

# Netawek Ikjikum

Voice of the Ocean

Quarterly Newsletter of the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate

Vol. 5 Issue 1, June 2009

## Species at Risk Legislative Review Update

By IKANAWTIKET Facilitator Joshua McNeely

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development are continuing their review of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Thus far, presentations have been made to the Committee by lead staff of Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Parks Canada Agency responsible for implementing the Act, and also by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) chair Dr. Jeff Hutchings, the Minister's special ENGO/Industry Species at Risk Advisory Committee (SARAC), and some industry representatives from power companies, oil companies and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

Thus far, discussions have been mostly centered on the importance of SARA to each of these groups and the problems they have witnessed over the past five years with the lack of SARA implementation. The verbatim discussions can be listened to, read, or downloaded from the Committee's website at:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/CommitteeBusiness/CommitteeMeetings.aspx?Cmt e=ENVI&Stac=2630494&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=2>

The Committee's review will continue when the House resumes in the fall and IKANAWTIKET will keep you up-to-date as the SARA Review proceeds.

# World Ocean Day 2009

By Brett Bancroft

Friday June 5, 2009, MAARS participated in “*World Oceans Day*” on the Halifax Waterfront. The topic of the day, “*Conservation of our Ocean*”, brought many organizations with their displays to inform the public of ways to conserve Canada’s oceans. Some of the participants included: Canadian Coast Guard, the Sierra Club, the Ecology Action Centre, CPAWS, the Canadian Sea Turtle Network, Clean Oceans, the Sackville River Association, Fishermen and Scientists Research Society, ESSIM, Coastal Cura, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Environment Canada, World Wildlife Fund Canada, ACZSC, and the Marine Affairs Program of Dalhousie University to list but a few participants.



The Ocean Day activities were organized by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA). Sean McKeane of NSDFA once again did an excellent job. MAARS thanks the NSDFA for the opportunity to promote our involvement in the ocean sector.

# World Maritime University visits MAPC-MAARS

By Roger Hunka

Truro, May 9, 2009

As in previous years, Professor Neil Bellefontaine, of the World Maritime University, brought his 2008/2009 Class, to visit Atlantic Canada. One important stop, was to visit the Native Council of Nova Scotia Netukulimkewe'1 Commission office and the MAPC Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate offices in Truro.

Tim Martin, Commissioner of the Netukulimkewe'1 Commission and President of Mime'j Seafoods Ltd., and Roger Hunka, Director of MAPC and MAARS, spent about two hours explaining the Traditional Ancestral Homelands (off-reserve) Mi'Kmaq/Aboriginal Peoples harvest management regimes, and efforts to gain some economic benefits from aquatic resources in the Atlantic Ocean. The intent and goals of the Regional Collaborative Aquatic Resources and Ocean Management Body (MAARS) working for the three Native Councils of the Maritimes was explained. The small class was very interested and had many questions.



Also at this time, Kathi Stewart of DFO, who has been a long time friend of our Council and Community, had just recently retired from DFO. On behalf of the Native Council of Nova Scotia, the Netukulimkewe'1 Commission, Mime'j Seafoods, and MAARS, Kathi was presented a hand-crafted basket of hand-made wooden splint flowers. The card was signed by all her friends at the Council Commission and MAARS.

Kathi will be missed from DFO. However, as for the Council, Kathi knows that whenever she is in the area, she is always welcome to stop in for a cup of tea – as a friend Kathi you are always welcome at the Council. All our best to you on your retirement, keep in touch.



For the World Maritime University Class of 2008/2009, we wish each and every one, every good success in your career endeavors, may harmony be with you and your families.

# EELS ON SLIPPERY SLOPE

By Sadie Beaton of the Ecology Action Centre

The cliché “slippery as an eel” is an apt one, and not only because these long, serpentine fish sport a slick layer of mucus on their skin. Eels (*Anguilliformes*) are truly creatures of mystery. Though they turn up in more habitats than any other species of fish, precious little is known about them. The eel keeps many secrets, and could likely tell us much about the intimate connections between Nova Scotia’s watersheds and faraway seas – if only we could grasp them.

Eels are catadromous – fish whose lives begin and end in the ocean, but spend most of its time in freshwater rivers and lakes (the opposite of salmon). They are thought to spawn just once, at the end of their lives, deep down in the mythical-sounding Sargasso Sea, a massive seaweedy locale in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Bermuda. That’s the theory, anyway – no one has ever witnessed the spawning, hatching, or found the corpses of spent eels.

