

Netawek Ikkikum

Voice of the Ocean

Quarterly Newsletter of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate
Vol. 3 Issue 2, September 2007

Canada Votes Against the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

By MAARS Director Roger Hunka

On September 13, 2007, 143 nations voted to adopt the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The declaration is a product of over 25 years of debate, statesmanship and diplomacy. Eleven countries abstained for specific reasons. Only 4 nations voted against the Declaration; they are Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and Canada.

By voting against the United Nations Declaration, Canada sent the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada and the international community a statement indicating that Canada has no intention or any interest in declaring the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, or Indigenous Peoples of the World, worthy of dignity, capacity or merit as Peoples of Nations of Peoples.

The UN Declaration is just that – a declaration. It does not dismember Canada, nor affect the Canadian Constitution, nor create new laws. Voting for the UN Declaration announces within the international community a State recognizing that the ways of approaching and treating Aboriginal/Indigenous Peoples in the past, must change. Decision makers must be guided by principles and a mindset which acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples have merit, worth, capacity and dignity and are a part of the global community of humankind, sharing one earth.

It is shameful in this modern day, regardless of which party is in power, for Canada to deny a reality at an international forum. The social, economic, cultural and political situation of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, as in many parts of the world, is the most deplorable of all Peoples.

With its vote, Canada announced to the world that it will, with three other countries, continue on the path it has taken in the past;

- dispossession of Aboriginal lands and resources
- disinheritance of Aboriginal birthright and denial of the Aboriginal Peoples' history, reality, and national aspirations.

Continued from cover page:

We, as Aboriginal Peoples, are not going anywhere simply because we have nowhere else to go. This is our homeland. Canadians now find themselves, along with Australians, New Zealanders, and Americans, in an embarrassing and compromising situation.

Canadian decision makers, on September 13, 2007, have clearly brought into this generation of Canadians, the old colonial era policy and view of superiority, and imperial rule.

Policies and views which have filled countless pages, that recount the most sinister and indecent assaults on the Aboriginal Peoples here and throughout the world.

On September 13, 2007 Canada announced to the world that it will continue the assault of dispossession, disinheritance and denial of Aboriginal Peoples at home and abroad.



United Nations

General Assembly

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Agenda item 68

Report of the Human Rights Council

Belgium, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Latvia, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain: draft resolution

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Human Rights Council contained in its resolution 1/2 of 29 June 2006, by which the Council adopted the text of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 61/178 of 20 December 2006, by which it decided to defer consideration of and action on the Declaration to allow time for further consultations thereon, and also decided to conclude its consideration before the end of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly,

Adopts the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

Release Gear for Species At Risk

By MAARS Team Member Franz Kesick

Fisheries Management Plans are beginning to call for stricter rules on how Species at Risk that have been caught in various fishing gear are released. The mishandling of Species at Risk, when caught, can cause serious damage or even death when being released.

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), through their Amendment 18A of the “Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico”, would require sea turtle release gear and release protocols for various Species at Risk.



Tools for removing fishing gear from sea turtles

Please review NOAA’s Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-524 on their website, www.noaa.gov.

The Native Council of Nova Scotia’s (NCNS) Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishing Entity, Mime’J Seafoods, continually upgrades their fishing equipment in regards to the handling of any Species At Risk in the unlikely event they are caught.

Pictured above are devices used to release a turtle from a hook without having to “boat” the turtle. All professional harvesters harvesting with Mime’j Seafoods are trained in the use of these devices.

One of NOAA’s identified concerns in regards to turtles was the actual handling of the animal while attempting to release it. This device affords Mime’J Seafoods’ professional harvesters the opportunity to release the turtle while still in the water and thereby prevent any potential injury to the animal or crew while attempting to “boat” the animal.

NOAA also lists descriptions of approved release gear in the final rule implementing sea turtle bycatch and bycatch mortality mitigation measures for Atlantic pelagic longline vessels (69 FR40734).



Gulf New Brunswick Bluefin Tuna Conservation Harvest Management Plans

By MAARS Team Member Barry LaBillois

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), a commission comprised of 43 contracting parties, determines the allowable catch for tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas, including the Mediterranean Sea.

The 2007-2008 inshore fleet share of Western bluefin tuna for Canada was divided between the seven existing fleets from a total of 491.86 metric tonnes. Each of the fleets developed a harvest management plan which has historically not varied too much save to accommodate the quota. It should be noted that the quota does go down as the bluefin tuna resource declines.

The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC) and several Band Councils collectively account for over thirty-two licenses of the total 107 licences in the Gulf New Brunswick Fleet.

This is a unique situation where, of the seven fleets, the Gulf New Brunswick Aboriginal license holders account for almost thirty per cent (30%) of the fleet license holders, yet their involvement in development of the Gulf New Brunswick management plan has been peripheral at best.

Another oddity is the fact that when licenses were purchased for the Native Council and Band Councils for tuna, these licenses were from retired fishers. In other words, they were not used. After several years of training, mentoring, and involvement in the integrated tuna fishery, the Aboriginal People expect that these licenses would accrue a benefit for the community and they expect to fish the licenses.

DFO, although faced with an overall reduction of tuna for all the fleets, accommodated Gulf New Brunswick with an additional 8 tonnes.

An issue arose when it became evident that the harvesting plan for this fleet had not changed and, in essence, left the thirty-two Aboriginal



license holders in a “limbo situation as to access share”.

NBAPC, as a license holder, and several Band Council license holders, united to request that a bluefin tuna conservation harvest management plan should accommodate their aspirations and expectations and that of their communities. Several proposals were put forward, sometimes referred to as the Eighth Fleet, or more correctly, the Eighth Bluefin Tuna Conservation Harvest Management Plan for the thirty-two Aboriginal license holders.

