



# Ne'tawe'k Ikjikum

MAARS Quarterly Communiqué Vol 1 Issue 1 July 2005

## Me'talwlo'tioq - welcome to all.

We are pleased to share with you, the quarterly Communiqué "Ne'tawe'k Ikjikum" (Voice of the Ocean). Ne'tawe'k Ikjikum is one of many multi-stakeholder ongoing communications and relationship building bridges which the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate, (MAARS) is implementing. As an Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Collaborative Management Body in the Maritime Region, MAARS is advancing Aboriginal Fisheries & Oceans Entities Best Practices, Management and Decision-Making.

The Mi'Kmaq, Malicite, Passamaquoddy Aboriginal Peoples of Canada continuing on traditional ancestral homelands hold a bond to the same traditional territorial lands, air, waters, coastal seas, flora, fauna, and resources from the Paleo-Indian period 10,500 years ago to the present.

Our responsibility and duty to determine priorities and develop strategies and principles for the development, control, and use of our traditional territories and resources continues. Our obligations and rights to

the economic and social development, management of resources, productive capacity of territories and the resources, continues now as it has for generations.

The traditional ancestral homelands communities of Mi'Kmaq, Malicite and Passamaquoddy Aboriginal Peoples throughout the Maritimes Region, resolved to end their socio-economic plight. In the early 1970's, the People organized their Representative Aboriginal Peoples Councils. The Councils are the organized voice to the Councils of Governments. For the past three decades, our communities have taken the path of reconciliation and partnership for our participation, position and involvement in many spheres, including that of authority and management of access and use of natural life aquatic resources.

In 2003, to further advance Coastal Aboriginal Communities increased participation as important partners in the sustainable management of aquatic resources, and oceans management, the Government of Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, launched a multi-year Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management Program (AAROM). AAROM is a response to enhance Aboriginal Communities professional participation in fisheries resources and oceans management decision making through collaborative partnerships.



A fundamental basis for good decision making, is the identification and use of best practices, knowledge, understanding, collaboration and partnerships involving many stakeholders and the growing Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishery Enterprises. Relationships which foster long term involvement, social and economic development, inclusive decision making and promote Aboriginal governance responsibilities for aquatic resources, community commercial fishery access, and oceans management allow everyone to go forward to a better future.

The Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC); an intergovernmental forum of the three Aboriginal Peoples Representative Organizations - the Native Council of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island, each has from 1985 to date, emerging Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries Enterprise engaged in the Several Fishery extending over five watersheds in the Region - Bay de Chaleur, Northumberland Strait, Eastern Atlantic Gulf, Scotia and the Bay of Fundy.

After extended “Community Discussions” and “Planning”, the vision, goals, objectives and work plan for a Maritime Region Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management Collaborative Body, was community approved. The three MAPC Councils, for their community and community

Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries Entities, partnered and organized the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS).

In January of 2005, MAARS was approved as the Maritime Region Collaborative Management Body. Who continue to reside on traditional ancestral homelands territories - the traditional homelands Aboriginal Peoples sometimes referred to as the “Off-Reserve Aboriginal Peoples”.

Future quarterly issues of “Ne'tawe'k Ikjikum” will present brief highlights of our work, the MAARS Team, the objectives met, results and benefits to the community fishery enterprises, stakeholder partnerships, role and best practices input to decision making fora on aquatic resources, oceans management and participation in the Atlantic Commercial Fishing Industry.

Ever so often, “Ne'tawe'k Ikjikum” will feature separate articles of interest and reflection.

In this first issue, “Sustainable Development - a truth and reality for all humanity”.

We welcome contact, and remain open to developing multi-stakeholder relationships, learning and working in partnership.



### THE MAARS TEAM:

An important overarching goal vision and objective of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) is instituting a multi-functioning Team of Aboriginal professionals who can create collaborative partnerships with the breadth of multi-stakeholders involved in Aquatic Resources, Oceans Management and the Commercial Fishing Industry within a collaborative management body framework.

