

Netawek Iikjikum

Voice of the Ocean

MAARS Quarterly Communiqué

Vol. 3 Issue 1, July 2007

By MAARS Team Member Franz Kesick

On April 28, 2007, Professor Neil Bellefontaine (former Regional Director General of DFO Scotia-Fundy Region) and Kathi Stewart, Aboriginal Fisheries Director, Maritimes Region, introduced the Class of 2007 of the World Maritime University of the United Nations International Maritimes Organization in Malmo, Sweden, to the Native Council of Nova Scotia and MAPC-MAARS.

The class of six included Andrew Akhighu and Okuku Ediang from Nigeria, Pablo Bonuccelli from Argentina, Benvindo Fonesca from Cape Verde, Ramon Lopez from the Philippines, and Fancy Numfor Chuo from Cameroon.

The students visited the NCNS Netukulimkewe'I office, as well as the MAPC-MAARS main office in Truro, and were greeted by Tim Martin, Commissioner of the NCNS Netukulimkewe'I Commission, Franz Kesick, MAARS CARDA, and Roger Hunka, MAPC-MAARS Director. The group participated in an information exchange for about three hours.

On behalf of the Traditional Ancestral Homelands Community of Mi'kmaq Aboriginal Peoples in Nova Scotia, the Commission, MAPC, and MAARS, we wish the Class of 2007 a very successful tour. All the best for your future endeavours.

Franz Kesick, who recently completed a course at COADY with international students himself, enjoyed developing more new friendships. We are one family over one Mother Earth.





Fort Beausejour Tour - ARISES 2007

By MAARS Director Roger Hunka and Team
Member Angie Titus

As part of the ARISES 2007 event held from June 8-10, Seminar attendees were given a tour of both the Tantramar Marsh and Fort Beausejour. An important part of ARISES was to bring the participants, guests and friends to physically witness the vastness and uniqueness of the Tantramar Marsh and its living environment.

For any activity or session about species at risk or biodiversity to succeed, it is important that the habitat of the species be seen, understood, and respected.

The experience also revealed how the area had been a gathering place for thousands of years for the Mi'kmaq, a capital of Acadia for about

150 years, a witness to English warring in the area, and an area assaulted during the American Revolution; a long history of contact.

On arriving at the fort, Juliette McLeod of Parks Canada gave a brief history of the fort as well as Colin MacKinnon of the Canadian Wildlife Service -Tantramar Marsh. Juliette guided the tour, which included both the 300 year old remnants, restored fortification grounds and the Visitor's Centre.

The MAARS staff and ARISES participants thank both Colin and Juliette for taking the time to give us such an interesting and informative tour of the Tantramar Marsh and Fort Beausejour. Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service are core essential services which need to be strengthened if SARA is to ever achieve its objective with Canadians.

2nd Annual Small Craft Harbours Meeting

By MAARS Director, Roger Hunka

Antigonish, Nova Scotia

On June 19, the MAARS CARDAs from Truro, Charlottetown, and Fredericton, and MAARS Director, with the MAARS Partner's Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries Entities (ACCFE) principles, Tim Martin of Mime'j Seafoods Limited and Jordan Crane of L'Nu Fisheries Limited, joined the Small Craft Harbours Business Managers and Harbour Authorities Working Group meeting.

This session follows last year's introductory session and focused on some more practical, on the wharf, situations. The MAARS group presented some brief background information, and then held, with the working group Managers of Small Craft Harbours, a good, open, and frank discussion on some issues and concerns.

It was agreed that the individual ACCFE Managers, with the CARDAs, would follow up with the Small Craft Harbour Manager in each area to work out specific issues raised.

Generally, the situation has improved as far as relationships go, and more and more fishers at these various harbours where the ACCFEs harbour their vessels are becoming more receptive and supportive.

MAARS would like to thank Julie LeBlanc, Chief of Client Services for Small Craft Harbours/Maritimes-Gulf, Nicole Bannister, Acting Operations Advisor Small Craft Harbours, and all the Managers and attendees for receiving MAARS, and we look forward to meeting again next year.