On August 31, 2007, DFO republished the Gulf NB Conservation Harvesting Plan. Some aspirations of Aboriginal license holders were noted and a few accommodations were made as to vessel registration with an understanding that on September 23, the catches will be compiled and, if the weights of the tuna are less than the average weight used at the time of initial tag distribution, then additional tags will be issued on September 24.

Concurrent with this plan, negotiations are continuing to develop as a point of beginning a Gulf New Brunswick Aboriginal Bluefin Tuna Harvesting Plan. In effect, this would have Aboriginal harvesters integrating within the tuna fishery with their own developed and implementable harvesting plan within the context of the overall Canadian bluefin tuna quota.

The Duck Stops Here

By Species at Risk Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

The ducks may not be stopping in Canada on their next migration when they learn that the federal government has recently slashed the budget to bleed the life out of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS).

Protection of ducks, geese, and other migratory birds dates back almost 100 years in Canada to the 1916 *Migratory Bird Convention* between Canada and the U.S. and Canada's *Migratory Bird Convention Act of 1917*.

Since 1947, the Canadian Wildlife Service (formally the Dominion Wildlife Service) has been a stellar Canadian institution of conservation, research, advocacy, and education, not only for migratory birds, but for all manner of wildlife and natural environments. Through its numerous public outreach initiatives, school programs, public and private partnerships, and interpretative programs, CWS has instilled in many Canadians knowledge, wonder, and respect for the diverse natural world within Canada.

Many naturalists, environmentalists, wildlife biologists, and camping grounds, parks, and other sites operators, outdoor outfitters and entrepreneurs owe their beginnings to the environmental leadership of the CWS.

The foundation of the CWS is people, with knowledge and expertise, sharing a passion and connection with the natural world. The words of the renowned Canadian conservationist C. H. Clarke best describe the CWS mission:

***“were our land to loose its beaver,
its caribou, its loons, its wolves...
we would have lost our soul.”***

Which lesser men, with lesser aspirations, can assume the right to threaten or undermine this Canadian institution and rip away our identity as Canadians, our soul, and our



Sackville Waterfowl Park

interconnectedness to the natural world? The federal government has unilaterally determined to disband and destroy this Canadian institution.

For the past few years, CWS budgets and staff have been scaled back. In the Atlantic Region, CWS has only a few permanent full-time staff, a fraction of the staff required to run the numerous public programs of the CWS. Its Sackville, New Brunswick centre, designed to be an open public education experience with a nature library and displays as well as being interconnected with the Sackville Waterfowl Park, Mount Allison University, the Tantramar Wetlands Centre, and many other local and regional programs and institutions, has been redesigned by Ottawa to become another faceless government building, cut off from the public.

The centre, which used to be a focal point for the Sackville Waterfowl Park and an anticipated educational stopping point on the boardwalk, is now locked down in a security exclusion zone, amputated from the Waterfowl Park. Under these federally imposed budget cuts, our regional CWS offices, like the one in Sackville, will become little more than receptionists, unable to help and forced to pass Canadians off to the distant Environment Canada National Headquarters in Ottawa.

Federal program funding, such as the Habitat Stewardship Program, the Aboriginal Species at Risk Program, and many other programs

designed to support community projects cannot be delivered effectively, because of staff shortages both at the regional and national levels and we know what that leads to!

Now, slapping Canadians in the face, the federal government has once again slashed the budget of the CWS. Many CWS programs now have too little of a budget to function and other budgets, like the National Wildlife Areas program, are cancelled completely.

The Federal Government is not 'saving a few dollars', it is telling Canadians that their involvement in conservation is not important or wanted.

What will happen if we lose our National Wildlife Areas, our Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, the Hinterland Who's Who educational series, the Partners in Flight program, the Maritime Breeding Bird Survey, the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, the Christmas Bird Count, the Migratory Bird Conservation Program, the Habitat Stewardship Program, and the Aboriginal Species at Risk Program? All of these are administered by CWS or CWS led partnerships.

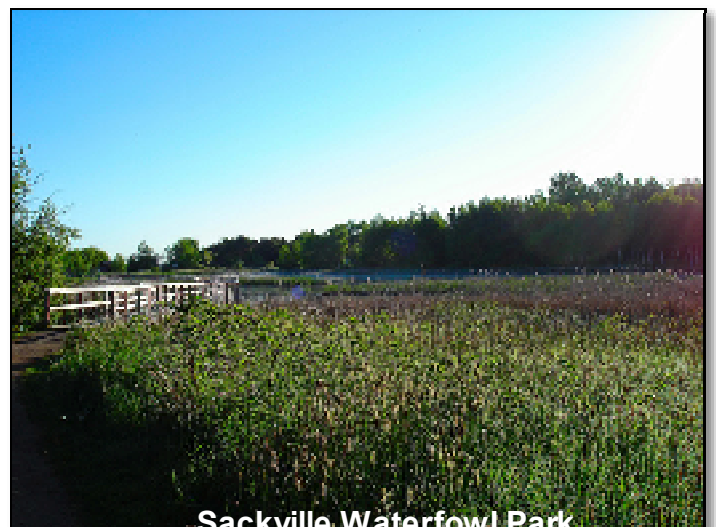
If we lose CWS and those programs, we would lose the very essence of what it means to be Canadian – from KA NA DA, 'place there'- a people interconnected with the land and water.

The federal government's systematic dismantling of the CWS frustrates many hard working Canadians, while others still are giving up.

