

# Netawek Ikkikum

Voice of the Ocean

Quarterly Newsletter of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

Vol. 4 Issue 1, June 2008

## Species at Risk By-catch Data Project

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has embarked upon a project for the purpose of developing a comprehensive by-catch data set and to address knowledge gaps in areas where this type of information is not available or is not of sufficient quantity or quality to be useful.

This project will target information that will support monitoring and assessment of species listed under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) or those being addressed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) that may be recommended for listing in the future.

A three year project, utilizing mainly sea observers and possibly other technologies such as cameras will be paid by DFO. This additional observer coverage is meant to augment, not replace, existing coverage paid for by various fleet sectors.

For the lobster sector and others who do not utilize the Just Talk system, DFO will work with advisory committee representatives and associations to identify vessels.

If anyone wishes to volunteer to participate by taking an observer under this program, have them contact the number listed below.

Anyone who receives a request from Javitech and/or by written notification must comply with this request.

If you have any questions about the project, contact Christa Waters at 902-426-6947.

Faith Scattolon  
Regional Director General  
Martimes Region  
902-426-2581

# Ocean Day, 2008

By MAARS Team Member Angie Titus

On Friday, June 6, the MAARS team participated in World Ocean Day activities on the Halifax Waterfront. Many organizations interested in the conservation of our ocean gathered together to give presentations and inform the public about what they do. Some of the participants included: the Canada Coast Guard, CPAWS, the Sable Island Preservation Trust, Nova Scotia Nature Trust, the Sackville River Conservation Society, Transport Canada, the Marine Affairs Program of Dalhousie University, the International Ocean Institute, ACZSC, the Shipping Federation of Canada, the Leatherback Turtle Working Group, World Wildlife Fund Canada, and many more. People of all ages came out to learn what they could do to help conserve our ocean.

The Ocean Day activities were organized by the Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC). MAARS thanks CMAC for the opportunity to promote involvement in the Ocean sector.





# Digby-Annapolis Clam Association

By MAARS Team Member Franz Kesick

On April 11, 2008, the Annapolis Clam Diggers Association met and discussed the feasibility of joining with the Digby Clam Diggers Association to form one organization throughout their region.

Mr. Arthur Bull, Executive Director with the Marine Resource Centre, chaired the meeting with the assistance of Ms. Sherry Pictou. The Digby Clam Diggers Association had indicated that they were willing to revamp their organization to include the Annapolis Clam Diggers. It was agreed by all those present to go ahead with the merger of the two organizations.

The Annapolis Clam Diggers Association met again on April 25, 2008 to formally vote in their executive members and representatives and to formally agree to combine their organizations. The new name will be the Clam Harvesting Area Two Clammers Association.

The Native Council of Nova Scotia's Communal Commercial Fisheries Entity Mime'J Seafoods Ltd is a paid member of this new organization. The Native Council of Nova Scotia also sits on all Advisory Committees and will be involved as an Aboriginal member of the Advisory Committee for Area 2.

The Clam Harvesting Area Two Clammers' Association will be working with all interested organizations to renew the Clam Industry.



# An Update on Fundy Tidal Energy

By MAARS Team Member Amanda Facey

The Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER) has completed its Fundy Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment Final Report. The Report was submitted to the Nova Scotia Department of Energy in April.

In the Report, the OEER recommends ten sustainability principles which are intended to ensure that renewable energy projects in the marine environment value ecological integrity and positively affect Nova Scotia socially, culturally and economically.

Another recommendation is for Nova Scotia to move ahead cautiously, starting with a demonstration program which should include the proposed demonstration facility and other technologies. This program would be used to determine feasibility, environmental impacts and effectiveness of mitigation approaches. Further recommendations include long term research and standards; how tidal energy should be incorporated into Nova Scotia's energy strategy; ensuring that the fishery and other marine resource users are not negatively affected and that compensation measures are in place if necessary; creating community and regional benefits; and the importance of implementing an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach were recommended. Another recommendation was to establish effective collaboration with New Brunswick and the federal government.

The OEER also recommends continued engagement with Mi'kmaq communities by requiring proponents to facilitate discussion and

information sharing at the earliest stages. The Native Council of Nova Scotia should remain actively involved in this process.

The province of Nova Scotia promised not to move ahead with tidal energy development before this report was completed. However, the province announced the selection of three candidates to demonstrate tidal technologies in the Bay of Fundy in January. The three companies that won their bid to demonstrate tidal devices in the Bay of Fundy and the province are Nova Scotia Power Inc. using technology from Ireland, Clean Current of British Columbia using its own technology and Minas Basin Pulp and Power using technology from the USA.

