

Netawek Ikkikum

Voice of the Ocean

Quarterly Newsletter of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

Vol. 5 Issue 2, September 2009

Congratulations IAS Atlantic Network

Congratulations to some leading Invasive Alien Species (IAS) experts in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador for finalizing a set of Guiding Terms on July 6, 2009, to formally establish the Invasive Alien Species-Atlantic Network.

The Atlantic Network fills a vital role in our region to help bring IAS experts together to promote communications and linkages about IAS. The partner members: *Invasive Species Alliance of N.S., N.B. Invasive Species Working Group, P.E.I. Invasive Species Working Group, NFLD and Labrador Invasive Species Working Group and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency* are attempting to establish their own provincial IAS bodies to advance the Canadian Invasive Species Strategy. The Atlantic Network is an important resource to share information and possibly avoid some of the growing pains and hurdles other provincial IAS bodies have faced in other regions.

MAARS and IKANAWTIKET are pleased to be a part of this Atlantic Network and some of its subcommittees, since its inception in September 2007. We look forward to our continued participation within the Atlantic Network as Invasive Alien Species issues develop in the Atlantic region, and as provincial IAS bodies and provincial departments responsible for IAS step up to the plate. For more information please contact Joshua McNeely at jmcneely@mapcorg.ca or (902)895-2982.

The Atlantic Network maintains a free monthly IAS Newsletter. We welcome you to subscribe by sending an e-mail to atlantic.iasnewsletter@gmail.com.

5th Annual Lobster Science Workshop

By MAARS PEI AMDO Naomi Crane

MAARS Aquatic Marketing Development Officer, Naomi Crane, attended the 5th Annual Atlantic Veterinary College, Lobster Science Workshop, which was held July 15th and 16th 2009, at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel in Charlottetown, PEI. The theme for the workshop was, “*A Quality Product in Troubled Times*”.

There is a need for harvesters to adapt to consumer and market demands as consumers and markets require top quality products while harvesters look for premium prices. There are several factors the harvesters can control to ensure that quality products reach markets and consumers.

- *use plastic pans not wooden pans*
- *limit the weight and number of lobsters per pan*
- *band lobster claws immediately when landed on the vessel*
- *use traps with escape mechanisms which limit juvenile handling*
- *use insulated holding tanks*



Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada

Mr. Stewart Lamont, *Ferguson’s Lobster*, commented on lobster quality according to individuals in the “Live Lobster Trade”. Mr. Lamont stated there are 4 key elements of quality in a live lobster export operation:

- *the biology of the lobster, including the shell quality, meat content, blood protein analysis and strength of the animal;*
- *timing of the animal (i.e. date product purchased vs. lobster’s annual moult);*
- *handling practices in regards to both the harvesters and processors;*
- *how are the animals stored and for how long are they stored;*
- *are proper grading practices maintained to meet demands of the appropriate markets, customers and time frame; and*
- *logistics - are there quick, careful, reliable and logistical solutions to ensure a premium quality lobster; because in the end, a happy customer is a returning customer.*

Future “*quality-building*” endeavours, like eco-certification and traceability of the harvesters product are some issues which harvesters will have to deal with. Traceability of the lobster will have to account for the product from ocean to plate. At present, there are a few certification programs available; however, there has not been a standard program presented or adopted. In order to achieve reliable and cost-effective certification and traceability the whole lobster industry must be involved, which includes everyone from the harvesters and ultimately to the consumer.

In July of 2008, the US Food and Drug Administration issued an advisory warning not to consume lobster tomalley due to increased levels of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxins found in the tomalley. Although PSP is more commonly a bi-valve poisoning, lobsters eat bi-valves, resulting in higher levels of PSP ($100\mu\text{g}$ per 100g) in the tomalley. PSP does not affect the meat tissue of the lobster, however levels of $80\mu\text{g}$ are considered to be fatal in bi-valves.

Health Canada released a consumption advisory recommending that adults limit their consumption of tomalley to one cooked lobster per day, while children should not have any.

Andrea Battison also gave a presentation on “*Mushy Tail Syndrome*” in American Lobster. This syndrome is best characterized when tail meat of lobster develops a “soft” and “mushy” texture after being cooked. “*Mushy Tail Syndrome*” cannot be truly identified until the lobster is cooked, therefore the disease causes harvesters, marketers and consumers a great deal of concern and it costs money.

Although the investigation into “*Mushy Tail Syndrome*” is in the early stages, it is thought that one of the contributing factors may be injury to the hepatopancreas (tomalley). Overall, the cause of “*Mushy Tail Syndrome*” is still unknown.

Future investigation will be directed at identifying two matters:

- product handling procedures which may increase the risk of “*Mushy Tail Syndrome*” and
- creating technologies which will identify affected tissue in the raw lobster



5th Annual Lobster Science Workshop Delegates



Tomalley

Canada's Response to the European Union's Regulations in regards to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fisheries

By MAARS NS AMDO Franz Kesick

Members of the MAPC/MAARS team attended an Information session with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on Canada's response to the European Union's (EU) Regulation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. On January 1, 2010, the European Union regulations will come into force to deter Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and the import of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. These regulations will have a direct impact on exporters in Canada and an indirect impact on all of the fishing industry. The European Union Regulations can be seen in its entirety at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:286:0001:0032:EN:PDF>

“The EU IUU regulations will apply to catches landed after January 1, 2010 (not inventory in holding that was caught prior to this date). The European Union IUU Regulations generally cover all marine fishery products including live, fresh, chilled, frozen, prepared and preserved product forms.

