, the Musquash Estuary was designated a Marine Protected Area through regulations under Canada's Oceans Act. The Oceans and Coastal Management Division of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) will lead the management and administration of the MPA on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The Musquash Estuary MPA is bounded by the water level at low tide, and includes the seabed and subsoil to a depth of two metres. The area between the low tide water level and high tide water level in Musquash Harbour, Gooseberry Cove, and the mouth of the estuary, referred to as the DFO-administered Intertidal area, is not within the MPA and cannot be managed under the Regulations. DFO currently manages activities in the DFO-administered Intertidal Area under the Fisheries Act. It is in the process of developing a management plan under the Act, in order to manage activities in the administered intertidal area in a manner that is consistent with the MPA Regulations.

General prohibitions under the Regulations make it illegal for any person within the MPA to:

1. disturb, damage or destroy, or remove from the Area, any living marine organism or any part of its habitat;
2. carry out any activity-including depositing, discharging or dumping any substance, or causing any substance to be deposited, discharged or dumped-that is likely to result in the disturbance, damage, destruction or removal of a living marine organism or any part of its habitat. [section 3(1) of the MPA Regulations]

The Regulations designate 3 management zones that provide the foundation for managing activities within the MPA. Zone 1 consists of the upper region of the Musquash River. It is surrounded by sensitive salt marshes, and few activities are permitted. Motorized vessels are not allowed. Zone 2 is subdivided into two zones. Zone 2A consists of the lower reach of the Musquash River and upper Musquash Harbour. Zone 2B consists of Gooseberry Cove. Zone 3 consists of the mouth of the Musquash Estuary between Western Head and Musquash Head, and inward to Black Beach. A broader range of activities is permitted in Zones 2A, 2B, and 3. Motorized vessels are also permitted in these zones at a maximum speed of 5 knots within Zones 2A and 2B, and a maximum speed of 8 knots within Zone 3. Personal recreational activities (e.g. swimming, SCUBA diving, sailing, kayaking) are permitted within the MPA provided that they abide by the conditions of the Regulations and do not violate other applicable legislation and regulations.

The Regulations recognize that certain activities within the MPA may cross the harm threshold, but may still be allowed to occur under specific conditions that do not compromise the conservation and protection of the MPA ecosystem. Such activities are exempted from the conditions of the Regulations and do not violate other applicable legislation and regulations. Violation of the Regulations carries penalties under the Oceans Act of up to \$100 000 for an offence punishable on summary of conviction, and up to \$500 000 for an indictable offence. A conviction may result in additional fines and imprisonment under other applicable legislation and regulations (e.g. the Fisheries Act).

The Regulations allow other activities not exempted from the general prohibitions to occur within the MPA. These include scientific research, education, archaeology, commercial tourism, and habitat restoration. To undertake these activities proponents must submit an activity plan to DFO through an activity plan submission and evaluation process.