At the mercy of swirling currents, scientists believe that leaf-shaped eel larvae float out from the wide Sargasso Sea towards the Atlantic coasts of Europe, Central, South and North America. By the time they’ve caught a ride up the Gulf Stream to find their way towards an estuary– which can take up to three years - they’ve morphed into five centimetre long “glass eels“, translucent but for their eyes. Once they hit fresh water, they begin to darken up and mature into “elvers“, and then eventually change form again, growing over a metre long and turning yellow. These “golden eels“ rove throughout Nova Scotia’s rich watersheds in the dark of night to feed on insects, worms, molluscs, crustaceans and fish.

After traveling throughout Nova Scotia’s watersheds for anywhere from five to 30 years, the eel will metamorphose once more, into sexually mature “silver eels“. From here it is an arduous trip back to the Sargasso Sea. Hydroelectric dams, fishing weirs, and other human-made barriers often thwart their progress. Ever stubborn, their slippery skin even allows them to shimmy overland for short distances. In many areas, though, the vast majority of eels never make it back to their spawning ground.

A significant food source for fish, mammals and birds throughout Nova Scotia’s watersheds, eels have also long been important to the Mi’kmaq, for food and ceremony. Also referred to as Kat or Katew, the eel is revered for its adaptable nature and its value as food, clothing and other uses. Eels are sometimes used locally as bait, though they are considered a delicacy in many parts of Europe and Asia. Fishing weirs, nets and traps capture elvers swimming upstream, golden eels in freshwater, and silver eels on their way back to the ocean.



Long thought to be a separate species of fish, eel larvae are known as *leptocephali*. Illustration by Sydney Smith.

One of the few eel facts that we can grab onto, unfortunately, is that they are declining at alarming rates, not only in Nova Scotia, but around the world. The Committee On The Status Of Endangered Wildlife In Canada (COSEWIC) has recently declared the American Eel a species of Special Concern. Along with over fishing, dams, habitat loss, water quality degradation and climate change are also likely culprits.

The elusive eel serves as a potent reminder of the connectedness, fragility and ultimately, mystery of the underwater realm. Protecting them will challenge our ability to act both locally and globally to reconnect fragmented aquatic ecosystems and restore degraded fish habitat. Because eels are sensitive to chemical contaminants throughout the watershed, we can all help by using environmentally friendly household cleaners and avoiding pesticides. We can also demand that dams around the province are outfitted with effective “eel ladders”. Landowners can also help take care of Nova Scotia’s watersheds by employing good silviculture and agricultural practices along streambeds.

*Sadie Beaton coordinates the Coastlines monthly natural history column. Much as she would like to, she cannot reveal the words of the golden eel. 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.*

## Seeking Aboriginal Views on ABS

By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely

MAPC Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Roger Hunka, NCNS Chief and President Grace Conrad, NCPEI President and Chief Jamie Gallant, NBAPC President and Chief Betty Ann Lavallée, MAARS CARDA Barry LaBillois, and IKANAWTIKET Regional Facilitator Joshua McNeely attended an Environment Canada Engagement Session on “Access and Benefit Sharing” of “Genetic Resources including Traditional Knowledge” associated with Genetic Resources held on May 28, 2009 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The purpose of the meeting was for staff of Environment Canada – Ecosystems and Biodiversity Priorities Office to solicit views from Atlantic Aboriginal organizations on: the development of approaches for a potential domestic policy concerning access to genetic resources; the fair and equitable sharing of benefits gained from their use; and Traditional Knowledge associated with Genetic Resources. Together these are most commonly referred to as ‘Access and Benefit Sharing’ or ABS.

Although Canada has been silent on the matter of including Aboriginal Peoples or establishing a National Focal Point for Canadians to understand and discuss ABS issues, MAPC and a select number of delegates, recently educated and prepared about this subject, when the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) hosted a special one day session. (see 2010 International Year of Biodiversity in the March Issue: Vol. 4, Issue 4)

MAPC stated to the meeting chair, Jock Langford – Senior Intellectual Property Advisor for Environment Canada, that:

1. Genetic resources are an Aboriginal Title and Aboriginal Right, particularly in the Maritimes Region where genetic resources have not been ceded. The Government asserts Rights to genetic resources in the absence of any law, while the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada assert and maintain Title and Rights by Treaty and Constitutional protection.
2. ATK and genetic resources are intrinsically linked and cannot be separated. The Convention on Biological Diversity must be read as a whole and other international agreements must be considered in ABS Policy: the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the Declaration on Sustainable Development, and Declarations and Conventions on Culture and Heritage. There is a requirement to include Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Knowledge in domestic ABS Policy.
3. How can Canada justify its requirements to include Prior Informed Consent (PIC) in ABS, when Canada refuses to recognize PIC at the international level; and stated so by voting against the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples? How can Canada consider drafting an ABS policy when it has not figured out how to get around PIC, a fundamental principle for ABS.