This, in essence, is an attempt to kill the spirit of Canadian environmentalism – it will not succeed. Canada and our natural world is our identity. There is an intrinsic value which Canadians place on our environment and quality of our environment, which no government can take away or claim to have control over. Government may attempt to destroy the Canadian environmental spirit by relocating public funds to other activities, such as sponsoring a petroleum or mining industry conference, and crippling the CWS, but in the end, Canadians who value the environment and

Canadians involved in environmental work will show their displeasure, as they did with NAFTA. For generations, the Canadian Wildlife Service has become the bridge that has helped all Canadians (rural, urban, and concrete dwellers) to connect, link, inform, partner, involve, and educate Canadians and others about the natural world of Canada – the second largest country on Earth. A land mass so vast and biologically diverse, it makes industrialists and accountants drool, waiting to exploit its riches for a bag of coins.

I think C. H. Clarke would agree that these SAR sucking budget cuts by the federal government have taken away a part of our soul – a soul which is nurtured by a healthy living environment and which is championed by the CWS – a Canadian institution.



Sackville Waterfowl Park

We cannot allow any government, distant from people, nature, and life itself to destroy yet another great Canadian institution. To take away the railway has left Canadians with a monumental tax burden to pave and rework roads to handle heavy trucks. To do away with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation administered housing programs has created a large social nightmare in cities and rural areas throughout Canada – a growing homeless population. To abandon employment and immigration centers throughout Canada has left the Federal Government without firsthand knowledge about Canadians needs throughout Canada.

To take away the CWS will in a few years spawn a plastic Canadian People.

Governments should not on a whim and without public engagement or respect for Canadians, disband an institution built over countless decades. Aboriginal Peoples, at least those residing on Traditional Ancestral Homelands, are looking at this latest slash and burn action by the federal government and can only repeat what was said long ago:

“You are not of this land, not of this soil, not of this water, not of this air, not of a nation or country. That is why you have come to KA NA DA – to find yourself. As we respect you, we ask you to respect all that is around us, for that is what we are.”

The cuts to the Canadian Wildlife Service is not about Canada lacking public funds, it is about federal government lacking the vision and respect for our natural Canadian environment and the premier Canadian institution promoting our respect and understanding for our environment – the Canadian Wildlife Service.

- Demand the reinstatement of the required funding to the CWS – a Canadian institution and your institution.
- Fill out the enclosed postcard, sign your name, and drop it in the mailbox (the postage is free).
- Talk you your local MP; their addresses and phone numbers can be found in the blue pages of your telephone book under ‘Members of Parliament’ or on-line at <http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca>.

Ask yourself these questions: Do you understand what it means to be a Canadian interconnected and interdependent with the living natural world? Have you witnessed the vastness and diversity of Canada? Do you believe in an institution dedicated to providing lifelong learning about Canada’s living biodiversity?

Do you know the importance of a salt marsh? Do you know salt marsh grasses? Did you know that the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples, scientists, and students still conference among the salt grasses and black ducks?

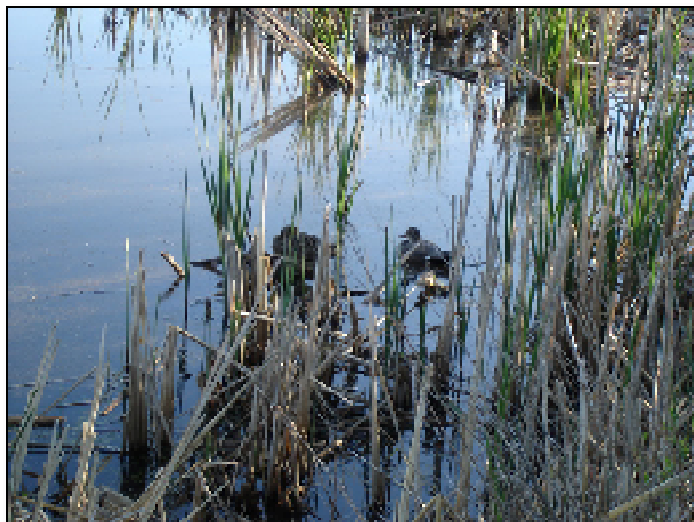
Have you ever felt the push of a tidal wave on your legs? Do you know the feeling of comradeship developed by being a steward or caretaker of Mother Earth? Do you know any Maritime community river enhancement volunteers, who immerse themselves in our babbling brooks, to learn, first hand, the river’s problems and gently help the river return to its past splendor?

Have you ever seen a loon? Do you know the Mi’kmaq legend for the loon’s necklace?

Do you know where the word KA NA DA (Canada) comes from? Do you know what KA NADA means in the Iroquoian language?

Do you know the cost of a bomb shell and its explosive force on the natural environment?

Do you believe that good citizenship, and the foundation of democracy, rests on a place that one can call home and the environmental quality that surrounds that home?



Fishicide

By MAARS Team Member Tim Hainer

In July the Dunk River and Tryon River on Prince Edward Island experienced fish kills. These incidents clearly exposed two distinct realities; PEI agriculture is striving for higher levels of productivity and, on the other hand, PEI citizens, including Aboriginal Peoples, are expecting a healthy and productive living environment with healthy rivers and fish. PEI potato producers have a history of inherently using pesticides and have, over the years, made efforts to reduce run-off. Unfortunately, appropriate measures were not taken by some farmers and approximately ten kilometers of stream habitat was poisoned with deadly pesticides which killed thousands of fish.

The Government of Prince Edward Island condemned the incidents and ordered six farmers to make changes to their fields.

Deficiencies in the PEI Environmental Protection Act were clearly identified. As a result, the Government of PEI is proposing to make legislative changes to the Act.

