

Netawek Ikkikum

Voice of the Ocean

Quarterly Newsletter of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

Vol. 3 Issue 4, March 2008

Bill C-32 Technical Briefing

By MAARS Team Member Tim Hainer

On January 11th, 2008, senior DFO Gulf and Maritimes officials met with representatives from the three Maritime Native Councils, Native Council of Nova Scotia, Native Council of Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, and their regional intergovernmental organization, MAPC, to discuss Bill C-32, the new proposed Fisheries Act.

As before, MAARS and the three Maritime Native Councils support Bill C-32 in principle. We urge the government to instruct the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Ocean to hold hearings on Bill C-32 and to encourage the passage of this important piece of legislation.

Three fundamental challenges face fisheries:

1. Depleting ocean resources
2. Increasing demands on ocean resources
3. Ever changing oceans

The Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council and the three Maritime Native Councils are preparing a submission to the Standing Committee of Fisheries and Oceans on Bill C-32.

The MAPC-MAARS partners remain disappointed that Bill C-32 does not explicitly recognize the reality of the Aboriginal Peoples' Communal Commercial Fisheries. We are a part of the fisheries.

Bill C-32 continues to be deficient regarding the protection of fish and fish habitat. Other interests and other Ministers through other Federal Acts can trump the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and have dangerous substances dumped, discharged, or spilled into rivers, lakes, and streams or the nearshore, which may kill fish and harm fish habitat.



DFO Staff at the Bill C-32 Technical Briefing, Truro, Nova Scotia

Upcoming SARA Legislative Review

By Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

The *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* is celebrating its 5th birthday. On December 12th 2002 it was passed by our Parliament, and by June 5th 2003 most of the Act's provisions were in force, including the core areas of Stewardship, Assessment, and Recovery. Environment Canada (EC), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and Parks Canada Agency (PCA) are all responsible for the implementation and administration of SARA.

In Canada, there has been a lot of public movement toward understanding and respecting our natural environments. Every day when you open a newspaper or your homepage or turn on the radio or TV, there is a story about the environment and often many letters to the editor concerning this subject. Concepts such as *integrated management* and *ecosystem-based management* have become mainstream public thinking. Fluorescent bulbs have replaced incandescent bulbs in our homes. Saying that you live in 'the green house' is no longer a reference to the color of the building.

Over the past 5 years, Canadians have better recognized that everything we do has some impact, large or small, positive or negative, direct or indirect, on our surrounding natural environment and all its inhabitants – including us. We have learned that the 'Gully' on the Atlantic Scotian Shelf is teeming with undiscovered life. Resource extraction and processing are adding poisons to our bodies daily. There is scientific proof that we are both physically and emotionally connected to the health of our surrounding natural environment.

Since 2002, Canadians have gained a much better understanding of our natural environments. The sprouting of thousands of new local and regional environmental organizations, like our Ikanawtiket – finding paths for our Aboriginal Peoples

involvement, and the vast expansion of others, show that Canadians want to do something to save our natural world. It is no fluke that the environment has continuously topped election polls and opinion polls; recently even ahead of health care and national security.

The passing and enacting of SARA in 2002/2003 was a great triumph for all Canadians concerned about the environment. For the first time, all Canadians were given a chance to be meaningfully involved in saving species from the brink of extinction.

Sadly, there is some disappointment with the slow pace of SARA implementation and the somewhat timid government leadership. Canadians envisioned an act that would include and move with the public. That means full implementation, solid government leadership, strong grass-roots participation.

Since the enactment of SARA in 2002, we have had 3 Federal Governments, 4 Ministers of the Environment, 3 Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans, 7 Deputy Ministers, a restructuring of Parks Canada, crippling budget cuts to the Canadian Wildlife Service, and dozens of other changes at senior level positions in EC, DFO, and PCA. These changes have undoubtedly stymied the development of clear SARA policy or direction to aid the public service and to meaningfully engage the Canadian public in saving species. Federal and Provincial SARA direction and guidance treads lightly around the Governments' legal and financial capacities and responsibilities. This often leads to more policy confusion than resolution.

Despite this, in the past five years, Canadians have moved forward in their work on saving species. This movement makes it increasingly evident that there is a need for more Federal and Provincial Government leadership and support.