By MAARS Team Member Tim Hainer

In 2001, the *Canada Shipping Act* (CSA) received royal assent, initiating a regulatory reform process that continues today. The new Act, which intends to replace the current 100 year old Act, is noted by Transport Canada (TC) as a reorganized, updated and streamlined version of the *Canada Shipping Act*, making it clearer and easier for stakeholders to understand. This, in turn, will help the marine community to operate in a safer, more efficient, environmentally sound manner, and one that responds to the needs of Canadians.

The regulatory reform process is vital as the new Act will not come into effect until the regulations needed to support it are put in place. This process involves the review and restructuring of more than 100 existing regulations to be completed in two phases:





1. The first phase will include the amendment of those regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of the new Act, as well as those that are deemed to have a substantial impact on safety and the environment. There are ten essential regulations included for consideration during phase I and it is expected that all phase I regulations will be published in Part II of the Canada Gazette by July 1, 2007.
2. The second phase will consist of a modernization of those regulations that are currently consistent with the new Act, as well as those that are not critical to the Act's entry into force.

On April 3rd, representatives from MAARS attended the regional Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC) meeting held at the Delta Prince Edward in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. A portion of the day's agenda included discussions of the regulations for the prevention of pollution from ships and for dangerous chemicals. In this regard, MAARS applauds TC for its efforts to incorporate new provisions in order to accede to the Anti-fouling Systems Convention of 2001 and bring the new Act in accord with the MARPOL (short for Marine Pollution) Convention. MARPOL is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. Positives from the proposed regulatory changes include:

-  Canadian vessel requirements to fit oily water filtering equipment and bilge alarms that meet stricter approval standards if fitted after January 1, 2005.
-  New regulations will require all vessels operating in Canadian waters that have a toilet on board to have a holding tank and/or an approved marine sanitation device or other means of containment.
-  New regulations prohibiting the discharge of untreated sewage into Canadian waters within three nautical miles of land for vessels less than 400 tons and 12 miles of land for vessels larger than 400 tons. Treated sewage will only be allowed subject to fecal coliform limits.
-  New NO_x emission standards and certification requirements for vessels larger than 400 tons with engines over 130 kW installed on ships traveling internationally that were constructed after January 1, 2000, or engines over 130 kW that undergo a major conversion after January 1, 2000.
-  Regulations prohibiting the application or re-application of tributyltin (TBT) organotin compounds to the hull of ships as anti-fouling agents.

The adoption of the MARPOL convention annexes and the new TBT restrictions are viewed positively. The above regulations will generally strengthen Canada's shipping industry position to be an environmentally sound industry. Notwithstanding the positives of the new CSA regulations, the adoption of some of the MARPOL annexes, such as Division 5, which deals with the disposal of garbage in coastal waters, does not significantly strengthen the current regulations and may in fact compromise the environmental condition of Canada's territorial waters.

Under the old *Garbage Pollution Prevention Regulations*, the discharge of garbage is prohibited in waters under Canadian jurisdiction (territorial waters). The MARPOL annexes make allowances for the discharge of biodegradable garbage within Canada's territorial waters provided that placards are displayed, garbage management plans are kept, a garbage record keeping log is maintained and a minimum three kilometer distance from land at the time of discharge is adhered to. The issues and concerns that MAARS has with the proposed regulatory changes are as follows:

-  Under the new regulations, ships will be allowed to dump garbage throughout all of our territorial waters provided minimum distances from land at the time of discharge are observed. Garbage disposal within these coastal waters are not otherwise permitted under the old CSA.
-  A preliminary scan of the environmental impact considerations, which were taken in accordance with TC's Strategic Environmental Assessment Policy Statement (March 2001), concluded that a detailed analysis was not necessary. Preliminary scans are not quantitative or detailed in nature and are likely to be less than a page in length.
-  The regulatory impact analysis statement for the new TC regulations state that, overall, the regulations will not impact the compliance and enforcement mechanisms for the prevention of pollution from ships and that the proposed regulations will not require significant additional monitoring to ensure compliance, as marine safety inspectors will enforce the proposed regulations. This despite the fact that Section 140 (*authorized discharge*) of the new CSA will be difficult to effectively enforce as the composition of garbage that has passed through a comminuter or grinder, so as to allow it to pass through a 25 mm screen, will be difficult to discern.
-  Bluewater Network, an international environmental non-governmental organization based out of the United States, reports that a typical cruise ship can produce 50 tons of garbage in one week.

