

Ne'tawe'k Ikjikum

Voice of the Ocean

MAARS Quarterly Communiqué

Vol. 2 Issue 2, September 2006

Does *economic development* influence the decision making process? Does *social progress* move the decision making process? Does *environmental integrity* impact the decision making process? Is SARA the only legislative source for expressing Canadian values and aspirations for our living environments?

The Eastern Scotian Shelf Population of Winter Skate (ESSPofWS) is a good measure for these questions.

COSEWIC, the independent body of scientific advisors, has determined that listing is necessary. DFO Gulf Region and Maritimes Region, to their credit, engaged in public discussions about the ESSPofWS to help them prepare a Social Economic Impact Statement (SEIS). Soon thereafter, a Power Point presentation on the statement document to be forwarded to the Minister was made. DFO invited Stakeholders and Rightsholders to comment on four possible options.

MAARS suggested a fifth option should be considered. Allow for a reasoned, progressive approach.

To understand the fifth option, let us look at some facts: In the Eastern Scotian Shelf area, there is one Winter Skate license holder, one Quahog Clam license holder, three Sea Cucumber licenses, some mobile gear interfaces, other licenses, and a few shrimp.

Reproduction of Winter Skate involves producing six to fifty purses, with one egg per purse. The purses are anchored to the benthos. It takes about twenty-two months for the eggs to develop.

Could bottom dragging for Quahog or Sea Cucumber or bottom autotrawling for clam

or scallop destroy a Winter Skate purse? What are the chances of a purse getting destroyed when it is anchored in the same spot for twenty-two months and dragged over?

The excellent Power Point SEIS considered "*Economic wealth creation*". The elements of *social progress* and *environmental integrity* were less prominent. What about ecosystem value, bequest value, existence of Winter Skate, and human harvesting activities?

SARA is a legislation which helps Canadians think about practical solutions and approaches. SARA challenges and helps Canadians develop and nurture a new broad based ethic or world view on how to use, treat, and protect the integrity of our living environments now and for future generations.

Let us not think of economic development, social progress, or environmental integrity as singular elements. Rather, combine them to be considered one element in the decision making process.

We suggest a fifth option is available. The competent Minister draws on two sources of legislative authorities--SARA and the Fisheries Act. The DFO Minister can impose harvesting gear restrictions. Ban raking or dragging for Quahog, Clams, scallop, and Sea Cucumber. Cancel the one Winter Skate license. Allow the other, less destructive, fisheries to continue with monitoring their bycatch of Winter Skate.

Consider *social progress*, *economic development*, and *environmental integrity* equally in a decision to leave the Eastern Scotian Shelf Population of Winter Skate as our legacy for future generations.



MAARS OARB



Article by team member Franz Kesick



Pictured is Dr. Sala on the right with Daniel Ricard of Dalhousie University.

On July 19, MAARS OARB, Amanda Facey, and Nova Scotia CARDA, Franz Kesick, attended the seminar entitled "Degradation and Recovery of Coral Reefs Across an Extreme Gradient of Human Disturbance" held at Dalhousie University's Biology Department in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The seminar was presented by Associate Professor Dr. Enric Sala of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California.



Herring Federation Area 16F Advisory Committee Meeting

Article by team member Franz Kesick

On July 5, 2006, Nova Scotia CARDA, Franz Kesick, attended the Herring Federation Area 16F Advisory Committee meeting in New Glasgow. The meeting was called to update stakeholders about the long term vision exercise for the herring fishery and to discuss the terms and conditions of the Herring fishing season for the summer and fall of 2006.



Pictured from left to right: Camille Poirier C&P Supervisor Pictou Office, Paul Boyd A/Chief Resource Management, Janet Smith Resource Management and Alain Hebert Senior Advisor, Pelagics (standing).

Thank You from the MAARS Partners and Community!

Article by team member Franz Kesick



From left to right, NS MAARS CARDA Franz Kesick, Ms. Julie Martin, Ms. Martha Martin, and PEI MAARS CARDA Tim Hainer.

Ms. Julie Martin and her daughter Martha were special guests at the 2006 COADY Participants Opening Social held at the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University on July 6, 2006.

The Jack & Mary Martin Bursary, supported through a donation of the COMART Foundation, is awarded to Aboriginal students accepted to attend St. FX.