- Even before SARA became law, the Office of the Auditor General was already responding to complaints that SARA contained **major omissions, concessions, and loop-holes**.
- Since 2002, several petitions to the Federal Government and the Office of the Auditor General have frequently raised fundamental questions and concerns about the **coordination of SARA and lack of Government leadership** on SARA.
- In a 2005 *Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development Report to the House of Commons*, numerous leadership and government coordination issues were raised, which the Commissioner says “**have stalled, on several fronts, Canada’s momentum since the ratification of the Convention of Biological Diversity**”. The Commissioner goes on to state, “*This is our third audit of the federal implementation strategy. We found that problems identified in our previous audits persist and that several commitments to deliver on biodiversity priority areas have not been met.*”
- A 2006 *Formative Evaluation of Federal Species at Risk Programs* to the Treasury Board, also raises broad coordination and leadership problems throughout SARA. “*...a coordinated, federally consistent approach is lacking – across departments, regions, and species.*” The evaluators go on to say, “***This lack of clear direction and leadership has contributed to limited progress in developing and communicating an agreed-upon, federal policy and guidance framework to support decision making on relevant activities and issues.***”
- For Critical Habitat, a SARA required component of every species Recovery Strategy, a lack of ‘clear direction and leadership’ for volunteer species Recovery Teams, caused great confusion. Ultimately, over 50 Species Recovery Strategies were posted without the required Critical Habitat content. Last year, a Federal Court decision rejected a Species Recovery Strategy, because it lacked Critical Habitat information, forcing Environment Canada to pull these 50+ Recovery Strategies. They were sent back to Recovery Teams for Critical Habitat identification, but still without a Federal Critical Habitat Policy for guidance.
- Now, Canadians turn to our neighbours to the south to raise these points; through the *North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation*, that the Canadian Government has **failed to enforce the listing of species under SARA, failed to enforce recovery planning, and failed to enforce SARA through a coordinated national effort.**

Continued on page 10

Welcome Amanda

By MAARS Team Member Angie Titus

MAARS, partnering with the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services Employment Support Services and the Native Council of Nova Scotia, has provided a receptionist workplace experience. Amanda Walsh officially started her duties on January 2, 2008. These duties include answering the phone, photocopying, faxing, and other day-to-day office activities.

Amanda is a Mi’kmaq from Millbrook and has a two year old son. In her free time, she likes to read, write poetry, and spend time with her son. She would eventually like to permanently work in an office. Amanda is a pleasant addition to our office as she is always ready with a smile and a helpful attitude. This job placement has been beneficial for both Amanda and MAARS, and we enjoy having her on our team. According to Amanda, she likes working at MAARS. The skills she is learning are invaluable, and she finds the staff friendly, supportive, and patient.



Upper Bay of Fundy Enforcement Advisory Committee

By MAARS Team Member Franz Kesick

On January 30, 2008, Mime'J Seafoods President, Tim Martin, and MAARS CARDA, Franz Kesick, attended the inaugural meeting of the Upper Bay of Fundy Enforcement Advisory Committee in Truro, Nova Scotia. Also in attendance were Harvey Millar, Enforcement Area Chief, New Brunswick; Joan Reid, Enforcement Area Chief, Sydney, NS; Jim Kierstead, Enforcement Supervisor, St. John, NB; Vince Smith, Enforcement Officer, Truro, NS; and Kevin Juteau, Enforcement Field Supervisor, Digby, NS.

The Upper Bay of Fundy Enforcement Advisory Committee was formed to assist DFO Conservation and Protection in setting priorities for enforcement in various areas and for advice on the effective use of resources.

DFO Conservation & Protection, along with Aboriginal Groups, Fishing Groups, and the

Fishing Industry in general, play a large role in the protection of ocean resources. The continued unlawful harvest of Canadian Resources has a direct effect of all ocean users.

Many people, including some courts, erroneously see the unlawful harvesting of our ocean resources as “victimless crimes” and the punishment handed out to convicted offenders reflects that attitude. The fact is that all Canadians, and especially the fishing industry, ends up paying for these crimes through increased fees and costs and through taxpayers funds to investigate and prosecute the offenders.

The next meeting of the Upper Bay of Fundy Enforcement Advisory Committee will include discussing and approving Terms of Reference and Strategy Planning.