Minas Basin Pulp and Power, a company in Hantsport, Nova Scotia, has also been given conditional approval by the province to construct the onshore host facility which would connect all tidal devices from the Bay of Fundy to the Nova Scotia Power grid. Gartner Lee, the environmental consulting company working for Minas Basin Pulp and Power on the host facility, met with the Native Council of Nova Scotia on March 18 to share information about the proponent and the project.

Before anything is put in the water several conditions must be met: site specific environmental assessments must be completed, federal and provincial permits and approvals must be granted and contribution agreements and land lease agreements must be developed between the province and the proponents.

For more information on Fundy Tidal Energy and to view the Final Report, go to <http://www.offshoreenergyresearch.ca/Home/tabid/77/Default.aspx>.

# RCMP Cultural Awareness Workshop

By MAARS Director Roger Hunka

On Monday, April 7, the Sheet Harbour detachment of the RCMP, through the RCMP relations officer, Constable Debbie Maloney, invited the Netukulimkewe'l Prefects of the Native Council of Nova Scotia and Roger Hunka, Director of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate, to participate in a diversity training session. The Prefects, Corey Frances and Frank Jesty, demonstrated and explained the food harvesting regime for the Native Council of Nova Scotia Community and provided kits which contained a wealth of information about the regime and our Traditional Ancestral Homelands Community.

An information exchange of good questions and answers followed. Overall, the session proved a very beneficial mechanism for developing collaborative enforcement through early contact and a better understanding of the regimes in place.

The Director and Prefects thanked Constable Maloney for organizing the session and appreciated the exchange of gifts, particularly the pins, Constable Maloney, a Mi'kmaq, who participated as a seasoned constable of twenty-three years in the RCMP, showed the participants sage, tobaccos, and sweetgrass used in Aboriginal ceremonies.



# LFA 25 Rock Crab Advisory Committee Meeting

By MAARS Team Member Tim Hainer

On April 10, 2008, MAARS team member, Tim Hainer, attended the LFA 25 Rock Crab Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Delta Beaséjour in Moncton, New Brunswick. The purpose of the meeting was to provide industry with an opportunity to review the outcomes from the 2007 rock crab fishery, receive scientific advice from DFO and to provide advice on the 2008 management measures.

Catch statistics reveal that catch per unit effort has remained stable within this fishery, which in an indicator that the rock crab populations are not decreasing. The landings in 2007 were at their highest level since 2000. Despite the positive scientific report, some Lobster fishermen from the Cape Tormentine area contend that their Rock Crab bycatch fishery has all but disappeared. They are concerned that the potential effort that could be placed on this species if all latent rock crab license holders decided to direct effort towards this species (ie. Rock Crab price increases provide an incentive for fishers to direct effort against this species). Rock Crab is of particular significance to Lobster fishers as Rock Crab is a known food for Lobster.

Some of the other recommendations and/or concerns put forth by industry included:

- Disallow the use of modified Lobster traps in the directed Rock Crab fishery
- Change the start time for the fall fishery from 6:00 am to 7:00 am for safety reasons.
- Maintain Dockside Monitoring Program services in all N.B harbours
- Implement Rock Crab logbooks with grid system

## MARY ROSE'S CORNER

Submitted by MAARS Team Member Mary Rose Watts  
(Recipe compliments of *License to Grill*, "Picture Perfect BBQ", hosted by Rob Rainford)

Just in Time for Summer—Grilled Halibut!

Ingredients:

6 x 6 ounce halibut steaks (180 gr)  
1 tablespoon olive oil (15 ml)  
1 tablespoon fresh basil, chopped roughly (15 ml)  
1 lemon

Prepare barbecue for direct grilling. Preheat the grill to high heat and oil well. Season the halibut fillets on both sides with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with basil and drizzle with oil. Place fillets down on the grill and allow them to cook for five minutes on each side (or until there are golden char marks). Flip the fish and continue to cook for another 4 minutes. Remove from the grill and drizzle with lemon juice. Serve the fish with tamales and orange chili sauce.



# Uranium Mining Tailings Disastrous to Water

By MAARS Director Roger Hunka

APRIL, 2008, WOLFVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA.

Uranium as a pure element exists naturally in three forms: uranium 238, uranium 235 and uranium 234. Each of these forms, called isotopes, acts chemically similar for the most part, but has a different number of neutrons in the nucleus of the atom.