In the 2005-2006 year, MAARS team CARDA's, Franz Kesick and Tim Hainer, received the bursary and attended the "Advocacy and Citizenship Engagement Program".



**THE
COADY INSTITUTE
2006 DIPLOMA PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS OPENING SOCIAL**

Article by team member Franz Kesick



Keptin Frank Nevin of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council was invited to participate in the opening ceremonies for the 2006 COADY Institute Diploma Program. The Opening Social included a special opening by Keptin Nevin, the first time for the Mi'kmaq Grand Council, to greet forty-one students from eighteen countries attending as participants to the diploma program.

Keptin Nevin drummed and sang three Mi'kmaq honour songs to the student participants, staff, and guests. He also presented Mary Coyle, Director of the Coady International Institute and Vice President of St. Francis Xavier University, with an offering of tobacco for its care and use. Keptin Nevin passed the tobacco to Mary Coyle with a message to the program participants. Should they experience any hardship throughout their stay or studies they should visit Ms. Coyle, who will share this tobacco to remind them of their purpose, their family, their friends, and the courage to succeed.



SAR Ikanawtiket

Another MAPC Regional Initiative

Joshua McNeely recently joined the MAPC team as the Species at Risk Ikanawtiket (Pathfinder) Regional Facilitator. Joshua is originally from Monticello, Indiana, and currently resides with his wife and two cats in Amherst, Nova Scotia. He is a recent graduate of Mount Allison University with a B. Sc. in Biology and Chemistry and is a member of the Society for Conservation Biology and the National Eagle Scout Association (Boy Scouts of America).



Joshua's work history has been quite varied, ranging from administrative to physically demanding work. For the past few years he has worked for the Cumberland County River Enhancement Association, a community based, non-profit habitat restoration organization, conducting on-the-ground field work in support of recovery and preservation efforts for Atlantic Salmon and native Brook Trout. Joshua also spent four years in the U.S. Navy, predominately in Bremerton, Washington in a number of roles from administrative clerk/supervisor to security officer. Aside from attending university, he also has worked with and/or for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Environment, Oxford Frozen Foods, and an environmental laboratory.

Like his work life, Joshua's personal interests are quite varied. He loves exploring, science, and history and examining how people inter-relate through culture, religion, and politics. Joshua hopes to use his organic approach to life to build a strong and lasting Ikanawtiket Program.



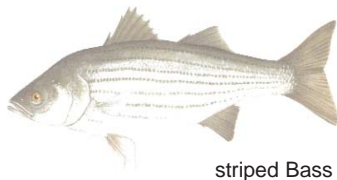
MAPC-MAARS and DFO Meeting on SARA

Article by MAARS team member Tim Hainer

On July 5th, 2006, the three CARDAs, the Oceans and Aquatic Resources Biologist, and the Director of the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council, Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAPC-MAARS) and the Chiefs of the three Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Representative Organizations (APROs): New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, Native Council of Nova Scotia and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island convened a joint SARA listing information meeting at the MAPC-MAARS office in Truro, Nova Scotia. DFO officials involved with SARA provided information about three proposed candidates for listing.

DFO representatives included Linda Hunt, Greg Stevens, Verna Docherty, Rejean Hebert, Tim Lutzac, Anne Harrington, Brian Francis and Adrien Vautour.

DFO representatives presented a Power Point overview about the three aquatic species and their individual populations with comments about the proposed listings as designated by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Proposed for listing are: the Bay of Fundy and Miramichi populations of striped bass, the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, Eastern Scotian Shelf, and Georges Bank-Western Scotian Shelf-Bay of Fundy and Northern Gulf-Newfoundland Winter Skate populations, and the shortnose sturgeon.



striped Bass

Briefly, on the

striped bass: our traditional ancestral homeland community of Aboriginal Peoples, as represented by the three Native Councils and their regional intergovernmental organization, MAPC, determined the COSEWIC assessment and status report to be deficient.

The issue was expressed by the Council Leaders that the Bay of Fundy population of striped bass assessment is lacking local information. Local sources of information need to be sought for this

population. Our Native Council Community recommended that the assessment and status report be sent back to COSEWIC for further assessment and additional research should be considered with the involvement of Native Councils.



Winter Skate

The COSEWIC assessment as presented and overviewed by DFO and the status report for the Eastern Scotian Shelf population of Winter Skate was thought sufficient by our communities. It was acknowledged that the economic impact of listing this species as threatened on emerging Aboriginal groundfish fisheries in the Eastern Scotia Shelf and Southern Gulf regions would be high. The Councils requested to be involved in a review of the Socio-Economic Impact Statement (SEIS).