Throughout the public outcry regarding these latest two major fish kills and killing ten kilometres of river, the Aboriginal Peoples' views, issues, concerns, and interests were clearly absent. Neither the provincial government nor Island potato producers thought or took the time to ask how this river pollution and fish kill impacts our Aboriginal Food Fisheries. Killing of fish and killing a river affect us and are a form of abrogating and derogating our community's Aboriginal and Treaty Rights to access and use aquatic resources for food, social and ceremonial purposes as well as communal commercial purposes.

Beyond the obvious implication of pesticides killing rivers and killing thousands of fish, there is also the added dimension of social, economic, and cultural implications. The culture, language and spirit of the Mi'kmaq People are deeply rooted with the living



natural-life environment. A fish kill may be viewed as a simple loss of food protein by some individuals or a kill could be considered a direct assault on the value and quality of the environment and is a direct assault on the individual from the perspective of a Mi'kmaq person.

The Dunk River and Tyron River incident this July raised to the forefront several important considerations for both our community and the government and that of potato producers.

1. Let us all be involved in helping to draft appropriate legislation that includes potato producers and Aboriginal Peoples with government officials.
2. Let us all become involved in public education campaigns teaching citizens how fragile our rivers and aquatic life are and how vulnerable they are to not only pesticides but oils, detergents, cleaners, salts, and the like.
3. Let us develop some early notification systems that allow citizens and most definitely Aboriginal Peoples to learn about a major river disaster.

Our Summer Student

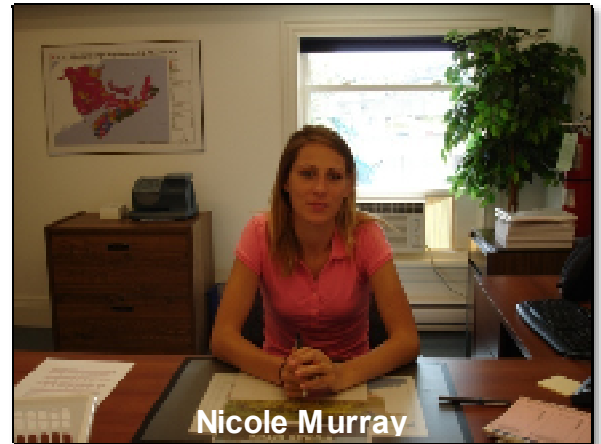
By MAARS Team Member Angie Titus

The Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate negotiated a summer student position within our Truro office for a receptionist/support clerk. Nicole Murray, a student at Truro Adult High School, served as the receptionist/support clerk for an eight week term.

This position has been a valuable experience for both the MAARS team and Nicole. MAARS embraced the opportunity to help a student receive work experience, which will hopefully help Nicole to find a permanent job after she graduates.

Nicole commented that it's often hard to find a job after school without this kind of opportunity. Many employers only want to hire people with experience, and it is hard for a graduate to find meaningful employment. When asked to sum up her feelings about the experience, Nicole said, "It's a good work environment, and I like it." We also enjoyed having Nicole on our team. Nicole was always helpful, cheerful, and quick to pick up procedures.

We will miss her, and we wish her the best in all her future endeavours.



Connecting with Parks Canada Agency

By Species at Risk Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Building upon the recent Parks Canada Agency (PCA) – Atlantic Region meetings, Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely briefly met with Alan Latourelle (Chief Executive Officer of PCA) and the PCA-National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (ACC) on August 22nd in Metepenagiag (Red Bank), New Brunswick.

The PCA ACC consists of 12 Aboriginal members from across Canada who meet with the CEO four times per year to broadly discuss Aboriginal issues which may need to be addressed by PCA, such as Aboriginal employment in National Parks or the collection and use of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge for the management of National Parks and Historic Sites.

We anticipate that national and regional meetings between PCA and Ikanawtiket will be nurtured and PCA will begin to make an effort to invite and meaningfully involve the Maritimes Traditional Ancestral Homelands Aboriginal Peoples in PCA parks management, historic sites, monuments management, and other activities.

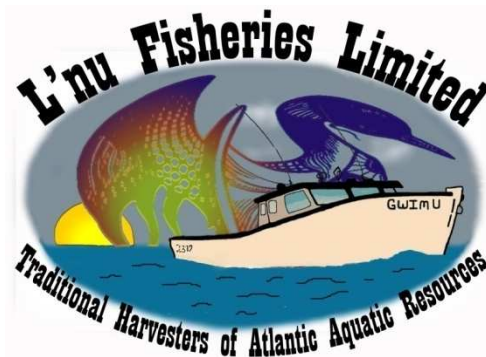
Parks Canada, although an agency, is still a responsible authority for SARA and an active partner in the implementation of SARA, particularly when a species is located within a park or historic site managed by Parks Canada Agency.

A New Fisheries Face in Prince Edward Island

By MAARS Team Member Tim Hainer

The Native Council of Prince Edward Island, a MAARS partner, has announced that the Prince Edward Island Mi'kmaq fisheries program has undergone a transformation; L'nu Fisheries Limited was incorporated on August 29, 2007.

L'nu Fisheries Limited is now the Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishing Entity (ACCFE) for the Traditional Ancestral Homeland Aboriginal Peoples (off-reserve) of PEI. The Native Council of Prince Edward Island's community will benefit from the clear objectives and purposes which will position L'nu to obtain the rightful share of Atlantic aquatic resources for its members. This renewed vision for the PEI ACCFE will generate greater employment opportunities for our members and adds another step towards assuming more responsibility over fisheries to ensure a sustainable and viable position within the Atlantic commercial fishery.