Each of these three isotopes is radioactive. Radioactive decay is a spontaneous process in which an atom of one element decays or breaks down into a different element or isotope by losing atomic particles. The decay process releases energy in the form of gamma radiation which is similar to x-rays.

The mining of uranium leaves a large environmental footprint. It takes about 55 tonnes of tailings to produce one tonne of a fairly rich grade of uranium. In a mining operation, huge quantities of radon gas are released into the air and dissolved in surface waters. This leads to all kinds of prospects for cancer of the lungs and other tissues exposed to radon gas.

Several decades ago, Nova Scotia passed a moratorium against uranium mining for the safety and well being of Nova Scotians. A new generation of young politicians, preoccupied with a false sense of empowerment and never witnessing or understanding the magnitude of mass destruction of lands, waters, air and life, raised the idea of lifting the moratorium. That idea sparked Nova Scotians of all walks of life to stand up and say "NO."

A series of public meetings was sponsored throughout Nova Scotia, and one was held in Wolfville. The Native Council of Nova Scotia was invited and the Director of MAPC attended and shared with the audience the position of the Council Community, as confirmed in a community report produced several years ago. "No, we don't want the mining of the black rock or money rock which kills." Aboriginal People are too familiar with uranium mining in the North and across the United States.

The final word to consider as citizens: members of the Nova Scotia Legislature are elected to govern under principles which Canadians have formulated for the Federation of the Peoples of Canada throughout Canada. That is, "we desire to be better citizens" living with the belief in a God, the rule of Law, Peace, Order and Good Government. In short, to govern for our well being, life, safety and security. Only a traitor or tyrants would govern against those values.

Happily, the Executive Council of the Government of Nova Scotia chose to work for the well being of its citizens and reaffirmed to keep the moratorium in place. British Columbia has taken the same position and is placing a moratorium on uranium mining. Maybe the government of New Brunswick will start to respect its citizens and their well being and stop the insane dream of wasting billions of dollars to mine and build a nuclear reactor - a reactor which uses billions of gallons of water to cool its reactor core. That water is then flushed into the Bay of Fundy. Where have all the salmon gone? Can you think of one reason?

We must always remain vigilant and remind our governments that they are no more or no less than us citizens when it comes to life and respect for life.

Uranium has and continues to cause harm to life. For the small level of good uses, sadly there are thousands of bad uses and killer sisters activated by uranium put through a reactor. Human kind wishes it had never discovered it, or hopes that humanity will learn that it is very weak, frail, and unable to deal with this element.

Let us all put our minds and imaginations to look at using other sources or forms of energy which move with our life giving earth and not against it.

## World Maritime University Visits MAARS and NCNS

By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, MAPC-MAARS and the Native Council of Nova Scotia Netukulimkewe'l Commission welcomed back Professor Neil Bellefontaine and the Class of 2008 from the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden.

This year, 10 international students toured Canada with Professor Bellefontaine as part of their postgraduate program coursework covering international maritime law & policy, administration, management, safety, and environment & oceans management. This year's class represents 7 countries: Daniel Baquero Ramirez from Columbia, Leng Chea and Mao Hak from Cambodia, Rafael Eduardo Cossio Lugo from Mexico, Eustacio Nimrod Enriquez Jr. and Rommel Agsaullo Supangan from the Philippines, Danilo Guillermo Espinoza Zambrano and Ricardo Rosendo Rendon Meneses from Ecuador, Md. Mohidul Islam from Bangladesh, and Nelli Norit from Estonia.

The students were greeted by MAARS Director Roger Hunka, NCNS Netukulimkewe'l Commissioner Tim Martin, IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely, and NS CARDA Franz Kesick. WMU students are well aware that the management of marine fisheries, shipping, navies, and other marine activities are quickly changing because of our globally increasing use of the seas, decreasing world marine resources, and increasing destruction of the marine environment. Gaining more recognition each day at the international level are more localized, sustainable maritime practices, such as Indigenous and artisanal fisheries.

On behalf of the Native Council of Nova Scotia, MAPC-MAARS, and IKANAWTIKET, we wish the Class of 2008 all the best in their studies and future endeavours.





# Shipping Federation of Canada

Atlantic Forum

By MAARS Team Member Franz Kesick

The Shipping Federation of Canada's Atlantic Forum was launched in 2006 under the direction of Caroline Gravel, Committee Chair of the Environment Committee. The Atlantic Forum is mandated to ensure that all stakeholders' concerns are heard and addressed in regards to Commercial shipping in the Atlantic Provinces.

The Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate has been a member of the Atlantic Forum since its inception.