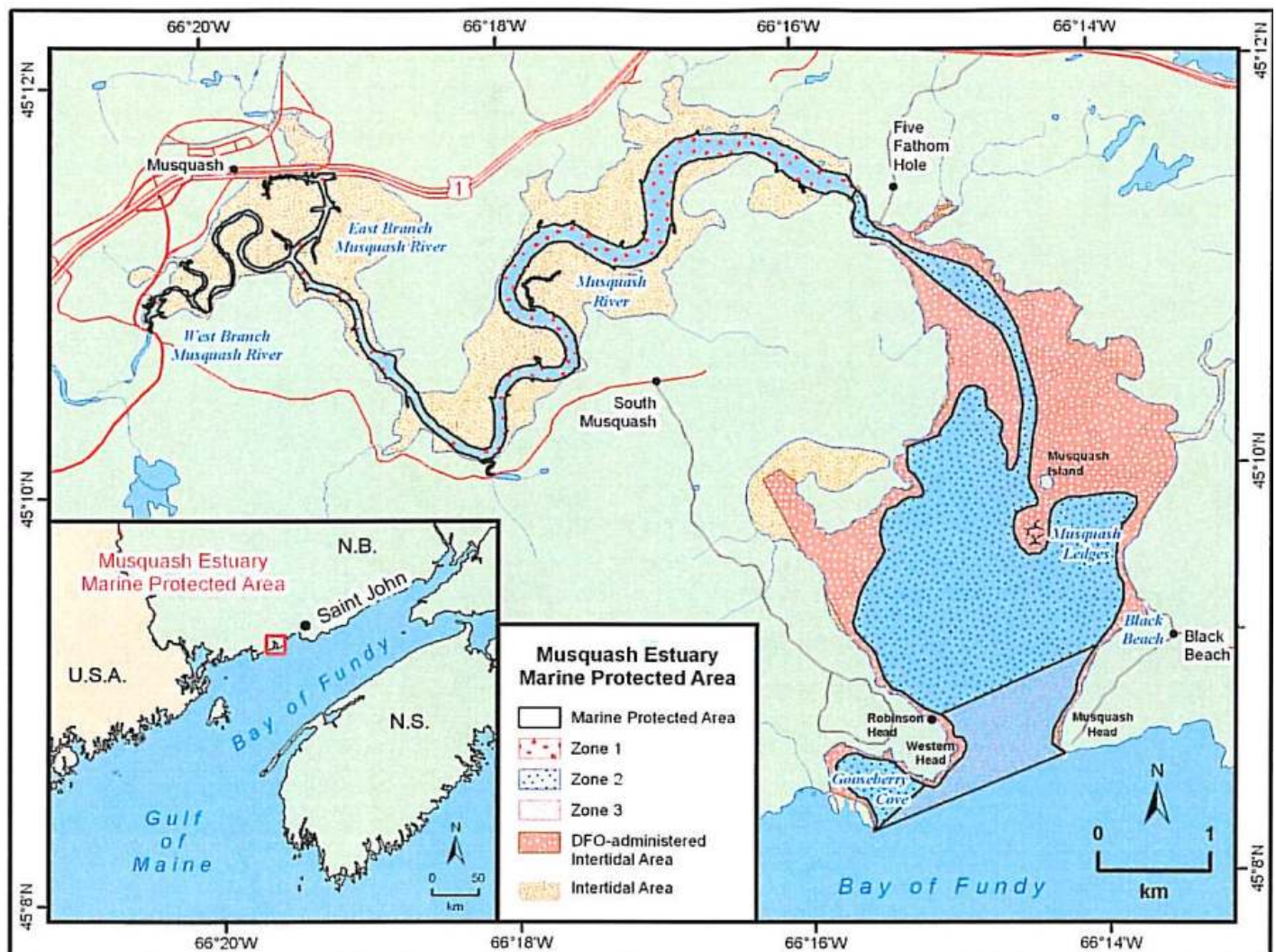


Figure 1. Map of the Musquash Estuary Marine Protected Area management zones

For more information contact:

Musquash Estuary MPA Information and Activity Plan Submissions

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DFO Lobster Management in Crisis

By Tim Hainer

On October 20th and 21st in Moncton, New Brunswick, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) held a lobster workshop to address the recommendations contained in the Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (FRCC) report '*Sustainability Framework for Atlantic Lobsters 2007*'. The DFO proposes that the time has come to develop multi-year lobster management plans which address key biological components of the fishery, and act on the FRCC report recommendation to improve viability through self-rationalization. As such, the goals of this particular workshop were to:

- 1) Disseminate information about the biological conservation of the lobster resource, effort reduction, collecting catch information and improving governance;
- 2) Provide for open discussion on increasing economic viability by self-rationalization.

One agenda item that was of particular interest to participants was the proposed approach offered by DFO for industry associations and Aboriginal organizations to develop conservation harvesting plans (CHP) which will achieve DFO's specific goal of protecting 50% of sexually maturing lobster through carapace size adjustment and an eventual 20% reduction in exploitation rate. DFO proposed that conservation harvest management plans should focus on three goals:

1. Reduction of exploitation rate to include:

- number of days fished at the end of the season
- number of traps per harvester
- maximum carapace size
- minimum number of traps per line
- maximum hoop size

2. Increased productivity

- carapace size LFA's 23, 24, 25, 26A and 26B

3. Strengthening stewardship

- which includes meeting short and long term goals on a point system

To assist industry in developing their CHPs, DFO devised a point scheme through which individual CHPs would be given points for taking specific management measures in support of DFO's goals.

What does all this mean to the industry, and in particular, to our Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries in practical terms? To answer this question, let's explore what is meant by the term self-rationalization. A rationalization of the fishing industry basically equates to an overall reduction of fishing effort, whether it be through individual efforts to reduce through trap reductions or days at sea, or through a reduction in the number of actual fishing fleets chasing the fish. Either way, at the end of the day, a rationalization of the industry means less fishermen fishing in a more conservative manner.

While the fishing industry generally acknowledges that a rationalization of the lobster industry is required to ensure the long term health of our lobster stocks, the mechanism to accomplish the reduction in effort is vehemently disputed. While rationalization is viewed positively by industry, self-rationalization which translates to an industry shouldered cost burden for effort reduction is not accepted by the fishing industry. A lobster license buy back by the federal government is the solution that the fishing industry has touted. Essentially what the

industry proposes, amounts to a bailout plan for the industry in the form of mass purchases of existing lobster licenses by the federal government which would permanently reduce the number of licenses operating in the southern gulf.

While DFO and the fishing industry fight over who should pay to address the over capacity and over capitalization issue in the lobster fishing industry, the impact to Aboriginal Peoples has not been adequately addressed. The unique issues for our Aboriginal Communal Commercial fisheries are:

- Aboriginal Peoples have finally affirmed a resources access right for the purpose of earning a moderate livelihood.
- Aboriginal Peoples did not play any role in devising the current DFO management scheme.
- Aboriginal Peoples did not create the issue of over-capacity.
- Aboriginal Peoples did not create the many negative environmental pressures placed on the resource such as habitat degradation and pollution.
- Aboriginal Peoples, as re-acquainted fisheries entrants, cannot exit the fishery.