Vince Smith, Harvey Millar, Joan Reid, and Jim Kierstead, Truro, Nova Scotia

Important Changes to the Health of Animals Regulations

By Tammy Jarbeau, Communication Office, CFIA NAAHP



In 2005, the Government of Canada announced the creation of the National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP). The NAAHP strengthens Canada's capacity to help protect its aquatic resources from serious infectious diseases and will also reinforce Canada's ability to attest to the health status of its seafood sold to export markets.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the lead federal organization for the NAAHP as it is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Health of Animals Act. The Agency also has the required infrastructure and expertise dedicated to animal disease control. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans provides the scientific and laboratory expertise required to support the program.

The new program will provide a national framework that builds on current federal and provincial programs and aquatic animal health expertise. This national framework will include revised regulations needed to provide aquatic animals (finfish, mollusks, and crustaceans)

with the same level of health protection provided to other animals and birds under the Health of Animals Act.

Part of the regulatory revision process is to meet with interested parties in other government departments and in the private/public sectors to present the proposed changes for their discussion and review. This process was initiated in September 2007 and included a teleconference with the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

The proposed amendments needed to enhance the protection of aquatic animal health include a list of controlled diseases, the establishment of a system for managing disease risk posed by importations, and a system for control of domestic aquatic animals that reduces the potential for diseases to spread to vulnerable populations within Canada.

For more information, please visit CFIA's website at www.inspection.gc.ca

Nova Scotia's Water Resources Management Strategy

By MAARS Team Member Amanda Facey

Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (NSEL) is leading the development of a provincial water resource management strategy. A water resource management strategy is a requirement under the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, which was enacted in 2007, and builds on the Drinking Water Strategy developed in 2002. Developing the water resource management strategy is a 3 year project, which began in April 2007.

Throughout 2007/8 a discussion paper was developed which outlines several water issues in Nova Scotia and asks important questions about how we can most effectively manage water resources. A stakeholder consultation strategy will also be developed, and a vision, issues and concerns and information gaps will be identified. In 2008/9 current programs and policies will be reviewed, an education and outreach program will be developed and launched and strategic activities will continue. Also continuing will be public involvement and consultation. 2009/10 will see the water strategy drafted. Consultations on the draft strategy will happen before it is submitted to cabinet for consideration and education and outreach and information gathering will continue. After 2010, the strategy will continue to be revised and updated when needed.

The discussion paper is currently available. To view it, and to get more information on this project, go to <http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/water/>.



CELEBRATE
Ocean Day*

Friday, June 6, 2008
10 am – 3 pm



Join us at the
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
1675 Lower Water Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia

and

Learn more about the
Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic
Resources Secretariate
and other organizations and
institutions

We hope to see you there!

*Ocean Day is June 8.



How should Nova Scotia manage its water resources ?

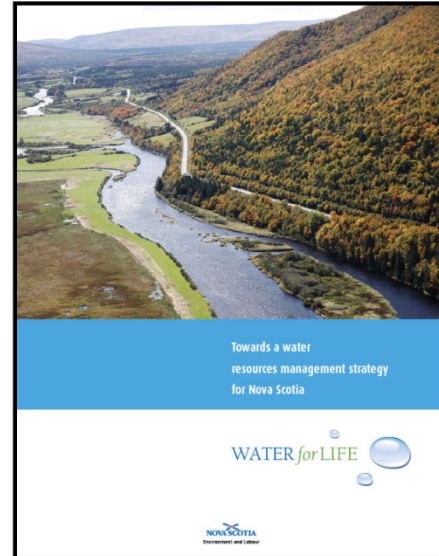
Public Workshop Schedule

We'd like to hear your ideas.

You are invited to a public workshop. Share your input on the best ways to protect, preserve, and use our water - today, and in the future.

You can help develop Nova Scotia's strategy for managing our water resources.