4. How can anyone organize a Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) for sharing benefits when the Federal Government will not deal with the Aboriginal Nations of Aboriginal Peoples? Who is allowed to speak for whom? Who can sign the MAT on behalf of Aboriginal Peoples? Native Councils? Traditional Governing Councils? Indian Act Band Councils? In 1997, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended that the Federal Government first reconstitute the original Aboriginal Nations. To date, Indian Affairs has blocked that recommendation and perpetuates the divisive program to favour the 'Indian Act Indian' over the Aboriginal Peoples with a nation and an identity.
  
5. It is wholly in Canada's mandate and means to proactively sit down with Aboriginal Peoples to work out an ABS policy, but after 10 years, there has only been a handful of scattered meetings with Aboriginal Peoples across Canada. The very first recommendation of the United Nations Bonn Guidelines for developing national ABS Policies is to create a National Focal Point or otherwise first engage Aboriginal Peoples, experts, Government officials, and others in an open and transparent process together to learn about ABS issues, hold lengthy discussions, and make recommendations to Governments if there should be a policy and what general form the policy should take.



MAPC has also corresponded with senior Government officials on this issue and will continue to make note of ABS discussions during the weeks and months to come. The Canadian Council of Resource Ministers will decide if the Government should proceed to develop a Canada ABS Policy. Because Canada is the leading signatory for the Convention on Biological Diversity we wonder why the Ministers in Canada have to think, when it is obvious that Canada needs an ABS Policy.

# National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP)

By Roger Hunka

The National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP) Committee was convened by Dr. McGladdery in Ottawa on May 20 and 21, 2009, as the seventh meeting of the Aquatic Animal Health Committee. The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) and the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council (MAPC), are on the Committee, respectively as a National Aboriginal group and MAPC as a Regional Aboriginal Peoples Representative Body.

The two day agenda at first seemed overwhelming. For this article, I will highlight some key elements. First, Dr. McGladdery opened the session and also advised the Committee that she has taken on a new challenge, Director of the Fisheries and Oceans Biological Station, in beautiful St. Andrews, New Brunswick. We Maritimers are very fortunate, as is the Station and the three MAPC-MAARS Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishery Enterprises. We will have, right in the Maritimes, an added bonus to an already top notch station, another extremely knowledgeable Doctor in the world of fish. This expertise is particularly important to us, as our Traditional Ancestral Homelands (off-reserve) Aboriginal Peoples venture more and more into aquaculture facilities.

Dr. Carolyn Inch, of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), will replace Dr. McGladdery. Dr. Inch, addressed the Committee.

Over the two days, we overviewed concerns from 2008, and received updates on a number of items. There was a brief update on the meeting of the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM). A Canadian Food

Inspection Committee was formed which will help to tie in work to date and help to co-ordinate co-operative policies. The connection between CFIA and CCFAM will address policy management issues, inter-jurisdictional responsibilities and regulatory policy making.

CAP and MAPC raised the matter that our Aboriginal Communities are looking more and more to aquaculture as an alternative to the expensive wild fisheries. Certification of product will be more and more important both, to have and understand what is involved and why global markets require certification of fish. It appears inevitable that globally, “*security of foods*” is a prime concern to governments and their citizens.

We raised the subject that these matters fall within the scope of both “*consultation*” and “*economic development*”. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) should provide financial support for Aboriginal Peoples attendance, as well as support the work of the Committee and NAAHP. Aboriginal Peoples, as rights-holders, are involved in the Commercial Fishery and in instances will be marketing their own landings. Understanding certification is vital.

It is important to reinforce the importance of the NAAHP initiative of CFIA. INAC should get in-line with other departments already involved with the NAAHP.

The five year NAAHP business plan was discussed, and an undertaking was given to bring in an itemized expenditure of last year’s budget. Joanane Constantine provided an extensive update on import-export requirements and

development across the globe. The World Trade Organization is aware of growing “*certificate requirements*” and there are five more countries that will be putting in place control measures for disease control in fish and fish products.

There is growing concern that more and more staff will be required to do a multiplicity of tasks associated with certification. Some countries are looking at “*specialized technicians*” to help fill in the gap, because it takes a long time to graduate a veterinarian doctor who is qualified to issue certificates. We also have to look at a range of options in Canada for technicians, as well as selecting and designating testing facilities.

MAPC raised the issue of the North. We have three oceans; and to date, everything is focused on the Atlantic and Pacific – little if nothing for the Arctic. How will the program get the Wildlife Management Bodies in the North involved and in what way? There are a lot of questions. MAPC raised the matter because, there was no one from the Arctic at this session of the Committee meetings.

