

# Ne'tawe'k Ikiikum

*Voice of the Ocean*

MAARS Quarterly Communique

Vol. 2, Issue 4, March 2007

## MODERNIZING THE FISHERIES ACT

On December 15th, 2006, senior DFO Gulf and Scotia-Fundy officials, Bob Allain, Kathi Stewart, Rhéal Vienneau, Janice Poirier, Kerri Graham, Dave Dunn, Gaëlle Despré, and Gèrène Robichaud met with the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council MAARS partner Native Councils - the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, the Native Council of Prince Edward Island, and the Native Council of Nova Scotia. Also present were the Native Councils' respective Aboriginal Communal Commercial Fisheries Entities - NCNS Mime'j Seafoods Ltd., NCPEI L'nu Fisheries, and NBAPC Aboriginal Seafoods Network Inc. The purpose of holding this governance meeting was to participate in a technical presentation and briefing on the just-tabled Bill C-45 Fisheries Act, introduced in the House of Commons.

Bill C-45 is the 4th attempt by as many governments in the last 20 years to introduce amendments to replace or modernize the 138 year old Fisheries Act.

MAPC and the MAARS partner Native Councils congratulate the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Loyola Hearn, for his vision and conviction to present and table, before the House of

Commons, long overdue amendments to modernize the Fisheries Act. We also congratulate the Fisheries and Oceans public servants who, over the last two decades, have contributed and worked hard to develop amendments to modernize the Fisheries Act.



Bill C-45, while not perfect, in our view, is 138 times better than the present Fisheries Act. There is room for improvements to be made as to continuities. We, as Aboriginal Peoples, have some further points to present for improved language and will seek to make the points at the Standing Committee phase.


Why do the Native Council communities and their leadership support and applaud the DFO Minister and his officials for their amendments? Here are some reasons we believe are important to note, things the present


Continued on Page 2.





Modernizing the Fisheries Act, continued from the cover.


Fisheries Act cannot do and has not been able to address without substantive amendments as proposed by Bill C-45.


 Bill C-45 recognizes key Canadian values for sustainable fisheries management and the protection of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.


 The purpose of the Fisheries Act is made clear and defined.


 Bill C-45 is one of the very few pieces of federal legislation to contain within it the principles for sustainable development, the ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach, traditional knowledge, and participatory decision making. These are principles and concepts now considered the norm but are clearly absent from the current Fisheries Act.


 Bill C-45 contains provisions to develop agreements for collaboration, harmonizing fisheries, fisheries research, and other activities.


 Bill C-45 recognizes the value and need for advisory councils and panels and broadens the decision making process with capacity to bring in outside knowledge, views, and information.


 Bill C-45 allows for DFO to cast a broader net to collect important data and necessary information for the proper and effective management of the fisheries with the fishing community and institutions.


 Bill C-45 obligates the Minister to have established guidelines and principles for making allocation decisions, issuing licenses, and quotas.


 Bill C-45 allows the Minister to issue timely orders responsive to the immediacy of a situation.

 Bill C-45 allows the Minister to enter into Fisheries Management Agreements with governments and Aboriginal communities, along with other organized entities who have demonstrated capacity and interest to manage their respective community fisheries.

 Bill C-45 creates clarity and precision as to conservation protection and prevention of fish habitat pollution and destruction.

 Bill C-45 addresses the issues of invasive species and alien invasive species.

 Bill C-45 has defined areas of administration and enforcement and introduces habitat officers and inspectors to deal with habitat and environmental issues, which is a basis for sustainable environmental ecosystem approaches.

 Bill C-45 introduces the concept of fisheries tribunals to effectively deal with violations under the Fisheries Act.

There is much more in Bill C-45 that is modern and progressive that the existing Fisheries Act does not contain and, most certainly, Bill C-45 contains language, concepts, and principles that were not even known 138 years ago.

We know that there are some who oppose Bill C-45. It may be that there is comfort in maintaining the status quo. Unfortunately, Canada is not an island. The rest of the world is coming to grips with three fundamental challenges:

1. Depleting ocean resources;
2. Increasing demands on ocean resources by a growing global population; and
3. Ever changing oceans by escalating environmental effects.

Hoping to progress with legislation of a bygone era will do us more harm than good.

Bill C-45 is just beginning to respond to the global realities, which we in Canada, with three oceans, cannot ignore.