All freshwater fisheries and aquaculture products are exempted from these regulations as well as some forms of molluscs such as scallops, mussels, oysters and snails.”

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/fish-ren-peche/sff-cpd/eu-regulation-reglement-eu-faq-eng.htm#Q4 – Accessed on October 06, 2009)

A list of frequently asked questions can be found on the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Website at:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/fish-ren-peche/sff-cpd/eu-regulation-reglement-ue-faq-eng.htm#Q5>

To meet these new EU IUU Fishing regulations, DFO has been working with the Provinces, Territories and Industry to develop a Catch Certificate System. DFO will issue a catch certificate for each shipment of Seafood affected by the European Union Regulations. Demand for assurances of legalities, safety and sustainability of products are increasing through organizations and governments.



Meeting Delegates for the European Union's Regulations in regards to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fisheries

New way to bait hooks wins \$30,000 at the International Smart Gear Competition

By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely

An Australian team of Phil Ashworth, general manager of Australia-based Amerro Engineering and Dr. Graham Robertson, a principal research scientist with the Australian Antarctic Division took home the top prize of \$30,000 at this year's International Smart Gear Competition with their invention – the underwater baited hook.



“The underwater baited hook allows longline vessels to set baited hooks underwater out of reach of seabirds. Designed for use on coastal tuna and swordfish vessels worldwide, the invention minimizes or eliminates accidental mortality of seabirds including albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters, which are sometimes killed in the fishing gear when they attempt to seize bait attached to longline hooks as they are being set. The system also greatly reduces drag on the boat, which increases fuel efficiency.”

“Until now, underwater hook setting has never been developed to the point where it can be considered to be a practical proposition for commercial fishing operations. By bringing together a professional engineering company and fiscal support for the basic idea to materialize, we have created a never-before-seen underwater setting technology for longline fishing that is practical, cost-effective, and supported by members of the fishing industry,” said Mr. Ashworth.(taken from www.smartgear.org)

The annual competition challenges fishermen and inventors from around the world to invent new practical devices and methods for the fishing industry which substantially reduces by-catch.

At the International Smart Gear Competition, all entrants can be winners. Besides a chance to win a cash prize, entrants get the chance to showcase their new inventions on the international stage and learn and partner with other inventors from around the world.

Several other inventions from this and previous years are highlighted on the Smart Gear website, which also includes instructions about how to enter your own smart gear idea



Phil Ashworth, General Manager of Australia-based Amerro Engineering, winner of the Smart Gear Competition's Grand Prize for 2009

Southwest Nova Scotia Fishermen Oppose Georges Bank Oil and Gas

By Denny Morrow

Written to the Editor of the, Yarmouth Vanguard and Shelburne Coastguard

As members of the fishing industry in Southwestern Nova Scotia with livelihoods at stake in the Georges Bank fishery, we have to respond to comments in the Vanguard and Coastguard made by Yarmouth MLA Richard Hurlburt and SWSDA CEO Frank Anderson about a decision by Energy Minister Bill Estabrooks to cut funding to the “Oceans First Task Group”.

We applaud Energy Minister Estabrooks, if his decision to stop funding the local task group is final. In our view, the Oceans First Task Force was never unbiased about the issue of the Georges Bank Oil and Gas Moratorium. We believe that the Oceans First group was established in an attempt to create public support in southwestern Nova Scotia for ending the Moratorium in 2012. In fact, shortly after the Task Force was formed the interim chairperson was quoted in the Halifax Herald saying that he opposed the extension of the Moratorium in the late 90’s and was still of that persuasion.

The fact finding trip to Norway, according to a fishing industry representative in the delegation, did not include discussions with Norwegian fishermen or environmental groups that have been critical of the recent expansion of seismic activity in productive Norwegian fishing areas. The trip was limited to discussions with Norwegian oil company officials and staff at the regulatory agency.

The fishing industry in Nova Scotia has cooperated with the oil and gas industry on the Sable Gas and Deep Panuke projects. Coexistence between the two industries has been a fact of life for many years in the Nova Scotia offshore. Georges Bank, however, is one of those sensitive, highly productive areas in the ocean where we don’t feel the potential advantages of oil and gas development outweigh the risks to the ecosystem and to the fishing industry. The 1999 Georges Bank Panel agreed with us after it had assessed the evidence.