Read the discussion paper at www.gov.ns.ca/enla/water. And attend a public workshop, 6:30pm to 9:00pm at one of these locations:



Oxford	Tue	April 1	Lion's Hall, 4627 Upper Main Street
Truro	Wed	April 2	Best Western Glengarry, 50 Willow St.
Bridgewater	Thu	April 3	Wandlyn Inn, 50 North St.
Yarmouth	Tue	April 15	Fire Hall, 221 Pleasant St.
Annapolis Royal	Wed	April 16	Fire Hall, 5 Saint Anthony St.
Kentville	Thu	April 17	Fire Hall, 416 Main St.
Stellarton	Mon	April 28	Museum of Industry, 147 North Foord St.
Antigonish	Tue	April 29	Keating Millenium Centre, StFXU campus
Mabou	Wed	April 30	Mabou Community Hall
Sydney	Thu	May 1	Delta Sydney, 300 Esplanade
Sheet Harbour	Mon	May 12	(*venue location TBA)
Lower Sackville	Tue	May 13	(*venue location TBA)
Cole Harbour	Wed	May 14	(*venue location TBA)
Halifax	Thu	May 15	(*venue location TBA)

Natural Resources Citizen Engagement Project

The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is conducting conversations with Nova Scotians on what is most valued about four key natural resources components: *Forests, Minerals, Parks, and Biodiversity*, and how they relate to each other. Before a strategy can be developed, Natural Resources needs to know *Values* you want included in a strategy. The *Values* expressed in these conversations in 2008 will inform subsequent phases of the development of a long-term natural resources management strategy.

Phase 1: In 2008—a series of citizen conversation to determine your *Values* (see attached schedule.)

Phase 2: In 2009—a panel of independent experts will conduct more detailed *Analysis* of the findings from the citizenship engagement process

Phase 3: In 2010—the department will develop the long-term strategy, using the various *Values* and *Analysis* inputs from the Phase One and Phase Two.

For further information, contact:

Rita Fraser
Project Coordinator
Voluntary Planning
Suite 600, 1690 Hollis St.
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3J9

Phone: 424-9644
Toll free: 1-866-858-5850
Email: fraserri@gov.ns.ca
www.gov.ns.ca/vp

Schedule:

Week 1, May 12-15: Blockhouse, Pugwash, Parrsboro, Port Hawkesbury, Middleton

Week 2, May 20-22: Dartmouth, Middle Musquodoboit, Debert, Inverness, St. Ann's, New Minas

Week 3: May 26-29: Windsor, Shelburne

Week 4: June 2-5: Sheet Harbour, Sydney, Sherbrooke, Weymouth, Yarmouth

Week 5: June 9-13: Peninsular Halifax, Liverpool, Stellarton, Antigonish

Contact Rita Fraser for exact dates and Places.



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 today's youth loose vital traditional knowledge because we continue to separate ourselves from Mother Earth? |
| Will there be clean water to drink? | |
| Will the oceans be able to regulate our climate? | |

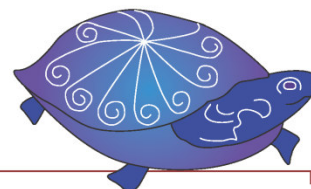
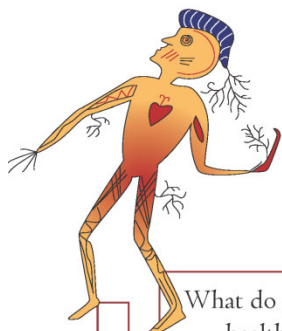
If you are an Aboriginal Youth between the ages of 6-25

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:



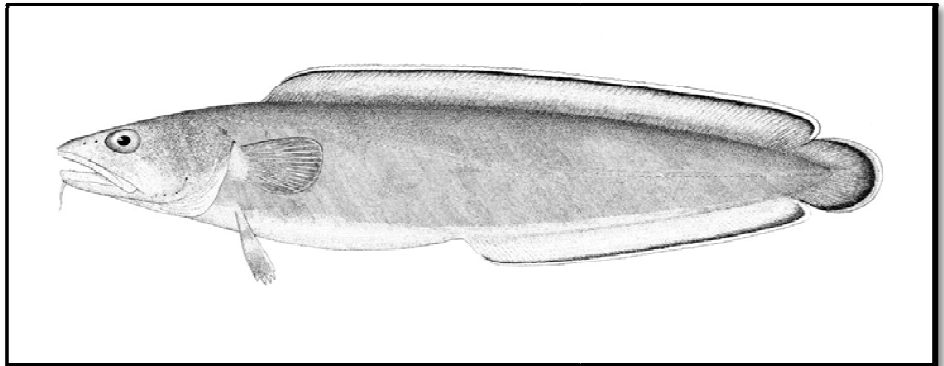
172 TRURO HEIGHTS ROAD, TRURO HEIGHTS, NOVA SCOTIA B6L 1X1

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

Scientists Recommend Precautionary Approach for Cusk

By Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Many government and academic scientists believe that the population of cusk in Atlantic Canada's waters has dramatically declined in the past few decades. The problem is scientifically proving that decline to the Minister to warrant a SARA Listing for cusk.