# Saving the Salt Marshes

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Close to 100 scientists, naturalists, and concerned citizens, including MAPC's Ikanawtiket Regional Facilitator, Joshua McNeely, attended the Bedford Institute of Oceanography's symposium concerning salt marshes on February 1st and 2nd. The symposium discussed *The first 6 years (2000-2006) of salt marsh restoration projects in the Maritimes*.

Presenters from several non-governmental organizations (e.g. Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Ecology Action Centre, and the Canadian-Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network) and government organizations (e.g. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, and Maritime provincial fisheries, environment, and natural resources departments) discussed some previous salt marsh restorations, techniques, climate change impacts, sea level rise impacts, federal and provincial policies, and opportunities for funding.

Several discussion groups were convened to present ideas to overcome current obstacles in salt marsh restoration, such as sustaining interest and activities, prioritizing possible restoration sites, and selling the value of salt marshes and salt marsh restoration to communities, industry, government, and other funding sources/project partners.

Participants realized that the common thread among successful salt marsh restorations in the Maritimes these past six years has been strong community support. Compared to the scientific requirements and technical/financial feasibility, community support was considered very low on the criteria list for prioritizing restoration sites in the past. One realization through this conference was that strong community support should be one of the top requirements when deciding on the feasibility of restoring a salt marsh.



**Modernizing the Fisheries Act, continued from Page 2.**

Bill C-45 is an attempt, in 2007, to modernize Canada's Fisheries Act and a way for Canada to begin to send the signal that we understand our duty and responsibilities, as a country, to our oceans and ocean life. We are prepared to enact progressive legislation that begins to put us in line with a growing global reality. We need to manage our oceans and fishery resources collaboratively, through a process of participatory decision making. These decisions must be based on the modern principles of sustainable development, employing a precautionary approach, and taking an ecosystem approach to decisions about where, what, and how ocean resources will be harvested. We need to ensure that future generations will also have the opportunity to enjoy and make a living from the bounty of the seas.

We must learn to balance economic diversity, social progress, and environmental integrity.

Bill C-45 helps us to begin to balance the management of our ocean resources and the fishing industry towards that goal. As coastal Aboriginal Peoples of the Maritimes, the Native Council communities continuing to reside on our traditional ancestral homelands are very aware of the living worlds of our seacoast

In closing, Bill C-45 must succeed in this 4th attempt. We all owe it to our children and grandchildren yet to come.



## NCNS and Federal RAs Meet

Article by MAARS team member Amanda Facey

On January 29, members of the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS) and MAARS met with Federal Responsible Authority (RA) representatives for an introductory meeting and also to discuss EnCana's Deep Panuke Offshore Gas Development Project. The RAs included Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Transport Canada, Industry Canada and Fisheries & Oceans Canada. A representative from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the Nova Scotia Department of Energy also attended. In November 2006, EnCana filed a Development Plan Application with the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) and the National Energy Board (NEB) on the proposed Deep Panuke Offshore Gas Development Project.



The NCNS is an intervener in the "Concurrent Public Hearing Process" involving the CNSOPB and the NEB. The NCNS provided the RAs with an overview on the history, community, and work of the NCNS. This preliminary meeting focused on learning about each other. The NCNS discussed some issues, concerns, needs and interests. Both shared the view for a need to explore solutions toward establishing mechanisms for consultation on this and other projects. A clear result is that National Resources Canada needs to take a proactive lead to help support the NCNS to build the necessary capacity to undertake effective and meaningful consultation on complex projects that have or may have environmental effects on traditional uses of land and water resources.

## Government of New Brunswick: Renewing the Species at Risk Legislation

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Pascal Giasson (New Brunswick Manager of Species at Risk Section), Bob Stanton (Senior Policy Advisor), Janet Patch (Policy Analyst), and Stewart Lusk (Species at Risk Biologist), all from the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources (NBDNR), presented the proposed elements for New Brunswick's new Species at Risk Act (NBSARA) to the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council - Barry LaBillois (Community Aquatic Resources Development Advisor), Jason Harquail (Fisheries Manager), and Nathalie Wysote (Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy Program Manager). Joshua McNeely, MAPC Ikanawtiket Regional Facilitator, also attended on January 30 in Fredericton.