The Atlantic Forum is in the process of developing and delivering a Marine Industry Out-reach Program to the general public and interested community organizations. This program will be designed to allow the general public to gain insight into how the shipping industry operates and its impact on the environment. The Atlantic Forum is also developing a Centralized Information Centre for its issues and activities. This centre will be accessible by all stakeholders and the general public.

For more information, please visit the Shipping Federation of Canada's Website at: <http://www.shipfed.ca/eng/whatsnew/2008May15/Newsletter.pdf>

The Atlantic Forum was an important participant in Oceans Day activities held behind the Museum of the Atlantic on June 6, 2008. Caroline Gravel, Captain Ivan Lantz, and Rosa Henriquez, from the Shipping Federation of Canada, provided information to the general public.

The Atlantic Forum unveiled the "Atlantic Forum Logo" at its June 3, 2008, meeting and it was on display at the Oceans Day Activities.

Caroline Gravel unveiling the new Atlantic Forum's Logo at the June 3, 2008 meeting.





## Calling All Aboriginal Youth Who Care About the Future of Our Oceans

The natural world around us is changing. What is the legacy that older generations will leave the youth?

In 20 years, will there be enough life in the oceans to sustain us?

Will there be clean water to drink?

Will the oceans be able to regulate our climate?

Will today's youth lose vital traditional knowledge because we continue to separate ourselves from Mother Earth?

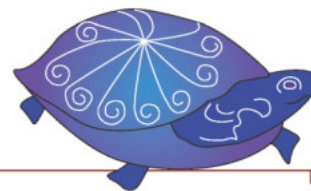
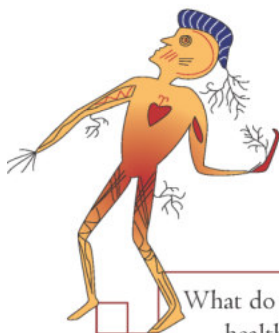
**If you are an Aboriginal Youth between the ages of 6-25**

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU !

#### Submission Guidelines

Speak out for your future and  
the future of OUR OCEANS.

*Share your stories  
and be published!*



What do you think about the health of our oceans?

What are your thoughts on ocean pollution, over fishing, climate change, destructive fishing, etc?

What do you think your parents' and grandparents' generations need to do today to leave you a healthy ocean for the future?

- 1) Draw a colour picture showing how you are dependant on a healthy ocean or how a healthy ocean depends on you.
- 2) Write a short 1-2 paragraph story, poem, etc. explaining what a healthy ocean means to you and what you want your parents and grandparents to do to respect our oceans.
- 3) Submit your picture and paragraph(s) to Ikanawtiket by **August 1st** - multiple submissions are encouraged.
- 4) Talk to your parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends about how important the ocean is to all of us.

IKANAWTIKET will select entries for a new publication about our interconnections and interdependence on a healthy ocean, to be published in spring 2009.

Submissions will be categorized by age group:

6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25

Artwork will be chosen from each category.

Send submissions to:



172 TRURO HEIGHTS ROAD, TRURO HEIGHTS, NOVA SCOTIA B6L 1X1

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT IKANAWTIKET BY: TELEPHONE: (902)895-2982  
E-MAIL: IKANAWTIKET@MAPCORG.CA WEB/SUBSCRIBE: WWW.IKANAWTIKET.CA

# World Trade Organization Doha Direction Preparatory Talks

by MAARS Director Roger Hunka

On April 4, 2008, the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council joined a national teleconference update about the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration Mandate to hold talks to address the areas of anti-dumping and subsidy disciplines for the fishing sector.

After the Doha Declaration, the 2005 Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong directed the Rules Negotiating Group to strengthen disciplines on fisheries' subsidies, including the prohibition of certain subsidies to help address overcapacity and over-fishing.

On November 30, 2007, the Chair of the Group proposed text with an extensive new annex, Annex VII, which specified a number of prohibitions. The prohibited subsidies include subsidies for: vessel acquisition, repair, modernization, construction, transfer of fishing vessels, variable operating costs, port infrastructure, income support, price support, transfer of access rights, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and a catchall provision.

There are some proposed exempted programs, those that: improve crew safety, gear for selective fishing and environmentally friendly techniques, vessel decommissioning and specific allocations to individuals and groups. The references back to Articles II and III within the meaning of paragraph 1 and 2 of Article II, leaves the application of the prohibitions to the AFS and Marshall Initiatives unclear, particularly when Canada did not accept the Draft Declaration of Indigenous Peoples Rights, and for the reason Canada provided to the world on September 13, 2007 in New York.