Economic implications of processing controls for effluent discharges was raised. There is a need to assess the options and mitigation measures in light of economic impacts.

Dr. Constantine briefed on other matters as to what role CFIA has with markets – in short, CFIA helps with market access; it does not help with market development. It is clearly evident that Canada needs to have the program in place, “off and running”, particularly since we are a large exporter of fish and fish products, and we import other fish and fish products which are exotic to our waters.

Grace Karreman made a presentation on Domestic Disease Control. Nathalie Bruneau made a presentation on surveillance, and Kim Kotins on Risk Assessment.

A very full agenda was covered with a lot of information. At the end, each committee member gave their view about the work to date on the NAAHP.

Clearly, this meeting polarized a lot of activities which have turned out concrete results. We are all seeing the results of effort and discussions in tangible examples of what and how the program would operate, and also why it is so vital for Canada to have this program. The world is not going to wait – we have three oceans of living aquatic resources to harvest, we have a world market, and the world market is looking for food safety assurances. Canada has to be able to provide that assurance.

More so, Canada and all the provinces and territories have to come up with the necessary and required funds to build or convert necessary facilities to do the testing, and provide the certificates. It is in Canada’s interest and Canadians’ interest to ensure that the multi-billion dollar fishing industry has market access. The NAAHP cannot be a fee-for-service initiative. It is a vital and imperative economic security issue. Canada has billions of dollars of fish exports attached to food safety, and this safety must be funded from the Queens treasury.

Treasury Board has to look at the important program and have it well funded to do the job that needs to be done. Canadians expect it to be done.

Both CAP and MAPC look forward to the next meeting of the NAAHP Committee.

# Maritime Aboriginal Water Speaker says “mining can be done in environmental harmony”

Excerpts – Thompson Citizen April 22, 2009

April 17, 2009, MAARS Director Roger Hunka gave a presentation at the Manitoba Eco-Network Water Caucus, public meeting in Thompson Manitoba.

“It makes more sense to construct man-made toxic effluent tailing ponds, than to use natural freshwater lakes – even so called “dead” lakes – to store toxic mining tailings.” Hunka told participants who gathered to discuss regional water issues, including clean drinking water, fishing rights, mining, and water and climate change.

Mining companies sometimes balk at the cost of investing in building infrastructure at a mining processing facility, which would also create a lot of local employment, and use contractors materials and large expenditures for supplies. An engineered toxic effluent tailings pond can cost \$30 million. A similar natural lake holding area would cost between \$3-5 million. So, from the company’s perspective, it makes economic sense to use natural lakes as toxic dump sites; however, it does not make sense for Canadians to subsidize mining companies with our natural heritage.



Bucko Lake Manitoba, next natural lake on the list

“I’m not against mining,” Hunka said. “Aboriginal People benefit from mining; it’s how you do it.”

The event was sponsored by the Winnipeg-based Manitoba Eco-Network. Sacha Kopelow, the group’s water caucus coordinator, and Josh Brandon, the assistant coordinator, both attended the Thompson public event.

“When we see a wrong [dumping toxic effluent into a water system] we have to raise the danger and try and make it right,” Hunka told the audience.

A hundred years ago, when people saw smoke stacks spewing toxic smoke effluents into the atmosphere, people remained silent, until today. Now we know that emissions, such as Carbon Dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>), are all but wiping out humanity and our living world.

Do we wait for all the waters to become toxic before we do something?



Alberta Tar Sand, constructed toxic effluent pond

# Governments Discuss Invasive Alien Species at National Level

By MAARS Director Roger Hunka

With the introduction of the Canada's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity Article 8h:

*“Each State shall prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species,”*

Canada launched in 2004 *An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada*. An organizing committee comprised of representatives from British Columbia and Ontario provincial governments, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Natural Resources Canada, and Environment Canada, planned and held a National Invasive Alien Species Forum on June 9 and 10, 2009, in Ottawa, Ontario.

The objectives of the forum was to bring together partners, Aboriginal Rights-holders, and stakeholders to identify mechanisms and ways in which to support the implementation of the Strategy by:

- Identifying national and regional priorities for invasive species management; and
- Characterizing and identifying gaps and needs in science, policy, and program delivery.

The forum was attended by a diverse representation of over fifty persons knowledgeable in different aspects of invasive alien species. The forum was facilitated by Warren Wilson.