Shortnose Sturgeon

The review of the COSEWIC assessment and status report for the Saint John River Shortnose Sturgeon population and the maintenance of its listing status as being one of special concern is viewed appropriate by our Councils.

Beyond the discussions surrounding the species assessment and status reports, four general recommendations regarding the DFO SARA consultation process were passed to the attention of DFO SARA officials in attendance by the Councils.

1. A formal arrangement or acknowledgement for collaboration and cooperation between Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and our Aboriginal Native Councils on Species at Risk



needs to be built and promoted.

2. There is no Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) protocol or policy in place for the management of, or receiving and sharing of, ATK. This needs to be developed.

3. There is no memorandum of understanding between Aboriginal Peoples and DFO for building capacity within Aboriginal organizations and communities to enable Aboriginal Peoples to have secure, long term, meaningful participation in the SARA process and accompanying SARA activities.

4. There must be consultation mechanisms and support processes in place to deal with issues, concerns, needs and interests of Aboriginal Peoples while respecting existing protocols as to the

preferred level and manner of consultation.

The Species at Risk Act goal is to engage Canadians to work towards preventing indigenous species from becoming extirpated or extinct in Canada and involve citizens in species designations, developing recovery strategies, and implementing action plans.

SARA is the first Act to recognize the essential role that Aboriginal Peoples can and do have in protecting natural life resources.

Given the significance and breadth of the Species at Risk Act, and the potential roles and activities that Aboriginal Peoples can play, due diligence by the Traditional Homeland Aboriginal Peoples of the Maritimes for meaningful SARA participation is paramount.

As the work of COSEWIC and responsible Government Departments progresses on SARA initiatives, the Aboriginal Peoples should also be assisted to continue working towards the preservation of Canada's species at risk in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration.



MAPC-MAARS, DFO, and APRO/Native Council Community representatives at the MAPC-MAARS/DFO SARA meeting on July 5, 2006.

To List or Not to List under SARA Eastern Scotian Shelf Population of Winter Skate

Article by team member Amanda Facey

On September 18, MAARS Director, Roger Hunka, NS Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisor, Franz Kesick, MAARS Oceans & Aquatic Resources Biologist, Amanda Facey, and MAPC Species at Risk Ikanawtiket (Pathfinder), Joshua McNeely, attended meeting at the Future Inn in Halifax on the proposed listing of the Winter Skate under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

There are four populations of winter skate in Canada:

1. Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population;
2. Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence/Newfoundland population;
3. Eastern Scotian Shelf population;

4. Georges Bank/Western Scotian Shelf/Bay of Fundy population.

This meeting focused on the Eastern Scotian Shelf population, which the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessed as **threatened**. This population falls under the jurisdiction of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Maritimes Region. This consultation was held to specifically discuss the potential socio-economic impacts of listing this population of Winter Skate under SARA.

Up to 2005, the winter skate quota was 200 tonnes in the Eastern Scotian Shelf area, and

Winter Skate Continued on Page 14.



SAR IKANAWTIKET

Informing  Educating  Linking  Partnering  Involving  Co-ordinating

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Our community of Aboriginal Peoples continuing on Traditional Ancestral Homelands throughout the Maritime Region need a dedicated person, a pathfinder, to bridge the knowledge gap between our community and all other stakeholders and decision makers involved with the Species At Risk Act (SARA).

The Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS), the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC), the Native Council of PEI (NCPEI), Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Gulf and Scotia Fundy Region (DFO), and Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service (EC-CWS), recently agreed to support and work collaboratively through the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC) with the launch of a regional pilot focal point initiative called "SAR IKANAWTIKET".

Ikanawtiket (ee-gone-aawh-dee-get) means to find a path (pathfinder) in Mi'kmaq. Species at Risk Ikanawtiket will help the Native Councils and the Native Councils' Community members find our preferred path through the many choices available to us in the implementation of the SARA throughout Mi'kma'ki.







There are many activities underway throughout the Maritimes, Canada, and the world, involving many people from diverse backgrounds. We all need to work towards saving our planet from our neglect and mistreatment.

As Aboriginal Peoples living on our traditional ancestral homelands, Mi'kma'ki, for thousands of years, we have either direct knowledge or a keen sense and understanding about our lands (our world view) which we may choose to share among ourselves and/or with others.