The Text, of the Chair, does not make specific mention about the Aboriginal Fishery Strategy in Canada, nor the supports provided by Canada to Aboriginal Peoples under the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy and the Marshall Initiative. Many of the prohibitions found in the proposed text are items subsidized by Canada through the Marshall Initiative and ATP component of AFS.

Canada has not made its reply on this text and annex, or on any other matter involved in this round of upcoming talks.

MAARS raised the issue on the teleconference that the fisheries established and supported by the ATP component of AFS must be excluded from the prohibitions. Canada must make and take that reality and message to the Talks. The AFS is an economic development initiative, which at best attempts to support "Aboriginal Artisanal Fisheries". Canada chose to honour Treaty Rights and Aboriginal Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples under the Constitution of Canada through an AFS program approach, rather than through a Constitutional access resource share approach.

Although the talks are some months away, it is important for Canada to begin to consult with the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada on the text. The MAARS partners, which each operates an Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries Entity for our Community's economic benefit as rights holders and Treaty beneficiaries, need further explanation about the Talks process and input to Canada's Statement.

Our AFS fisheries must be clearly excluded from the proposed prohibitions.



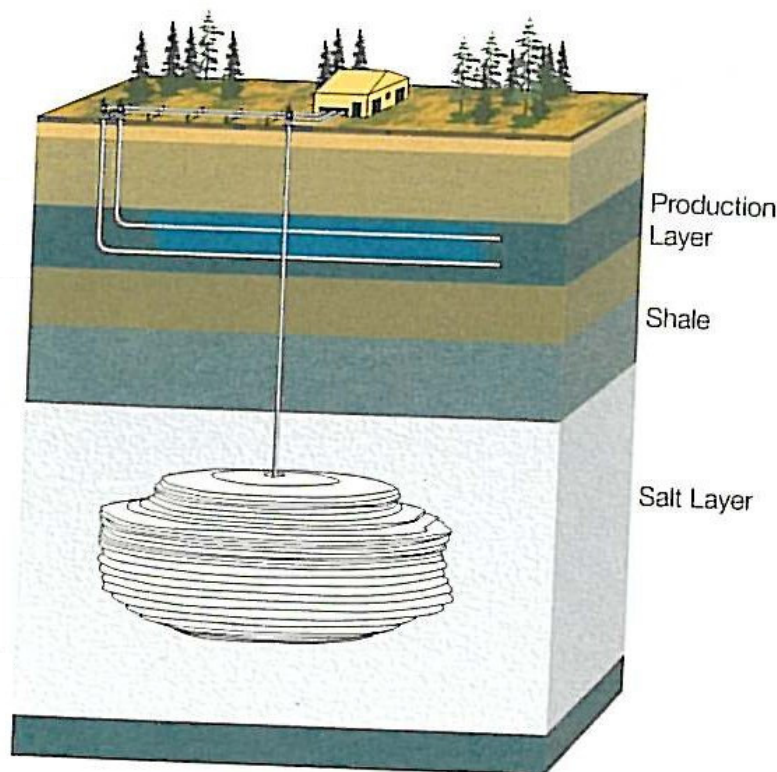
# Alton Natural Gas Storage Open House

By Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Following the approval of its environmental assessment in December, Alton Natural Gas Storage Limited and its parent company Landis Energy Corporation invited MAPC Director Roger Hunka and IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely to attend an open house on their Alton Natural Gas Storage Project on May 15<sup>th</sup> in Brookfield, Nova Scotia.

Although the underground cavern natural gas storage project was approved, the Nova Scotia Minister of Environment, Hon. Mark Parent, attached a long list of conditions, including requiring the company to develop an Environmental Effects Monitoring program to quickly and effectively address the foreseen and unforeseen impacts that the Project may have on fish and fish habitat, such as salinity changes in the Shubenacadie River.

Since first submitting their proposal, project designers have made numerous design changes to their freshwater intake and salt brine discharge processes to accommodate new knowledge about the river flows, salinity changes, and aquatic life; and they are committed to monitoring and adjusting those designs to ensure a safe environment for the surrounding natural life. Alton Natural Gas Storage Ltd. stated that they will continue to meet with MAPC and IKANAWTIKET as the Project progresses through its development, construction, operation, and decommissioning stages.