Highlights of the structure, goals, and objectives of L'nu Fisheries Limited include:

- 1) L'nu Fisheries Limited is a not-for-profit company registered under Part II of the PEI Companies Act with the primary objective to promote, advance, and manage the Native Council of Prince Edward Island Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishery for the Traditional Ancestral Homeland Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Peoples of Prince Edward Island.
- 2) L'nu Fisheries Limited is focused to work towards the improvement of the social and economic condition and well being of the Traditional Ancestral Homeland Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Peoples of Prince Edward Island organized as the Native Council of Prince Edward Island.
- 3) Members of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island are eligible to enroll as active members of L'nu Fisheries Limited.
- 4) There is no additional cost to the members of the Native Council who desire to become involved with L'nu Fisheries Limited.
- 5) A dedicated Board of Directors for L'nu Fisheries will have focus and accountability for all its decisions and actions.
- 6) The new L'nu Board will maintain a collaborative relationship with NCPEI and the President and Chief of the Native Council of PEI and the Commissioner for the Kelewat! Commission will have seats on the L'nu Fisheries Board.
- 7) The L'nu bylaws allow for one individual, not affiliated with the Council nor being an Aboriginal person, but who may have certain knowledge and expertise, to hold a seat as a Board of Director.
- 8) The L'nu bylaws contain provisions to deal with such issues as disclosure of interest, director's liability, and other personal gain issues. To ensure that employees and the director of L'nu operate a responsible and professional ACCFE that prides itself on being an ACCFE leader, L'nu Fisheries Ltd. will provide annual reports to the Council's Annual General Assembly.

In addition to formalizing L'nu Fisheries Ltd., the NCPEI Natural Life Harvesting Commission has also been reorganized within the Native Council to replace the Mi'kmaq Fisheries Program.

The "Kelewatl Commission" is now the natural life management institution of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island which establishes guidelines for the food, social, and ceremonial harvesting of fish and wildlife by PEI members.

The Kelewatl Commission is soliciting interest from PEI members to sit on one of three advisory boards to help develop linkages between members, the advisory boards, and the Commissioner.

If you would like more information on L'nu Fisheries Limited or the Kelewatl Commission, please contact Jordan Crane at (902) 892-5314 or drop by the Native Council of PEI. The doors are always open.

IS ATLANTIC SALMON AND BLACK ASH AT RISK?

By Species at Risk Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

The Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), the national scientific body that assesses the level of risk facing species, will soon be evaluating the status of the Atlantic Salmon (Plamu) and the Black Ash (Wiskoq).

Several subspecies and populations of Atlantic Salmon (Plamu) have declined in recent years. The inner Bay of Fundy Plamu is one such population, which was previously assessed by COSEWIC as 'Endangered' and is now protected under Canada's *Species At Risk Act (SARA)*. Canadian's concern over the future of all Plamu is great. A recent report shows that Canadians are willing to sacrifice more to save Plamu than any other endangered species in Canada.

COSEWIC has now decided to assess the remaining subspecies and populations of Plamu to determine if they too are at risk of extinction. This is a large task, which will involve many stakeholders and provide opportunities for Aboriginal Peoples to provide input and become involved in the COSEWIC assessment process.

Another large COSEWIC assessment in the works is that for Black Ash (Wiskoq). Unlike Plamu, COSEWIC has very little scientific information on Wiskoq. There have been concerns raised with COSEWIC about the

possible decline of Wiskoq. For example, Wiskoq is widely used by Mi'kmaw in articles such as: baskets, canoes, axe handles, snowshoes, dyes, medicine, and much more. Wiskoq is now rare in Nova Scotia. COSEWIC does not know how wide spread Wiskoq used to be or how many stands actually exist today, and therefore does not know what level of risk or threats face Wiskoq.

If you wish to be involved in the assessment of either Plamu or Wiskoq (or any of the other species listed below), please contact Ikanawtiket today: (902)895-2982 or ikanawtiket@mapcorg.ca. As your Ikanawtiket Regional Facilitator, I am available to help you become involved in SARA.

Other COSEWIC assessments happening in the near future:

- Barndoor Skate (Marine Fish: Atlantic Ocean, NB, NS)
- Atlantic Rusty-tinged Bumble Bee (NB)
- Cuckoo Bee (NS)
- Atlantic Halibut (Marine Fish: Atlantic Ocean, NB, NS)
- Bobolink (Blackbird: NB, NS, PEI)
- *Degelia plumbea* (Lichen: NB, NS)
- Eskimo Curlew (Shorebird: NB, NS)
- Atlantic Whitefish (Marine/Freshwater Fish: NS)

TIDES OF CHANGE

By MAARS Team Member Amanda Facey

If you have ever crossed the Annapolis River between Granville Ferry and Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, you have seen one of only three tidal power plants in the world. The Annapolis Tidal Generating Station is operated by Nova Scotia Power and began operation in 1984. It contributes up to 20 megawatts of energy to the provincial grid – enough for about 6000 homes. The Annapolis plant is located at the mouth of the Annapolis River in the Annapolis Basin, which is a sub-basin of the Bay of Fundy, known for producing the highest tides in the world. This type of tidal energy involves a turbine installed in a barrage across the river. This technology is no longer suitable, however, due to its negative environmental effects. New technology for tidal energy involves in-stream turbines that do not need a barrage. It is these new technologies that are being considered for use in the Bay of Fundy.

With climate change at the forefront of world and regional issues, new ways of meeting energy needs with minimal effects on the environment are being investigated. The Nova Scotia Department of Energy (NSE) has established targets to ensure that almost 20 % of Nova Scotia's electricity will be generated by renewable energy by 2013. This target has been legislated through the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, which also commits Nova Scotia to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 10 % below 1990 levels by 2020.