SARA, Canada's Biodiversity Strategy, several Articles of the United Nations Convention on

Biological Diversity, and other international instruments and conventions as well as many Canadian Environmental Interests, recognize and want to promote learning, sharing, and partnering and involvement with the Aboriginal Peoples throughout the world, including the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada.

Some ways in which the MAPC Ikanawtiket initiative can work with you to help fulfill our responsibility to species at risk are to:

-  Hold sessions to **inform** you and/or others about SARA and the processes of assessing and recovering species at risk;
-  Help to develop, design, produce, or conduct **educational** sessions specially geared toward the transfer of traditional knowledge from elder to youth;
-  Help establish a network of **links** throughout the maze of organizations already actively involved in species at risk;
-  **Partner** you with other elders, educators, program managers, recovery teams, scientists, government employees, etc.;
-  Help **involve** Aboriginal Peoples, especially youth and elders, in assessing and recovering wildlife;
-  **Co-ordinate** information about activities to help ensure our Aboriginal Peoples' input into species at risk activities are meaningful and respected.

For this large undertaking, MAPC has hired Joshua McNeely. Joshua hopes to use his organic approach to life to build a strong and lasting Ikanawtiket program.



The Ikanawtiket will have a regular column in the NCNS Taliaq Mi'kma'ki, the NBAPC Mal-i-Mic News, the NCPEI Gigmanag, and the MAPC-MAARS Ne'tawe'k Ikkikum.

The column will feature articles on local species at risk, ideas on how to be involved, and links to other SARA stakeholders in the Maritimes.

Treat the Earth Well;

We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

--Ancient Proverb

AMEC Presents an Overview of EOAR

Article by MAARS team members Tim Hainer, Barry LaBillois, and Franz Kesick

AMEC Earth and Environmental Project consultants for the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Overview and Assessment Report (EOAR) visited the offices of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS), in Truro, N.S on July 10th, 2006.

AMEC representatives, Jacques Paynter and Jamey Smith, provided a Power Point presentation of the EOAR process. MAARS Implementation Secretariate Director, Roger Hunka, Community Aquatic Resource Developments Advisors (CARDA's) Tim Hainer, Franz Kesick and Barry LaBillois and the MAARS Oceans and Aquatic Resources Biologist (OARB) Amanda Facey were in attendance at the presentation.

For the opening, the MAARS director provided an extensive overview of MAARS work, goals and initiatives, the three Native Council partners and a history of the council's regional intergovernmental organization, the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council.

Following the introduction, the AMEC team presented the EOAR project objectives, scope and deliverables, the AMEC team roles and responsibilities, and a description of the technical review committees. A succinct update on the project status with regards to the data library, Northumberland Strait EOAR web site, the biota, habitat, governance and socio-economics technical committee consultations' intent was also reviewed.

The presentation concluded with an outline of the 'next steps'.



Back Row: Jayme Smith, Roger Hunka, Jacques Paynter, Tim Hainer; Front Row: Barry LaBillois, Amanda Facey, Franz Kesick

At the end of the presentation, the issues raised by MAARS included:

1. There is a need for a process to invite and encourage Aboriginal consultation and involvement throughout the EOAR process, particularly with respect to the involvement of MAARS Native Council communities;
2. The EOAR process must invite Native Council Aboriginal participation in the technical committees' work;
3. The EOAR should seriously consider the inclusion of social and cultural intrinsic values for ocean users and the coastal community. The ecumane of the living resources must be reflected in the EOAR process and acknowledged as a reality.

MAARS CARDA Tim Hainer will be the MAARS lead on this initiative.



Co-operative Ecosystem Study Units (CESU)

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

MAARS Director Roger Hunka, OARB Amanda Facey, and Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely met with Dr. Stephen Flemming, Ecosystem Scientist (Species at Risk Recovery) from the Atlantic Service Centre (Parks Canada) on August 24th.

Dr. Flemming is advancing a new Parks Canada initiative termed "Co-operative Ecosystem Study Units (CESUs)", a network which will facilitate multidisciplinary involvement and research on environmental matters throughout a whole landscape approach (ecolandscape management). The Atlantic Region will be the pilot area for this new initiative which is still in the conceptual planning stages. Dr. Flemming will be giving formal presentations about the CESU Network starting in November. An article about CESUs will be featured in the next newsletter.