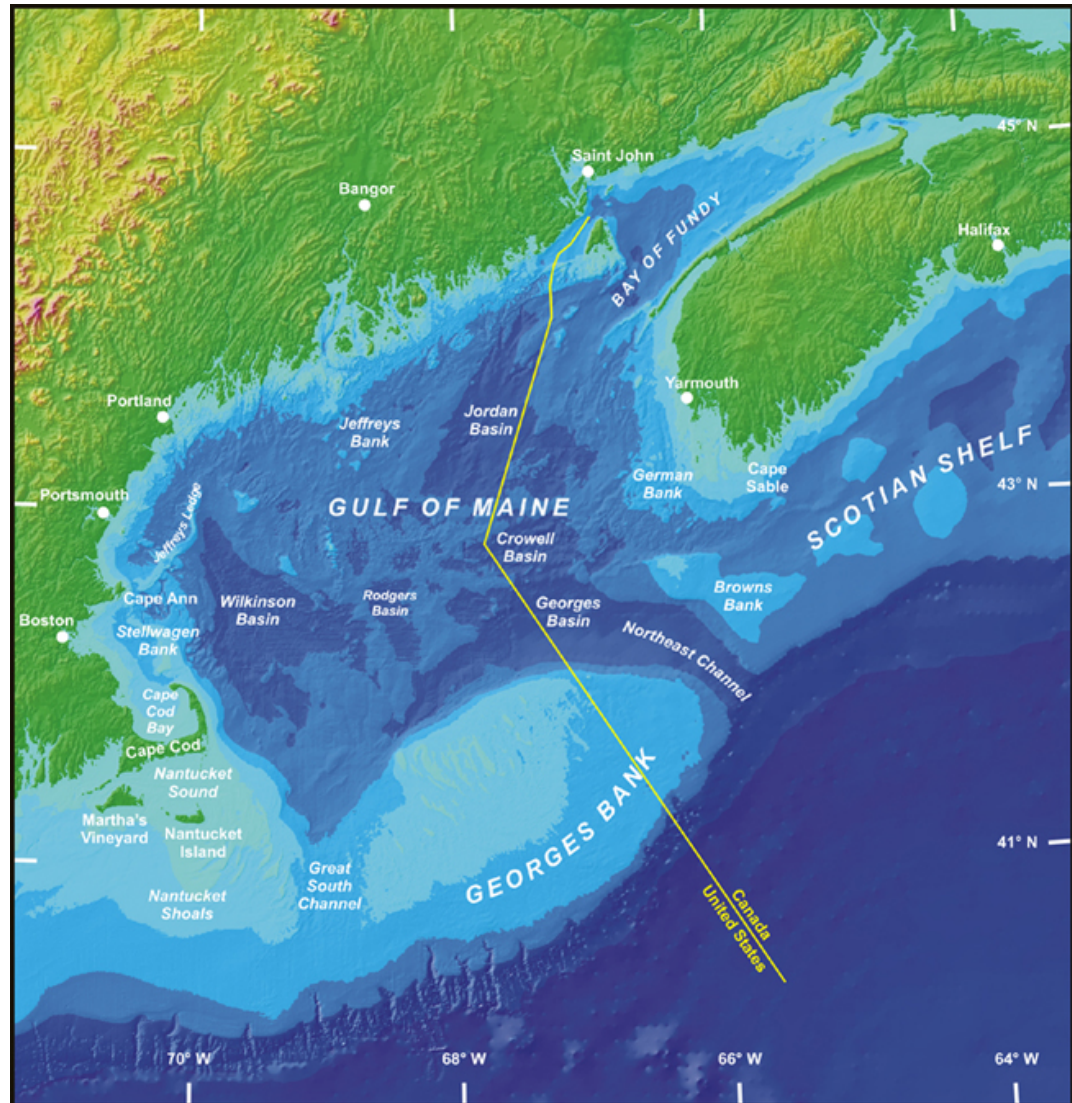
Georges Bank is the only area between Cape Cod and Labrador where there has been a major recovery of a groundfish stock. Haddock abundance on Georges is at a 50 year high point. Georges is also home to some of the most productive scallop beds in the Northwest Atlantic. The large brood stock of older, larger lobsters on Georges produces millions of eggs and larvae each year. Whales, swordfish, tuna and the herring that they feed on, point to the diversity of marine life on the Georges Bank. It is simply the most productive area of ocean bottom on this side of the Atlantic. It is a crucial location to the fishing industry of Southwestern Nova Scotia and New England. The 1999 panel report that recommended an extension of the moratorium held exhaustive hearings and consultations. The oil and gas impact and risk issues that were covered in that report have not changed. If anything, the recovery of haddock stocks and the continued abundance of so many commercial species at a time when the fishing industry is facing intense worldwide competition in our markets makes protecting Georges Bank an even greater priority for the fishing industry.

The lure of oil and gas development jobs and royalty revenues for the province may be enticing to politicians. An objective look at the topography of the ocean bottom between Georges Bank and the southwest coast of Nova Scotia should convince most people that if gas were discovered on Georges, a pipeline would be built directly down the Bank to New England markets. The deep trench of the Northeast channel and the stiff currents in that channel present a formidable and costly challenge to pipeline construction.

