

# Netawek Ikjikum

Voice of the Ocean

Quarterly Newsletter of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

Vol. 5 Issue 4, March 2010

## Congratulations IKANAWTIKET

Five years ago, the Community of Traditional Ancestral Homelands Aboriginal Peoples, joined as the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council, resolved that the three Native Council's would form IKANAWTIKET. At that time few envisioned the rapid and successful growth of IKANAWTIKET.

IKANAWTIKET has in the last few years organized several multi-stakeholder sessions including the ARISES series, produced a Compact Disc of reference materials, mobilized teams to become involved in Recovery Strategy Planning and implementation activities, advanced the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program in Atlantic Canada, provides updates on SARA listings in Atlantic Canada and that much more.

On March 5, 2010, the Nova Scotia Environmental Network (NSEN) held their annual Eco-Hero Awards Ceremony. IKANAWTIKET received the 2010 *Marshall Award for Aboriginal Environmental Leadership*. Good job IKANAWTIKET.



Congratulations to all our IKANAWTIKET Volunteers – only a few shown here.

# COSEWIC Assess Local Species at Risk

By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely

COSEWIC recently assessed or reassessed ten Atlantic species.

COSEWIC increased the threat category of the Bicknell's Thrush from Special Concern to Threatened. This very vocal, yet secretive forest bird species breeds in high elevation, dense, and stunted spruce forests in Cape Breton, the north-western and north-central highlands of New Brunswick, the Gaspé Peninsula, and along the north shore of the St. Lawrence and Magdalen Islands. At least 40% of the population has disappeared due to commercial forest thinning operations and habitat destruction in Canada, and the invasive alien rat, which is prevalent in the Bicknell Thrush's winter grounds in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.



Bicknell Thrush (from [www.ns.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca))

## Three new species were assigned a threat status:

**Name:** Vole Ears Lichen

**Location:** NB & NS

**Status:** Endangered

**Threats:** Air Pollution, Acid Rain, and Forest Harvest.

**Name:** Atlantic Mud-piddock

**Location:** Minas Basin, NS

**Status:** Threatened

**Threats:** Increased storm severity and frequency caused by climate change.

**Name:** Basking Shark

**Location:** Atlantic Ocean

**Status:** Special Concern

**Threats:** By-catch in trawl, longline, and gillnet fisheries.



(from [www.erioderma.com](http://www.erioderma.com))



(from [www.jaxshells.org](http://www.jaxshells.org))



(from [www.flmnh.ufl.edu](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu))

## Five species retained their COSEWIC threat classification:

**Name: Gray Whale**

*Location:* Atlantic Ocean

*Status:* Extirpated

*Threats:* Historic international whaling, other populations are endangered, which prevents recruitment to Atlantic population.

**Name: Dwarf Wedge mussel**

*Location:* Petitcodiac River, NB

*Status:* Extirpated

*Threats:* Moncton-Riverview Causeway, endangered populations in the US limit reintroduction options to Petitcodiac River.

**Name: Eskimo Curlew**

*Location:* Canada wide

*Status:* Endangered (bordering on Extinct)

*Threats:* loss of native grasslands in Canada and Argentina.



(from [www.members.greenpeace.org](http://www.members.greenpeace.org))



Photographed by Richard Biggins

(from [www.elements.nb.ca](http://www.elements.nb.ca))



(from [www.rom.on.ca](http://www.rom.on.ca))

**Name: Yellow Rail**

*Location:* NW and West

*Status:* Special Concern (bordering on threatened).

*Threats:* Loss of Wetland habitat

**Name: Savannah Sparrow**

*Location:* Sable Island, NS

*Status:* Special Concern

*Threats:* Shoreline development in the US and increased storm severity and frequency caused by climate change.



(from [www.museum.gov.ns.ca](http://www.museum.gov.ns.ca))



(from [www.museum.gov.ns.ca](http://www.museum.gov.ns.ca))

On a good note, additional surveys show that Redroot is more common in Southwest Nova Scotia than previously thought, and therefore the risk of extinction is less. COSEWIC is recommending that the Federal Government down-list Redroot from Threatened to that of Special Concern. However, as a word of warning, COSEWIC states that over the past forty years cottage and residential development in Southwest Nova Scotia continues to destroy the preferred habitat – gentle sloping cobble beaches. Although COSEWIC is recommending a down-listing for Redroot this year because of new found populations, COSEWIC predicts that the Redroot will continue to decline.



By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely

From March 14<sup>th</sup> to March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, thirty Aboriginal Youth from the Native Council of Nova Scotia, Native Council of Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council came together in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia for Youth ARISES 2010.

Ever since ARISES 2007 was held in Sackville, New Brunswick, several youth expressed an interest to learn more, and prepare themselves to one day be leaders for species at risk. During Youth ARISES 2010, participants learned about the lengthy and complex Species at Risk Act (SARA) process, which the Government of Canada uses to assess, protect, and recover species at risk. This is well beyond textbook learning in the classroom.

Youth from Nova Scotia and PEI gave up over half of their March Break and youth from New Brunswick now have to catch up on school work, as they missed regular school classes, in order to attend Youth ARISES 2010.