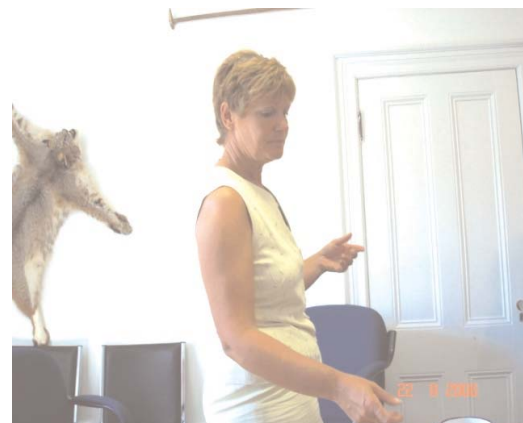
Dr. Flemming explaining Co-operative Ecosystem Study Units to Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely, Director Roger Hunka, and OARB Amanda Facey

Self-Employed Fishermen and EI

Article by MAARS team member Franz Kesick

On August 23, 2006, Roger Hunka, MAPC/MAARS Director, raised and discussed with Tim Martin, Manager of Mime'j Seafoods Ltd., several key questions which were then addressed to Debbie Young about Employment Insurance. Roger Hunka, Tim Martin, Doug MacLeod, Barry LaBillois, Tim Hainer, and Franz Kesick attended the presentation by Ms. Debbie Young, (pictured on the right) Public Liason Officer with Service Canada.

Ms. Young presented an informative Power Point and convened a good discussion with several answers about "Self-Employed" fishers and the Employment Insurance Act. This information will provide best practice knowledge to the self-employed Aboriginal venture fishers contracting within the Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries Entities of the three Native Councils for Community economic development.





Charlottetown Summit, July 31, 2006

Article by team member Barry LaBillois.

On Monday July 31 2006 MAPC/MAARS Director Roger Hunka, Jamie Gallant, Chief and President of Native council of Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick CARDA's, Franz Kesick and Barry LaBillois, attended the Minister's Fishery Summit, convened at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

The Summit was called to discuss the economic and environmental issues and downturn in the Northumberland Strait fishery. The Summit was historic in the sense that it was a meeting of First Ministers of Fisheries, which included the Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Honourable Jim Bagnall, Minister of PEI Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, the Honourable Ron Chisholm, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Nova Scotia, and the Honourable David Alward, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, New Brunswick.

Summit participation was by invitation only and included industry, political, government, and community leaders from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Federal Government. All stakeholders' organizations in attendance were provided the opportunity to make a short presentation (7 minutes).

The Summit was called to identify solutions to the key economic challenges facing the Northumberland Strait fishery in 2006 and beyond, and to identify and initiate a course for strategic direction and policy measures. This would include actions to be undertaken for industry renewal that will result in an economically and ecologically sustainable fishery into the future. It is anticipated that the lobster forum will identify several of the key factors that are contributing to the economic challenges facing fishing enterprises in the Northumberland Strait.

It is also expected that the results of the Summit will lead to actions and a commitment to identify next steps, assign and delegate tasks to sub-committee's or working groups, and establish a strong structural framework where the tasks can be carried out and

and presented to the Ministers in a follow up Summit.

Two key questions for consideration were asked of the participants prior to the meeting and to keep the presenters focused on the theme; they were:

1. What are the key economic issues and challenges that face the fishery in the Northumberland Strait?
2. Is the current fishing model economically sustainable? If not what are the required changes which we can collectively implement to improve the economic situation?

Some of the comments and concerns expressed by participants at the Summit were:

- *Some of the lobster fishers have not put their traps in the water as they feel it is a lost cause;
- *Better co-ordination in decision making;
- *Too much fishing effort for available aquatic resources;
- *Owner operator policy;
- *Trust agreements;
- *Pollution and Ecosystem Changes;
- *Protection and enforcement and lack of it in areas;
- *Compensation and buyback schemes for the fishermen;
- *Increased amount of siltation in the Strait contributing to degradation of habitat.

The Northumberland Strait and the decline of the fishery within the area did not happen over night. The cause cannot be blamed on one Government or one interest group. The problems are multiple and so must be the solutions.