Mr. Robert McLean, Executive Director of Environment Canada Habitat and Ecosystem Conservation, made some poignant remarks indicating both the challenge upon each Provincial jurisdiction and the Federal Government, as well as the level of engagement achieved in a short period of time. When we look back to the time when the Invasive Alien Species Strategy was first discussed five years ago, and we see what has been accomplished with a little money, there has been growing participation and interest, lots of discussion and a great amount of learning coast to coast.

Glyn Chancey Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program (IASPP), Executive Director of CFIA Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate, equally noted the challenges and level of engagement which CFIA has achieved through its Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program.

Mr. Daryl Seip, Program Manager for the IASPP and Linda Wilson, Manager of the BC Provincial Invasive Plant Management Program, both noted the work accomplished to date through the assistance of the IASPP, as well as the leading work undertaken by the British Columbia Government.

The forum spent some time on context and background, then took stock of what has been achieved to date.

The second day was spent discussing a path forward to successfully manage invasive alien species and provided the greatest amount of dialogue and ideas.

It was quickly apparent that trying to create one centre of excellence is not a useful or efficient way to deal with the invasive alien species agenda, considering that, as a nation, we have three oceans, which in themselves say, as one participant noted, “*invasive species come right in*”. Our harbour authorities are just now beginning to understand the magnitude of the problem, not to mention our airports. The movement of goods globally is an every day, every minute occurrence.

It was clearly understood that the most effective next step would be to draft out some principles that would help formulate governance structures, while at the same time empower more rights-holders, stakeholders, and all levels of governments to maintain both the pressure and urgency to do more to arrest the entry of invasive alien species and then better manage their spread if and when they get in.

A full report of the *Forum* is expected to be produced by the end of the summer. In the meantime, our IKANAWTIKET Regional Facilitator will follow-up on the *Forum* and provide updates as they arise.

.....

## **MAARS Introduces our Aquaculture Marketing Development Officer (AMDO)**

By Naomi Crane

Naomi Crane, Aquaculture Marketing Development Officer (AMDO) is the multi-stakeholder lead deployed to Prince Edward Island as the AMDO contact advisor to L’Nu Fisheries LTD. Naomi is stationed in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island with L’nu Fisheries Ltd., which is venturing into aquaculture.

Naomi is a Mi’kmaq who resides on Traditional Ancestral Mi’kmaq Homelands (off-reserve) in Prince Edward Island.

Naomi has been involved in Prince Edward Island’s Aquaculture Industry for the last ten years, working in various sectors of the industry including, lobster processing, research on Atlantic Salmon, and the spawning and rearing of various finfish species such as Salmon, Arctic Char, Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout and Striped Bass.



Naomi participated in an internship provided by the Atlantic Vet College, in partnership with the Native Council of Prince Edward Island. It is here where Naomi received both the hands-on and classroom based training in finfish technology as well as flow-through and recirculation systems.

Since then, Naomi has worked as a Level III Hatchery Technician and as a Hatchery Supervisor in an egg-to-plate facility, giving Naomi the opportunity to meet valuable contacts within the Aquaculture Industry.

# New Biodiversity Strategy for New Brunswick

By IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, New Brunswick Natural Resources Minister Wally Stiles released the Provincial Government's 1<sup>st</sup> Biodiversity Strategy, drafted by the Departments of Natural Resources, Environment, Agriculture and Aquaculture, Local Governments, and Transportation.

“With this plan we will be able to use our biological resources in such a way that we live off nature's interest without depleting its capital,” Minister Stiles said at the release.

According to the government, the Biodiversity Strategy will be a new and integral part of decision-making in Fredericton and will position New Brunswick as a leader in responsible stewardship, as they implement the New Brunswick Self-Sufficiency 2026 Action Plan, which was released in 2007 as New Brunswick's guiding document towards a change in how the Province approaches resource and infrastructure development.

The Biodiversity Strategy is full of ideas and opportunities for all New Brunswickers to be involved in decision-making and actions about natural resources, conservation, and sustainable development. As the Strategy states, the government must set the example and also seek “*an exceptional level of collaboration among organizations*” to understand the state of New Brunswick's biodiversity, set clear targets, and develop new approaches to management.