The deliberate dumping of garbage, biodegradable or otherwise, into our coastal marine waters is not acceptable. Given the current state of our oceans, widespread habitat degradation and fisheries collapses, new solutions to old problems must be sought.

The prohibition of any garbage dumping within Canada's exclusive economic zone and highlights of the Baltic Sea Strategy, or a similar strategy for Canada, would entail increased infrastructure costs. For Canadian ports to adequately deal with the increased waste reception, there will be increased operating costs for Canadian ports to run the waste reception facilities, increased capital expenditures for shipping companies to adequately house wastes until offloading facilities can be accessed, and increased surveillance by Canadian authorities to ensure compliance with the stricter measurements. Despite the costs associated with implementing the above measures, the benefits, which includes consideration for cleaner, more sustainable oceans around Canada, need to be given serious consideration and be a priority matter for all interests using the ocean. If it's from the land, take it back to land.



OCEAN DAY 2007

By MAARS Team Member Angie Titus

June 8, 2007 was World Ocean Day. Around the world, organizations and individuals all did their part to bring the ocean and its plight to the attention of their peers. Oceans Day was a special day for MAPC-MAARS as well. To promote the day, MAARS sent out World Ocean Day stickers with its March (Volume 2, Issue 4) issue of Netawek Ikjikum. The stickers featured pictures taken from a wood carving by Don Fraser that graces the MAPC-MAARS head office.

Included on the stickers were: mackerel, lobster, scallop, winter skate, tuna, American eel, cod, shark, a fishing boat, a composition of small fish, a sand dollar, red seaweed, squid, flounder, and shrimp.

June 8 also heralded the beginning of the MAPC Ikanawtiket Facilitator's first Aboriginal Rural Information Seminar for Enhancing Skills (ARISES). The seminar brought together elder and youth from all over Mi'kmaki to learn about and discuss Species at Risk and the vital role which the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada have throughout the whole SARA process.

Species at Risk Calendar

By MAARS Team Member Angie Titus

The MAARS team volunteered their time and effort throughout the month of March to label and mail to our Native Council community households approximately 4500 special Species at Risk calendars produced by the Government of Canada (a collaboration of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, Parks Canada, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada).

The calendars are lunar based calendars, so the year begins in March. Community households from the Native Council of Nova Scotia, the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island received this beautiful calendar, which features work by Aboriginal artists from throughout the Atlantic provinces. The calendar was designed to highlight Species at Risk and the Aboriginal language of the Atlantic region. Artists included: Edward Augustine, Gerald Gloade, Lisa Learning, Virginia McCoy, Barry Stevens, Melissa Sue Labrador-Posey, Jerry Evans, Gilbert Alex Sark, Michelle Baikie, Barbara Wood, Kyle Knockwood, and Randy Simon.

This is an example of government departments working together with a vision to produce useful and beautiful results of value and public benefit. Congratulations.

2007 Gulf Lobster Enforcement and Compliance Workshop

By MAARS Team Member Tim Hainer

On March 30, 2007, NCPEI Mi'kmaq Fisheries Coordinator Jordan Crane, MAARS team member Tim Hainer and Mime'j Seafoods Limited Fleet Manager Larry Wynott attended a Gulf Lobster Compliance and Enforcement Workshop held in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide Gulf rights holders and stakeholders in the lobster fishery with a succinct review of the 2006 Gulf lobster compliance and enforcement strategy and statistical data. The session provided discussion on the compliance and enforcement issues and challenges as experienced by the workshop participants.



MAARS acknowledges that this type of forum is useful for building positive relationships with DFO enforcement personnel and regional stakeholders. It is also a way to inform the Traditional Ancestral Homeland Communities about the regional stakeholder issues, concerns, needs and interests as they pertain to compliance and enforcement. We noted that the structure of the compliance and enforcement forum was not an appropriate forum for our communities to voice specific issues, needs, concerns and interests. As such, MAARS intends to request follow-up discussions on this important issue with the Regional Director of Conservation and Enforcement and area enforcement chiefs.