THE ATLANTIC VETERINARY COLLEGE 3RD ANNUAL

NS Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisor, Franz Kesick, and MAARS Oceans & Aquatic Resources Biologist, Amanda Facey, attended the Atlantic Veterinary College 3rd Annual Lobster Science Workshop, which was held July 26 and 27 at the Delta Prince Edward in Charlottetown, PEI. The theme for the workshop was Marine Ecosystem Health: Crustaceans and their Environment. The Atlantic Veterinary College Lobster Science Centre (AVCLSC), which has become the leading research organization on lobster health, hosted the event.

The workshop opened with an introduction and welcome from the PEI Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister, Jim Bagnall. Two scientists from the AVCLSC began the presentations.

Dr. Andrea Battison spoke on ecosystem health and using lobster as an indicator species followed by Dr. Richard Cawthorn giving an overview of lobster shell disease.

Natasha MacDonald, an analyst programmer at the AVCLSC, then gave a live demonstration of the Molt & Quality Monitoring Project website (www.lobsterscience.ca/molt). A data analyst with the Fishermen & Scientists Research Society, Aaron Retzlaff, spoke on lobster blood protein levels in relation to collection depth and temperature variation, which prompted many questions from some of the fishers in the audience.



LOBSTER SCIENCE WORKSHOP



Article by MAARS team member Amanda Facey

The afternoon sessions convened with a keynote speaker, Gordon Fader of the Geological Survey of Canada, speaking on the application of multibeam bathymetric mapping to a wide variety of seabed issues, including beach erosion and seabed habitat in PEI, the Gully marine protected area and the Halifax Harbour cleanup. A presentation on marine invasive species in Atlantic Canada was given by Dr. Andrea Locke of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), followed by Dr. Edwin DeMont of St. Francis Xavier University talking about his research on the potential impact of the energy sector on crustacean locomotion. A presentation on drift, growth and survival of lobster larvae around PEI was given by Dr. Joël Chassé, also of DFO. The second keynote speaker, and final presentation of the workshop, was Dr. Richard Wahle of the Bigelow Laboratory for Oceans Sciences in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, talking about detecting the impact of disease on New England lobster populations.

The Lobster Science Workshop was very interesting and informative. It is an excellent way for stakeholders to remain aware of developments in lobster research and various issues that affect the industry, voice their concerns and make connections. For information on the AVCLSW, go to <http://www.lobsterscience.ca>.





New to our MAARS Library



Some knowledge acquired by the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate General and Technical Information Database and Research Library and Repository include:

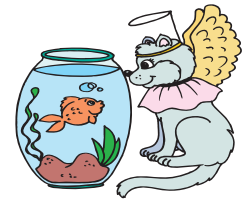
*Schubert, R (et al.) 2006. *The Future Oceans--Warming up, Rising High, Turning Sour*. German Advisory Council on Climate Change.

*Voluntary Sector Initiative. 2003. *The Rubber and the Road : A Workbook for Implementing the Codes of Good Practice*. Voluntary Sector Affairs Directorate, Canadian Heritage, and the Voluntary Sector Forum.

*Voluntary Sector Initiative. 2003. *Taking the Accord Forward : The First Report to Canadians on Implementing an Accord Between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector*. Voluntary Sector.

*Voluntary Sector Initiative. 2004. *The Journey Continues : The Second Report to Canadians on Implementing an Accord between the Government of Canada and the Voluntary Sector*. Voluntary Sector.

*Aitkin, Stephen, ed. *Biodiversity*. Tropical Conservancy.



*Matching Native Council Fisheries
With Science and Research*

Article by team member Franz Kesick



Mime'j Seafoods Ltd, the Native Council of Nova Scotia Communal Commercial Fishery Entity, has been participating with Dr. Dave Brickman, Research Scientist at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, in collecting data on the Eastern Scotian Shelf on the different temperatures at various depths. The Mini-logger records depths and temperatures at ten minute intervals while attached to Snow-Crab traps. Pictured above on the left is the Mini-Logger and the equipment used to attach it to the Snow-crab trap. On the right is the module used to transmit the recorded data to the computers for it's final upload to Dr. Brickman.

Also planned would be to attach this equipment in other strategic fisheries. MAARS anticipates that this and other collaborative research efforts will develop and mature to everyone's benefit. Most importantly, the project will build on knowledge about the ocean on our Atlantic sea coasts.



Charlottetown Summit continued from Page 9.

Short and long term solutions have to be raised, fleshed out, and a commitment made by all to follow an action plan.