The MAARS nine member team each have specific roles and responsibilities. Together they will share the tasks, knowledge, approaches and resolve to achieve the vision and role of Aboriginal Peoples in all aspects of decision making, for the collective advancement and rightful share to Aquatic Resources for the sustained economic growth of the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples, MAARS partner communities.

In this issue of “Ne'tawe'k Ikjikum” as implementation MAARS Director, and on behalf of the MAARS Board and communities, we welcome the first wave of the MAARS Team.

Mary Rose Watts, MAARS Secretary/Financial Comptroller/ Administrative Assistant (SCAA), located in the MAARS Administrative Office, Truro, Nova Scotia.



Mary is well known by many in the Mi'Kmaq community and the Mi'Kmaq leadership.

Mary Rose is a Mi'Kmaq, born in New Brunswick. Mary has raised a family and has worked for many decades with many Aboriginal entities and Aboriginal Organizations in Nova Scotia.

Mary brings to the Team experience as an Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Coordinator, Gallery Manager, Women Entrepreneur, Payroll Clerk and Community Volunteer.

Mary Rose has traveled extensively, lived in England for several years, graduated with honours in the fields of Accounts Management, and Power Point Presentation. Mary graduated from Mount St. Vincent University with a degree in Business Administration and Marketing.



Tim Hainer, MAARS Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisor (CARDA) is multi-stakeholder lead on Prince Edward Island contact advisor to the PEI Mi'Kmaq Fishery, stationed in Charlottetown.

Tim is a Mohawk, born in Woodstock Ontario, and has been accepted and made his home with the Mi'Kmaq of Prince Edward Island. Tim has a long family history of many generations of intensive labour work in the tobacco fields of Southern Ontario, work which Tim did for several summers saving towards his continuing education.

Tim graduated with a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in biology and working on a Masters of Science (M.Sc.) in Aquaculture, specializing in “fin fish nutrition and anti oxidants” from the University of Prince Edward Island and Atlantic Veterinary College. Tim interned at the Cardigan Fish Hatchery in PEI, for two years applying knowledge and acquiring practical skills in a fin fish hatchery.

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Barry LaBillois, Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisor (CARDA) is the multi-stakeholder lead in New Brunswick and contact advisor to the Aboriginal Seafoods Network Inc, stationed in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Barry is a Mi'Kmaq who has always lived on traditional ancestral Mi'Kmaq homelands (off reserve) in New Brunswick. Barry is community involved - President of Durham Local 7 and Board of Director of NBAPC, and served on several committees.

Barry was instrumental in organizing the Aboriginal Seafoods Network Inc., the communal commercial fishery enterprise of NBAPC. Barry also is a member of the NBAPC, AFS strategy group.



Barry is educated in New Brunswick, acquired on hands “fisher” knowledge and experience, and he managed the ASN Inc. for several years. Barry is well known to many commercial fishery groups and DFO managers in the Gulf Region. Barry continues the cultural connection with the lands, waters, forests, fowl, animal and aquatic resources by practicing Mi’Kmaq harvesting and the traditional knowledge passed to him. Barry volunteers time with youth and was a hockey rink attendant for eleven years.



Franz Kesick, Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisor (CARDA) is the multi-stakeholder lead in Nova Scotia and is the contact advisor to Mimej Seafoods Limited, stationed in Truro.

Franz is of the Anishnabe Nation of Ojibwa Peoples. He has been accepted by the Mi’Kmaq People and now makes his home in Nova Scotia, involved as a member of Zone 1, NCNS community.

Franz, has extensive experience with Human Resources and skills Development directly providing service delivery for several years. Franz education, career training and skills involved him as a former “Paramedic in Ontario”, a “licensed recreational pilot”, a “certified SCUBA Diver”, and a “partnerships development officer” working with a wide range of industry sectors, employers, stakeholders and government agencies in the area of human resources. Franz was also employed for several years in base metals mining in Ontario working his way up to shift supervisor.