Given the many complexities of Aboriginal Peoples participation within the lobster fishing industry, one thing that is certain is that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans needs to enter into meaningful discussions with Aboriginal Peoples to fully understand our issues, needs, concerns and interests. As such, MAARS team members have requested that the Department immediately initiate an open and transparent consultation session with Aboriginal Rightsholders regarding the Departments implementation plan for the FRCC recommendations.



Scotia Fundy Management Area Proposed Split Amending Eastern Canada's Licensing Policy

By Tim Hainer

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the New Brunswick Department of Fisheries, Agriculture and Aquaculture, jointly announced a round of public consultations, designed to seek input into a proposed policy amendment to the 1995 Commercial Fisheries Licensing Policy for Eastern Canada, which would ultimately affect the eligibility of fishers to hold commercial fishing license in various portions of the existing Scotia-Fundy Sector of the Maritime Region.

MAARS team member Franz Kesick attended a meeting on September 10, 2008 in Truro while MAARS team members Tim Hainer and Barry Labilloyis attended a similar meeting held in Fredericton, New Brunswick on September 11, 2008.

The proposed policy amendment would change section 9(9) of the current policy, by effectively creating two administrative management areas within the existing Maritime regions, one to be Southwest Nova Scotia and the other Scotia Fundy New Brunswick. This proposed change would be consistent to upholding a commitment made by the DFO Minister, not to make decisions that would affect Provincial shares of the fisheries resources.

MAARS, and their Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishing Entity partners, held a meeting with Christine Annand and Jim Jamieson to discuss the proposed changes and at the end of the discussion affirmed that we have serious concerns with the proposed amendments and their impact on our fisheries entities. We object to the split.

This view of MAARS and its ACCFE partners was also echoed by other fishing representatives at both the September 10th and 11th public meetings. A general industry call for status quo was issued.

Also, many industry representatives went further by calling on DFO to reinstate the pre-2003 licensing conditions which would allow transfers or purchases of licenses held by fishers in New Brunswick and licenses held by fishers in Nova Scotia, in the same management area.



Natural Resources Engagement Workshop

By Roger Hunka

Saturday October 25, 2008 at the Nova Scotia Agriculture College, Bible Hill, Nova Scotia; the Voluntary Planning Committee invited more than 60 Nova Scotians to review and comment on the “working paper” produced by the Natural Resources Citizen Engagement Committee of Voluntary Planning.

The workshop format, where each table was facilitated with a committee member; fairly and generally noted the same concerns, issues and problems, with the “manner in which the engagement committee tried to focus the emerging themes” as presented in over 600 submissions by Nova Scotians.

The use of single verbs, adverbs and adjectives such as: Sustainability, Diversity, Balance, Collaboration and Transparency are not adequate nor are they reflective of what was presented by Nova Scotians. Clearly missing from a theme in the working paper was the use of the “*Precautionary Approach in Decision Making, Sustainable development practices, and a quality of natural life expected by Nova Scotians.*” Also, participants could not understand why uranium is not part of the mandate.

From the perspective of the Native Council of Nova Scotia and the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council and MAPC IKANAWTIKET, the working draft clearly missed an obvious and clear theme: “*Nova Scotians value the tangible and intrinsic values of their natural environment, which are the sources for the quality of life expected by Nova Scotians.*”

Also, reading the report, one does not know the number who favoured an approach or a practice nor the number who opposed a practice or approach. The worksheets at the workshop require the authors to augment the five words for themes to best express the complete theme.

Also it was strongly suggested that the report is missing several other themes which it should include:

- A sixth theme decision makers should adopt a “*Precautionary Approach in decision making*”.
- A seventh theme which is “*Accountability of decision makers*”, both at the political, legal and reputation level.
- An eighth theme “*Environmental Quality of Life*” which citizens of Nova Scotia can and do expect to be protected from destruction or exploitation of Natural Resources.
- And a ninth theme, decision makers and planners must adopt and learn the principles and practices which are involved in “*Sustainable Management practices.*”



Bay of Fundy
Nova Scotia &
New Brunswick

L'nu Fisheries Ltd. Ventures into Aquaculture

By Tim Hainer

L'nu Fisheries Limited, the Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries Entities of the Native Council recently diversified and expanded their harvesting portfolio with the procurement of a 30 acre mussel lease located at the mouth of St. Peters Bay.



The mussel lease, while relatively small will serve as a valuable learning tool for L'nu Fisheries Limited as it ventures into the aquaculture industry. The lease will also provide seasonal employment to two Native Council of P.E.I. members and provide an additional source of income support for the L'nu Fisheries Limited strategic growth plan.