Cusk are routinely caught in bottom longline, lobster traps, crab pots, and other bottom gear in NAFO Areas 4VWX and 5Z; and as many fishers know, they are often unavoidable. Unfortunately, there are inadequate management tools for DFO resource managers to directly manage cusk and inadequate surveying tools for DFO science to directly monitor cusk. This has created a lot of uncertainty about the level of cusk declines and possible future trends of cusk.

To begin to see a recovering population of cusk by 2015, all by-catch landings of cusk have to be reduced to 200 tons or fewer per year (about 1/5 of current landings).

In recent years, DFO has recognized that cusk are in fact declining and DFO has placed caps on the amount of cusk by-catch allowed to be landed by longline groundfish fishers. DFO has also made it illegal for other fishers to land or use cusk by-catch as bait. However, the Minister disagreed with COSEWIC's 2003 assessment of 'Threatened' for the cusk. A SARA Listing of 'Threatened' would require the Minister to halt all activities which would harm the cusk (including by-catch) or, alternatively, issue precautionary SARA Sect. 73 'Incidental Harm' Permits to fishers. Although DFO recognizes the decline in cusk, the Minister argued that the survey data used by COSEWIC was invalid and therefore cusk may not be 'Threatened'.

To reassess cusk, DFO convened a Science Advisory Process meeting on November 27-29th at the St. Andrews, New Brunswick Biological Station and prepared a Recovery Potential Assessment (RPA) for cusk. The RPA provides DFO science advice to the Minister to aid the Minister's decision to list or not list cusk under SARA. If cusk is listed, the RPA will also provide advice to the Minister on the issuance of SARA Sect. 73 permits and on the creation of a SARA Recovery Strategy for cusk. MAARS OARB Amanda Facey and Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely attended this meeting to voice concerns about the lack of DFO and other scientific knowledge about cusk and the need for the Minister to use Canada's Precautionary Principle when deciding the cusk SARA Listing.

The RPA found that, at a minimum, the Minister must reduce the landings of cusk by 1/5 (no more than 200 tons/year), if the population of cusk is to start recovering by 2015.

According to statistics, 49-86% of the time a cusk is caught and brought to the surface it will be dead, usually because the pressure change causes its stomach to rupture and be spit out of its mouth. Pressure changes also cause massive internal injuries to other vital organs, though not as easily noted by fishers and at-sea observers as a ruptured stomach. Many cusk released as 'alive and healthy' do in fact die within a few days.

Unfortunately, this DFO advice is based on insufficient scientific data. The commonly used DFO Science Research Vessel Trawl Surveys are unreliable because the trawl does not sample the cusk's preferred habitat (hiding in rock crevices on the ocean floor). Industry longline Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) surveys, the next best survey available, are also unreliable. Changes in DFO management and fishing practices have artificially lowered the CPUE and the surveys do not sample the areas where cusk are commonly caught. These and other major concerns about reliability of the numbers for by-catch landings, by-catch discards, and discard mortality all create a lot of uncertainty about the current and possible future cusk population.

Unfortunately, DFO is very uncertain how valid its standard surveys are for measuring cusk population levels. The Minister must use Canada's Precautionary Approach in setting new cusk by-catch caps, in creating new cusk management schemes, and in deciding the SARA Listing of cusk.

Uncertainty of DFO science and DFO science advice could mean that the Minister may have

insufficient advice to back up a decision to issue precautionary SARA Sect. 73 'Incidental Harm' Permits. With limited options to issue these permits, the decision about a cusk SARA Listing may come down to a choice between 'Listing cusk under SARA and closing some particularly harmful fisheries' or 'not Listing cusk under SARA and allowing cusk to become endangered or extinct'.