To begin this process, NSE is funding the Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER) for one year to prepare a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of offshore tidal energy in the Bay of Fundy. OEER is a non-profit association committed to fostering offshore energy and environmental research and development including examination of renewable energy resources and their interaction with the marine environment. The OEER is a partnership between Acadia University, St. Francis Xavier University and Cape Breton University. A SEA is a unique environmental assessment process that is conducted before specific projects begin. It



gives stakeholders a chance to influence decisions relating to planning, policies, regulation and management, as well as help decision-makers promote sustainable development. The SEA will be useful to tackle the planning and growth of tidal energy in the Bay of Fundy.

The first step in the SEA process was a series of community fora held in August. A stakeholder round table will be formed, which will include members with different interests and from different geographic areas, and will meet four to six times throughout the SEA process. Jacques Whitford is currently working on an Environmental and Socio-economic Impact Assessment (ESIA), which will be completed by November 2007. Once the ESIA is completed there will be an opportunity for the public to review it and submit written comments. In early 2008, community and technical assessment workshops will be held followed by submission by the OEER of a final SEA report to the Nova Scotia government by April 2008.

No in-stream tidal demonstration projects are allowed to be put in the water before the SEA is complete. Commercial projects will only be permitted after a demonstration project has shown that the technology can be successful in the offshore environment and can meet all environmental requirements.

There is also potential for tidal energy to be used in New Brunswick. The New Brunswick Department of Energy is also conducting a SEA and is contributing to the cost of the ESIA.

The OEER encourages all interested parties and individuals to get involved as the SEA process is intended to be open and transparent. For more

information on the Fundy Tidal Energy SEA, go to www.bayoffundyseas.ca. For more information on ocean renewable energy in Canada, go to www.oreg.ca.

MAPC-MAARS will follow this process and make sure that the issues, needs, concerns and interests of the Traditional Ancestral Homeland Peoples of the Maritimes are made known and addressed.



By Species at Risk Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

IKANAWTIKET has been growing since many of our community members gathered this spring for ARISES 2007. I am pleased to say that the Traditional Ancestral Homelands Aboriginal Peoples in the Maritimes are on the map of the environmental movement here in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia – Mi'kma'ki.

This summer, we have received several invitations from others in the environmental movement to present the IKANAWTIKET initiative and participate in forming new environmental initiatives. A few forums which IKANAWTIKET has recently been involved in are:

- Parks Canada national policy and management discussions
- Invasive Alien Species in the Maritimes, and
- chemical, biological, and conventional military munitions intentionally dumped off our coasts and which are now leaking chemicals into our waters.

This is an exciting time to be involved in the environmental movement. To quote Paul Hawken of *Orion Magazine*, "This movement is relentless and unafraid. It cannot be mollified, pacified, or suppressed...No book can explain it, not person can represent it, no words can encompass it, because the movement is the breathing, sentient testament of the living world."

I and a few others from MAPC-IKANAWTIKET will be traveling to Zone/Local meetings this fall/early winter as part of IKANAWTIKET Connecting with Communities. I will be presenting IKANAWTIKET as your environmental service to help you become meaningfully involved in your local environmental issues, especially species at risk. We will be building a cadre of local IKANAWTIKETs to provide your community with local key contacts for up-to-date information, opportunities, and a single and accessible point for your community to have input on provincial and national environmental policy. We will be specifically targeting our youth, but all are encouraged to attend.

In NB and PEI, we will attempt to coordinate IKANAWTIKET Connecting with Communities with the MAARS Strategic Communal Commercial Fishing Plans sessions. The times and places of these meetings will be made available to you shortly by your regional CARDAs. In NS, I will be coordinating my visit with Zone Executives to take place during regular or special Zone meetings. If you know of youth who should attend and become more informed about the opportunities for meaningful community involvement in the environment and species at risk, or if you would also like to attend, please contact Joshua McNeely at ikanawtiket@mapcorg.ca or (902)895-2982 for more details.

"Respect The Natural World: We do not inherit the Earth

from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children" Proverb

Offshore Energy Environmental Research Community Forum

By MAARS Team Member Franz Kesick

Nova Scotia Energy (NSE) has given funds to the Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER) for one year to complete a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of offshore renewable energy, specifically tidal energy, in the Bay of Fundy. OEER is a not-for-profit association, founded in March 2006, committed to fostering offshore energy and environmental research and development including examination of renewable energy resources and their interaction with the marine environment. The Association is a partnership between Acadia University, St. Francis Xavier University and Cape Breton University.

OEER and NSE held a community forum at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel in Truro on August 21. MAPC-MAARS Director, Roger Hunka, and MAARS CARDA, Franz Kesick, attended. Lesley Griffiths, Project Lead, and Sandra Farwell, with NSE, made presentations on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) being conducted by OEER for the Bay of Fundy Tidal Energy Strategy.

The SEA will assess the environmental, economic and social feasibility of harnessing tidal power in the Bay of Fundy, determine which categories of tidal power projects can be considered and provide the framework for the future assessment of individual tidal power projects. Currently, the SEA will require that each proposed tidal power project undergo a research and testing phase, followed by its own environmental assessment.

Some of the concerns raised included sighting projects, implementing exclusion zones, and cumulative effects in conjunction with other activities and the unique conditions of the tidal waters, which are extremely heavy because of their sediment load. An obvious question, where is Nova Scotia's Energy Act?

OEER is also developing a Stakeholder Roundtable to consist of about twenty representatives of various stakeholder interests which will meet five times over the next several months and hold detailed discussions on tidal power and provide their views to the OEER.

Subject to receiving support from OEER, MAARS may hold community information sessions during the SEA process for NCNS communities surrounding the Bay of Fundy.





DFO Communications Relay



BIO OPEN HOUSE

For decades, researchers at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO) have made significant contributions to Canada's research, development and understanding of oceans, freshwaters and coastlines. DFO scientists, habitat specialists, engineers and researchers continually work and study a wide array of potential ways to ensure we can sustain viable and valuable aquatic resources.