### *Sustainable Development - a truth and reality for all humanity*

All life and life giving forces are interconnected and interdependent - this is a timeless world view of Aboriginal Peoples and that of the Mi’Kmaq, Malicite and Passamaquoddy Aboriginal Peoples of the East Coast Maritime Region of Canada.

To this day, the timeless eco-centric world view remains with the Aboriginal/Indigenous and many Peoples of the world. Less than three thousand years ago, a homo-centric world view evolved. The divergence of Peoples and Societies world views of the living world emerged.

Within our recent Aboriginal contact history we have witnessed many contact relationships with Peoples of different and similar world views. The divergence of world views about natural resources and the living world has left devastating social, economic and environmental scars, often to the disadvantage of Aboriginal Peoples and now ever so increasingly on all Canadians.

Throughout the contacts, periods of dispossession and disinheritance from natural resources, the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada shared and maintained the knowledge and world views about the living world, life forces and the duties and responsibilities of persons to the living world. All life form of which persons are a part, are interconnected, interdependent and to be respected.

The continuing relationships of peace, friendship and trade recognized mutual co-existence - a promise between Aboriginal Peoples and Non-Aboriginal Peoples together for all generations to share, enjoy and benefit from the great creation. The promise, of co-existence on traditional ancestral territories of bounty and beauty for the well being of all, required each generation to fulfill their duties and responsibilities of respect for all life form and life giving forces.

We are not lesser or greater than our living



Environment and life giving sources. We must each learn to respect, share and care for mother earth, that is our duty. In Mi'kmaq, we have a word to describe this world view concept for caring, sharing access and use of natural life resources. Netukulimk

At the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the two world views were brought closer together to become a common world view. Canada with many other States, confirmed a commitment for global human kind to "Sustainable Development", another way of describing respect for our living environment, caring for our social well being and sharing in our economic progress.

For the Indigenous Peoples of the World endeared to the eco-centric world view of all life form on earth being interconnected and interdependent, the "Earth Summit" declaration was a recognition of Indigenous Peoples knowledge. For the Peoples of the World following the homo-centric world view of dominion over life forms and mother earth, the "Earth Summit" confirmed a need to alter the ways of treating life forms, life forces and life giving resources.

Faced with the impending crises of depleting aquatic resources, loss of diverse terrestrial life, lands wasted, air pollution, global warming, damage to the oceans and waters - environmental destruction, wide spread social destitution, and gross economic disparity, a truth and reality surfaced in the minds of all human kind and their States.

We must all learn to live and use resources in a safe, healthy and respectful way for the benefit of the present and for future generations - we have to make sustainable development decisions.

In 2002, the States to the United Nations World Summit, which included Canada, recognized internationally that the knowledge, and world view of the Indigenous Peoples is vital to hear and include when making sustainable development decisions.

*"We affirm the vital role of indigenous peoples in sustainable development".*

The relationship between the Federal Government of Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada is evolving and advancing with maturity.

Canada on behalf of its many Departments and Agencies, including DFO, made a commitment to support sustainable development and promote the integration and new ways of making decisions. Addressing the changing expectations of society requires new forms of governance.

The complex inter-relationships between different Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management stakeholders, interests, Aboriginal Peoples, and governments, must be recognized and included in decision making. Aboriginal Peoples have a key interest, responsibility, duty and vital role in matters and decisions about Aquatic Resources, Oceans Management and the Atlantic Fishing Industry.

Aboriginal Communities and DFO are bridging the gap between themselves. Learning and understanding the significance of integrating economic, environmental and social considerations as a single holistic unit of thinking in decision making.