It would not make economic sense to bring gas ashore in our region even if the ocean bottom was more conducive to a pipeline as we do not have the population density to justify local distribution for heating purposes. A gas discovery on Georges is not going to help us heat our homes. New England already has that distribution system and a ready market for gas. Since most of the construction in that scenario would be on US territory, we would expect most of the construction and supply jobs to go to the US.

One only has to look at Guysborough County ten years after the Sable Island Gas Project and the pipeline construction that brought gas ashore at Goldboro to assess the longer term employment impact of that project. There are only a handful of oil and gas jobs remaining. The economy of Guysborough County has not been transformed. Maybe it is time that the Nova Scotia government and local politicians started to look at “green energy” and alternative fuel projects for this region in an effort to stabilize our heating and energy costs as well as to provide jobs in the new energy economy.

If there is to be another panel review of oil and gas development related to Georges Bank, we sincerely hope that the federal and provincial governments will do their best to establish a truly impartial and unbiased process and panel to conduct that review.



Satellite view of the Georges Bank
(taken from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

Reproduced with permission from Denny Morrow, if you wish to contact Mr. Morrow you can mail him at 38B John St, Yarmouth, NS ,B5A 3H5 or reach him at (902) 742-6168

Water's the Problem? Conserving Household H₂O

By Zak Miller, Ecology Action Centre

Water, water everywhere. It can be hard to imagine a limit to fresh water in Nova Scotia. But if our freshwater resources were a bank account, we would have a very low interest rate. The water we have is renewed only very slowly and at our current rate of water use, we will quickly run out. With pressure mounting, we all need to do our part to reduce household water use.

Both building renovations and new construction hold important opportunities to conserve water. Generally speaking, the greater the scope the proposed project, the more opportunities there are for water reduction improvements. However, even modest renovations can achieve a 30% reduction in water use relative to a conventional building with similar features and systems.

Though toilets may not be the most glamorous home renovation, they hold exciting potential for household water conservation, especially the installation of dual flush models. The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation tested 51 dual flush toilets in two housing developments in Kitchener, Ontario. The toilets saved between 37 and 99 litres of water per day per housing unit, with a water and wastewater rate savings of \$23.95-\$63.86 per unit. Conventional urinals can also be replaced with conversation-oriented, “no-flush” technology, adding even more savings.

Where facilities allow, a separate grey water system can also be installed to allow for water reuse. Greywater, generated from all of the house's sanitation equipment except for the toilets and/or urinals, comprises 50-80% of residential wastewater. With simple filtration systems, this collected water can be reused for many household and commercial applications. For example, untreated greywater is often rich in nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorous, making it an excellent source for plant watering and landscaping.



A dual flush toilet at the Ecology Action Centre's greenly renovated office in Halifax saves between 37 and 99 litres of water per day. Photo by Sadie Beaton.

Landscaping around your property is another great target for water conservation measures. For example, roof drainage systems that divert rainwater into cisterns can provide a free source of irrigation when the weather is dry, and eases the load on the storm water system during heavy rainstorms. Porous paving materials (for example “grass-crete”) can also be used for driveways and parking lots to ensure maximum water retention and minimum run-off.

A good variety of native plant species well adapted to the natural conditions of your property should also be encouraged whenever possible. It is important to choose plants well adapted to the natural growing conditions of the site. Well-situated deciduous plants can even be incorporated into building design to allow for maximum window shading in summer and maximum solar exposure during winter.

Protecting Nova Scotia’s fresh water supply into the future means recognizing where our buildings and surrounding properties can reduce consumption. It also means reusing water as much as possible before it enters wastewater facilities, and encouraging natural water retention. In this way, we can diminish the necessity for water treatment plants and wastewater facilities while moving in a direction that builds a culture of recognition and respect around how our most important of resources, water, is designed into our built environment.

Zak Miller is a proud new Dad who works on Built Environment Issues at the Ecology Action Centre. Coastlines is coordinated by the Coastal Issues Committee at Ecology Action Centre and supported by the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund with contributions from hunters and trappers.

GET INVOLVED WITH IKANAWTIKET

For *Species at Risk* and *Invasive Alien Species* Information contact:



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Fax (902) 895-3844

Parks Canada Meeting

By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely

On July 30th, MAARS Director Roger Hunka, NCNS Chief and President Grace Conrad, and IKANAWTIKET Regional Facilitator Joshua McNeely met with Harry DeLong, Linda Frank, Stephen Flemming and Yves Bossè from Parks Canada Atlantic Service Centre and Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site to discuss a proposed Management Plan for the Kejimikujik Park, Species at Risk Recovery Strategies for some species residing in the Park, and additional upcoming draft management plans for Parks Canada lands and monuments in Mainland Nova Scotia.

The Kejimikujik Management Plan, as presented, is well thought out and forward looking to consider public use and involvement and to showcase biodiversity in Southwest Nova Scotia. The Operational Superintendent Harry DeLong emphasized that the Park Management Plan is a living document, which can grow and change as more citizens become involved in park activities and management. Discussed were opportunities for the Native Council of Nova Scotia to become involved in various Parks Canada advisory boards with the Park and also for other Park lands and monuments in Mainland Nova Scotia.