The movement into aquaculture was facilitated by the support of the previous lease holder who agreed to assist L'nu Fisheries Limited during the 2008 growing season by providing valuable hands on training to NCPEI member, Mr. Kreighton Larkin and Mr. Korey Larkin. The transition period will provide L'nu Fisheries Limited with the opportunity to both document the process of mussel spat collection and grow out as well as have answers to many questions which experience can best explain.



L'nu Fisheries Limited is pleased to announce that seed production during the 2008 growing season was very productive.



MAARS Attends 4th Annual AVC Lobster Science Workshop

By Tim Hainer

MAARS CARDA Tim Hainer attended the 4th annual Lobster Science Workshop hosted by the Atlantic Veterinary College's Lobster Science Center. The workshop was held at the Crowne Plaza in Moncton, N.B. The title for this year's workshop was 'Growing the resource: lobster enhancement and health strategies'.

The Homarus Inc. lobster enhancement project- a venture of the Maritime Fisherman's Union; the Pictou Lobster Stocking Project – a joint venture of the Northumberland Fisherman's Association and the Northumberland Fisheries Museum; and the University of Sainte Anne lobster stocking project – A joint venture of the University of Sainte Anne, the Judique & Area Development Association and the Baxter's Cover Fisherman's Association were profiled for their lobster stocking efforts.

In 2008, the Homarus Inc. project saw the release of close to 300,000 stage IV larvae, the Pictou project produced 75,000 stage IV larvae and the University of Sainte Anne project released approximately 2000 stage IV larvae. Both the Homarus Inc. project and the Pictou project rely on tank usage to grow their lobster larvae while the University of Sainte Anne project is experimenting with free floating cages within the open ocean to grow out lobster larvae.

Presentations on health strategies focused on lobster shell disease. Shell disease, which is attributed to an unidentified mixture of pathogens, host factors and one or more unidentified environmental factors. There is evidence to suggest that diet and water temperature both play a role in determining the prevalence of shell disease. There is recent evidence suggesting that the disease is a major cause of mortality in lobster located off the shores of New England.

In the spring of this year, the Atlantic Veterinary College initiated a public education exercise through the issuance of hundreds of 'wanted' posters. The posters, which depict shell disease infected lobster, requests fishers to submit any suspected cases of the disease to the vet college. In exchange for their disease suspect lobster, fisher's names will be entered into an annual draw for \$500.00.



DFO SARA Consultations

By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely

MAPC hosted an information session with DFO-Maritimes Region on August 26, 2008 in Truro, Nova Scotia, to discuss species undergoing the Species at Risk Act (SARA) listing discussions. In attendance were the Chiefs and Presidents of the MAPC Native Councils, Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries Managers, Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate-Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisor's, IKANAWTIKET, and DFO representatives from Resource Management, SARA Office, and Policy and Economics. Also in attendance, to deliver an 'on-the-river fisher's perspective', from the Native Council of Nova Scotia Zone 5 (Lunenburg) was Jeff Stevens.



Discussions focused on the second COSEWIC report on Cusk; the Socio-Economic Impact Analysis statement being prepared for Striped Bass; the Recovery Strategies for the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon; the Right Whale, and the development of a recovery strategy for the Bottlenose Whale, and the implementation of Action Plans for Atlantic Whitefish.

At this meeting the matter of exclusion of the Atlantic and the exclusion of the Maritimes Region Traditional Ancestral Homelands Aboriginal Peoples in the assessment and planning of the COSEWIC SARA listing for the American Eel and that of on reserve Aboriginal Peoples – In essence all Aboriginal peoples in Atlantic Canada was clearly raised as not acceptable.



DFO Ottawa is continuing on a National course to List American Eel under SARA as 'Special Concern' for all areas of Canada. This simple minded politically motivated approach raises flags and bells for Aboriginal Peoples in Atlantic Canada, and particularly of the Aboriginal Peoples of the Maritimes. Such a listing will not provide the adequate protection for the Inland American Eel and also a broad brushed listing will abrogate and derogate the Treaty Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of the Maritime Region of Canada who harvest American Eel for food, social, ceremonial and commerce purposes.



Inland American Eels (Ontario and Quebec) are plagued with serious habitat issues, resulting in the dramatic declines and near extirpation in some inland water bodies, these destructive actions and habitat integrity threats are all man made.

Atlantic American Eels are not experiencing the same declines as Inland American Eels. In fact,

there is evidence that in some regions of Atlantic Canada American Eel populations are rising.

DFO must include the Traditional Ancestral Homelands Aboriginal Peoples of the Maritimes Region in the National decision-making process for Inland American Eel and American Eel and must take into account our Indigenous Knowledge, our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights to harvest Eel and the significance of the American Eel to the Mi'kmaq, Malecite and Passamaquoddy Aboriginal Peoples of the Maritimes.