The Fisheries Minister of Canada, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture in Prince Edward Island, the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nova Scotia, and the Minister Agriculture, Fisheries, and Aquaculture in New Brunswick committed at the Summit to strike up three task force committees which will be charged to address some of the issues identified at the Summit:



1. An understanding of the Northumberland Strait habitat, measures for its protection, and enhancement.
2. Economic issues, fisheries viability, sustainability, and marketing, including exploring value added approaches to the fishery resources.
3. Exploring alternative management approaches to the whole Northumberland Strait, which shores the three Maritime provinces and affects fishers from each of the three Maritime provinces.



MAARS

BRIDGING

THE GAP

Article by MAARS Director Roger Hunka

Truro, Thursday, August 24, Roger Hunka, Director of MAARS, met with Rhiel Vienneau, Director of Resource Management, Gulf Region, Tracey Isaac-Mann Crosby, Aboriginal Fisheries, and Marc LeCouffe, Resource Management Officer, at an informal, introductory meeting discussing the MAARS Partners Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishing Entities of the three Maritime Region Native Councils.

The meeting identified some gaps which need to be worked on as well as the best approaches to help establish good, predictable relationships between the Native Councils' Communal Commercial Fisheries Entities and the Gulf Region. Roger knows that there are a lot of dedicated, knowledgeable persons at DFO Gulf Region. The Native Councils need to meet more frequently and succinctly identify issues, concerns, or opportunities and, more importantly, work out approaches and solutions with the Gulf Region on access and harvesting.

Working together will bring the Native Councils closer to their goal of achieving the communities' rightful share of Atlantic Aquatic Resources for the sustained economic growth of the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples continuing on Traditional Ancestral Homelands.



DEEP PANUKE INTRODUCTION SESSION

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

On August 11, 2006, EnCana's consultant representatives from Jacques Whitford and Hurley Environment Ltd. attended a meeting at the MAARS offices to share preliminary information about the Deep Panuke Project (an offshore natural gas project on the Canada/Nova Scotia offshore). Plans call for the drilling and/or re-entry of up to nine wells and the pumping of up to 300 Mscfd (million standard cubic feet per day) of natural gas over an eight to fifteen year period, starting in 2009.

EnCana previously received an approval for a project in 2002, which it withdrew from. This project is somewhat similar with a 176 km, 22 inch pipeline extending to the Goldboro gas plant in Goldboro, Nova Scotia, from a mobile unit. Re-evaluation of the project now includes two pipeline options-- a mobile offshore production unit and a potential fifteen kilometre, 20 inch pipeline to tie-in with the existing Exxon-Mobile pipeline of the Sable Gas Project.

MAARS advised the consultants that the Native Council of Nova Scotia requests and requires a meaningful consultation process between it and EnCana. Also, MAARS raised to the consultants that Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries are conducted in that area. The project is close to snow crab, swordfish, and tuna fisheries. MAARS expressed the concern that having to deal with two options is a very taxing matter, which could only complicate a very fast paced approval process which involves many regulatory authorities (RA's), including the National Energy Board (NEB). It would make sense for EnCana to move negotiations with Exxon Mobile to give everyone some idea as to which option is the most likely.

The MAARS team commended the consultants forethought to at least contact the NCNS about this venture in its early stages. MAARS reminded EnCana that rights holders still have to be convinced about EnCana's corporate environmental record on the east coast.

The Consultants for EnCana assured the MAARS team that they have done everything feasible to reduce the ecological footprint. The decommissioning of the old platform left 10 km of pipeline buried in the seabed. The MAARS team suggested that EnCana consider a new environment approach.

Firmly adopt, in both principle and practice, activities that are ecologically friendly rather than leave a permanent footprint, strive towards making and leaving a good **"life living impression"** on the ocean environment.



EnCana should consider investing in developing an easily extracted pipeline to complement their new mobile platform approach for extraction of gas and set a new industry standard in offshore gas and oil extraction.

EnCana has the opportunity, with this project, to be mobile, effective, economically and ecologically friendly and leave a sustainable, **"life living impression"** on the ocean environment.

The MAARS team also suggested that EnCana establish a process with the Native Council, to engage the NCNS Community, and ENCANA in this project throughout the project term.

To learn more about EnCana and the Deep Panuke Project, visit EnCana at www.encana.com and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca. To follow the process, visit the CNSOPB at www.cnsopb.ns.ca by going to "Environment", "Public Registry", and then clicking the "Deep Panuke Project".