85% of all cusk caught as by-catch are from NAFO Area 4X. 90% of those cusk catches are from Vessel Tonnage Class 1 (<25 tons). Most of those catches are on vessels under 15 tons.

We call upon the Minister to use Canada's Precautionary Approach and List cusk as 'Threatened' under SARA. Scientific uncertainty cannot be used as a reason for delaying the SARA Listing of cusk or deciding not to list cusk. In the future, if better scientific data becomes available, Canada can always remove cusk from the SARA List or down grade it to 'Special Concern'. However, if cusk goes extinct, it will be gone forever. The choice of life or death for cusk in our waters is in Canada's hands.

Tidal Power: Stakeholders Roundtable Participant Update

By MAARS Team Member Franz Kesick

On February 18, 2008, MAPC/MAARS Director, R. Hunka and CARDA, F. Kesick, attended the SEA Stakeholders Roundtable meeting at Acadia University in Wolfville. Mr. Hunka addressed the Stakeholders Roundtable participants in regards to the Jacques Whitford Report that was released in late January 2008. The question remains as to what does the OEER consider this Report to be. Will it be used as a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA)?

The Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS) maintains that this Report is not a SEIA, nor should it be used as one. The report is deficient, to say the least. There were no consultations with the NCNS in regards to our uses and activities in the Bay of Fundy, which includes, but is not limited to, Treaty and Aboriginal Rights access to fishing.

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has changed the report to be a Background Report.

The Stakeholders Roundtable Participants are to advise TAG and can only identify the gaps. The need for Public Consultation on this issue of Bay of Fundy tidal power cannot be overstated.

The NCNS has responded to the Report, stating their views and requesting direct consultation.

Atlantic Aboriginal Knowledge Workshop

By MAARS Team Members Amanda Facey & Josh McNeely

A workshop on Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge was held in Halifax on January 29 and 30. MAARS team members Roger Hunka, Franz Kesick, Amanda Facey, and Josh McNeely attended. Also in attendance were members from various Aboriginal organizations in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Labrador, as well as federal departments such as Environment Canada, Fisheries & Oceans Canada and Parks Canada.

The purpose of the workshop was to create an effective forum of discussion to explore gathering and applying Aboriginal Knowledge (AK) for better management of natural and cultural resources for future generations in a holistic manner that is congruent with the Aboriginal World Views of the Atlantic Region.

Workshop objectives included:

- sharing views of AK and the importance of it's inclusion in decision making and conservation;
- promoting awareness among all parties for use of AK;
- discussing community and government requirements for sharing AK;
- discussing barriers and potential solutions in acquisition and use of AK;
- obtaining direction from communities for future government projects relating to sharing and respectful use of AK; and
- determining the possibility of working on some AK issues regionally and across communities with government and academic partners.

The workshop consisted of a series of presentations by the participants and small group discussions that focused on how AK can be used, and the status of AK use in Atlantic Canada. This year's workshop was a direct result of a smaller, first step Species at Risk Workshop held in February 2007 and subsequent teleconferences, in which MAARS also participated.

We thank the federal Atlantic Region Interdepartmental Committee on Species at Risk for organizing and holding this event, and we look forward to additional meetings with the organizers and participants on the subject of AK, including another expanded workshop next year.



MAARS Director, Roger Hunka, presenting at the ATK Workshop

Consultation on Consultation

By MAARS Director Roger Hunka

On January 22 and 23, DFO Gulf Region undertook a two day workshop entitled “Respectful and Meaningful Engagement and Accommodation” Consultation with Aboriginal Peoples.

The two day session included a day devoted to learning about “Aboriginal Perspectives on Consultation with Government”. The presentations included “Consultation is a Multi-syllabic Word” by MAPC Director, Roger Hunka; “A Pathway for Consultation” by Joshua McNeely, Ikanawtiket; and “Consultation - Nova Scotia’s New Rules to the Game” by Eric Zcheile.

The three presentations were given from 10:15 to approximately 3:00, and each presentation was followed with numerous questions about Consultations.

As Roger Hunka stated in his presentation, the fundamental, basic, and universal courtesy expected of anyone attempting to do anything that would affect another would be to make an approach, start a discussion, or enter into consultation on the subject.