NBAPC and MAPC offered suggestions and proposed language to bring the 1976 New Brunswick Endangered Species Act to be more reflective of contemporary realities. The need for involvement of Aboriginal Peoples and recognition of treaty and Aboriginal Rights is necessary to include in the Act. NBAPC and MAPC offered written suggestions and language to best reflect the need to engage Traditional Ancestral Homeland (off-reserve) Aboriginal Peoples in New Brunswick in open, meaningful, and timely processes throughout each step in the New Brunswick species at risk decision-making process. NBAPC also sent a letter to the New Brunswick Minister of Natural Resources outlining recommendations discussed at the meeting. A new New Brunswick Species at Risk Act is scheduled to be drafted this spring or summer and will be presented to the New



# NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT NEWS

Article by MAARS team member Tim Hainer

The Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group is mandated to focus attention on the state and reasons for the disturbing changes in the Northumberland Strait ecosystem and the natural life aquatic resources which it supports.

The final Ecosystem Overview Assessment Report (EOAR) of the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group consists of a series of recommendations framed within four principle knowledge areas about the Northumberland Strait:

- 1) the marine environmental quality;
- 2) physical environment;
- 3) biota; and
- 4) human systems.

The recommendations were primarily formed from public consultations conducted this past winter. The results are summarized in a report prepared by GTA consultants and form the Ecosystem Overview Report for the Northumberland Strait which is being compiled by AMEC Earth and Environmental.

The final report of the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group is significant because it calls for an urgent need to have immediate action. The call is supported by a renewed vision, mission, and core values for the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem. Given the serious nature of the natural life aquatic resource declines within the Northumberland Strait and the social, cultural, and economic importance of these resources to our communities of Traditional Ancestral Homelands Aboriginal Peoples, the recommendations should be of interest to all of us.



Happy Spring from the  
Maritime  
Aboriginal  
Aquatic Resources  
Secretariate



## *What's in a Name: The Green Crab*

Article by MAARS team member by Amanda Facey

Despite its name, the green crab is not an environmentally friendly creature, at least outside of its natural range. In the coastal waters of the Maritimes, it is an alien invasive species.

Species that have been introduced into habitats outside of their natural range are known as alien species. These species introductions can be accidental or deliberate. Alien species become invasive when their establishment and expansion threaten ecosystems, habitats, or other species with environmental or economic harm.

The European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) is a small shore crab whose natural range is along the coasts of the North and Baltic Seas, but it is aggressively colonizing some of the coasts of Canada's Maritime Provinces. It was accidentally introduced to the east coast of North America in the late 1800s and has been progressively expanding its reach northwards ever since. It was first seen in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence in the early 1990s, has now become established on Eastern Prince Edward Island and along the northeast coast of Nova Scotia and is likely to continue its expansion along the coast of New Brunswick.

In spite of its name, the green crab's carapace (shell) colour can vary. Juveniles can change colour to match their environment. Adults are usually dark greenish with yellow markings and the underside is generally bright red or yellow. The carapace width of adults ranges from eight to ten centimeters.

An able colonizer and resourceful predator, the green crab has the capability to significantly change any ecosystem it invades. It feeds on many organisms, including clams, oysters, mussels, marine worms and small crustaceans, making these crabs potential competitors for the food sources of native fish and bird species. They also seem to displace the larger rock crabs and cause problems for lobster, eel and smelt fishers, as well as serious damage to aquaculture operations. It may also cause damage to eelgrass beds by uprooting the eelgrass and leaving holes in the shore.

There are a number of ways the green crab can occupy new habitat. Whether it is natural or human-mediated dispersion, their movement is facilitated by the crab's ability to tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions. Green crab larvae can live as plankton up to 80 days. Ocean currents scatter the larvae many kilometers up and down the coast. After a period of growth and development in the open sea, green crabs in their final larval stage accumulate in surface waters. Tides and currents move them back to coastal waters where they molt and settle as juvenile crabs in the upper intertidal zone. If the conditions in their new habitat are suitable, the crabs may survive and even reproduce, establishing a new population.

The greatest potential for spreading the green crab is through human activities. Recreational boaters transport species in bait buckets or boat wells, often without realizing it. Scientists have also identified ballast water as a major pathway for aquatic introductions. Marine vessels take on and discharge millions of tons of water for ballast each day, which may contain aquatic plants, animals and pathogens. The distribution of live seafood is also a potential vector for invasive species. Green crabs can be present in seaweeds packed with lobsters and oysters. If the packing material and containers are not disposed of appropriately, the crabs can find their way into waterways.