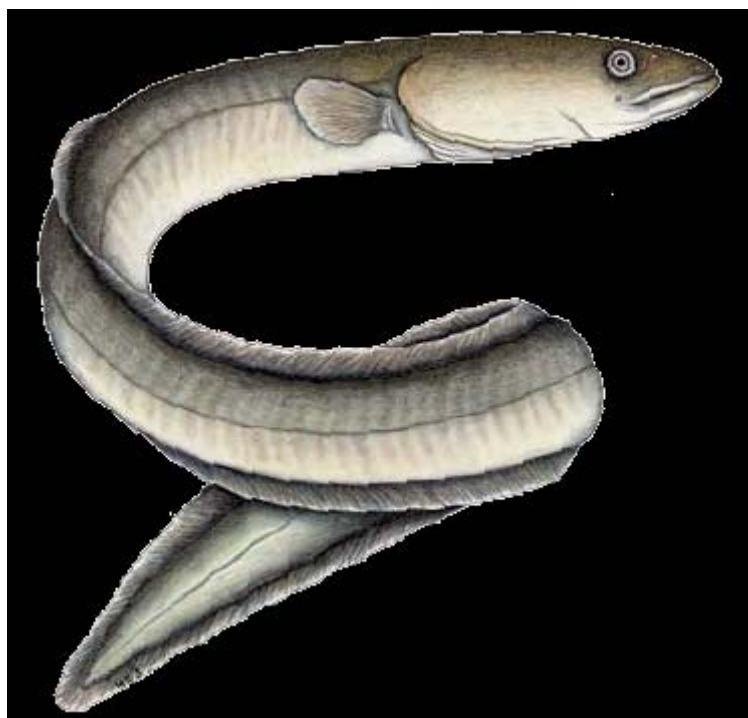


THREATS TO EELS



Humans have greatly restricted freshwater access for migratory fish by building dams. In the Gulf of Maine region, people began building dams in the early 1600s and continued in earnest for the next 350 years. Upwards of 10,000 dams may exist in the Gulf of Maine watershed (GOMC 2004). Most dams were not equipped to pass fish, and thus migratory fish populations rapidly declined. Fish ladders and fishways were designed for Atlantic Salmon, sometimes for shad or alewife, but most are not suitable for passing eels.

From Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. 2007. *American Eels: Restoring a Vanishing Resource in the Gulf of Maine*. www.gulfofmaine.org



MAARS Attends Regional CMAC Meeting

By Tim Hainer

On October 15th, 2008 at the Rodd Charlottetown in PEI, MAARS CARDA Tim Hainer attended the regional meeting of the Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC). The CMAC is Transport Canada's national consultative body for marine matters. Members of CMAC includes representatives of individuals and parties that have a recognized interest in boating and shipping concerning safety, recreational matters, navigation, marine pollution response and marine security.

The MAARS team and its partner Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishing Entities acknowledge the development of an additional vessel category called 'traditional' for the purposes of determining vessel stability requirements.

Under this new regulatory category, traditional vessels are defined as being very low risk vessels. Transport Canada used the example of the Great Lakes 'Fish Tugs' to portray what a traditional fishing vessel is. An evaluation tool will be developed by Transport Canada to identify these low risk vessels and operations. Requests to identify a grouping of very low risk 'traditional' vessels would be initiated by a group for consideration by Transport Canada. Once identified, the low risk group would then be required to operate in the low risk manner in which it was identified in the application. Other single vessel owners could take advantage of the identification of a very low risk group by demonstrating their similarity to the group and by agreeing to the operational parameters. The traditional fishing vessel designation would exempt owners from undergoing full and rigorous stability tests, unless they were modified.

By acknowledging that not all vessels operate in a high risk manner, Transport Canada is greatly reducing the cost and time burden which otherwise would have been downloaded onto an already stressed industry. During this period of Atlantic Aquatic Resource declines, fishing cost increases and market instability, any additional operational cost downloading is ill-advised. Transport Canada should therefore be commended for refining their regulatory requirements to specifically target high risk vessels.

Another regulatory reform which is of particular importance to the commercial fishing industry is the introduction of an Administrative Monetary Penalty (AMP) system which came into force on April 3, 2008. The AMP system will apply to all vessel types except pleasure craft and will benefit Transport Canada and the industry by providing an administrative vehicle which is able to manoeuvre around costly court proceedings. Transport Canada is presently seeking input into AMP penalty ranges and the types of offenses which should be subject to an AMP. Ottawa is in the process of developing a training program to address the new monetary penalty system.

Other items included on the regional CMAC agenda included a Canadian Coast Guard update, a Canadian Hydrographic update, pollution statistics and ballast water update, a presentation on marine security and safety, a presentation on safe manning document requirements, an update on the small vessel regulations, voyage data recorder regulations, a presentation on marine occupational health and safety, and boat and fire drill regulations.