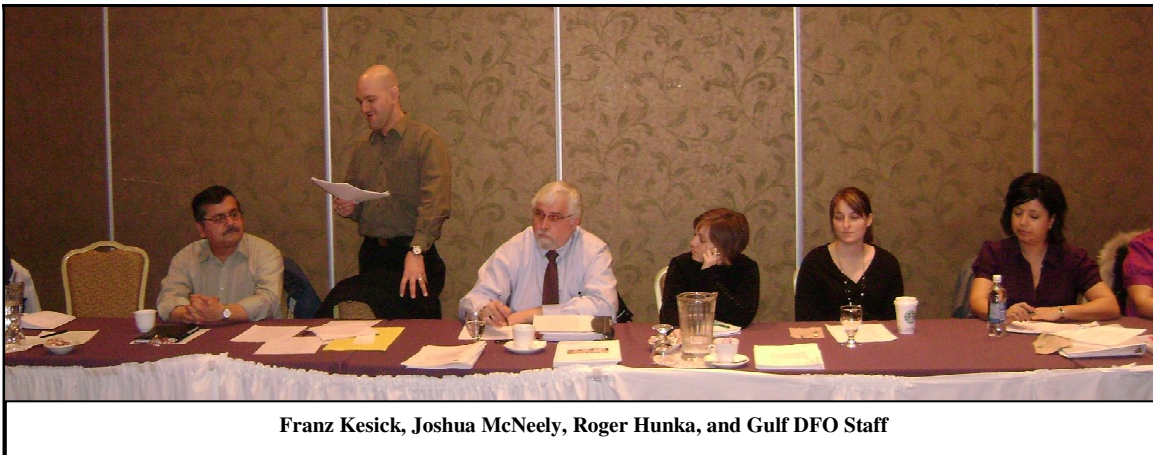
All court decisions on the subject of Aboriginal, Treaty, or Other Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada consistently reprimand all levels of government for their inability and unwillingness to consult or begin to engage towards reconciliation of differences.

It is now twenty-two years since the Simon Decision was handed down in 1985 and seventeen years since the Sparrow Decision was handed down. The Supreme Court of Canada instructed government and Aboriginal Peoples to reconcile their differences through Consultation.

In 2005, the federal government began undertaking a Consultation about Consultation. It is still not complete. Shame. Shame. Shame.

Justiciable Aboriginal Rights will continue to pivot and position the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada to their rightful place within the Federation of the Peoples of Canada. We will reach a point when Canadians will ask the government: Why are we so far behind the times? Why are we hiding? What is the nature of Canada? As Canadians, do we include the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada? Why don't we dialogue, congress, discuss and work on reconciliation of differences?

In closing, DFO Gulf Region deserves applause for undertaking workshops for management and staff to learn about Consultation. Holding workshops with different perspectives is a way to prepare for effective Consultation towards reconciliation on matters involving fisheries and oceans matters. Applause to DFO Gulf Region for the initiative.



Ikanawtiket Visits with Zones and Locals

By Ikanwatiket Joshua McNeely

Ikanawtiket has been visiting with NCNS, NCPEI, and NBAPC Zones and Locals over the winter and into this spring. Community members have been raising many ideas about how they want to be involved in species at risk. Some examples are: giving educational sessions to community youth, providing input to COSEWIC species status reports, and being involved in recovery teams.



Zone 2, Hants County, NS, suggested a workshop on traditional herbal medicines and sought out how to provide input on the black ash assessment.

Have an idea? Subscribe to Ikanawtiket at www.ikanawtiket.ca. E-mail at ikanawtiket@mapcorg.ca or call at (902)895-2982.

Upcoming SARA Legislative Review Continued from page 3

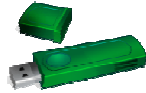
Canadians from all walks of life are doing the best they can on environmental issues, such as species at risk. Many more stand ready to lend their hand, expertise, and financial assistance. What all Canadians want and need now is strong leadership from our Federal and Provincial Governments to take on as the #1 Priority – **‘Our Environment, Our Biodiversity, & Our Future’**.