The green crab has been nominated as among 100 of the world's worst invaders by the Global Invasive Species Database ([www.issg.org/database/welcome/](http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/)).

Although the green crab already has a strong presence in Maritime coastal waters, it is important to try to prevent them from expanding their range further. Delaying further invasion can provide time to develop ways to prevent this species from damaging the ecosystems even more than they already have.



## SAR Ikanawtiket News

by SAR Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recognizes that every human being has a role to play in preserving and protecting our Natural World. Under the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, Canada's response to the CBD recognized that to meaningfully engage Canadians and fully implement the Convention, the Federal and Provincial governments would have to take the lead to coordinate and encourage Canadian involvement in discussions and decisions about biodiversity issues.

Canada further recognizes the importance of cooperation among all Canadians and especially governments in the Species At Risk Act (SARA) and in the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk:

"Governments have a leadership role in providing sound information and appropriate measures for the conservation and protection of species at risk, and the effective involvement of all Canadians is essential"

--National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk

Today, a decade after the Accord was signed, there is little public evidence of cooperation among Federal and Provincial governments to demonstrate the engagement of Canadians. There is little evidence of government leadership in SARA, CBD, and the significance of environmental issues pressing on all Canadians. The political focus seems to address stop gap measures for Global Climate Change, if only to look good in the public's eye. Though these measures are important, they are only one out of a hundred other measures required to address human impacts on the natural world. There is currently little political leadership to encourage Canadian involvement in species at risk or to support Canadians to meaningfully cooperate with their governments and community groups to resolve or begin to address critical biodiversity issues.

For example, long outstanding:



The Minister of Environment has yet to confirm appointments to the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge

Subcommittee of the Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada (COSEWIC ATK-SC).



The National Aboriginal Council On Species At Risk (NACOSAR) has yet to hold a formal meeting with the Minister of the Environment to present the Minister with Aboriginal Peoples' views, concerns, issues, and experiences on the "implementation of SARA".



Provincial and Federal governments have not been able to agree on a standard unified format for Recovery Strategies. This in essence is stalling the SARA process and causing a lot of confusion among Recovery Teams. Such disagreement is demoralizing to Canadians who want to become involved with SARA.



Guidelines still do not exist for identifying Critical Habitat. This matter is causing many Recovery Strategies to be delayed. Delay and has recently resulted in over 50 completed and posted Recovery Strategies to be pulled and sent back to be redone to include critical habitat.



The Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council, the Canadian Wildlife Directors Council, many provincial natural life and environmental ministries and agencies, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Parks Canada Agency, and Natural Resources Canada have yet to recognize the need to establish clear policy objectives and statements to invite, support, and include Aboriginal Peoples throughout the many process steps of SARA.

Involvement of Aboriginal People in SARA is vital, necessary, and must be achieved. Aboriginal Peoples organizations or councils should not be forced to bang on government



## *Parks Canada Introduced to the Maritime Native Councils*

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Ikanawtiket Regional Facilitator, Joshua McNeely, and NS CARDA, Franz Kesick, met with several officials with Parks Canada Agency-Atlantic Service Centre in Halifax on March 5th to introduce the MAPC Native Councils partners - the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS), the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC), and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI). MAPC provided background information as well as raising the pressing challenge for Parks Canada and the Regional Native Councils to establish a more predictable communication process to work together on issues on **biodiversity, the environment, parks management plans, and species at risk.**

The meeting proceeded with a presentation about pre-Confederation treaties of 'peace, friendship, and trade'. Also, how and why the Traditional Ancestral Homeland communities organized the NBAPC, NCNS, and NCPEI in the 1970's. The three Native Councils collaborate on regional issues through MAPC.

Following the brief introduction, a good exchange followed on the value of encouraging and supporting the Native Council communities' involvement in **biodiversity, the environment, parks management plans, and species at risk.** The Aboriginal Peoples' eco-centric world view of an interconnected and interdependent world and respect for the living environment were explored. Parks Canada participants began to relate the eco-centric world view concept to the Parks Canada philosophy: '...foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity...!'

Parks Canada participants agreed that Parks Canada and the MAPC Native Councils need to continue to meet and work towards establishing meaningful and open relationships to foster partnerships. Predictable and reliable processes for communications on matters such as wildlife management plans and species at risk is long overdue and urgently required.