The Mainland NS Field Unit of Parks Canada has agreed to send the proposed Park Management Plan, proposed Species at Risk Recovery Strategies, and other Parks Canada draft plans in Mainland Nova Scotia to the NCNS for discussion among the NCNS Board of Directors.

MAPC-MAARS and IKANAWTIKET look forward to continuing to build a relationship with the Mainland NS Field Unit. Natural lands, biodiversity, and history are important to preserve and learn from and requires many peoples input,

especially individual Aboriginal persons and also elected representatives of Aboriginal Peoples. Park management includes issues which lie well outside the park boundaries, such as species at risk, unsustainable economic development practices, pollution, and climate change. Each Park and Historic Site requires strong relationships with surrounding communities and institutions in order to be effective.

We welcome invitations by Parks Canada to invite Aboriginal Peoples to review and comment on Parks and Historic Sites management and to be directly involved in advisory bodies and action teams. We hope that the Kejimikujik Park Management Plan adopts clear strategic objectives to also engage and involve our Aboriginal Youth in activities and decision-making.



Kejimikujik, the only inland national park of Canada in the Maritimes, features abundant lakes and rivers ideal for canoeing. The lush woodlands and gently rolling landscapes are home to a variety of wildlife. Visitors will find historic canoe routes, portages and many beautiful hiking trails in the park. Taken from Parks Canada Website (<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/index.aspx>)



**An IKANAWTIKET learning initiative
for pre-registered youth**

Cornwallis, Nova Scotia

November 18-22, 2009

**Species at Risk Act Process
“Beyond the Textbook”**

Theme 1 – COSEWIC Species & Habitat Assessment

Theme 2 – Consultation with Aboriginal People

Theme 3 - Socio-Economic Impact Analysis

Theme 4 - Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement/Gazetting Decision

Theme 5 - Developing Species Recovery Strategies

Theme 6 - Implementing Action Plans

Plus field trips to learn about the Bay of Fundy natural environment and Mi'kmaq/early French history

If you are a Youth involved with one of the Native Councils and have not yet registered for ARISES 2009 please contact:

for youth in New Brunswick, Barry LaBillois 506-458-8422

for youth in Prince Edward Island, Naomi Crane 902-892-5314 ext 236

for youth in Nova Scotia, Franz Kesick 902-895-2982



National Aquaculture Strategic Action Plan Initiative (NASAPI)

By MAARS PEI AMDO Naomi Crane

On July 9th, 2009 Roger Hunka, Joshua McNeely, Jordan Crane, Barry LaBillois, Franz Kesick and Naomi Crane attended the Nova Scotia Finfish Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the National Aquaculture Strategic Action Plan Initiative (NASAPI), at the Citadel Halifax Hotel, in Halifax Nova Scotia.

Today, worldwide, 50% of seafood consumed comes from aquaculture. This figure is expected to grow at a rate of 3.9% per year through to 2030. This is due in part to a worldwide increase in demand for protein, a diminished wild fishery, and a growing awareness of health benefits associated with fish consumption. Although every province in Canada, as well as the Yukon Territory, participates in aquaculture, Canada's output of aquaculture only accounts for 0.3% of the global industry. The National Aquaculture Strategic Action Plan Initiative (NASAPI) workshop is an attempt to consult with industry stakeholders to *advance socially and environmentally sustainable aquaculture development in Canada.*

NASAPI is part of DFO's Sustainable Aquaculture Development Program, of which, the key objectives are to:

- *Establish quantifiable targets for sector development over the next five years,*
- *Delineate roles and responsibilities among all levels of government and industry, and*
- *Raise the profile of aquaculture in the eyes of the public and government officials.*

Workshop participants had several concerns about restrictive wording in the workshop materials provided, including the NASAPI Vision statement which read:

The Canadian aquaculture sector generates prosperity through the application of innovative technologies and best practices developed from leading-edge research and development. Striving to fulfill its potential as a global leader in the sustainable production of safe, quality foods, the sector is committed to earning and upholding public confidence in a manner that is respectful of local communities and the environment, for the benefit of all Canadians.

Workshop participants felt this statement was not conducive to the future of the Canadian aquaculture industry. It was felt that the Vision Statement restricted the potential growth of this industry and eliminated the inclusion of Aboriginal Organizations. As well, participants expressed concern that the Vision Statement implied there are no current sustainable efforts made by industry players.

The regulatory and management regimes for a sustainable sector seems to keep Canada behind in this growing industry, as there seems to be an ongoing tug-of-war between the federal parliament and the provincial legislatures to regulate the aquaculture industry in Canada. Under the direction of the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers and the Aquaculture Task Group, the federal and provincial governments are now attempting to agree on the three pillars of sustainable development which include: *environmental protection, economic prosperity and social well being.*

One important regulatory management tool for NASAPI is Introductions and Transfers (I&T's). I&T committees provide certificates, as approvals by the government, to allow industry and business to import and move inter-provincially foreign and exotic animals into Canadian aquatic facilities, establishments and waters.

The permits ensure that there is proper tracking of the movement of aquatic life-forms and is one way to measure and manage the potential ecological and disease risks associated with our introduction and transfer of foreign or exotic aquatic life-forms into Canadian waters.