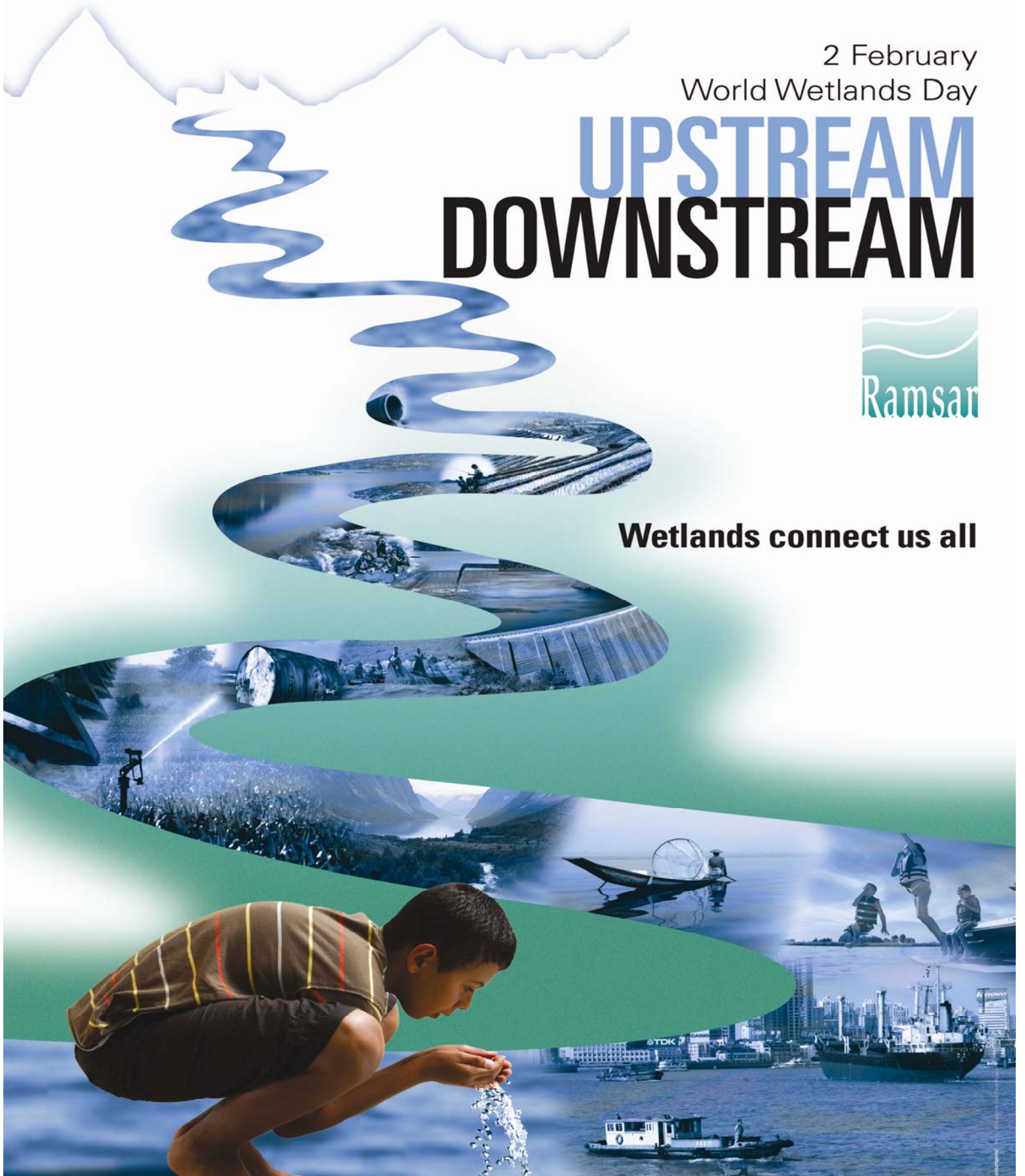


2 February
World Wetlands Day

UPSTREAM DOWNSTREAM



Wetlands connect us all



The Who, What, Why, and How of ATK in DFO SARA

By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely

MAPC-MAARS, IKANAWTIKET, and our partner Native Councils have for years been requiring that governments consider and give equal weight to the valuable information found in our Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) for species assessments, habitat assessments, socio-economic assessments, SARA Listings, recovery strategies, action plans, and management issues. Parliaments' enacting of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) in 2002 and the requirement to consider ATK in SARA was a major step forward in renewing and building relationships between Aboriginal Peoples and Governments.

This year, MAPC-MAARS and IKANAWTIKET helped DFO and others make additional steps forward toward understanding and including ATK in SARA. In addition to the numerous predictable stakeholder meetings where we have raised the need to include ATK in decision-making, MAARS Director Roger Hunka and IKANAWTIKET Facilitator Joshua McNeely participated in two important strategy meetings between DFO and Aboriginal Peoples, at the regional and national levels, to lay groundwork for strategies on who, what, why, and how DFO can include ATK in SARA.