The Atlantic Service Centre's Species at Risk Coordinator, Dr. Deborah Austin and Aboriginal Liaison, Yves Bossé were invited to become involved with Ikanawtiket by participating on a multi-agency Ikanawtiket Steering Committee. The attendees expressed appreciation for having the session. Many misconceptions about the roles and work of the Maritimes Region Native Councils were cleared. The background information left about the Native Councils, the Powley Decision, the Mi'kmaq Treaty Handbook, Koqaja'taqatinen, Toward a Better Understanding booklet, Species at Risk booklets produced by the NCNS Netukulimkewe'l Commission, and the Ikanawtiket fact sheets, were all well received. Each agreed to meet again.





## DFO Communications Relay



# Young Seals on the Beach: Nature's Course

Contributed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Gulf Region

Now that winter is upon us, we will likely soon start to notice visitors to our snow and ice-covered beaches. At this time every year, pregnant seals pull themselves out of the waters of Atlantic Canada to give birth to pups. The pups are born on island rookeries around Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, the ice of the Northumberland Strait in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on Sable Island.

It's important to remember mother seals leave their young after two to three weeks of nursing. Once weaned, young seals remain on the ice or island until hunger drives them to feed in the ocean. It is at this point that many young seals make their way to beaches to rest. This cycle of feeding and resting continues until they are old enough to stay in the water for the majority of the day. While resting on the shore, these seals are safe from sharks, their only natural predators here in the Maritime provinces. Problems arise when people take it upon themselves to interfere with what should be a natural process.

No doubt, without all the facts, it's a sight that can cause concern: a young seal alone on the beach. While many people feel the need to help what appears to be an abandoned or orphaned animal, they don't realize that action will usually do more harm than good. Seals are not domesticated; they are wild animals with survival instincts. More often than not, the only danger faced by seals on the beach is from people and their pets.

Never approach a young seal on the shore. Always keep your distance from any wild animal - no matter how tempting it is to get close to touch it or take a picture of it. Seals could attack if startled and their bites are prone to cause infection. They can also be too naïve to move away from pets and their owners. Unleashed dogs have been known to attack and harass seals, so they should be properly restrained.

Under no circumstances should members of the public transport a young seal. Seals are rarely lost: they have an excellent sense of direction and an innate ability to direct themselves to water. If you discover an injured seal, you can contact the 24-hour Environmental Issues Hotline at 1-800-565-1633.

Whenever wild animals come into contact with people there is the potential for danger to both the public and the animal. Remember: as cute as seals may appear, they are still wild animals. Keep yourself and the seals safe.

For more information or to report an injured seal, contact the nearest Fisheries and Oceans Canada office or the hotline mentioned above at 1-800-565-1633.



# SARA WORKSHOP

Article by Ikanawtiket Joshua McNeely

Mary Knockwood, SARA Facilitator with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Atlantic Region (INAC), in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Tom Howe and Tim Lutzac, Parks Canada, Yves Bossé, and Environment Canada - Canadian Wildlife Service, Andrew Boyne, helped to organize a SARA familiarization workshop at the Prince George Hotel in Halifax on February 22nd and 23rd.

Several Aboriginal SARA practitioners with Band and Native Councils and Regional organizations in the Maritimes Region attended. The workshop explored issues and impacts of the Species at Risk Act in the Maritimes Region as experienced by the Aboriginal People of the Maritimes.

Participants described their individual approach to SARA, the obstacles they faced, and the achievements they have made towards implementing SARA.

Three approaches or models to implement SARA were reviewed:

1. ***Individuals' involvement in a specific recovery strategy with an education component***  
(a community initiative)
2. ***Conservation Management Body presentation to management and planning bodies***  
(a Conservation Body Participation representation approach)
3. ***Community Capacity Development and Community SARA Involvement***  
(co-ordinating, linking, involving, partnering, informing, and educating communities about SARA through a structured regional Ikanawtiket service)

Each approach attempts to reach the overall objective for SARA to have effective and meaningful involvement of Maritime Aboriginal Peoples in the implementation of SARA. Participants agreed that each organization should continue its respective work toward this goal in cooperation with each other.

The concept of a unified voice for Maritime Aboriginal Peoples was discussed. It became evident when the participants discussed the proposed listing of the American Eel and the draft Management Plan already prepared by Fisheries and Oceans at the National level. The workshop participants found that both the COSEWIC assessment and the National Management Plan were information deficient. Both documents lacked Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and other relevant Aboriginal information or involvement.