BIO-based scientists work on finding answers to several questions including: What is the role of the ocean in the changing climate and what's the impact on coastlines? What do we know about ocean processes off our coast and in the north? How do marine ecosystems function? What aquatic species are at risk and what are we doing to understand their needs and to protect them? What do we know about life in the deep ocean off our coast and how is new technology helping to uncover the mysteries on the seafloor?

To find out more about the answers to these questions and more, visit the Bedford Institute of Oceanography's (BIO) Open House this month. You'll meet scientists, biologists, oceanographers, marine geophysicists, hydrographers, engineers, technicians, and other experts working on these and many other interesting topics. You can ask questions, discuss their research and learn firsthand about some of the fascinating initiatives they are working on. Of special interest are the exhibits titled "Ocean Climate Change", "Deep Sea Corals – 'Underwater Forests off Nova Scotia'", "Species at Risk", "Grey Seals" and "BIO's world class research."

There will plenty of other interesting exhibits. For example, geoscientists will explain to you the work they are doing to define Canada's continental shelf. The research they do and the data they collect will back up Canada's claims to the extended areas in off the Atlantic and Arctic. If you are especially interested in this topic you can go see Ruth Jackson speak at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday October 20. She will be giving a

talk titled "Delineating the limits of Canada's continental shelf in the Arctic based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea."

In addition, you can meet research scientists who are eager to share information on exciting initiatives they have undertaken, including Dr. Ellen Kenchington who reached an all time ocean low this summer with her research team! 2500 metres low that is! Dr. Kenchington and her team used a remotely controlled submersible to research unexplored parts of the ocean off Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The mission revealed that these waters are much more diverse than previously realized. Researchers captured over 3,000 images, video and samples displaying this diversity, including an octopus with large fins near its eyes, known as "Dumbo," a potentially new species of scallop, and vibrantly coloured coral; some of these species were previously unknown in this region

Dr. Steven Campana, one of a few international shark researchers will also be on hand at the exhibit titled "Sharks of Atlantic Canada" to discuss one of his recent projects – the first ever Canadian Shark Census. That's right, Dr. Campana and his team recently embarked on a mission to learn more about sharks off our waters. Shark populations worldwide are declining, research like this will help us understand how to protect stocks off our coast.

Want to learn about new methods to identify potential effects of offshore oil and gas industry on the marine environment? Dr Kenneth Lee, a world class expert in this area, along with his research team will be on hand to reveal BIO's oil and renewable energy expertise. You can even have a look at the oil research wave tank.

For those of you who have visited PEI, you can even learn about the Confederation Bridge by visiting Dr. John Shaw at his exhibit titled "Lost world under the confederation bridge."

During the Open House you can also visit a replica of the Titanic, just as you would see it on the ocean floor. Visit a deep sea canyon off our coast, that's much like the Grand Canyon, and see the bottom features of a drained Halifax Harbour! Be aware – some imagination will be required, especially if you want to drain the Halifax Harbour! But don't worry there will be lots of exhibits, pictures, live fish and specimens, experts and videos to help you along. You'll also be able to take a look at a Coast Guard helicopter up close and personal and tour a Canadian Coast Guard research vessel.

From chatting with scientists and other experts to touching aquatic species, children and adults alike are bound to enjoy the Open House. After all, BIO is Canada's World Class Oceanographic Research Centre! The 45-year-old center houses over 650 scientists working for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, the Department of National Defence, and Public Works and Government Services Canada, and an unquantifiable amount of information waiting for you to discover! In previous years, over 25,000 people visited BIO's Open Houses. This year, you are invited to visit us October 20 and 21 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
www.bio.gc.ca/oh/oh-e.

2 FEBRUARY
World Wetlands Day



Healthy Wetlands,
Healthy People

February 2nd is World Wetlands Day, promoted by the United Nations Ramsar Secretariat. The theme for the World Wetlands Day 2008 is 'Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People'.

As coastal Aboriginal Peoples, the Ramsar Secretariat is very interested to know if we would like to participate in World Wetlands Day. If you have an idea about how our Maritime Region Traditional Ancestral Homelands Aboriginal Peoples can acknowledge and raise awareness about the importance of our wetlands for Aboriginal Peoples' health and that of all others throughout Mi'kma'ki, please contact Joshua McNeely at ikanawtiket@mapcorg.ca or (902)895-2982.

Strategic Communal Commercial Fisheries Plans (SCCFP)

By MAARS Team Members Barry LaBillois and Tim Hainer

A challenge identified in 2005-2006 and included in MAARS annual report was to develop Strategic Communal Commercial Fisheries Plans (SCCFP) for the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI) and the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC). The Native Council of Nova Scotia, a partner of MAARS, had already developed theirs in 2000, which proved invaluable for making decisions for the strategic growth of the Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishery.

Gulf Region of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has approved support for the development of the strategic commercial fisheries plans, although with not as much funding as is required, MAPC MAARS, appreciating the significance and vital importance to have the strategies developed, agreed to provide some of its fiscal and human resources to this vital initiative.

MAARS will, with DFO support, undertake simultaneously in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, a series of community sessions (3-5 in PEI and 5-7 in NB) to identify the level of existing capacity, fishing licenses and equipment, and other community assets and needs. The SCCFP will identify knowledge gaps and training needs of the commercial fishery, and will focus on identifying best practices for management decisions to maximize economic returns to the communities.

These fisheries strategies will guide and assist Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick as they experience continued growth and progress in the fishing industry for the expressed economic benefit of the Traditional Homeland Aboriginal Peoples continuing to reside throughout PEI and NB.

Unique to this process will be the use of an assets-based approach to community development. By acknowledging and celebrating the NBAPC and NCPEI communities' skills, assets and capacities, rather than viewing our People as clients with needs, we hope to build stronger, more resilient communities.