On the east coast of Canada most of the I&T permits are undertaken by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. In large measure, on the west coast and for inland lakes and rivers, the provinces manage that responsibility. In many instances, this results in regulatory overlap when applying for I&T permits. In order to avoid this regulatory overlap, Provincial Governments and the Federal Government Department of Fisheries and Oceans recommended to remove or limit disease management considerations in their regulatory frameworks.

However, a new reality may make that hasty recommendation ill advised, particularly in light of a need for Canada and Canadians to implement and adopt a National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP) or regime that will be responsible for conducting tests and protecting waters and facilities from the introduction and transfer of aquatic diseases which can result in serious outbreaks and decimation of complete domestic stocks, both aquaculture and in the wild.

The issue is very complex particularly when we must consider that Canada is the second largest land mass/country in the world and is bounded by three oceans. Intercontinental and intra-continental travel and shipping daily raises the risk of introduction or transfer of diseases with every shipment of fish, fish eggs or fish meal into Canada or across Canada.

Aquatic alien invasive species are also a concern for the Canadian aquaculture industry. Several alien invasive species directly affect aquaculture including: oyster thief, green crab, and tunicates, which affect shellfish aquaculture, and sea lice, which will inevitably affect finfish cage sites. Federal and provincial departments of fisheries and aquaculture are working toward cost-effective solutions and management strategies to deal with these invasive alien species as they already exist in many of our water systems.

In addition to these growing threats, the public is more aware of what they are consuming, which increases the need for certification and traceability. Consumers want to know that the products they are purchasing are of superior quality, environmentally sustainable, food safe, eco-friendly, and can be traced from source to market.

Presently the Canadian aquaculture industry lacks an agreed upon certification and traceability system, which hinders Canada from fully participating and taking greater advantage of global markets.

If the industry can agree upon an eco-certification process, then the Canadian aquaculture industry will be better positioned to promote and market certified Canadian products to guarantee quality and traceability.

For more information on the NASAPI, please visit their site at:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/aquaculture-eng.html>

Cleaning up Ocean Garbage

By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely

What do plastic bags, pop bottles, cellophane wrappers, and plastic forks all have in common. For one, you probably use these products every day (and then throw them away in the trash). What we are learning now is that an alarming amount of that plastic eventually finds its way into the oceans – in fact, millions of tons of plastic world wide. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that on average 46,000 pieces of plastic can be found floating per square mile of ocean around the world. Major sources of Ocean Garbage include land-based dumpsites near rivers or coasts, industrial outfalls, untreated sewage and storm water drains, legal and illegal at-sea dumping by vessels and oil & gas platforms, and abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear.

That is a lot of plastic! Now consider this: circular ocean and wind currents, called gyres, drive floating debris toward the centre of oceans, where the water and winds are still. Here the debris can build up for many years and in some areas the plastic layer can be several feet thick! In their natural state, such a calm area is referred to as a vortex and they are important breeding and feeding grounds for some fish, such as eel in the Sargasso Sea. *Now several of these areas are referred to as “Garbage Patches” or “Trash Vortices”.*



Plastic in Great Pacific Garbage Patch
website

In September, the UNEP, in cooperation with Ocean Conservancy, released a detailed report *Marine Litter: A Global Challenge*, which outlines the global problem of marine litter, reviews and analyzes regional assessments and action plans, and makes several recommendations to nations to address the global challenge. The report can be downloaded free at the UNEP www.new.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter.

The report recommends that regional and national action plans be developed to create and enforce legislation for waste management, to develop institutional mechanisms and public-private-government partnerships, and to raise public awareness and education. The report also recommends that port reception and inspection facilities be improved. Also needed are effective measures to stop the flow of garbage into our oceans and to start the clean-up.

On World Ocean's Day 2009, the UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner called for a world-wide ban on “pointless thin film plastics”, such as those used for single-use plastic grocery bags and plastic shrink film wrapping around many everyday products.

“Marine litter is symptomatic of a wider malaise: namely the wasteful use and persistent poor management of natural resources. Some of the litter, like thin film single use plastic bags which choke marine life, should be banned or phased-out rapidly everywhere – there is simply zero justification for manufacturing them anymore, anywhere,” said Mr. Steiner.

How big is this task? Plastics production around the world is a multi-billion dollar industry, generating over 225 million tons of plastic each year, mainly from oil and gas resources, of which less than 5% is recycled. Banning certain plastics

will undoubtedly impact profits in the plastics sector, but what is the current cost to sea life which mistake decomposing plastic trash for food? What is the cost to human health from chemicals released by plastics into our water systems and marine food supplies? What is the cost to global health when Ocean Garbage Patches choke out all marine life in an area of many square kilometers? Is Ocean Garbage in the Sargasso Sea impacting adult or larval eels?