**Typical Storage Cavern**

## Scientific and Regulatory meeting on Pathways of Environmental Effects Associated with Aquaculture

By MAARS Team Member Barry LaBillois

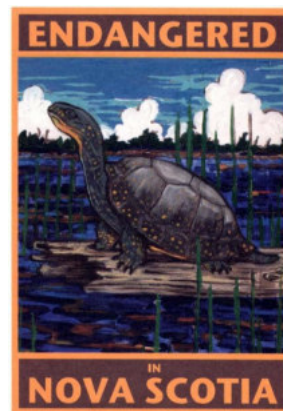
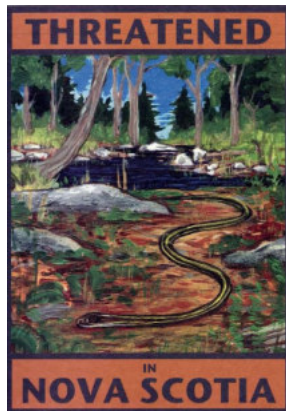
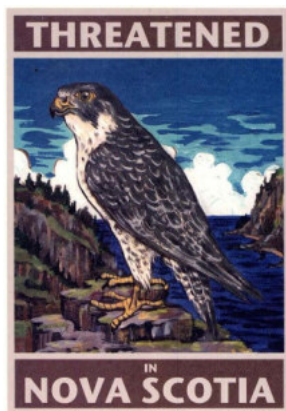
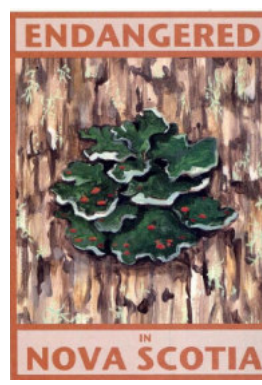
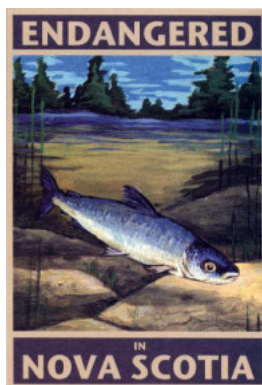
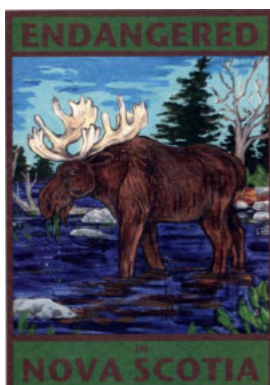
Community Aquatic Resource Development Advisor Barry LaBillois, attended Aquaculture/Habitat management meeting which was held in Saint John New Brunswick on May 14 2008. This meeting was called by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial working group (supported by the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers and the Aquaculture Task Group) in developing a National framework for aquaculture Environmental Risk Management to provide a coherent national approach to identifying, assessing and managing the environmental risks of aquaculture (suspended and bottom culture of finfish and shellfish). The framework addresses environmental effects with respect to 4 aquatic ecosystem components: fish habitat, water quality, fish health, and fish communities. This same framework is expected to provide the baseline for demonstrating how Canadian regulations responds to emerging market-driven sustainability certification expectations as they related to aquaculture.

A diagram of the draft aquaculture Pathway of Effect (POE) was handed out to the participants at the meeting, within a group discussion it was required by all to see if all steps are needed or avoided in the diagram. For this exercise the POE's have been developed focusing on effects of suspended and/or bottom culture of finfish and shellfish species in the marine and freshwater environment, that a linkage can be joined from the start to the finish which is the effects. The steps start with your site Aquaculture, then moves to the activity, stressor categories, stressors, then to the effects. Essentially you are looking at some type of aquaculture facility and try and come up with a downside to the facility and the steps should be covered within the diagram.

During this exercise the options varied from group to group depending who was sitting at the table as majority of the people from the meeting came from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Aquaculture and Habitat) also the finfish and shellfish industries from across Canada. This exercise has been a good working tool to see the pathways of effects in ecosystem risk management at the beginning stage, which gave us a better understanding on how the process is done, and how it can help our Aboriginal Community in the aquaculture industry.