Northern Bottlenose Whale Recovery Workshop

By MAARS Team Member Amanda Facey

On June 5, MAARS Director, Roger Hunka, MAARS OARB, Amanda Facey, and MAPC Ikanawtiket, Josh McNeely, attended the Northern Bottlenose Whale (Scotian Shelf population) Recovery Workshop in Halifax.



The Scotian Shelf population of the Northern Bottlenose Whale was listed as endangered under the Species at Risk Act in April 2006. Under the Act, Fisheries and Oceans Canada is responsible for preparing a Recovery Strategy for this species. This meeting was a first step in the development of the Strategy Team.

The Recovery Strategy sets out the population goal and objectives, approaches to respond to the known threats to the species' survival, identifies critical habitat, if possible, and sets time lines for the preparation of an Action Plan or plans.

A large number of concerned stakeholders were in attendance including representatives from DFO, Nova Scotia government, industry, academics, non-governmental organizations and fishers' associations.

The objectives of this workshop were to review background information on the Northern Bottlenose Whale and determine whether there is additional information that should be considered by DFO in developing the Recovery Strategy and to seek input from stakeholders on the development of the Recovery Strategy. All advice that was received will be considered by DFO as it develops the team to begin work on a Northern Bottlenose Whale Recovery Strategy.

ACCFE Manager's Meeting

By MAARS Team Members Franz Kesick and Angie Titus

On June 19, 2007, the MAARS CARDAs, Director, and managers of the Partners' Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries Entities (ACCFE) met in Truro to review several important items. The meeting discussed the matter of extensive activities occurring within the Canada Shipping Act and several Regulations thereto, primarily that concerning vessel stability and safety. Also, the Canadian Marine Advisory Council meetings as well as national meetings were discussed.



The subject of the Minister's April 12 announcement for owner-operator policies and trust agreements was raised and will require more discussion and a presentation by DFO to clearly understand its implications. At present, there are some verbal assurances that this policy will not apply to Aboriginal groups since Aboriginal groups hold communal licenses. The issue remains with the policy and the categorization of independent core fishery. How will that affect the future ability of Aboriginal groups to acquire new licenses or replacement licenses?

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Training

By MAARS Team Member Amanda Facey

From June 11-14, MAARS OARB, Amanda Facey, attended two Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency training courses in Halifax. The first course was a one-day orientation to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. This course provides a basic understanding of the legal requirements of the Act and its key regulations. The second course was a three-day training session which provided participants with a hands-on approach to good environmental assessments practices, particularly as they pertain to the conduct of screenings under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. This training session specifically looks at principles, procedures, methods and techniques for completing a screening type of environmental assessment.

MAARS has become increasingly involved in reviewing and/or participating in environmental assessment processes. The training obtained during these sessions will give us a greater understanding of the processes and more effectively represent MAARS's Native Council partners in environmental assessments that affect Native Council Traditional Ancestral Homeland Communities exercising Aboriginal gathering rights or uses of traditional land and waters.

IKANAWTIKET



environmental respect l'environnement

Taking Control for Species at Risk

By Ikanawtiket Regional Facilitator Joshua McNeely

Over 100 members, guests, and friends gathered in Sackville, New Brunswick, from June 8-10th to profile our responsibility to halt the loss of our natural world and find ways to work together to effect meaningful change.

Ikanawtiket organized ARISES 2007, which brought together Traditional Ancestral Homelands Aboriginal Community Elders and Youth, Federal and Provincial Government Officials, National and Regional Policy Advisors, Academics, Traditional Knowledge Holders, Grand Council Keptins, and Native Council Executives.

Throughout the three days of ARISES 2007, participants learned how governments are trying to address the rapid loss of biodiversity and living environments in the Maritimes. Several Government Officials and Policy Advisors revealed that Governments alone cannot address the multitude of biodiversity/environmental problems in Canada. Even the bare minimum requirements under the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, like identifying, protecting, and recovering species at risk of extinction, are difficult to meet.



Governments are increasingly coming under fire for not doing enough to save species. As an example, the SARA recovery strategies for over 50 species were recently pulled because the Federal Court found that the SARA Recovery Strategy for one of the listed species, the Piping Plover, did not include protection for its critical habitat.