*A society that lives and develops as part of nature, values the diversity of life, takes no more than can be replenished and leaves to future generations a nurturing and dynamic world, rich in biodiversity.*

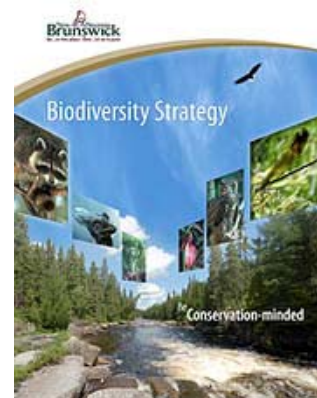
Vision Statement – New Brunswick Biodiversity Strategy

A copy of the Biodiversity Strategy can be found on the DNR website at:

<http://www.gnb.ca/0078/Promo/Biodiversity-e.asp>

Though at first glance, the Strategy seems well thought-out, the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, is disappointed with the Department of Natural Resources for not inviting the Council to review and comment on initial drafts. The oversight is evident in that the Aboriginal Peoples of New Brunswick are virtually left out of the Strategy's 25 pages, save for a brief nod to cooperate with Indian Act Reserves (First Nations) when necessary and to consider relevant information (including Traditional Knowledge).

The Aboriginal Peoples who continue on Traditional Ancestral Homelands through New Brunswick collectively hold a vast knowledge about the natural world and know first hand the consequences of New Brunswick's past history of resource extraction and exportation for shareholder gain. Aboriginal Peoples can help the Province in all stages and in all regions to “*Assess, Plan, Do, and Track*” the implementation of the Strategy and subsequent Action Plans. NBAPC and IKANAWTIKET offer a hand to the Province to sit down with officials to go over the 20 Biodiversity Management Outcomes and start to develop collaborative Action Plans for everyone's benefit.



# New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council - AGA

By Barry LaBillois, MAARS AMDO

New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held at the Ramada Inn, Fredericton New Brunswick, on June 12-14, 2009.



Kathy Sorbey opened the Annual General Assembly with an opening prayer followed by her singing the “Mi’kmaq Honour song”. The Honourable Rick Brewer, Minister of Human Resources and Minister responsible for the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat for the Province of New Brunswick, was on hand along with Patrick Francis, Deputy Minister of the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, and Nicole Bowman, Communications Officer for the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat.

Minister Brewer presented Chief Betty-Ann Lavallee with a copy of the Passamaquoddy-Maliseet dictionary which has 18,000 entries, and is the culmination of more than 30 years of work by: David A. Francis, author and former tribal governor of the Passamaquoddy Peoples in the state of Maine; Robert Leavitt, former member of University of the New Brunswick's faculty of education and former director of the Mi’kmaq-Maliseet Institute; Margaret Apt, community research co-ordinator; and over one hundred and thirty other educators, native speakers and linguists dedicated to the preservation of the Passamaquoddy and Maliseet languages.



*“Language is a link that connects people to their past, as we strive towards our goal of self-sufficiency, we must continue to make this province strong by nurturing and providing to younger generations a sense of pride in who they are and where they come from. It is our hope that the donation of these dictionaries will inspire a new generation of young people to learn the Passamaquoddy and Maliseet languages.”*

(The Honourable Rick Brewer, June 5, 2009)

A presentation on Consultation and Accommodation was given by Rocky Landry and Ron Loughrey from New Brunswick's Aboriginal Affairs Secretariate. They gave the Province's view on how they see the process implemented in New Brunswick.

The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council held eight "*Engagement Strategy on Consultation and Accommodation*" meetings around the Province. Carol LaBillois-Slocum gave a summary of the meetings. The Province is still scant and has not clearly indicated the requirement to equally, if not more engage the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council on any activities, works, or projects that may impact or effect Treaty Rights or Aboriginal Rights of the off-reserve Aboriginal Peoples of New Brunswick.

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

Roger Hunka and Gary Gould gave a historical overview of the Sharon McIvor court case that has been heard by the British Columbia Court of Appeal and is awaiting leave from the Supreme Court of Canada to appear before it on an appeal.

Chief Betty-Ann Lavalleyé presented Elders Lionel Harquail and Jack and Rhoda Bernard with a special award in recognition of their contribution to NBAPC's "Wall of Honour" for Aboriginal Veteransk, which is located at the office in Fredericton.

Awards were also given to:

Local of the Year Award – *Lois Geneva Award* – Local 18 Dalhousie

Member of the Year Award – Ernest (Buddy) Harquail and Barry LaBillois

Youth of the Year Award – *Shawn McKinney Award* – Sonia Lavertu

Spouse of the Year Award - *Peter H. Gould Memorial Award* – Claude Vienneau

Elder Freda Harper gave the closing prayer to the two day Assembly which ended in the late hours of Sunday Evening.



# Aquaculture Canada

By Franz Kesick, MAARS AMDO

Prince Edward Island L'nu Fisheries Manager Jordan Crane and Nova Scotia AMDO Franz Kesick attended the 2009 Aquaculture Canada Conference held at the Bastion Coastal Inn in Nanaimo B.C.