Approximately 100 Aboriginal representatives, technicians, DFO officials, and others met in Toronto on October 28-30 to strengthen and expand SARA relationships and discuss ideas about how DFO can better learn about, receive, and incorporate ATK into DFO SARA decision-making.

Pardeep Ahluwalia (Director of Species at Risk, DFO) and Elder Garry Sault of the Mississaugas of the New Credit opened the 3 day workshop. Presentations included an outline of the SARA listing process by Jaclyn Shepherd (DFO-National Legislative and Regulatory Affairs), Socio-economic Analyses by David Collister (DFO-National Economic Analysis), SARA recovery documents by Andries Blouw (DFO Central & Arctic Region), COSEWIC ATK Subcommittee by Dr. Donna Hurlburt, and a Two-Eyes Seeing Approach by Elder Albert Marshall from Eskasoni First Nation and Sana Kavanagh (Cape Breton University).

The workshop also included several breakout sessions on the opportunities and obstacles for including ATK in SARA and also on the next steps for the DFO-SARA Directorate and Aboriginal Peoples to move forward. A report from the workshop is currently in draft, and should be available to IKANAWTIKET and MAPC-MAARS in a month or two.

Four recommendations to DFO came out of this workshop:

1. DFO cannot develop one universal policy for ATK – the needs, issues, concerns, and interests vary from one Aboriginal Nation and community to another.
2. DFO must develop flexible policies in cooperation with each Aboriginal Organization – DFO cannot act independently.
3. Centers of Excellence for ATK are not appropriate – DFO cannot place ATK on a shelf or make one-stop shopping; ATK is a living dynamic knowledge.
4. The Government of Canada must adequately fund the collection of ATK – Aboriginal Organizations and communities need the human and financial capacity to bring forth ATK.

AAROMs and SARA offices in DFO-Maritimes and DFO-Gulf Regions made a further step forward on ATK in SARA, by tackling some of the fundamental issues for ATK to be included in SARA decision-making. Following recommendations from a previous Atlantic Aboriginal Knowledge Workshop (Jan. 29-30, 2008 in Halifax), participants again gathered for a second Atlantic Aboriginal Workshop in Moncton on November 18 & 19. At this second workshop, participants again discussed the obstacles and opportunities for ATK in SARA, but using a real example of a potential SARA Listing and the existing and planned DFO management of American Eel.

Presentations were focused on the process by which American Eel had been assessed for a potential SARA Listing and the process by which a proposed DFO SARA Management Plan was drafted, both of which do not include ATK.

The workshop was very beneficial to identify some of the resistance in some sectors of DFO to acknowledge ATK as important for assessing or managing eel, both at the regional and national levels. We are also thankful that so many Aboriginal persons who deal with eel were able to get together to share knowledge, issues, and ideas.

It is clear from this workshop, that on American Eel, the Aboriginal Peoples of Atlantic Canada must be involved to bring forward ATK in assessments, SARA Listing, and recovery. DFO alone does not have the knowledge or expertise to fully understand and manage eel.

A report on this workshop will be published in the coming year.

Several recommendations and next steps were made, including:

1. the immediate end of the elver fishery in Canada;
2. the establishment of an Atlantic Aboriginal SARA working group to work together on technical issues, share information, and keep our Chiefs and Councils informed; and
3. that DFO must abandon its narrow approach and must involve the Aboriginal Peoples of Atlantic Canada to assess and manage our Atlantic American Eel.

Through these workshops and our many other predictable government interfaces, MAPC-MAARS, IKANAWTIKET and other Aboriginal groups are helping to pave the way forward in the Maritimes Region, and indeed Canada, for the meaningful consideration and inclusion of ATK in SARA.



Dr. Donna Hurlburt at Atlantic ATK Workshop on Eel



Elder Gerry Sault at DFO National ATK Workshop

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership

By Franz Kesick

MAARS CDIL Brett Bancroft and CARDA Franz Kesick attended the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) 2008 Annual General Meeting held on October 30th at the Joggins Fossil Centre, Joggins Nova Scotia.

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership is a "Virtual Institute" open to individuals and groups that seek the well-being of the Bay of Fundy by:

1. Promoting the integrity, vitality, biodiversity and productivity of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem, and the social well-being and economic sustainability of its coastal communities
2. Facilitating communication and co-operation among individuals and organizations interested in understanding, sustainably using and conserving the resources, habitats and ecological processes of the Bay of Fundy.

The BoFEP Annual Meeting was very well attended by members, directors and interested members of the general public.

Ms Terri McCulloch of the Bay of Fundy Tourism Partnership gave a presentation to the BoFEP General Meeting on the important work that is being performed by her organization in regards to attracting tourists and maintaining viable tourism opportunities though out the Bay of Fundy Region.

To learn more about the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership visit there website at <http://www.bofep.org/>



4th ESSIM FORUM

By Franz Kesick

The 4th Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) FORUM was held on November 25 & 26, 2008 at Pier 21 on Marginal Road in Halifax. There were approximately 180 people registered for the two day event.