Albatross Death by Plastic-North Pacific Gyre
website

And what will be the cost for at-sea clean-up? This year, a team of scientists, innovators, and environmentalists will attempt to 'take a stab' at Ocean Garbage in the North Pacific Gyre Garbage Dump. Project Kaisei set sail from San Francisco, California on August 2nd for a 21 day study of a major Garbage Patch northeast of Hawaii. They test-drove new equipment and techniques to efficiently clean-up the Garbage Patch (including at-sea collection, processing, and recycling of plastics). The team also conducted additional research on the effects of plastics on marine life, especially chemical interactions such as absorption of pesticides through plastic ingestion. You can follow their voyage on-line, watch videos of what they found, and read their initial reports at www.projectkaisei.org.

Unfortunately, MAARS and IKANAWTIKET have been unable to find similar Canadian examples of intergovernmental and

interdisciplinary task forces to address ocean garbage in Canada's three oceans. Canada is a part of the UNEP Region Seas Programme in the Arctic, but not in the Northeast Pacific; and no programme exists for the Northwest Atlantic.

Some concerned individuals and organizations in Canada are voicing growing concerns about Ocean Garbage. The Maritime Fishermen's Union created a Clean Ocean Initiative to educate fishermen and others about the effects of Ocean Garbage and released two infomercials called *Ship-to-Shore Trash Kills*. Some Canadian experts are raising a call to the Canadian Government to publicly recognize and address the seriousness of sea dumped munitions; and with other international experts, call on the United Nations to draft a new international convention to clean up munitions and chemical containers dumped at sea (see *Netawek Ikjikum* Vol. 3, Iss. 3, Dec., 2007). These are important individual initiatives and we applaud their efforts to raise awareness of Ocean Garbage.

However, addressing Ocean Garbage requires coordinated national, regional, and international efforts. To be effective, government officials, experts, Aboriginal Peoples, environmental non-government organizations, and the Canadian public need a forum to sit down together and with regional and international partners to draft Canada's plans to Assess, Prevent, and Respond to Ocean Garbage in our three oceans. In the Maritimes Region, some possible frameworks already exist to start implementing these plans quickly, such as Integrated Management Planning for the Eastern Scotian Shelf, Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and several watersheds and coastal zones. Canada has world leading national legislation in the *Oceans Act* to address multijurisdictional issues, such as Ocean Garbage.

Canada can act to reduce and end Ocean Garbage and Ocean Garbage killing, when elected officials exercise their mandate.

Native Council of Prince Edward Island - 35th AGA

By MAARS PEI AMDO Naomi Crane

The Native Council of Prince Edward Island hosted their 35th Annual General Assembly at the Howard Johnson Dutch Inn, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on July 25th – 26th, 2009.



Georgina Knockwood-Crane and Rikki Schock opened the Annual General Assembly with a prayer in English and Mikmaq. Georgina Knockwood-Crane performed a smudging ceremony and the Eagle Island Singers performed the Honour Song.

Paula Biggard, representing the Minister Carolyn Bertram; Hon. Olive Crane, Leader of the Opposition; Kevin Daniels, Interim National Chief of the Congress for Aboriginal Peoples; Jerry Steele, retired Aboriginal Affairs Liaison for the Province Governments, Jerry Peltier; Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and Allister MacPhee, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples all address the 2009 assembly.

Roger Hunka, MAARS/MAPC and Grace Conrad, Chief and President of the Native Council of Nova Scotia acted as Chair and Co-Chair respectively.



Rikki Schock was elected as the new Vice President for NCPEI. Rikki previously held the position as Elder on the Board of Directors.

Reports were read to the assembly by the Executive and Board of Directors and the financial audit was presented by the auditor for the Council.

Heartfelt testimonials were expressed to Kim Gallant, who is the Diabetes Program director. The news that funding would not be provided to continue this valuable program shocked Council members. One member stated, *“the Diabetes Program has been a very successful program of the Council for many years, we must strongly lobby the Government of Canada to re-instate this Program initiative.”*

The members of NCPEI also recognized Jayne Tremere for *“actively promoting the Aims and Objectives of the Council”* for the last seven years and *“actively going above and beyond her job description”*; and therefore, the members requested to change her status from an Associate Member to that of Honorary Member, due to Jayne’s on-going commitment to the NCPEI.

The 35th Annual General Assembly was adjourned early Sunday afternoon.

17th Annual Abegweit Pow Wow

By MAARS PEI AMDO Naomi Crane



An intertribal dance

On August 15th, 2009 – August 16th, 2009, the Native Council of Prince Edward Island hosted their 17th Annual Abegweit Pow Wow. Approximately 3000 people from all over Canada and beyond were in attendance.

Jimmie Augustine was the master of ceremonies, entertaining drummers, dancers and guests. Head male dancer Don Barnaby and head female dancer Leslie Tuplin lead the dancers with traditional dancing. The host drummers were Stoney Bear Singers from Eskasoni, N.S.

Unfortunately, while partaking in the food, social and ceremonial fishery for the last feast, seven of the 50 allowable lobster traps were vandalized by some non-native fishermen from the area. RCMP and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have launched an investigation into the matter; however, to date no charges have been laid.

President and Chief of the Native Council spoke with media officials stating *“You know what, this powwow has been going on for 17 years, and as an aboriginal community, we have a right to go out and to hunt and fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes. All we're doing is exercising that right”*.