SARA is now up for Legislative Review in 2008/2009. Many lawyers and accountants reviewing the short history of SARA see a federal program lacking any clear direction – contributing to expenditures without results and many court challenges. Some will argue for ‘watering down’ SARA to lessen the legal and financial burden on governments. Will governments listen to near-sighted opinions and cut back on the power and opportunities of this Canadian grass-roots act, an Act meant to help and support Canadians in their efforts to save species? Canadians will do what it takes to save species? The question is, will our Federal and Provincial Governments lead the Canadian public or will they only listen to a few lawyers and accountants?

We call upon everyone involved with SARA or the environment to seek out, formulate, share, and begin to consider points and suggestions during the review of SARA in the coming year. We have learned one thing in Canada these past 5 years - **species at risk will not be saved by the cheque book, the advice of a lawyer, the dot of an accountant, or the stroke of a pen.** Our biodiversity will only be saved by government leadership with the Canadian public – determined and resolved to respect and leave a legacy of plant and animal life for our future.

SARA can work if the Government chooses to take bold leadership. We need a strong SARA, committed and decisive Federal and Provincial Governments, and coordinated administrative efforts. In essence, Canada needs environmental heroes in governments, as well as in the civil service, public service, and Canadian public.

We must begin to feel proud that it is the Canadian flag which is raised in front of the United Nations International Secretariate for the Convention on Biological Diversity – hosted for all the world in Montréal, CANADA.

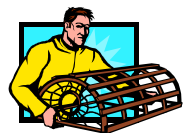
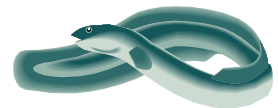
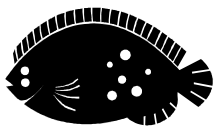


Throughout the months of December 2007 and January and February 2008, the MAARS Team attended many Fishery Stakeholders Advisory Committee Meetings, Science Workshops, and Oceans Management Sessions.

Listed is a very small sample of predictable stakeholder interfaces which occurred during the past three months:



1. IAS (Invasive Alien Species) Database Committee Teleconference
2. IAS Steering Committee Teleconference
3. Ship Fed Atlantic Forum, Halifax, Nova Scotia
4. Elder's Meeting, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
5. Stealth Ventures Presentation, Truro, Nova Scotia
6. ATK Planning Workshop Teleconference
7. Bill C-32 Overview Meeting, Truro, Nova Scotia
8. Consultation Meeting on Consultation, Dieppe, New Brunswick
9. Enforcement Advisory Committee Meeting, Truro, Nova Scotia
10. ATK Workshop, Halifax, Nova Scotia
11. Atlantic Large Pelagic Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia
12. Meeting with Alton Gas Representatives, Truro, Nova Scotia
13. Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Meeting, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
14. Wild Atlantic Salmon Policy, Truro, Nova Scotia
15. SARA Recovery for Blanding's Turtle, Eastern Ribbon Snake, and Atlantic Coastal Plane Fauna, Wolfville, Nova Scotia
16. SEA Roundtable, Wolfville, Nova Scotia
17. SEA Roundtable Meeting, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.
18. Alternative Management Measures, Moncton, New Brunswick.
19. Spear Fishery Discussions, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.
20. Recovery Potential Assessment of Cusk, St. Andrews, New Brunswick.
21. Parks Canada SARA Recovery Team involvement meeting, Truro, Nova Scotia.



Netawek Ikkikum

Voice of the Ocean

In this issue:

- Bill C-32 Technical Briefing (ESSIM) Update Gulf
- Upcoming SARA Legislative Review
- Welcome Amanda
- Upper Bay of Fundy Enforcement Advisory Committee
- Important changes to the Health of Animals Regulations
- Nova Scotia's Water Resources Management Strategy
- Precautionary Approach for Cusk
- Tidal Power: Stakeholders Roundtable Participant Update
- Atlantic Aboriginal Knowledge Workshop
- Consultation on Consultation
- Ikanawtiket Visits with Zones and Locals

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Little River Harbour, Nova Scotia

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

Compiled by Angela Titus,
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Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

Collectively advancing the rightful share to Atlantic Aquatic Resources for the sustained economic growth of the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples

MARITIME ABORIGINAL PEOPLES COUNCIL-COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT BODY

A partnership of the Native Council of Nova Scotia,
New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council & Native Council of Prince Edward Island

Our mailing address has changed.

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