Some of the sessions that were attended were:

- Couturier, M.F.** *Accurate sizing of drum filters for aquaculture applications,*
- Boyce, B.** *Marine Harvest Canada: sea lice trends and mitigation,*
- Mullen, A.J.** *Effects of Atlantic salmon farm organic enrichment within an Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture system (IMTA) in the Bay of Fundy,*
- Williams, T.** *Journey to economic independence: BC First Nations' perspectives,*
- Harry, R.** *Opportunities for First Nations in aquaculture,*
- Silver, J.J.** *Getting from a wild shellfish harvest to shellfish aquaculture: talking about what your community venture needs to succeed,*
- Landry, T.** *Tunicate infestation on mussel farms in Prince Edward Island Canada: investigating management tools and approaches,*
- Smith, J.** *Certification and DFO's Sustainable Aquaculture Program,*
- Cross, S.F.** *The Aboriginal Certification of Environmental Sustainability (ACES) program*

One topic that appeared to gather a lot of interest was the farming of various types of seaweed. This industry thrives in some Asian countries, and in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada has had varying degrees of success. The largest impediment appears to be jurisdictional differences where the Federal Government issues licenses to harvest and the Provincial Governments issue leases to seaweed areas which can be harvested. The result is, a few large companies have an almost exclusive right to harvest areas with no government oversight for sustainability other than that which a lease holder may institute. In Nova Scotia license holders have to harvest company leased areas. In Prince Edward Island, rock weed has been all but extirpated.

The Native Council of Prince Edward Island, through their L'nu Fisheries Ltd., is involved in Aquaculture with mussels. The Native Council of Nova Scotia and the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council are currently exploring various opportunities to also enter the Aquaculture Industry.

The conference provided plenty opportunities to meet other people during networking sessions and throughout the four days of the conference. As MAARS Aquaculture Development Marketing Officers, Barry LaBillois, Naomi Crane and myself, will continue to search out opportunities for the Councils to enter into Sustainable Aquaculture Operations.

# International Smart Gear Competition

By Naomi Crane

The World Wildlife Federation (WWF), in partnership with scientists, fishermen, seafood suppliers, conservationists, policy experts, researchers and gear technologists, present the International Smart Gear Competition, which has been held annually since 2005.

The purpose of this competition is to, *“inspire and reward practical, innovative fishing gear designs that reduce [the] accidental catch and related deaths of...non-target species”*.

The International Smart Gear Competition is open to all professions, from fishermen and students to scientists and “back-yard” inventors. Prizes for the competition range from thirty thousand (US) dollars for first prize, to two prizes of ten thousand (US) dollars for runners-up.

Although the deadline for entry was June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, for this year’s competition, everyone is encouraged to devise a “Smart Gear” invention which will allow fishermen and industry to target their intended catch while reducing or safeguarding the susceptible and unintentional by-catch.

The 2007 International Smart Gear Competition winners included a team of University of Rhode Island Fisheries Center researchers Laura Skrobe and David Beutel, net maker Jon Knight, and fishermen, Phil Ruhle Sr., Phil Ruhle Jr., and Jim O’Grady.

The “Eliminator”, which was the name of the team’s invention, was designed to capture haddock while reducing the unnecessary capture of other marine species. The “Eliminator” net takes advantage of the haddock’s tendency to swim upward, but not over the headrope when encountering the large mesh net. With the new net, unwanted fish have a tendency to swim downward, where they can escape the net.



The “Eliminator”

For more information on the International Smart Gear Competition and next year’s competition, go to:  
[www.smartgear.org](http://www.smartgear.org)

## ***Nova Scotia Government renews push for Georges Bank gas Exploration***

a follow up to the story produced in Volume 4, Issue 4, March 2009 (pages 20-21)

By Allison Scott, Deputy Minister of Energy, Province of Nova Scotia

Dear Editor,

I would like to follow up on a story in your last edition (Nova Scotia Government renews push for Georges Bank gas exploration, March 2009). I think it is important to understand that the headline and the underlying premise of the story are wrong.

The provincial government is not “pushing” for Georges Bank exploration.

The Georges Bank moratorium was created by legislation passed by the Nova Scotia and federal governments. The legislation put a sunset deadline on the moratorium, set to expire December 31, 2012. Both governments also set a deadline to decide whether they want a public review of the moratorium, by 2010.

Let us be clear. If both levels of government wanted to “push” for drilling on George’s Bank, the simple approach would be to do nothing. Governments could simply ignore the review process, allow the 2012 deadline to pass, and the moratorium would be over. Instead, successive provincial Energy Ministers have said they want to engage in an information-based decision process around Georges Bank, and that communities need to be part of that process.