Themes that were discussed:

- Introduction to SARA and the SARA process - Why do we have SARA and why we need to be involved in the SARA process. (lead by IKANAWTIKET Regional Facilitator Joshua McNeely)
- COSEWIC Species and Habitat Assessment - The elements of the COSEWIC species assessment and the importance of assessing the habitat. (lead by COSEWIC member Dr. Sherman Boates)
- Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in the COSEWIC assessment - The limitations of scientific knowledge and how ATK can be used to learn more about a species and its habitat. (lead by COSEWIC ATK Subcommittee member Dr. Donna Hurlburt)
- Consultation with Aboriginal Peoples - The necessity for consultation, what is meaningful consultation, and what happens during consultation. (lead by MAPC Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Roger Hunka)
- Social Economic Impact Statement (SEIS) - The need for a better understanding of social and economic costs and benefits to protecting species and how that can dramatically influence decision-making. (lead by DFO Economic Analyst Robert MacIntosh)

- Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement (RIAS) and Gazetting Decision - How Canadians govern themselves, how Cabinet reaches a SARA decision, and how to find and comment on the RIAS. (lead by MAPC Director Roger Hunka)
- Recovery Strategies - The need to write down and track recovery goals and objectives. (lead by DFO SARA Consultation Coordinator Cathy Merriman)
- Action Plans - The need to organize various people under a species action plan and the importance of maintaining consistent involvement in the implementation of the action plan. (lead by IKANAWTIKET J. McNeely)
- Leave no Footprint - An overview of the recently published SARA book *Leave no Footprint* (lead by IKANAWTIKET volunteer and artist Anna Nibby-Woods)



The presentations were only a small part of Youth ARISES 2010. We took learning beyond the textbook and applied that knowledge to a real life situation of a potential SARA listing for Cusk, a groundfish commonly caught as by-catch in lobster traps and bottom longline gear in the Atlantic. The SARA Listing of Cusk is a very complex issue. On the one hand, protecting Cusk under SARA could lead to lost revenue for some groundfishers and lobster fishers. On the other hand, many believe that Cusk is greatly threatened by overfishing and will become extinct if we don't act soon. In addition, we actually know very little about Cusk biology, habitat, threats, and the social and economic costs and

benefits of saving this groundfish. This requires us to apply the precautionary approach in making decisions rather than weighing the potential benefits versus the potential costs.

To learn just how hard the SARA process can be, we went through the entire SARA process for Cusk.

- Youth were given the actual COSEWIC Cusk Status Report and they summarized the report, including a drawing of the species and range map, a summary of its biology, habitat, population trends, and threats. The youth then made a COSEWIC assessment decision based on their status report summary.
- Youth then played the character roles of: 1) large commercial fishing entity, 2) Aboriginal communal commercial fishing entity, 3) small scale fishermen, 4) Aboriginal Food, Social, and Ceremonial fishermen, 5) Environmental organization, 6) Oil & Gas, and 7) Widget factory. Youth presented their issues, needs, concerns, and interests related to a potential SARA listing of Cusk during a mock consultation session.
- Based on what was learned during the consultation session, the youth then listed out all the social and economic costs and benefits to listing or not listing the Cusk under SARA. This formed the basis of the Socio-Economic Impact Statement.
- The youth then reviewed the Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement for a previous SARA listing and discussed what reasons Cabinet gave for listing or refusing to list a number of species. The Youth then participated in a mock SARA Listing decision, where they succinctly presented their SARA Listing recommendation and reasons to a mock Cabinet and answered questions from the mock Cabinet Ministers of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, Parks Canada, Finance, and Industry.
- After receiving a mock SARA Listing decision of Threatened from the Cabinet, the youth then prepared a recovery goal to rebuild Cusk stocks

and a series of objectives to meet that recovery goal.

- The youth then discussed who could help to implement their recovery strategy for Cusk, aside from scientists and government officials. The youth discussed how they could become involved in SARA actions themselves.



These six steps: COSEWIC assessment, Consultations, Socio-Economic Impact Statement, Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement and SARA Listing Decision, Recovery Strategy, and Action Plans are the actual steps government goes through. Interestingly, the youth identified many of the same issues and obstacles that others have during the actual SARA process for Cusk, which is happening right now.

In addition to our work to assess, protect, and recover Cusk, we also learned about the surrounding natural environment and local history. Alan Melanson, a local historian and Parks Canada interpreter, gave us a three hour in-depth tour of the Fort Anne National Historic Site. Our learning focused on the little told, yet vital, history of the relationships between the Mi'kmaq and the French settlers in the first North American settlement of Port Royal. We also learned about the importance of that relationship for the survival of the Acadians during and after the deportation, and also how the wars between the French and English impacted the new colony and existing Mi'kmaq people. We saw where the Treaty of 1725 was ratified in 1726 by the

Mi'kmaq people, as a treaty between the English and “the several Tribes of Eastern Indians”. This is one of the earlier English treaties and in part forms the basis of our relationship with the Crown today.



At Youth ARISES 2010 we also learned about the Bay of Fundy and some of our impacts on the Bay. We watched and discussed the film *Where the Bay Becomes the Sea* and talked with Fundy Tidal Power Strategic Environmental Assessment Stakeholders Roundtable member and filmmaker Marke Slipp.

Native Council of Nova Scotia Elder Ellen Robinson spoke about the 1936 film *Porpoise Oil* which featured Ellen and her parents, grandparents and extended family. Dr. Alexander Leighton, a close friend of the family, produced the documentary in 1936, which portrayed an aspect of a trade which the Mi'kmaq participated in – the rendering of Porpoise for fine machine oil. In those days the Mi'kmaq family would only harvest one Porpoise a year for this trade purpose.