Collaboration between governments, departments, agencies, institutions, multi-stakeholders and Aboriginal Peoples is the first step for developing sustainable development decisions. This is the future. Sustainable Development decisions are the new global measure of the wealth and growth of People and State. Humanity's situation and condition of life giving sources, is now the transparent measure of the commitment, practice and evidence of inclusive sustainable development decisions - a truth and reality before all human kind.

Engaging Aboriginal Peoples to realize their full participation at all levels of decision making in matters that affect relationships to the living environment, socio-economic well being, progress and development, access and use of aquatic resources, oceans management, position in the commercial fisheries, is a vital sustainable development goal which makes good sense for Canada internally and internationally. Decisions based on sustainable development give People, State, Progress and Environment an advantage.

The Peoples of the Federation of Canada, all have an interest, stake, contribution, role and fundamental reason to work together, collaborate, develop plans, approaches, practices and exert a shared effort for inclusive decision making - "Sustainable development" is a truth and reality for all humanity.



The very future of human kind on our living mother earth requires everyone to respect and protect the diversity of our living environment, and care about our social capital - citizens, share in our economic development and progress - that is “sustainable development”.

An important component of the MAARS initiative is collaborating and co-ordinating the flow of information on Aquatic Resources, oceans habitat, Oceans Management issues, matters, and aquatic fish and plant species at risk as all these matters interact with our Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries and decisions. The MAARS “Oceans & Aquatic Habitat Resources Species at Risk Co-ordinator” (OAHR/SRC) pivots “sustainable development” in all our work.

The Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate although a small and modest “Aboriginal Aquatic Resources & Oceans Collaborative Management Body” is building a bridge, with many other Aquatic Resources, Oceans Management and

Atlantic Commercial Fishing Industry multi-stakeholders. When like minded Canadians collaborate in partnership, we can achieve the shared vision now and for future generations in Canada - our world.

*Safe, healthy, productive waters, oceans, and aquatic ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations through inclusive decisions involving collaborative partnerships based on the integrated unit of a sustainable development world view - integrating economic, environmental and social factors in all actions, practices and decisions about resources and our living and life giving environment.*

Sustainable Development is the nurture and future of all human kind - a truth and reality.

Telik Ji'jitewni'n (as I know it to be).



The photo pictures one working session of a series, on developing the collaborative partners profiles. Included are: MAARS Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisors: Tim Hainer, Franz Kesick, and Barry Labillois, and Tim Martin, President of NCNS Mime'j Seafoods Limited, Jordon Crane Manager of NCPEI Mi'Kmaq Fisheries, and Jason Harquail, Manager of NBAPC Aboriginal Seafoods Network Inc, and MAARS Implementation Director Roger Hunka.



## MAARS PARTNERS TAKING STOCK

The participation and position of our traditional ancestral homelands community throughout the region in the Atlantic Commercial Fishing Industry is evolving. For the Native Council of Nova Scotia community our plans for a position began in 1985. In 1992 after the Sparrow Decision, DFO released its Aboriginal Fishing Strategy (AFS). Communal Commercial participation was somewhat enhanced around 1995 through the ATP component of the AFS. For the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council and Native Council of Prince Edward Island a somewhat similar path, however the better practice of clearly managing communal commercial fisheries separate from the food, social and ceremonial fisheries in their Gulf Region Agreements with DFO was not clearly defined.

By 1999, the three traditional ancestral homelands community Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries entities were at different levels of approach, access, management, development and growth.

The pressed “licenses buy backs”, “vessels” and “equipment” turned to “Aboriginal Communal Commercial Licenses” and “packages” included a disproportionately high number of non income generating species licenses, as well as older vessels and equipment outdated for the current fishery and for the most part not conducive to maintaining or developing “viable or sustainable” fisheries of either of the three communal commercial fishery entities for their communities. The areas of capacity, management and decision making were a matter of “learn as you go”.