Critical to that information-based process is the need to better understand the ecosystem and the strengths and limitations of current technology. The fishing and offshore energy industries have co-existed for decades in many parts of the world, including other parts of Nova Scotia. We need to better understand how successful coexistence is possible in those places.

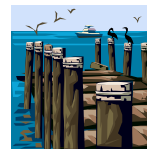
To begin this work, we have invested a minimum of \$500,000 for environmental studies related to the Georges Bank ecosystem. This work is part of an \$8 million commitment to ocean science research (which includes tidal energy). We are also working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which is funding its own update of science knowledge on matters related to the Georges Bank moratorium.

We have recently added \$250,000 to fund geoscience studies related to Georges Bank. Improvements in technology over the past 20 years will allow us to take old information on the geology and take a new look at the potential for commercial discoveries. Any science that is owned by the province will be put into the public domain.

We need to look at the facts. We need to know what is safe, and what is best for our province. I believe Nova Scotians want to see the science first before making any decisions.

We are not pushing for offshore exploration on Georges Bank. We are, however, pushing for information to allow evidence-based decisions to be made. I believe this is responsible government.

Thank you,



Throughout the months of April, May and June 2009, the MAARS AMDO's 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. MAARS Director Roger Hunka, IKANAWTIKET facilitator Joshua McNeely and NS AMDO Franz Kesick meet with Larry Bell of the Nova Scotia Environmental Network and Sackville River Association



2. IKANAWTIKET Jeff Stevens attends the Atlantic Whitefish Recovery Team meeting

3. NB AMDO Barry LaBillois attends a Southwest New Brunswick Eel Advisory Meeting



4. NB AMDO Barry LaBillois attends a Southwest New Brunswick Shad and Gasperaux meeting

5. NB AMDO Barry LaBillois attends the Atlantic Salmon Advisory Committee meeting



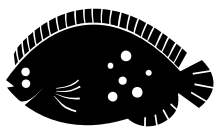
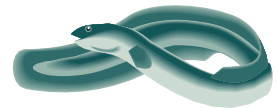
6. IKANAWTIKET Joshua McNeely participates in an Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Atlantic Network Teleconference

7. MAARS staff meets with the three Native Council Chiefs and their respective Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fishery Managers to discuss changes to Grants/Contribution Agreements



8. NS AMDO Frans Kesick attends the 26th Annual Meeting of the Aquaculture Association of Canada in Nanaimo, B.C.

9. NB AMDO attends the Bay of Fundy Tidal Energy Forum

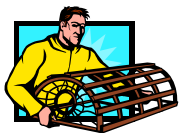


10. MAARS Director Roger Hunka, IKANAWTIKET facilitator Joshua McNeely, NB AMDO Barry LaBillois and the three Native Council Chiefs attend a meeting in Halifax to discuss ABS Policy in Canada

11. NS AMDO Franz Kesick attends a Scotia-Fundy Herring Advisory Committee meeting



12. MAARS Director Roger Hunka attends a CNSOPB Fishery Advisory Committee meeting



13. MAARS Director Roger Hunka, MAARS SCAA Mary Rose Watts, NS AMDO Franz Kesick and NB AMDO Barry LaBillois attend the 38th N.B.A.P.C. Annual General meeting



# Netawek Ikkikum

Voice of the Ocean

## In this issue:

- Update - Species at Risk Legislative Review
- World Ocean Day 2009
- World Maritime University visits MAPC-MAARS
- Eels on Slippery Slope
- Seeking Aboriginal Views on ABS
- National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP)
- "Mining can be done in environmental harmony"
- Governments Discuss Invasive Alien Species at National Level
- MAARS AMDO for PEI
- New Biodiversity strategy for New Brunswick
- NBAPC AGA
- Aquaculture Canada 2009
- International Smart Gear Competition
- Follow up to Georges Bank article Volume 4, Issue 4

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

Compiled by  
Brett Bancroft  
MAARS CDIL

Print & Layout by  
**Print Plus**  
902.843.7000



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

Vol. 5 Issue 1, March 2009



Another day riding the surf in Val-Comeau, New Brunswick with ASN

### **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

### **MAPC-MAARS**

172 Truro Heights Road  
Truro Heights, Nova Scotia  
B6L 1X1

Tel: (902) 895-2982 Fax: (902) 895-3844 Email: [maars@mapcorg.ca](mailto:maars@mapcorg.ca)

To subscribe or unsubscribe to Netawek Ikkikum,  
please email Brett at [bbancroft@mapcorg.ca](mailto:bbancroft@mapcorg.ca)

Netawek Ikkikum is also available online <http://www.mapcmaars.ca>

©June 2009, MAPC MAARS, Truro Heights, Nova Scotia.