We also learned about native and non-native species in the Annapolis area. Scientist Andy Sharpe led us on a fieldtrip to a local derelict dam. Even though it is no longer used, and no one wants to take responsibility for it, it is still preventing the passage of Stripped Bass, Atlantic Salmon, and American Eel (all species at risk) into an excellent upstream habitat. We also learned about several local invasive alien species, such as Garlic Mustard, Glossy Buckthorn, Japanese Knotweed, Canada Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Common Reed, Scotch Broom, and Multiflora Rose. After habitat loss, Invasive Alien Species are the greatest threat to Species at Risk, because they out compete native species for food and space and they alter the habitat.



By the end of the fourth day of Youth ARISES 2010, the participants said “*we were tired*” and “*our heads were crammed full!*”

At Youth ARISES 2010, “*we all had the freedom to stay up late, or miss breakfast and we also had the responsibility to be mature and take advantage of the opportunity to learn the SARA Process.*”

The lessons and information provided at Youth ARISES 2010 will make a difference to future Species at Risk pathmakers – IKANAWTIKET’s.

Each participant was presented with a Youth ARISES 2010 course completion certificate. Congratulations to all our Youth ARISES 2010 participants. You are all on your way to becoming leaders for Species at Risk.



**We are proud to call the following IKANAWTIKET (pathfinders).**

Hannah Affleck  
Rebecca Boutilier  
Marissa Bolger  
Shaniah Bolger  
Madison Chamberlain-Wysote  
Bradley Cooper  
Evangeline Cremo  
Kyandrea Dennis  
Luanne Dennis  
Nathan Dicks

Meaghan Hubley  
Leah Isadore  
Nolan Isadore  
Ebony Larkin  
Parker Larkin  
Shaneice Linklater  
Kayla Mansfield  
George Morgan  
Melanie Joy Munroe  
Patrick Munroe

Tyrone O’Toole  
Zachery O’Toole  
Nathan Perry  
Jordyn Poulette  
Susan Poulette  
Teresa Thompson  
Taylor Tremere  
Hillary Sweeney  
Anita Valdes

## *A message from the Convention on Biological Diversity Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif (taken from Gincana 7)*

The fight to stop biodiversity loss is at a critical moment. Species are currently going extinct at up to 1,000 times the natural background rate. Sixty per cent of examined ecosystem services worldwide have been degraded. We should be alarmed because humans are not detached from the consequences of this loss. Biodiversity is humanity's source for countless irreplaceable goods and services, including food, lumber, medicine, crop pollination and air and water purification.

This is why in 2002 the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity established the 2010 Biodiversity Target, a commitment to significantly slow biodiversity loss worldwide by 2010. The international community quickly rallied around the 2010 Target and incorporated it into the Millennium Development Goals.

Nevertheless, preliminary indications are that the target will not be met. The impacts of this will be primarily felt by the poor, as natural capital constitutes 26% of the total wealth of low-income countries.

Moreover, the human costs of biodiversity loss will be exacerbated by climate change, which will potentially compound the rate of loss.

For this reason the United Nations declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. The year 2010 offers an opportunity to renew our efforts and create a global alliance of all stakeholders to protect life on Earth.

In May, Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 will provide an initial assessment of progress so far and remaining challenges in achieving the 2010 Target. In September, the 65th session of the UN General Assembly will, for the first time, convene a high-level segment on biodiversity with the participation of heads of State and Government. And in October in Nagoya, Japan, at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, the Convention's tenth Conference of the Parties, a broad range of stakeholders – including cities and local authorities, youth, indigenous communities, national governments and the private sector – will help finalize our 2011-2020 strategic plan and the 2020 and 2050 biodiversity targets.

**Overall, the International Year of Biodiversity promises to be a true watershed period in our struggle to preserve biodiversity.**

### Main goals

**Enhance** public awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity and of the underlying threats to biodiversity

**Raise** awareness of accomplishments to save biodiversity realized by communities and governments

**Promote** innovative solutions to reduce the threats to biodiversity

**Encourage** individuals, organizations and governments to take immediate steps to halt biodiversity loss

**Encourage** dialogue between stakeholders for the steps to be taken in post-2010

### What can I do?

**Learn about biodiversity and environmental issues** in your area and in your country. You need to know before you can act. The internet is full of ideas and 'green practices' or ask us.

**Participate in the International Year of Biodiversity** at the local level by joining environmental NGOs and volunteering in environmental actions. Saving biodiversity starts with you and your community.

**If you already have an organisation, reach out to people** in your community and collaborate with other organisations.

Many people all over the world are already achieving great things for biodiversity. If you are successfully safeguarding biodiversity, **send us your success stories**. We will share them with the rest of the world to use as a model!

### Youth and children

**The Green Wave** is a multi-year global campaign that enables children and youth to make a difference—one school, one tree, one step at a time. The Green Wave brings together children and youth from around the world to raise awareness about biodiversity, and the need to reduce its loss. The Green Wave contributes to the Plant for the Planet Billion Tree Campaign.