Aboriginal Peoples, too, have found it difficult to become involved to save our natural world. Aboriginal Peoples themselves have launched initiatives to introduce Canadian Governments and their institutions to Aboriginal Peoples and our vital role in conservation – a reality that is increasingly accepted at the international level, but yet to be accepted in Canada. Aboriginal efforts are facing obstacles daily. Some are being stonewalled by some governments, academics, and industry who do not understand how we see the world; a clash between “world views”.

Aboriginal Peoples, too, have found it difficult to become

As an example, the National Aboriginal Council On Species At Risk (NACOSAR), an Aboriginal Peoples council established under SARA to advise the Minister of the Environment on SARA, has had difficulty in securing funds to collect the issues and concerns of Aboriginal Communities about SARA. In fact, a NACOSAR executive was unable to attend ARISES 2007 because the executive's travel budget had not yet been approved by the Federal Government despite NACOSAR's continued existence and activity for the past 3 years.

Despite these problems and lack of leadership at the government level, ARISES 2007 participants, members, government officials, Aboriginal leaders, guests, and friends put aside their affiliations and positions and began to speak to one another as humans concerned about life. Everyone expressed concern with how we live within this very thin layer of life, which we call Mother Earth.



ARISES 2007 created, for the first time, a chance to connect with others dedicated to understanding, conserving, and respecting the natural world. All participants, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, came to realize that each of us are directly connected to Mother Earth. A connection that is physical, spiritual, and emotional. A connection that cannot be broken by today's conveniences and luxuries. A connection that if neglected will ultimately speed our own extinction, as life forms on Mother Earth.

Many new friendships and working relationships were forged at ARISES 2007 to better understand our natural world and save it from years of neglect and disrespect. Individually, we all want change and we are all willing to work together toward that change.

The next steps for ARISES 2007 participants are to pass the lessons learned to friends, family, and colleagues. Connecting, Learning, Informing, Partnering, Involving, and Educating (CLIPIE) each other about our living environment will create the human momentum to honour and advance legislation like SARA and efforts to save some species and humanity itself.

For more information contact:

Joshua McNeely
 Ikanawtiket Regional Facilitator
 Box 8, 172 Truro Heights Road, RR#1
 Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5A9
 Phone: 902-895-2982
 Fax: 902-895-3844
 Email: ikanawtiket@mapcorg.ca



2007 Atlantic Salmon Advisory Committee

By MAARS Team Member Tim Hainer

On May 25, MAPC/MAARS Director, Roger Hunka, NCNS Netukulimkewe'l Commissioner, Tim Martin, NCPEI Kelewatl Commissioner, Jordan Crane, and MAARS team members, Franz Kesick, Tim Hainer, Joshua McNeely and Amanda Facey, attended the 2007 Atlantic Salmon Advisory Committee (ASAC) meeting held at the Citadel Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Kevin Stringer, Director General of DFO's Resource Management Directorate, and Guy Beaupré, Director General of the International Affairs Directorate, convened the meeting of Atlantic stakeholders, scientists from Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces and other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal salmon interests. Domestic agenda items included an overview of Atlantic salmon resource status and management plans, the Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund (ASEF) and the Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy (WASCP). North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) agenda items included the St. Pierre et Miquelon fishery, West Greenland fishery sampling program, the Salmon at Sea (SALSEA) program and an annual meeting review including implementation plans and a joint presentation with the Pacific.





Gérald Chaput, Section Head of Gulf DFO's Diadromous Fish Section, provided the ASAC with the Atlantic salmon resource status and management plans presentation. The resource status presentation revealed that of the seventy salmon index rivers within the Atlantic and Quebec, only thirty-five reached their conservation limits in 2006. Those river systems not reaching their conservation limits were generally far from attaining this minimum conservation reference point. The returns for the southern areas of Nova Scotia (Bay of Fundy and Eastern Nova Scotia) continued to decline in 2006 with many populations threatened with extirpation.

Stephen Chase, Executive Director of the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation (ASCF) provided the ASAC with a presentation on the status of the ASCF and the 30 million dollar ASEF announced in the fall of 2006. To date, the ASCF has established its Board of Directors and Central Advisory Committee, selected its investment managers and invested the ASEF and submitted a strategic plan to DFO. The ASCF is currently recruiting members to sit on its Provincial Advisory Committees and is in the process of policy and process development.