**Learn About Species At Risk in Nova Scotia  
And create awareness through colorful and unique  
Species at Risk postcards**

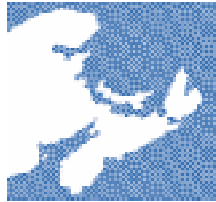


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## Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council

*Advancing, Promoting and Advocating the Reality of the  
Maritime Off-Reserve Community of Aboriginal Peoples*

Promoting and Supporting Programs and Initiatives  
For our Aboriginal Traditional Ancestral Homelands Community

## Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

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

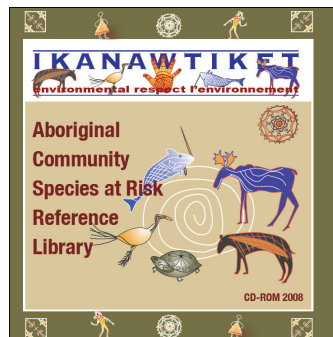
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[www.ikanawtiket.ca](http://www.ikanawtiket.ca)

[jmcneely@mapcorg.ca](mailto:jmcneely@mapcorg.ca)

# Knowledge and Dedication at National Aquatic Animal Health Division

By MAARS Director Roger Hunka

From May 5 to 7, I had the pleasure of attending and participating at the sixth meeting of the National Aquatic Animal Health Committee.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has mobilized a division to focus on aquatic diseases, partly in response to our need to assure Canadians that aquatic seafoods are safe and have been tested for specific listed diseases. Also, a need to develop testing procedures for diseases in aquatic seafoods was important because when we import seafoods and demand testing from an exporter of seafoods to Canada to certify for aquatic testing, then, because of trade reciprocity protocol, an importing seafood nation can likewise demand from Canada assurance that it has conducted aquatic disease testing for a list of diseases to assure that nation that our foods have undergone vigorous domestic testing. The issue is complex and very important, considering that Canada exports worldwide our aquatic seafoods, and we also import more and more varieties of aquatic fish species for our dining enjoyment.

The three day committee meetings covered an extensive agenda, and included topics such as Broadening of the Scope and Membership; Fish, Seafood, and Production Activities; the Regulatory Amendment Process; Reportable and Notifiable Disease List; Import Activities; Export Activities; Veterinary Specialists; Surveillance Activities; Risk Assessment Activities; DFO Update; Disease Control Activities; FPT Governance; The Organizations for Animal Health (OIE, which stands for Office Internationale des Epizooties); Update on Upcoming Meetings; update on Malpeque Disease in Nova Scotia; Update on VHS-OMNR; Collaborative Shellfish Project; Working Groups; Program resources; and Communication.

What impressed me most was the leadership of the Committee and the very knowledgeable and dedicated team mobilized with this Directorate. The level of speciality and years to acquire that knowledge was very refreshing and rewarding to witness in action. We have educated and trained some wonderful professionals in the field of veterinary science. Although the world of veterinary science and veterinary professionals and their practice is sometimes put on the backburner as to importance and significance to Canada and our animal and aquatic health obligations, this scenario can no longer be the case.

With new developments, nationally and internationally, for aquatic testing, and the inclusion of many more aquatic species and aquatic diseases for which testing procedures must be developed and conducted, the world of veterinary aquatic technicians and professionals is going to be in more demand than anyone ever anticipated.

As an offshoot of this meeting, MAARS has begun to explore the opportunity to encourage our young Aboriginal students to consider and pursue a range of career opportunities within to the veterinary sciences. As a slide presentation at the meeting showed, fish don't bite, bark, or scratch.

## Canada's Valuable Fresh Water is Not for Dumping Toxic Wastes

*Press release contributed by the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council*

An emerging coalition of conservation, Aboriginal, and social justice organizations is calling on the federal government to immediately stop the practice of allowing mining companies to use Canada's lakes as dumping grounds for toxic mine wastes.

It is illegal under the *Fisheries Act* to dump toxic material into fish-bearing waters. However, in 2002, the government amended the Act's Metal Mining Effluent Regulation (MMER) to allow lakes and other freshwater bodies to be re-classified as "tailings impoundment areas," thereby allowing mining companies to get around the general prohibition.

Environment Canada announced that, under the MMER, at least 11 mines in Canada are seeking permission to destroy healthy natural water bodies with their mine waste. Eight of these mining projects are being processed in 2008. This is in addition to two lakes that are already being destroyed under Schedule 2 of the regulation.

Aboriginal groups are concerned that the federal government is developing environmental policies and amending regulations in a way that will have a dramatic impact on Aboriginal and treaty rights. Changes to the MMER and additional listings under Schedule 2 are being made on a mine-by-mine basis without meaningful input or consultation with the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. Since the MMER is a federal regulation, these changes will affect Aboriginal peoples across Canada. The groups say there should be national consultation.

"By inviting mining companies to come onto the traditional ancestral homelands of Canada's Aboriginal peoples and consciously allowing them to destroy lakes and waters with toxic tailings, the advisors to the Prime Minister and Cabinet are ignoring the teachings of Aboriginal peoples and the deep respect we have for the land, waters, and living forms," says Roger Hunka, of the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council. "It is an insult to Aboriginal

peoples. We, like all Canadians, value a healthy environment. Today we're telling government to stop transgressing against Canadian values; stop using lakes as dump sites for toxic mining wastes."