THE GREEN WAVE  
One school, one tree, one gift to nature  
UNEP CBM





# May 22, 2010, International Day of Biodiversity

## Biodiversity is life

### Contact us

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the focal point for the International Year of Biodiversity. For more information, please visit the website or contact us:

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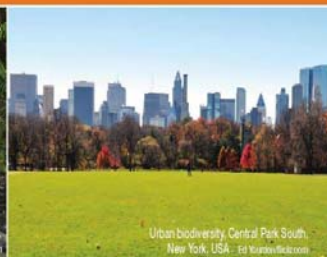
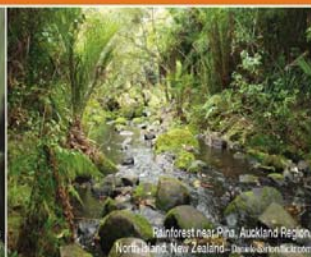
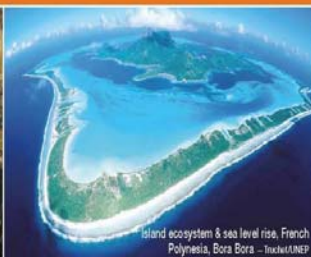
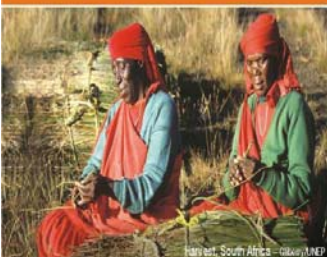
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## Biodiversity is our life



We invite every person in the world to participate, to take action for the environment and to share experiences with others.



Harvest, South Africa – [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

Island ecosystem & sea level rise, French Polynesia, Bora Bora – [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

Tree frog of the "Aglychnis" genus – [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

Rainforest near Pihia, Auckland Region, North Island, New Zealand – [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

Urban biodiversity, Central Park South, New York, USA – [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)

## Marine Protected Area

By NS AMDO Franz Kesick

The Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) held a two day workshop on January 20 and 21, 2010, at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill on Areas of Interest (AOI) and Marine Protected Areas (MPA).

The workshop brought together the Chiefs and Presidents, Fishing Managers, and selected staff of our three Partner Organizations, the Native Council of PEI, the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council and the Native Council of Nova Scotia, as well as the staff of the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council.



The workshop was held to address concerns raised during the consultation period on three Areas of Interest for a new proposed MPA on the Eastern Scotian Shelf. A lot of misconceptions and misinformation is being exchanged between individuals and groups without the benefit of proper education.

For this workshop, MAARS organized introductory background information so that participants could later make informed decisions regarding AOIs and MPAs.

The most significant question to answer is **“Why?”** *Why designate Marine Protected Areas?*



Dr. Elizabeth De Santo, Marine Affairs Program from Dalhousie University, explained in great detail the history of MPAs through International Agreements and Conventions to which Canada is a signatory. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea makes reference to MPAs in Articles 192, 194(5) and 211(6), with reference to States having the obligation to protect and preserve marine environments, rare or fragile ecosystems and the need to designate special areas that have the potential of oil pollution.

Many agreements and conventions make reference to MPAs.

Dr. De Santo also discussed Canada's response, Oceans Designations, and the types of MPAs in Canada; as well as the key policies under Canada's Oceans Strategy, Action Plan, Health of the Oceans Initiative and the MPA Strategy.

Glen Herbert and Marty King, DFO-Maritimes, demonstrated how MPAs are integral to the Integrated Management of large ocean management areas. Specifically they presented the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) plan, which is built on the principles of Integration, Sustainable Development, Precaution, Inclusion, Adaptive Management, Collaboration, Conservation, Eco-system based management and Stewardship.



Sara Quigley, DFO-Maritimes, gave an overview of the DFO Resource Management Sustainable Development Framework Suite of Proposed Policies. Miss Quigley demonstrated the strong links between the DFO Sustainability Framework and Marine Protected Areas.

Mireille Chiasson, DFO-Gulf, also notified participants of plans to continue toward Integrated Management and look at AOIs in the Gulf Region for possible MPA designation.

Paul McNab, DFO-Maritimes, presented the Gully MPA, established in 2004, as a learning example about what an MPA plan could look like. We discussed the establishment of the Gully MPA through a Stakeholder process, the Gully MPA Goals and Objectives, and the Management Zones and Allowable Activities. Mr. McNab also presented in great detail the location and ecosystem of the Gully MPA.



Marty King, informed participants about the larger, national and international picture of planning and establishing networks of MPAs that are linked geographically and biologically to meet overall biodiversity objectives.

The afternoon of the first day was spent discussing the selection process, location and ecosystems and human activities within the three Areas Of Interest, The Middle Bank, Misaine Bank & Eastern Shoal and St. Ann's Bank. Glen Herbert and Marty King discussed the process and reasons for identifying each of the candidate AOIs.

The second day of the workshop allowed MAPC/MAARS members and the three Partner Organizations to discuss the AOIs and MPAs in great depth.



MAPC/MAARS would like to thank Dr. De Santo and the entire DFO staff for a great workshop and presentations. As a result of the two day workshop, the MAPC partner Native Councils will be able to make informed deliberations with DFO about the Areas of Interest for a new Marine Protected Area on the Eastern Scotian Shelf.

## Winter Skate Rejected

By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely and MAPC MAARS Director Roger Hunka

It is with regret that we have to inform you that on December 5<sup>th</sup>, Governor-in-Council (Federal Cabinet) decided not to add three Atlantic populations of Winter Skate to the SARA Schedule 1. This in effect means that a decision has been made not to grant protection or recovery measures to the endangered and threatened Winter Skate population in Atlantic Canada – Life Denied Winter Skate.

The Winter Skate belongs to the shark family and, like the sharks, skates are slow growing and produce only a few young every couple of years. These characteristics make the three Winter Skate populations susceptible to overfishing, by-catch, and, in particular, habitat destruction of their nurseries, where the female lays egg pouches (called purses). Purses remain attached to the bottom for up to 22 months, while the eggs incubate. During this time, they are easily destroyed by trawling and dredging gear, which can bulldoze there way through an area every couple of years, especially when dredging for scallops and clams. Skate are endemic to the NW Atlantic, with most Skate populations occurring in Canadian waters.