Julia Barrow, a Fisheries Resource Management Officer with DFO's Resource Management Branch, provided the ASAC with the WASCP presentation. The goal of the WASCP is to preserve and restore healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Canada. The policy will be guided by the four principles of conservation, sustainable use and benefits, open and transparent decision-making and shared stewardship. A draft copy of the policy is ready for consultations, which will be concluded by the fall of 2007 and a final policy released by spring of 2008.

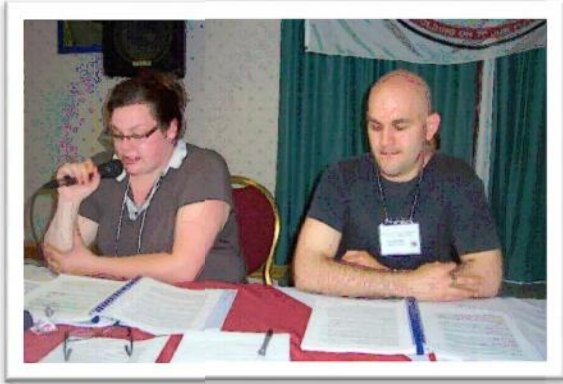
The main focus of the NASCO discussion surrounded the St. Pierre et Miquelon fishery, a marine gill net salmon fishery conducted by France's colonies off the coast of Newfoundland. The fishery of St. Pierre et Miquelon was a contentious issue for many of the stakeholders at the ASAC meeting because:

-  France is not a member of NASCO and therefore is under no obligation to comply with the conservation requirements established by the international commission.
-  Genetic analysis of the St. Pierre et Miquelon salmon catch reveals that 98% of the annual catch is of Canadian origin.
-  The nature of the gill net fishery of St. Pierre et Miquelon is such that salmon intercepted in the marine environment could originate from river specific stocks threatened with extirpation.
-  While most of the catch is of Canadian origin, St. Pierre et Miquelon do not contribute in any way to the conservation of the species.

Given the current status of North American Atlantic salmon, the work and efforts of individuals dedicated to Atlantic salmon conservation and the important Aboriginal and Treaty Rights that the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada have for access and use of natural-life aquatic resources, an unaccountable salmon fishery is of concern to MAARS.

Support for the revitalization of the SALSEA project was also vocalized by many of the stakeholders present at the ASAC meeting. SALSEA is an initiative of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and seeks to draw together intellectual and scientific resources in a cooperative effort to identify the factors influencing mortality of salmon at sea and the opportunities to counteract them. This initiative is important to many Atlantic stakeholders because mortality at sea for Atlantic salmon remains high and is identified as one of the many contributing factors to the low Atlantic salmon populations.

MAARS and our Native Council Partners acknowledge the work and efforts of DFO, the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec and other dedicated stakeholders towards Atlantic salmon conservation. However, we also recognize that much more work lies ahead as we strive towards achieving the ultimate goal of genetically and spatially diverse, healthy and sustainable Atlantic salmon stocks. We also note that recognition of Canada's efforts comes at a poignant time. Canada's NASCO Implementation Plan for meeting the objectives of the NASCO agreements recently received poor reviews at the 2007 NASCO meeting, which was held June 5th - 8th in Bar Harbor, Maine. Canada's Implementation Plan scored a seven out of thirteen, falling behind Iceland, Norway, England and the USA. DFO, provincial stakeholders, and other interested stakeholders should use this evaluation as an opportunity to re-evaluate the effectiveness of Canada's strategies and take notice of the best practices and other management activities being implemented by other countries. We don't need to reinvent, simply invest more innovative resources of time, money, and healthy river practices.



NCPEI 33rd Annual General Assembly

By Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely and Chief Betty Ann Lavalée (President and Chief of the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council) co-chaired the Native Council of Prince Edward Island 33rd Annual General Assembly in Cornwall, PEI on June 16th and 17th.

Joshua gave a special presentation on the SARA listing status of the “katew” (American Eel). Several NCPEI community members and NCPEI staff are concerned that the katew may soon be listed as a species of Special Concern under SARA. There is a lot of relevant Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge about katew in the Maritimes which has not been discussed or accessed to date. The science and political push for listing the katew comes from Ontario and Quebec, though the listing will affect Aboriginal Peoples, fishers, and other water users in other regions, such as in PEI.