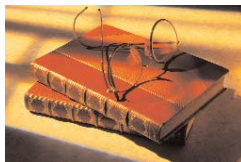
The workshop group proposed that each of the Councils/Organizations present at this workshop review the COSEWIC report, the National Management Plan, and research documented or oral Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and note deficiencies in the plans.

A suggestion was put forward to establish an Aboriginal Working Group on Conserving Species (AWGOCS) in the Atlantic Region. AWGOCS would use their expertise and the knowledge from their respective communities to draft a more complete Eel Assessment and Eel Management Plan, which best reflects the American Eel reality from the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and Aboriginal Science perspective. This assessment and management plan would be presented to the SARA agencies for comment and discussion.

In closing, thank you, Mary Knockwood, Tom Howe, Tim Lutzac, Yves Bossé, and Andrew Boyne. We also thank Elder Alan Knockwood for his words of wisdom and inspiration to set the tone for the meeting, and Candy Palmater for her facilitation, and to all the other participants for generating good discussions, sharing and working together for our peoples now and for future generations.



## New to our MAARS Library



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

\**Nova Scotia Fish Series*. Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

\*Chadwick, Michael. 2006. *Science Workshop : assessing habitat risks associated with bivalve aquaculture in the marine environment*. Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat.

\**Migratory Species and Climate Change: Impacts of a Changing Environment on Wild Animals*. 2006. UNEP/CMS.

\*Nova Scotia Salmon Association. *Adopt-A-Stream Program : a watershed approach to community-based stewardship*. Nova Scotia Salmon Association, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Nova Scotia Agriculture and Fisheries, and Nova Scotia Environment and Labour.

\*Lemmen, Donald S. and Fiona J. Warren. 2004. *Climate change impacts and adaptation : a Canadian perspective summary*. Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Directorate.

\*2006. *Impacts of sea-level rise and climate change on the coastal zone of Southeastern New Brunswick : executive summary*. Environment Canada.

\*Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Habitat Committee Restoration Sub-Committee. 2004. *Gulf of Maine Habitat Restoration Strategy : restoring coastal habitat in the Gulf of Maine Region*. Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.

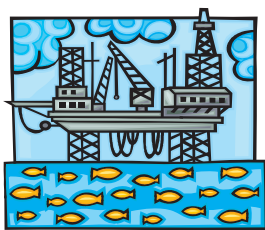
\*Corning, Leslie. 2003. *Birds of Nova Scotia salt marshes*. Coastal Issues Committee, Ecology Action Centre.

\*Simon, Partrice. 2006. *Review of the latest data/analyses available on the status of bowhead whales (Baleaena mysticetus) in the Eastern Canadian Arctic in preparation for the upcoming recovery potential assessment*. Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat.

\*Cameron, Caroline, et al, editors. 2000. *Getting dirty : why and how of salt marsh restoration*. Ecology Action Centre.

\*Dalton, Shirley-Ann and Laura Moulard. 2002. *Marshes, tides, and crossings : Colchester County tidal barriers audit report 2002*. Ecology Action Centre.

\*Bowron, Tony M. and Allison Fitzpatrick. 2001. *Assessment of tidal restrictions along Hants County's Highway 215: opportunities and recommendations for salt marsh restoration*. Ecology Action Centre.



## *Deep Panuke Concurrent Public Hearings*

Article by Director Roger Hunka

For the week of March 5-10, a five day Concurrency Hearing was held on the Deep Panuke Offshore Gas Development Project. The Concurrency Hearing Panel consisted of the commissioner for the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) and the member of the National Energy Board (NEB). The Commissioner and Member would, after the five day public hearing, prepare reports which would be sent to Regulatory Authorities charged with completing the Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) on the Deep Panuke project.

The NCNS, a MAARS partner, was represented and made submissions. The impacts on Aboriginal food fisheries as well as communal commercial fisheries must be recognized and provisions or compensations made thereto. The matter of adopting the three pillars for decision makers to take into account - economic development, social progress, and environmental integrity - was stressed as an important new way to do business or arrive at decisions. The council also stressed the significance and importance of recognizing ecosystems and the precautionary approach as well as SARA. The panel was requested to put in conditions which would capture these elements of recognizing SARA and the Winter Skate in the area, the Aboriginal communal and food fisheries, and balancing decisions to ensure that environmental integrity was respected.