A tentative schedule for the community sessions has been developed for Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. For more information, contact Tim Hainer in Prince Edward Island (902-892-5314) or Barry LaBillois in New Brunswick (506-458-8422).

Tentive PEI Schedule:

- Saturday, October 27, 2007- Charlottetown, PEI
- 6-10pm, Wednesday, November 7, 2007- Alberton or O'Leary, PEI
- 11-3pm, Saturday, November 10, 2007- Montague, PEI

New Brunswick Schedule to be announced.



Underground Natural Gas Storage Along the Shubenacadie River

By MAARS Team Member Amanda Facey

In early July, Alton Natural Gas Storage Limited Partnership registered an underground hydrocarbon storage facility project for environmental assessment with Nova Scotia Environment & Labour. The purpose of the project, located near Alton, Nova Scotia, is to develop an underground hydrocarbon storage facility using engineered salt caverns at depths of over 700 metres. The salt caverns would be created using solution mining. Solution mining uses water to dissolve the salt deposits to form caverns, which can then be used as storage facilities.

Initially, the project would help manage the supply of natural gas in Eastern Canada and the United States, and the facility may also be used for the storage of other hydrocarbons. The caverns could be capable of storing billions of cubic feet of natural gas.

Water for solution mining would be taken from the Shubenacadie River estuary. Estuary water will also be drawn for use in a dilution pond which would be used to dilute the brine from the solution mining prior to being discharged back into the estuary. The diluted brine would be discharged back into the estuary during high tide to minimize the difference in salinity between the effluent and the estuary.

Once the salt caverns are created, natural gas would be injected and withdrawn from the storage caverns to meet market demands. There will be a lateral gas pipeline linking the Alton facility with the Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline's natural gas transmission system.

The Native Council of Nova Scotia had many issues and concerns with this proposed project, including the proponent's level of care to weigh the potential costs, alternatives, benefits and environmental impacts to Nova Scotians and a river as significant as the Shubenacadie River. The main concerns were how the salt brine from the caverns being discharged into the river will impact the health of the river and its aquatic life, the limited social and economic benefits to Nova Scotians and the absence of direct consultation with the Native Council of Nova Scotia.

The Native Council of Nova Scotia sent a letter to Nova Scotia Environment & Labour outlining its concerns and this was followed by many other letters from various organizations and government departments. The Native Council of Nova Scotia was contacted by the media regarding the proposed project and participated in interviews with CBC Radio and Global TV. The Council also met with representatives of the proponent in our Truro, Nova Scotia office to discuss our concerns in late July.

On July 31 the Minister of Environment & Labour, Mark Parent, released a decision on the proposed project. He determined that the registered information was insufficient for him to make a decision and that he requires more information. Points that Minister Parent raised in his decision included concerns from Fisheries & Oceans Canada and other stakeholders that the environmental registration report did not provide adequate information to support the claim that the effects on fish and fish habitat, which includes the endangered Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon, are insignificant. Minister Parent also mentioned concerns that were raised regarding impacts on "First Nations". The Minister indicated that Alton Natural Gas LP may submit the required information at their convenience.

After the Minister's decision, the proponent said he views it as a positive decision and that he will work closely with regulators to address the concerns raised and move the project forward. Since the decision, the NCNS has not been approached nor asked to discuss issues and solutions.





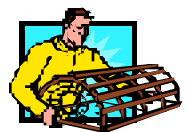
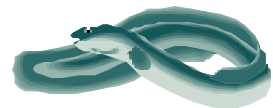
Throughout the months of July, August, and September 2007, the MAARS CARDAs attended many Fishery Stakeholders Advisory Committee Meetings, Science Workshops, and Oceans Management Sessions.



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



1. CNSOPB FAC, Halifax, Nova Scotia
2. Toad Crab Advisory, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
3. Herring 16 G, Montague, Prince Edward Island
4. St. John River Management Meeting, Fredericton, New Brunswick
5. Bay of Fundy Stakeholders Forum, St. George, New Brunswick
6. Herring Advisory Meeting, Moncton, New Brunswick
7. Global Television Interview on Alton Gas Storage Facility, Fort Ellis, Nova Scotia
8. Native Council of Prince Edward Island Open House, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
9. Stealth Ventures Project Overview Meeting provided by Nova Scotia Department of Energy, Truro, Nova Scotia
10. Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Aboriginal Caucus, Ottawa, Ontario
11. Eastern NB Bluefin Tuna Advisory Committee Meeting, Richibouctou, New Brunswick
12. Emerging Species and Information Session on Whelk, Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia
13. Transboundary Management Guidance Committee Meeting on Groundfish Quotas, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
14. LFA 35 Advisory Committee, Truro, Nova Scotia
15. Gulf of Maine Information Session, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
16. Parks Canada Agency "Aboriginal Consultative Committee" Meeting, Red Bank, New Brunswick
17. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Strategic Communal Commercial Fisheries Plan Session, Truro, Nova Scotia
18. Maritime Regional Partners Consultation with DFO Representatives on shortfin mako, blue shark, white shark, American eel, and Atlantic walrus, Truro, Nova Scotia
19. Seismic Exploration on Marine Invertebrates Session, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
20. NASCO 2nd Consultation Meeting on Canada's Action Plan, Halifax, Nova Scotia
21. Agriculture Canada Invasive Alien Species Program Atlantic Workshop, Bible Hill, Nova Scotia



Netawek Ikkikum

Voice of the Ocean

Vol. 3 Issue 2, September 2007

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- OEER
- DFO Communications Relay
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A free quarterly communiqué profiling the **Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate** activities.

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Sheep on Ram Island, Yarmouth county

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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