**WINTER SKATE UPDATE**



**EASTERN SCOTIAN SHELF POPULATION OF WINTER SKATE**

In 2006, COSEWIC assessed the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population as Endangered, the Eastern Scotian Shelf population as Threatened, and the Georges Bank and Western Scotian Shelf population as Special Concern. A SARA Listing would have provided protection and recovery measures to the Southern Gulf and Eastern Scotian Shelf populations and their critical habitat and also would have required management measures for the Georges Bank-Western Scotian Shelf population.

In their decision not to list any of the three populations, Governor-in-Council, relied on advice from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which stated that the economic costs to listing Winter Skates would outweigh the benefits. They also stated a lack of support from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, Quebec, and industry stakeholders. *“Interesting to note, industry stakeholders are not interested in Winter Skate but rather scallops and clams. In Nova Scotia, there is only one company which holds the only license for Winter Skate. On a perverse note, it does not fish Winter Skate. Instead, there is an aggressive clam and scallop fishery which brings, pillage, plunder and unattended destruction to the Eastern Scotian Shelf Population of Winter Skate critical nurseries. The SEIS and the RIAS are at odds, and we contend fundamentally flawed. This flaw, has compromised good governance and transparent accountable decision making at the cost of Winter Skate Biodiversity. A decision was made based on wealth creation. The decision amounts to “Life Denied the Winter Skate”.*

We believe that the RIAS is a compromised document. Release of by-catch can be permitted under SARA. Skates are quite resilient, with up to 95% surviving after release. DFO has the power to issue permits for ‘Incidental Take’ for the other 5% of the Winter Skate as by-catch which are accidentally killed. DFO does not have to issue an area wide groundfish closure as a result of listing Winter Skate as is postulated in the flawed Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement. A closure would only be necessary in nursery areas where repeated habitat, nursery grounds and egg destruction occur without conscience nor respect for the life of the Winter Skate.

Another excuse not to list Winter Skate or deny its life, is the view that Winter Skate by-catch can be addressed through the Fisheries Act with targeted conservation measures in the groundfish Integrated Fisheries Management Plan with licensing conditions. Will that ever happen? In whose lifetime? Why is the Winter Skate denied life?



DFO had the opportunity and authority for many years to enact conservation measures, yet it has not done nothing. The Southern Gulf and Eastern Scotian Shelf populations of Winter Skate continue to decline as they have over the past 40 years.

Because recovery of the Winter Skate would be difficult and take time does not mean that we should not list it under SARA. SARA was enacted specifically to address the most serious cases of biodiversity loss and vital habitat loss – A Winter Skate nursery is a vital habitat. To save a species from extinction in the absence of actions, or when those we entrust as responsible for management are too slow or unwilling to respond to save a species, is a primary purpose of SARA and a guiding principle for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## 2010 Snow Crab Management Plan

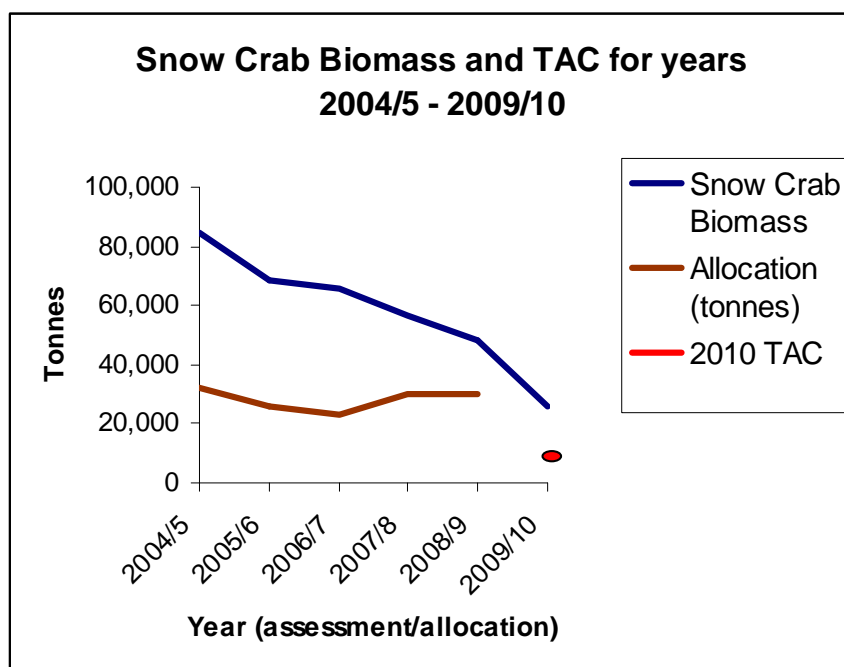
By NB AMDO Barry LaBillois

The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has ordered a 63% cut in the Total Allowable Catch of snow crab in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for the 2010 season. The reduction is in response to research that uncovered a dramatic decrease in snow crab stocks, which are down 46% from last year. For “crabbers” in New Brunswick, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia believe it is a reduction that threatens their livelihoods.

The drastic decision to slash this season’s snow crab quota is the result of years of posturing, complaining, crabbing and the human weakness of greed; to take and take without any regard to the total biomass of the snow crab in and around Atlantic waters. The lesson is clear: think for the future, not only for today. According to a Dr. Mikio Moriyasu, a lead snow crab DFO scientist, *“less punishing cuts had been suggested in previous years in an effort to support snow crab levels, but they were not implemented. We should have done something more drastic before, but now it is necessary. I understand the impact on the economy and everything, but if this resource is gone the impact will be felt much harder.”* (Times/Transcript April 9th, 2010) Somewhere we needed to make a decision; and that happened this year.