NCPEI has invited Joshua back for zone meetings to further discuss the listing of species under SARA and ways in which NCPEI Aboriginal Communities can be more involved in species assessment, protection, and recovery.

New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council

By MAARS team member Barry LaBillois

On May 26-27, the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council held their 36th Annual General Meeting at the Historical Crowne Plaza (Lord Beaverbrook) in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The two day meeting was well represented by delegates from around the province. The opening ceremony was conducted by Keptin Frank Nevin of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council and by Wilbur Dedam. The Assembly had an extensive agenda over the two days, which included reports from the Executive and Board of Directors and Progress Reports presented by Program Managers.

The Assembly also heard talks on Self Government and Membership/Citizenship which were presented through a panel discussion. The panel initiated a good exchange of views between the delegates and the presenters.

Patrick Brazeau, Chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, was also on hand to give an update on activities taking place at the National level. Delegates were provided with kits as well as other valuable information about the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council.



DFO Communications Relay



Submitted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Gulf Region from "Strait Talk".

The history of lobster fishing

Now that fresh lobster is available, once again, from the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, many people's minds have turned to having a feast of one of our waters' best-known delicacies. But not everyone will stop to think how much the industry has changed from the early days when lobsters were picked by hand off beaches.

Long before the arrival of European settlers, Native people cooked and ate lobster. They used the entire lobster as fertilizer and used their shells for decorative purposes. Apparently the crustaceans were so plentiful they could easily gather dozens off the shore at low tide or after a big storm.

The first European settlers are known to have eaten lobster at Port Royal in the Annapolis Valley in the early 1600s.

Early in the 1800s lobsters were still being caught by hand, but other methods were coming into the picture. Fishers started to use spears, hooks or gaffs to gather up the shellfish. Later, nets with long handles became popular tools.

In 1852 one writer noted it was common for people living along the Bay of Chaleur in Northern New Brunswick to use lobster "by the thousands to manure the land."

But businessmen soon learned lobster was worth more as food in a can than as fertilizer on a field. As lobster canneries popped up around the Maritimes, fishing methods started to change significantly. In 1900 there were 760 lobster canneries in the Maritimes. Canneries wanted to buy as much lobster as they could. Fishers wanted to sell it to them. They began using a more effective hoop trap, a net stretched across a hoop with bait in the centre. By the 1910s some fishers were using simple box-style traps. Tools of the trade have been changing ever since.

Until the late 1800s, the lobster fishery in the

There were no restrictions on who could fish and how much they could catch. In July 1873 an Order in Council was signed prohibiting the capture of soft-shelled lobsters, egg-bearing females and lobsters less than 1 ½ pounds. The next year the limit was changed to a total length limit of 9 inches.

Many years later, in 1969, the first lobster licenses were established by the Fisheries and Marine Services branch of the federal Department of the Environment. A lobster fishing license cost 25 cents. Keep in mind; those were the days when the school-age children of fishers were lucky if they could trade their lobster sandwiches for peanut butter or bologna.

Today, a lobster license represents a lot more. And eating lobster is not something many people complain about. The lobster fishing industry is an important source of revenue for thousands of fishers in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec. Lobster fishing season is a busy time for DFO, too. Fishery officers carry out patrols and inspections during the season to ensure fishers are complying with the Acts and regulations. In fact, the lobster fishery impacts the work of DFO employees in every branch of the department, from Economics and Statistics to Licensing, Resource Management, Communications and Science, where an entire section of staff is dedicated to lobster.

Some information for this column was taken from The Lobster Fishery of the Maritime Provinces: Economic Effects of Regulations by A. Gordon DeWolf; and The Fishery of Prince Edward Island by Kennedy Wells.