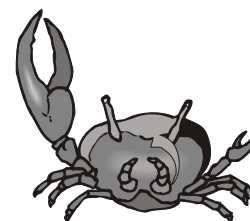
Having gained a better understanding of the complex and competitive nature of the multi billion dollars fishing industry, more capacity in the Atlantic Commercial Fishing Industry, and knowledge about the multiplicity of “stakeholders”, other interests, and Aboriginal absence in decision making, each of the Council's community at different stages structured “aboriginal communal commercial fishery (ACCF) entities”. The respective ACCF's are dedicated to manage and operate for their communities greater participation, position and sustainable growth in the Atlantic Commercial Fishing Industry throughout the five watersheds of the Region.

An objective of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate, is to co-ordinate knowledge, advice, best practices and decision making. Each MAARS partner ACCF through the collaborative management body work, can access, consider and factor in their management and operations planning a body of information and advice for the conduct of their fisheries.

In June of 2005, the MAARS Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisors, and the three MAARS partner ACCF managers, engaged in a series of collaborative sessions to identify, discuss and compile three extensive profiles:

1. “Collaborative Partners Vessels and Fishing” profile
2. “Collaborative Partners Species/ Licenses & Human Capacity” profile
3. “Collaborative Partners Equipment & Holdings” profile

The development of these profiles openly discussed and shared, would not have been possible without the “MAARS Collaborative Management Body”. The compiling of these three profiles is a vital first step to understand the current state, and therefrom plan, incorporate best management practices, and make decisions, to provide a bench mark of the entities. The bench mark will also be used to measure growth and the effectiveness of the MAARS contributions, and work throughout the years to the sustainable and viable growth of the ACCF's and the Aboriginal Peoples involvement in decision making about Aquatic Resources, Oceans Management and participation and position in the Atlantic Commercial Fishing Industry.





## *Evolving Partnerships:*

The partnership between the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), is evolving. The “Native Food Fishery Guidelines” of the early 1970's, the 1989 “Indian Food Fishery Guidelines”, the post Sparrow 1991-2 multi-year “Aboriginal Fishery Strategy (AFS)”, the “Allocation Transfer Program (ATP)” in 1994 of the AFS, and the 1999 five year “Marshall Response Initiative (MRI)” are the incremental steps to help establish Aboriginal Peoples access to aquatic resources, and participation in the Fishery.

The DFO, Aboriginal Aquatic Resources & Oceans Management (AAROM) multi-year program of 2003 is designed to assist Aboriginal Peoples with capacity development and formation of Aboriginal Collaborative Management Bodies for greater participation and co-operative decision-making in Aquatic and Oceans Management processes. AAROM is the starting step to involve Aboriginal Peoples in the governance of Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management.

The Maritime traditional homelands Aboriginal Peoples organized through the NCNS, NCPEI, and NBAPC together with DFO in 2003-04 engaged leadership, community, Aboriginal fishery entities to chart out and plan a Maritime Region Community Collaborative Management Body. In January of 2005, the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) was initiated.

To the many within our Community and DFO, and to the NCNS, NCPEI, and NBAPC respective Aboriginal Leaders, Grace Conrad, Jamie Gallant, Betty Anne Lavallee CD, past NCPEI president Jason Knockwood, the Councils Boards of Directors, Community Members, their Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishery Entities leaders, and to DFO Region Neil Bellefontaine, Bernard Theriault, Kathie Stewart, Tom Howe, Linda Hunt, Dave Duggan, and DFO HQ Ottawa, Kevin Stringer, Terrence Davies, Pauline Lalonde, Charles Ryan, Barb Dempsey, - and so many others involved:

*We'lalioq - thanks to all*

**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: NATIVE COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA  
NEW BRUNSWICK ABORIGINAL PEOPLES COUNCIL & NATIVE COUNCIL OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

*Community of Mi'kmaq, Malicite, Passammaquoddy / Aboriginal Peoples  
continuing on traditional ancestral homelands in the Maritime Region*

***Advancing Aboriginal Fisheries & Oceans Entities  
Best Practices, Management and Decision-making***

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