DFO Minister Gail Shea admitted a year ago that her office failed to act on the Department’s science recommendations to reduce the Total Allowable Catch. Instead, “crabbers” in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence were permitted to harvest 29,900 tonnes in 2009, the same allocation as in 2008, despite an additional 15% drop in biomass compounded on several years of reduced biomass. *“Our science told us that there should have been a small drop in the total allowable catch of snow crab, and when we met with the industry, they argued our numbers.”* (Times/Transcript April 9th, 2010).

A Fisheries and Oceans report (Times/Transcript April 9th, 2010) showed a continued and rapid decrease in adult sized snow crab biomass in the Gulf of St. Lawrence from 84,900 tonnes in 2004 to less than 1/3 of that, 26,100 tonnes, in 2009. During that same period allocation has remained between 23,307 tonnes (2007) and 31,833 tonnes (2005). In fact, last years allocation of 29,900 tonnes is almost 4,000 tonnes more than this year’s total adult biomass. In addition Dr. Moriyasu warns that baby snow crab numbers are currently well below the numbers that have historically allowed the stock to regenerate. With this knowledge, a revamped *“exploitation rule”* was suggested by department scientists and used for the first time in setting the 2010 Total Allowable Catch for snow crab in the Gulf of St. Lawrence – a 46% reduction to just 7,700 tonnes.



Since the release of the snow crab management plans for southern gulf crab fishing areas 12, 18, 25 & 26, different fishermen's organizations, and some Indian Act Bands and Provincial Governments affected by the reduction, have jumped on the "give me money wagon", calling on Ottawa to provide financial support. A similar tune to the \$65 million allotted for the Atlantic Lobster Sustainability Measures, announced last year. For snow crab, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has no plans to provide financial assistance to harvesters, said John Morris, Minister Shea's Director of Communications. New Brunswick's Fisheries Minister Rick Doucet said "*removing the power of the Federal Minister to make the ultimate decision on quota levels has to be discussed.*" (The Telegraph Journal April 23th, 2010) He indicated that the root of the problem for the industry is a result of dealing with old legislation. He also suggested that Canada change the Fisheries Act to limit the power of the Federal Fisheries Minister to consider scientific and industry advice about the health of the fishery.

We on the other hand contend that the problem is the industry itself, which prefers to take, take, take and take. The industry itself does not heed scientific conservation advice and resorts to political pressures and the exclusion of others from the fishery. Minister Shea has admitted to deciding against the decrease in the snow crab industry's Total Allowable Catch in the Gulf of St. Lawrence last year, despite noting some risk to the stock expressed by Department scientists – the "crabbers" disputed the science.

The snow crab season opened on April 16 off Prince Edward Island, and early average catches of snow crab have some "crabbers" wondering if the dire predictions of Federal Government Scientists are off-base. Carter Hutt, President of the Prince Edward Island Snow Crab Fishermen's Group, said "*the Island's 28 "crabbers" are hauling in 40 to 60 kilograms per trap, which is more than last year. At least three snow crab fishermen have already caught their quota and brought their traps back to shore. For now, snow crab fishermen are enjoying their solid early returns, but they may become more concerned in a week or two, when their quotas are exhausted.*" (CBC News April 26th, 2010) Lawrence MacAulay, Member of Parliament for Cardigan in eastern P.E.I., said DFO needs to look at the quota again. "*What we need to find out, No. 1 is to make sure that their (sic) figures are correct. Who did what, when and how did they get this conclusion? If the conclusion is wrong, we want it adjusted right away. If it's right, why did this happen? Sixty three percent is a devastating blow to the industry.*" (CBC News April 26th, 2010) said MacAulay.

From the perspective of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island and the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council community of Traditional Ancestral Homelands Mi'Kmaq/Aboriginal Peoples, as rights holders who presently are excluded from the Snow Crab fishery with a "0 quota", the drastic 2010 cut is good news. Let us rebuild the snow crab stocks in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence today, so maybe after a snow crab stock rebuild, our two communities, as rights holders, will be provided a share of snow crab quota, so that our communities can begin to improve their economic situation – at least those who will have a chance to harvest crab.



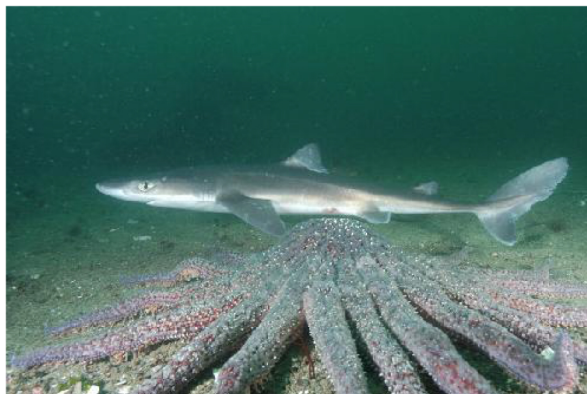
## Convention on the International Trading on Endangered Species

By PEI AMDO Naomi Crane

The 175-nations Conference of Parties met in Doha, Qatar between March 13-25, 2010, where several species, including the Porbeagle Shark, the Spiny Dogfish Shark and the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna were considered for listing and protection under the Convention on the International Trading of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) - Appendix I. Listings under schedule 1 make it illegal to trade those species to other countries; however, fishers would be permitted to fish and sell those species locally.