Mr. Mike Murphy and Captain Ivan Lantz, co-chairs of the *Stakeholder Advisory Committee* (SAC) opened the FORUM and welcomed all participants. They introduced Ms. Mimi Breton, Assistant Deputy Minister, Oceans, Habitat & Species at Risk, DFO, and Mr. Greg Roach, Assistant Deputy Minister, NS Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture to provide welcomes from their respective organizations.

Mr. Tim Hall Regional Manager, Oceans & Coastal Management Division, DFO, gave a history and over-view of the ESSIM Plan, followed by a Panel Discussion on ESSIM Plan Implementation. Jennifer Smith, World Wildlife Fund, Karen Traversy, Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia, Roger Hunka, Maritime Aboriginal Peoples' Council, Kevin Squires, Maritime Fishermen's Union and Captain Ivan Lantz, Shipping Federation of Canada participated as panelists to provide reasons for their involvement, and to answer questions from the FORUM as a whole.

Concurrent Sessions were held for the rest of the first day on various topics that could or should be considered or integrated within the ESSIM Plan.

Ms. Fanny Douvere and Mr. Charles Ehler, UNESCO/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission were Keynote Speakers for Marine Spatial Planning and made the presentation "*A Promising New Paradigm for Applying an Integrated, Ecosystem Approach to Ocean Management*".

Glen Herbert, Oceans & Coastal Management Division DFO gave a presentation and lead small discussions on Marine Spatial Planning on the Scotian Shelf: Current and Future Directions.

Tracy Horsman & Derek Fenton presented on Marine Protected Area Network Planning followed by group discussions on Issues and Opportunities for Action Planning and Plan Implementation hosted by Susanna Fuller.

The 4th ESSIM FORUM Workshop was a great success. Congratulations go out to the Planning Committee and all others involved in organizing and participating in the 4th ESSIM FORUM – a good kick start for implementing aspects of the plan.



Brook Hancock

Pammy K. Billars

Ben

[Signature]



[Signature]

Teri Haine

Mary Rose Watts





Throughout the months of October, November, and December 2008, the MAARS CARDA's 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. IKANAWTIKET facilitator and Jeff Stevens Community IKANAWTIKET attend the Atlantic Whitefish Recovery Action Plan Implementation Team Meeting



2. MAARS N.S. CARDA and P.E.I. CARDA attend the Atlantic Large Pelagic's Meeting

3. N.B. CARDA attends the New Brunswick Tidal Energy Stakeholder Technology Information Session



4. P.E.I. CARDA and N.B. CARDA attend the Gulf Region Special Meeting on the FRCC report and the current Lobster crisis situation

5. MAARS Director attends Mi'kmaq Treaty Day Celebrations



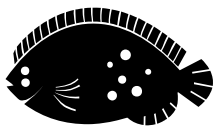
6. MAARS Director chairs the MAPC-MAARS meeting of the N.S., P.E.I. and N.B. Chiefs and Presidents

7. MAARS Director and IKANAWTIKET attend and participate at the DFO sponsored National ATK workshop

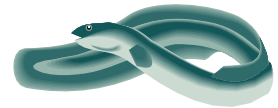


8. MAARS Director attends regional meeting of AAROM's in P.E.I.

9. P.E.I. CARDA attends and makes a presentation to the Students for Sustainability Conference



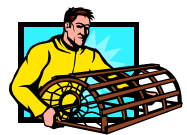
10. P.E.I. CARDA and MAARS CDIL listen to the CFIA Animal Aquatic Health Division teleconference



11. MAARS Director, N.S. CARDA and MAARS CDIL attend the 4th annual ESSIM Forum



12. N.S. CARDA attends the Southwest N.S. Soft-Shell Clam advisory committee to discuss a Conservation and Harvesting Plan



13. MAARS Director, N.B. CARDA, P.E.I. CARDA and IKANAWTIKET facilitator attend the Atlantic ATK/Eel workshop.



Netawek Ikkikum

Voice of the Ocean

In this issue:

- Colonial Tunicate Impacts
- Musquash Estuary Marine Protected Area
- DFO Lobster Management
- Amendment to Scotia Fundy Management Area
- Natural Resources Engagement Workshop
- L'nu Fisheries Ltd. Ventures into Aquaculture
- 4th Annual AVC Lobster Science Workshop
- DFO SARA Consultations
- Canadian Marine Advisory Council meeting
- World Wetlands Day
- DFO and ATK
- BOFEP AGA
- 4th ESSIM FORUM

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

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MAARS CDIL



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The views expressed and the information shared herein reflects those solely of the writers and does not necessarily attest to accuracy or represent the views of MAPC MAARS or any of its partner Councils with which the writers or Netawek Ikkikum is affiliated with or a part of.

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Wetland bog and upland forest, Caribou Plain Trail, Fundy National Park

Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

Collectively advancing the rightful share to Atlantic Aquatic Resources for the sustained 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

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