As well, government is proposing to add new processing facilities, such as hydrometallurgical plants, which are not currently included in the MMER. "Hydromet" is a largely experimental technology that uses high heat and a variety of chemicals to extract minerals from ores and, in the process, produces a variety of noxious compounds that are not regulated by the MMER. Environment Canada is considering allowing wastes from these plants, such as the one at Sandy Pond in Newfoundland, to be similarly dumped into fish-bearing waters.

The coalition is not trying to stop mining in Canada. It is simply asking that government require mining companies to use existing technologies for managing mine waste, or invest in new technologies and stop using lakes as tailings dumps.

"Prior to 2002, mining companies in Canada were required to protect surface and ground water using existing technologies, even if these were more costly than simply dumping waste into a lake," says Catherine Coumans of MiningWatch Canada. "It is inexcusable that they should be allowed to destroy lakes in Canada when they know that they would not be allowed to do so in the United States or other developed countries."

Allowing mining companies to use lakes as waste dump sites amounts to a massive subsidy to the mining industry at the expense of publicly owned fresh water resources; this to an industry that made a net profit of over \$80 billion in North America in 2007.

"More and more mining companies are proposing to use lakes as tailings dumps because it is profitable for them," says John Werring, of the David Suzuki Foundation. "They can save millions of dollars in operating costs



by doing this. But is that sufficient reason to destroy our treasured natural resources? We thought that in this day and age, companies would want to be more environmentally responsible, not less so.”

“Coming from a government that has committed to a National Water Strategy, these changes to Schedule 2 are especially counterproductive,” says Celeste Côté, of Sierra Club Canada.

The coalition agrees that freshwater ecosystems are far more valuable in the long run than any mined resource and should be protected. The coalition believes that dumping

toxic wastes into natural water bodies is inherently unsustainable and contradicts the government’s stated commitment to sustainable development, and that Schedule 2 should be repealed in the interest of all Canadians.

“Allowing a lake to be turned into a dump site for a private company is nothing short of privatizing a public resource that is essential to life. Contaminating a water body will have devastating consequences on entire watersheds at a time when the world is dealing with a fresh water crisis,” says Maude Barlow, of the Council of Canadians.





Throughout the months of March, April, and May 2008, 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. Cultural Awareness Training Session, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



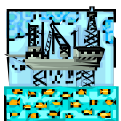
2. SAC Co-chair meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia

3. Ikanawtiket Steering Committee Meeting, Truro, Nova Scotia



4. Aboriginal SAR Calendar Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia

5. SEA Round Table, Wolfville, Nova Scotia



6. Gartner Lee and Associates Meeting, Truro, Nova Scotia

7. Gulf Small Pelagics Advisory, Moncton, New Brunswick



8. Indian and Metis Caucus, Ottawa, Ontario



9. REACH, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

10. COIN Atlantic User Needs Application Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia

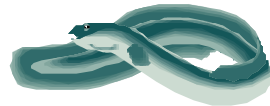


11. Morell River Management Co-op, Morell River, Prince Edward Island

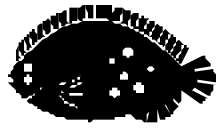


12. Uranium Exploration in Nova Scotia, Wolfville, Nova Scotia

13. Office of the Interlocutor Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia



14. World Trade Federation Teleconference on Illegal Subsidies



15. Clam License Holders Meeting, Cornwallis Park, Nova Scotia

16. Nova Scotia Invasive Species Working Group Teleconference



17. National Aquatic Animal Health Workshop, Ottawa, Ontario





# Netawek Ikjikum

Voice of the Ocean

## In this issue:

- Species at Risk By-catch Data Project
- Ocean Day, 2008
- Digby-Annapolis Clam Association
- An Update on Fundy Tidal Energy
- RCMP Cultural Awareness Workshop
- LFA 25 Rock Crab Advisory Committee Meeting
- Uranium Mining Tailings Disastrous to Water
- World Maritime University Visits MAARS and NCNS
- Shipping Federation of Canada
- World Trade Organization Doha Direction Preparatory Talks
- Alton Natural Gas Storage Open House
- Scientific and Regulatory meeting on Pathways of Environmental Effects Associated with Aquaculture
- Species at Risk postcards

A free quarterly communiqué profiling the **Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate** activities.

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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

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Little River Harbour, 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,  
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