Monaco's proposal to list Atlantic Bluefin Tuna was at the hub of deliberations and political posturing at the conference of the parties. Monaco provided evidence that there has been a 75% decline of the marine species due to over fishing by many countries in most areas of the Atlantic. This proposal was backed by the U.S.A.

Monaco attempted to sway voting nations by insisting that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has "dropped the ball" and been unable to regulate the fishery and prevent Atlantic Bluefin Tuna declines. Monaco also tempted delegates by insisting that the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna would be de-listed once stock numbers recover. Monaco's arguments were to no avail, as the proposal was defeated on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, with 68 nations



Spiny Dogfish Shark (from [www.idc-inparadise.com](http://www.idc-inparadise.com)) voting against the ban and a mere 20 nations supporting the ban.

Japan claimed that Japanese culture was under attack because Atlantic Bluefin Tuna is a staple Tuna used in the preparation of sushi. Japan led the opposition against the ban and stated that **CITES does not have a role in the conservation of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna or any other marine species.** Japan demanded that Atlantic Bluefin Tuna be left to ICCAT to manage.

The majority of the conference seemed to lead in favour of the fishermen around the world, as marine species after marine species were tabled and each shot down, one after another. The one species which did have a ban placed on it was the Porbeagle Shark despite reported increase in numbers as of last year. The shark is viewed as having only a minor and local commercial value.

*"When will humankind lift the veil over their eyes and minds – at least respect the biodiversity from outright greed and over exploitation."*



Porbeagle Shark (from [www.elasmodiver.com](http://www.elasmodiver.com))



# Project Wet

By NS AMDO Franz Kesick

*“The water belongs to all of us, and we belong to the water. We all have to use water wisely so there will always be plenty for people and animals and Mother Earth. We have to keep the water clean so we can stay healthy and strong.”* (Native Waters, Project Wet International Foundation)

On February 19 and 20, 2010, MAARS CDIL Brett Bancroft and NS AMDO Franz Kesick attended a two day instructional workshop called *Project WET*™ This program is an Environment Canada environmental education program with a focus on water, designed primarily for students in K-12, but can be used for a wider audience.



The goal of *Project WET* is to facilitate and promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through the development and dissemination of classroom-ready teaching aids and through the establishment of state and internationally sponsored Project Wet programs. (Project Wet Curriculum and Activity Guide)

MAARS members would like to continue the growth of this now internationally recognized water education program by providing the course to Youth Groups and other interested Zone members.

*Project WET* originated in North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1984, by the North Dakota State Water Commission and expanded in 1989 by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. The program was introduced in Canada in the 1990's and the original instructional course was held in Saskatchewan in 1995. *Project WET* is now into its twentieth year and sponsored by Nestlé Waters North America, Environmental Education and Partnership *Project WET* International and many network members.



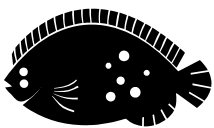
## **Upcoming Events and Dates Everyone Should Know**

- March 22-28, 2010, Cali, Columbia** – 9th Meeting of the Access and Benefit Sharing Working Group – [www.cbd.int/wgabs9](http://www.cbd.int/wgabs9)
- April 19-30, 2010, New York, U.S.A.** – 9th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues – [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unfii](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unfii)
- April 26-28, 2010, Austin, U.S.A.** – Biodiversity without Boundaries NatureServe Conservation Conference 2010 – [www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org)
- May 1-31, 2010, Shanghai, China** – Shanghai World Exposition - <http://en.expo2010.cn>
- May 3-7, 2010, Paris, France** – Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands - [www.globaloceans.org](http://www.globaloceans.org)
- May 6-8, 2010, Quebec City, Canada** - Canadian Commission for UNESCO Annual General Meeting - [www.unesco.ca](http://www.unesco.ca)
- May 9-14, 2010, Torino Canada** – 12th International Congress of Ethnobiology - [www.tbgf.org/ice](http://www.tbgf.org/ice)
- May 10-21, 2010, Nairobi, Kenya** – CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice [www.cbd.int/sbstta14](http://www.cbd.int/sbstta14)
- May 13-15, 2010, New York, U.S.A.** – High-Level Segment of Commission on Sustainable Development - [www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd18.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18.shtml)
- May 18, 2010, Earth** – Plant Conservation Day - [www.bgci.org/plantconservationday](http://www.bgci.org/plantconservationday)
- May 19-22, 2010, Burnaby, Canada** - Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication - [www.eecom.org](http://www.eecom.org)
- May 21-23, 2010, Halifax, Canada** – Nova Scotia Nature Trust runs for land conservation ScotiaBank Bluenose Marathon – [www.nsnt.ca](http://www.nsnt.ca)
- May 21, 2010, Truro, Canada** – *Muk Nqatmu Wetaptu' tip* (Leave No Footprint) Book Launch
- May 21-22, 2010, N.Y., U.S.A.** – International Day for Biological Diversity at the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues – [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii)
- May 22, 2010, Earth** – International Day for Biological Diversity - [www.cbd.int/idb](http://www.cbd.int/idb)
- May 22, 2010, P.E.I., Canada** – Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association Green Wave Tree Planting Initiative [www.bbema.ca](http://www.bbema.ca)
- May 22, 2010, Knowlesville, Canada** – Falls Brook Centre Biodiversity Appreciation Event – [www.fallsbrookcentre.ca](http://www.fallsbrookcentre.ca)
- May 22-24, 2010, Ottawa, Canada** – Canadian Museum of Nature: Grand Reopening - [www.nature.ca](http://www.nature.ca)
- May 24-28, 2010, Montevideo, Uruguay** – 4th Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - [www.gefweb.com](http://www.gefweb.com)
- May 24-28, 2010, Nairobi, Kenya** – Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the CBD - [www.cbd.int/wgri3/](http://www.cbd.int/wgri3/)
- May 30-June 5, 2010, Canada** – Canadian Environment Week - [www.ec.gc.ca/sce-cew](http://www.ec.gc.ca/sce-cew)
- May 31-June 5, 2010, Ottawa, Canada** – Biodiversity 2010 and Beyond - Science and Collections – [www.spnhc-cba2010.org](http://www.spnhc-cba2010.org)
- June 4, 2010, Halifax, Canada** – World Oceans Day festivities at the Halifax Waterfront
- June 5, 2010, Nairobi, Kenya** – World Environment Day - [www.unep.org/wed](http://www.unep.org/wed)
- June 8-13, 2010, Canada** – Rivers to Oceans Week – Oceans Day (June 8) and Rivers Day (June 13)
- June 8-10, 2010, Montreal, Canada** – International Congress on Biological and Cultural Diversity - [www.cbd.int/meetings/icbcd](http://www.cbd.int/meetings/icbcd)
- June 21, 2010, Canada** – National Aboriginal Day
- June 24, 2010, Brasilia, Brazil** – IYB Celebrations at the World Heritage Centre - [whc.unesco.org/en/activities/b18](http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/b18)
- June 25-27, 2010, Huntsville, Canada** – G8 Summit - [www.town.huntsville.on.ca/residents/G8\\_Summit2010.htm](http://www.town.huntsville.on.ca/residents/G8_Summit2010.htm)
- July 1, 2010, New York, U.S.A.** – IYB Celebrations at High-Level Segment of ECOSOC - [www.un.org/ecosoc](http://www.un.org/ecosoc)
- July 3-7, 2010, Edmonton, Canada** – Conservation for a Changing Planet - [www.conbio.org](http://www.conbio.org)
- July 17, 2010, Canada** – Canada's Parks Day - [www.parksday.ca](http://www.parksday.ca)
- July 24, 2010, Montreal, Canada** – Launch of two year expedition on Biodiversity by Jean Lemire – [www.glacialis.tv](http://www.glacialis.tv)
- July 25-29, 2010, Charlottetown, Canada** – Coastal Zone Canada 2010 - [www.czca-azcc.org](http://www.czca-azcc.org)