This incident, which regrettably happens every year, did not deter people from participating in the weekend events.



Food, Social and Ceremonial fishing for Abegweit Pow Wow



Lobster caught during the food social and ceremonial fishery



Head Dancers; Don Barnaby with Leslie Tuplin

Atlantic AAROM's Meeting

By MAARS NB AMDO Barry LaBillois

The Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) organizations in Eastern Canada met on July 16, 2009, at The Fisheries Resource Centre in Eel Ground, New Brunswick.

Mr. David Millette, Director General of Aboriginal Policy and Governance Directorate for DFO, attended the afternoon session of the meeting. Members of the AAROM organizations discussed with Mr. Millette various aspects of the work they were doing in the region.

Mr. Charles Ryan gave a presentation on DFO's terms and conditions of the Integrated Aboriginal Contribution Management Framework, Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS), Allocation Transfer Program (ATP), Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program (AIHP), Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI) and the Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (AICFI).

There were also discussions in regards to the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk Program. This program is jointly administered by Environment Canada and Department of Fisheries and Oceans. DFO utilizes the AAROM, AIHP and AFS to administer the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk.

Multi-year agreements and annual reporting were discussed as this would greatly increase the effectiveness and efficiency of all organizations.

During the discussion the new reporting template was discussed as well as improving efficiency in service delivery, strengthened accountability and a greater focus on the achievement of results. Administrative effectiveness for recipients means more flexible funding and administrative arrangements and that money may be carried over from one year to the next, which is currently not allowed. The ability to have multi-year agreements and annual reporting, depending on capacity / history of the group, will help as more time will be spent on doing actual work and less time managing agreements

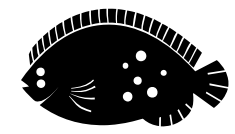


July 16, 2009, AAROM Meeting, Eel Ground, New Brunswick

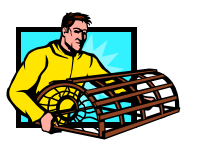


Throughout the months of July, August, and September 2009, the MAARS Staff attended many Fishery: Stakeholders/ Advisory/ Committee/ Area Meetings, Science Workshops, Oceans Planning & Management Sessions.

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



1. NS AMDO Franz Kesick attends a Stakeholder Advisory Council (SAC) meeting with the ESSIM Team to review the Marine Protected Area selection
2. IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely meets with the PEI Aquaculture Association to discuss the PEIAA IAS Project for 2009-2010
3. PEI AMDO Naomi Crane, NB AMDO Barry LaBillois, NS AMDO Franz Kesick and IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely attend the National Aquaculture Strategic Action Plan Initiative
4. NS AMDO Franz Kesick and IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely attend the East Coast Environmental Law meeting to learn about private prosecutions in NS for environmental issues
5. NS AMDO Franz Kesick attends the 2009 Swordfish Stock Assessment
6. ASN Manager Jason Harquail, NB AMDO Barry LaBillois, NS AMDO Franz Kesick, IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely and Dr. Donna Hurburt attend the ATK and American Eel workshop
7. NS AMDO Franz Kesick attends the NORIGS 3 Coalition Meeting to discuss a political strategy in regards to oil exploration in the Georges Bank area
8. NS AMDO Franz Kesick attends a Lobster Fishery Advisory meeting (LFA 35)
9. PEI AMDO Naomi Crane attends the Tuna Advisory meeting
10. MAARS Director Roger Hunka, Mime'j Seafoods Manager Tim Martin, IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely, NS AMDO Franz Kesick and Dr. Donna Hurlburt meet with Bowater-Mersey to discuss FSC certification
11. MAARS staff attends the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Annual General Assembly
12. MAARS staff attends the Native Council of Nova Scotia's Annual General Assembly
13. IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely, NS AMDO Franz Kesick and MAARS CDIL Brett Bancroft met with Kejimikujik National Park staff and interpreters to discuss Youth ARISES 2009



Netawek Ikjikum

Voice of the Ocean

In this issue:

- IAS Atlantic Network
- 5th Annual Lobster Science Workshop
- European Union's Regulations in regards to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fisheries
- International Smart Gear Competition
- Southwest Nova Scotia Fishermen oppose Georges Bank Oil and Gas
- Water's the Problem? Conserving Household H₂O
- Parks Canada Meeting
- Youth ARISES 2009
- National Aquaculture Strategic Action Plan Initiative
- Cleaning up Ocean Garbage
- 35th Annual NCPEI AGA
- 17th Annual Abegweit Pow Wow
- Atlantic AAROM meeting

Netawek Ikjikum is a free quarterly communiqué profiling the **Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate** activities.

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The views expressed and the information shared herein reflects those solely of the writers and does not necessarily attest to accuracy or represent the views of MAPC MAARS or any of its partner Councils with which the writers or Netawek Ikjikum is affiliated with or a part of.

Vol. 5 Issue 2, September 2009



Native Drummers Kiju Boys and Native Dancers the Pennell Sisters at the Annual NCNS AGA

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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