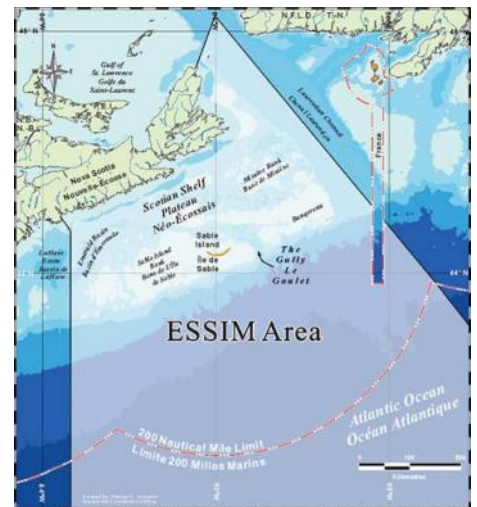
If you have any comments about what you've read in Strait Talk or have a suggestion for a topic you'd like to read about you can call DFO collect at 506-851-7171 or send an email to communications.glf@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

ESSIM and NCNS Zone Communities

By MAARS Team Member Franz Kesick

The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management Plan is a strategic-level plan to provide long-term direction and commitment for integrated, ecosystem-based and adaptive management of marine activities. The Plan contains a comprehensive set of goals, objectives and strategies for collaborative governance and integrated management, sustainable human use, and healthy ecosystems. It has been shaped and accepted by ocean stakeholders and supported and endorsed by the government. ESSIM will be Canada's first integrated ocean management plan under the Oceans Act.

MAPC/MAARS Director, R. Hunka, and NS CARDA, F. Kesick held a PowerPoint presentation and conducted a question and answer period on the ESSIM Plan to the three Native Council of Nova Scotia Zones that are directly and immediately affected by the Plan. Two hour presentation sessions were held in Zone 3 (Halifax), Zone 11 (Sheet Harbour) and Zone 12 (Dartmouth). Approximately fifty-five people attended the three meetings.



Community members were quite pleased and supportive of the ESSIM Plan and the amount of time and energy put into the making of the Plan by all stakeholders. We are looking forward to formal acceptance of the Plan by the Minister, and to the upcoming workshops.

Discussions at the zone presentations centered around various concerns in regards to ocean uses. Current uses and future gas & oil exploration, fishing, pollution and tidal power were subjects of concern. One main concern specified was the pollution from ships entering Canadian waters and the dumping of bilge waters. Community members have witnessed oily slicks washing up on beaches and other coastal areas. Another concern was the lack of education of people living along watersheds that drain into the ESSIM area. Pollution education of land-based activities is paramount in helping to prevent pollutants from reaching our oceans.

Community Elders spoke of the need for respect of Mother Earth and the interconnection of all species on Earth and in the universe. They reminded community members of the need to conserve for the next seven generations.

Following the end of the meetings, each of the three Zones was presented with "The Scotian Shelf: An Atlas of Human Activities" in the ESSIM area.

Future meetings are being planned for Zone 6 (Cape Breton) and Zone 7 (Guysborough).



Throughout the months of April, May, and June 2007, the MAARS CARDAs attended many Fishery Stakeholders Advisory Committee Meetings, Science Workshops, and Oceans Management Sessions. Listed is a very small sample of predictable stakeholder interfaces which occurred during the past three months:

1. LFA 25 Rock Crab meeting, Moncton, New Brunswick
2. Eel Advisory meeting, Antigonish, Nova Scotia
3. Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon meeting, Amherst, Nova Scotia
4. SFA 29 Scallop meeting, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
5. ESSIM SAC Co-chair, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
6. Morell River Management Co-op AGA, Morell, Prince Edward Island
7. Canadian Marine Advisory Council meeting on boating regulations, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
8. Parks Canada Meeting to discuss Historic Sites Management, Truro, Nova Scotia
9. Gulf Shellfish Advisory Committee Meeting, Antigonish, Nova Scotia
10. Atlantic Salmon Atlantic Recovery Advisory meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia
11. AAROM Voluntary Field Evaluation by Pauline LaLonde, Tom Howe, Stephane Sauve-Boulet, and Louis Desrosiers, Truro, Nova Scotia
12. Charlottetown Harbour Follow up Proposal Meeting, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island,
13. New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council AGA, Fredericton, New Brunswick
14. Northern Bottlenose Whale Recovery Workshop, Halifax, Nova Scotia
15. LFA 33 Advisory Meeting, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia

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,
the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council & the 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

MAPC-MAARS

Box 8, 172 Truro Heights Road, RR#1 Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5A9
Tel: (902) 895-2982 Fax:(902) 895-3844 Email: maars@mapcorg.ca

<http://www.mapcmaars.ca>

Compiled by Angela Titus, MAARS CDIL.

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