Environmental and Ecosystem Histories in the Northwest Atlantic: What influences Living Marine Resources?

Article by team member Amanda Facey

The Scientific Council of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held a symposium at the Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth, September 13-15. MAARS Oceans & Aquatic Resources Biologist, Amanda Facey, and NS Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisor, Franz Kesick, as well as MAPC Species at Risk Ikanawtiket (Pathfinder), Joshua McNeely, attended the symposium. NAFO is an intergovernmental fisheries science and management body. NAFO's overall objective is to contribute, through consultation and cooperation, to the optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the fisheries resources.

The title of the event was Environmental and Ecosystem Histories in the Northwest Atlantic - What Influences Living Marine Resources? The ecosystems considered cover all the NAFO subareas and include the ecosystems of Greenland (East/West), Labrador Shelf/Grand Banks, Scotian Shelf Banks, and the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank. The range of the symposium was to describe and compare these ecosystems considering their environmental and marine resources.



The Symposium had three themed sessions during which scientists from various countries presented relevant research. Session one included topics related to climatic, physical and biological factors affecting Northwest Atlantic ecosystems, and session two discussed dynamics of Northwest Atlantic ecosystems. The final session presented material comparing ecosystems and social and economic consequences of changes in the Northwest Atlantic ecosystems. For more information on NAFO visit <http://www.nafo.int/>.

Winter Skate, Continued from Page 5.

there was only one license holder in the directed Winter Skate fishery in 2005. Winter Skate is also caught as bycatch in the halibut, cod, haddock, pollock, flatfish, redfish and silver hake fisheries. It may also be caught as bycatch in the scallop and offshore clams fishery, as is the case in the US fishery on Georges Bank, and sea cucumber and mobile gear shrimp fisheries.

There are four management scenarios for the Eastern Scotian Shelf Winter Skate:

1. No listing, and the directed Skate fishery be closed;
2. No listing, and the directed Skate and all mobile gear groundfish in 4VW be closed;
3. Listing, directed Skate and all groundfish in 4VW be closed;

4. Listing, and directed Skate and all groundfish, scallop, offshore clams, sea cucumber and mobile gear shrimp in 4VW be closed.

Winter Skate have life history characteristics that result in a slow population growth rate. Also, the Information presented by DFO indicates that at the current high rate of adult mortality, recovery is not expected even if the directed and incidental catch is held to zero. Moreover, there is little room for human-induced mortality if this population is to recover and even then, recovery is not assured.

For more information on the Winter Skate visit www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/default_e.cfm.



DFO Communications Relay

Article submitted by Krista Petersen, Fisheries and Oceans Canada



A film crew from Canadian Geographic TV for Kids was in Elsipogtog in August filming for an upcoming episode on the community's salmon restoration project. Elsipogtog has been working with Parks Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre on the salmon, or 'plamu,' project. The TV episode will feature children from Elsipogtog who have been involved in the raising of young salmon parr and their release into the Richibucto River to try to improve stocks.



Band member and project leader Mary Jane Peters is pictured recording a scene with TV host Sid Bobb.



Happy Hallowe'en

Can't you tell...



"...I'm from the MAARS team."



"...I'm a MAARS team Tunicate."



Throughout the months of July, August, and September 2006, the MAARS CARDA's 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. SARA MAPC/DFO Meeting, Truro, Nova Scotia
2. 16 F Herring Advisory Committee Meeting, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia
3. Northumberland Strait Working Group, Moncton, New Brunswick
4. St. John River Management Advisory Committee Meeting, Fredericton, New Brunswick
5. Degradation and Recovery of Coral Reefs Across an Extreme Gradient of Human Disturbance, Halifax, Nova Scotia
6. Transboundary Management Guidelines, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
7. AVC Lobster Science Workshop, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
8. Charlottetown Summit on the fishing crisis, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
9. EnCana meeting about Deep Panuke, Truro, Nova Scotia
10. 2006 Swordfish Stock Assessment, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
11. Silverside Advisory Meeting, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
12. NAFO Symposium, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
13. Native Council of Nova Scotia 32nd Annual General Assembly, Truro, Nova Scotia
14. SARA Eastern Scotian Shelf Winter Skate Population SEIS Review, Halifax, Nova Scotia

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Ne'tawe'k Ikjikum is also available online.