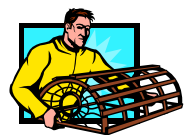
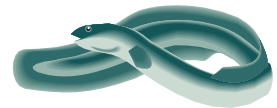


Throughout the months of January, February and March 2010, the MAARS Staff attended many Fishery: Stakeholders/ Advisory/ Committee/ Area Meetings, Science Workshops, Oceans Planning & Management Sessions.

Listed is a very small sample of predictable interfaces between MAARS and the Fishing Industry, Government and Science.



1. NB AMDO Barry LaBillois and PEI AMDO Naomi Crane meet with DFO to discuss the Atlantic Lobster Sustainability Measures (ALSM) program
2. NS AMDO Franz Kesick attends a SF Shrimp Advisory Committee Meeting to discuss the shrimp fishing plan, quotas and shrimp season
3. PEI AMDO Naomi Crane and NB AMDO Barry LaBillois attend a CITES workshop to determine if Bluefin Tuna should be added to the list
4. MAPC MAARS staff with the Presidents and Chiefs for each Native Council and their ACCFE Managers participate in a Marine Protected Area (MPA) workshop presented by experts, the workshop was hosted by the MAPC MAARS staff
5. MAARS Director Roger Hunka, NS AMDO Franz Kesick and NB AMDO Barry LaBillois attend a Canadian Standards Association “Reducing your Organizational Environmental Impact”
6. MAARS Director Roger Hunka, NS AMDO Franz Kesick, IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely and NB AMDO Barry LaBillois attend an Environment Canada “Climate Change Workshop” to discuss carbon offset trading
7. MAARS CDIL Brett Bancroft and NS AMDO Franz Kesick attend an Environment Canada workshop titled “Project Wet”
8. PEI AMDO Naomi Crane attends the Snow Crab advisory meeting
9. IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely, MAARS SCAA Mary Rose Watts, NS AMDO Franz Kesick and MAARS CDIL Brett Bancroft attend the NSEN Eco-Hero Awards where IKANAWTIKET was awarded the 2010 Marshal Award
10. IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely and MAPC MAARS staff host Youth ARISES 2010 in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia
11. IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely and MAPC MAARS Director Roger Hunka visit the Department of Fisheries and Oceans National SARA office in Ottawa , Ontario, for a meet and greet
12. MAPC MAARS Director Roger Hunka and IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely attend the National Invasive Species Forum, Ottawa, Ontario



# Netawek Ikkikum

Voice of the Ocean

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- YOUTH ARISES 2010
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- A message from the Convention on Biological Diversity Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif
- 2010 International Year of Biodiversity
- Marine Protected Areas
- Winter Skate rejected
- 2010 Snow Crab Management Plan
- Project Wet
- Upcoming events and dates every one should know

Netawek Ikkikum is 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 MAARS or any of its partner Councils with which the writers or Netawek Ikkikum is affiliated with or a part of.

Vol. 5 Issue 4, March 2010



Celebrate May 22, 2010, in the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

### Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

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

MARITIME ABORIGINAL PEOPLES COUNCIL-COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT BODY

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

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