## **AAROM Program Evaluation Design Workshop**

Article by Director Roger Hunka

One result from the Calgary AAROM meeting was the recommendation to establish a joint technical working group for the design of an "AAROM Program Reporting and Evaluation Strategy".

On March 1-2, the AAROM Program Directorate convened the first face to face meeting of the Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) in Ottawa. This meeting followed two extensive preparatory to the meeting teleconferences. The challenge for designing a Program Reporting and Evaluation Strategy remains daunting. A balance needs to be developed to meet Treasury Board expectations and AAROM participants' expectations. On the one hand, there is the Results-based Management Accountability Framework (RMAF), which takes in a Results Based Audit Framework (RBAF). On the other hand, Program participants expressed the need to have performance measurements and an evaluation strategy,

which is simple and eliminates duplication. Hopefully, as the JTWG works with the evaluators and AAROM program managers, a strategy will evolve that will demonstrate tangible results, accountability, and outputs, showing that the program is achieving and helping to build strong governance capacities within Aboriginal Aquatic and Oceans Management entities.





June 8th is fast approaching!!!

# World Ocean Day 2007

Last year MAARS asked: "What does a healthy ocean mean to you?" Answers and drawings were published in our Ne'tawe'k Ikkikum June issue. The Ocean Project recognized our efforts and sent us this letter of appreciation.



Angela Tims  
Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate  
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Canada

Leadership Council  
Paul J. Boyer, Ph.D., CEO and Chairman  
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John Hightower, Ph.D., President  
Marine Resources Planning Council  
Mark J. Spaulding, President  
The Ocean Foundation

Advisory Council  
Chris Johnson, Ph.D., Science  
International Aquariums/Sea-World of Busch  
Bill Peckler, Executive VP  
Marine Life Resources  
Kathy Stein, Deputy Director, Technical Affairs  
National Aquarium of Baltimore  
Walt Spurr, President and CEO  
The Ocean Community  
Greg Stone, Ph.D., All-Animal Marine Programs  
New England Aquarium  
Walt Storz, Director  
Sea Grant Zoo

Dear Angela:

We wanted to thank you for your participation in World Ocean Day 2006. World Ocean Day continues to grow every year and your continued active participation in 2007 will make it bigger and better than ever. Together, we can help educate a new generation about the important role the ocean plays in each and every one of our lives and the important role we can play in protecting it for the future.

For 2007 we are urging all Partners to participate in this annual celebration of our ocean. Many Partners are scheduling events for 2007 and we encourage you to do so again, on or around June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Ocean Project will continue to track events around the globe and promote all of your World Ocean Day events. Once you have made your plans please do let us know by logging on to our World Ocean Day website and registering your event as soon as possible ([www.worldoceanday.org](http://www.worldoceanday.org)).

In the coming weeks and months, we will be updating and improving our website so if you have any suggestions to make the site more useful for you and more effective overall, please let us know. One area that we will definitely focus on is translating the site into as many languages as possible. If you or anyone you know would like to see the World Ocean Day site in your own language, please contact us! We gladly welcome any time that you are able to contribute to helping us translate the site—even if you only have time to translate the portion to the United Nations.

Lastly, we would like to thank you once again for joining The Ocean Project's international network of aquariums, zoos, science and natural history museums, conservation organizations, and other groups and agencies that believe in promoting Ocean Conservation through Education, Action, and Networking. We hope your "Membership" is proving useful and that you are receiving valuable and interesting resources such as the *Save the Day* action newsletter and *Blue Planet News to Live*. Please visit our website at [www.TheOceanProject.org](http://www.TheOceanProject.org) to sign up, if you have not yet done so, and customize your subscription. Please also forward this information to your colleagues. The more we can get involved, the better!

As a small token of our thanks to you, we hope you enjoy the enclosed conservation action calendar and we look forward to working with you again this year!

Sincerely,

Denise Washko  
World Ocean Day Coordinator  
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Bill Mott  
Director



**Saving our ocean is the responsibility of everyone on earth.** Recognizing the importance of oceans on only one day of the year is not enough to protect them for future generations, but it is a beginning.

For **June 8, 2007, World Ocean Day**, MAPC MAARS is encouraging all Traditional Ancestral Homelands Aboriginal Peoples, as community members of the three Native Councils of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, and Canadians, to celebrate and promote awareness for World Ocean Day. Hand out or display the colorful decals included in this newsletter. They are from a "wood carved mural of aquatic resources" by Don Fraser that graces the MAARS head office in Truro, Nova Scotia.



# Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management Update

Article by team member Franz Kesick

MAARS continues to work with the Stakeholders Advisory Council (SAC) of the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) Plan. We are also involved in the Planning Committee for the 4th ESSIM Forum to be held sometime in the early summer or late fall. Also, MAARS is a member of the committee developing the terms for appointment of the SAC chair to the ESSIM forum.

The ESSIM plan has been finalized by the SAC and is waiting for Ministerial Approval prior to the plan being announced to the public.

Both the MAARS Director and Nova Scotia CARDA, Franz Kesick, have scheduled a series of meetings with several NCNS zones that have an interest in the ESSIM Plan.

## ESSIM OVERVIEW SCHEDULE

DATE: April 21, 2007

ZONE:12

TIME: 10 am - 12 pm

Place: Dartmouth North Community Centre  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

DATE: April 30, 2007

ZONE:3

TIME: 7-9 pm

Place: Indian Friendship Centre  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

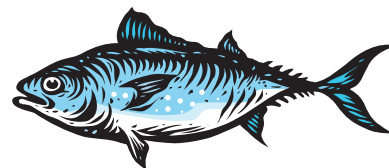
DATE: May 9, 2007

ZONE:11

TIME: 7-9 pm

Place: Masonic Lodge  
Sheet Harbour

Zone 6 and 7 to be confirmed.





Continued from page 7.

doors to become involved. Rather, governments and SARA public officials should be banging on Aboriginal Peoples' doors to invite their participation and actively support this participation.

In the Maritimes, the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council MAARS partner Native Councils, have worked hard to establish an **Ikanawtiket service**.

For our traditional ancestral homeland communities and some federal departments and agencies, such as Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gulf and Scotia-Fundy, and the Canadian Wildlife Service, there has been some promising evidence of collaboration with these federal departments and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations.

This effort has more to do with the individuals involved, who have demonstrated exemplary public service. Their dedication and knowledge about SARA has enabled these officials to step outside the political rancor of their departments and their traditional mandates. They have rallied SARA and our living environment. Through the coordination work of our **Ikanawtiket** service, new paths are being established to open predictable channels for the coordinated cooperation and meaningful involvement of all Canadians in implementing SARA.

For the MAPC MAARS partner Native Councils, the Native Council of Nova Scotia, the Native Council of Prince Edward Island, and the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, the establishment of **Ikanawtiket** as a regional coordinating initiative is, in these few short months, demonstrating the value of coordination, linking, and education.

**Ikanawtiket** still needs to establish coordinating protocols between various federal government agencies as well as Provincial government agencies so that we can together follow through on commitments for leadership, organizational support, encouragement, and cooperation in the implementation of SARA. **Ikanawtiket** will soon be calling upon industry, businesses, and others to take up and support the cause to protect and save our living environment and its plant, animal, fish, and fowl life. A cause that is best achieved through coordinated, linked, informed, partnered, involved, and educated cooperation.

Here are a few opportunities to be involved in SARA. Contact **Ikanawtiket** at [Ikanawtiket@mapcorg.ca](mailto:Ikanawtiket@mapcorg.ca) or (902) 895-2982 to find out more.

Six species in the Maritimes have been recently listed under the Species At Risk Act and Recovery Strategies and Management Plans are currently being prepared:

- Blanding's Turtle - Endangered
- Fin Whale (Atlantic Population) - Special Concern
- Barrow's Goldeneye Duck - Special Concern
- Northern/Spotted Wolffish - Threatened
- Butternut Tree- Endangered
- Frosted Glass-whiskers Lichen (Nova Scotia Population) - Special Concern

Seven species in the Maritimes are currently being assessed for protection under the Species At Risk Act. Governments are conducting consultations and Socio-Economic Impact Analyses:

- American Eel - Special Concern
- White Shark (Atlantic Population) - Endangered
- Shortfin Mako (Atlantic Population) - Threatened
- Blue Shark (Atlantic Population) - Special Concern
- Atlantic Walrus - Special Concern
- Rusty Blackbird - Special Concern
- Ghost Antler Lichen - Special Concern

Two species in the Maritimes will be assessed by COSEWIC this year (both are currently open to anyone to write the status reports):

- Sable Island Borer - Sable Island, NS - contract worth \$7,500
- Felt Lichen - New Brunswick and Nova Scotia - contract worth \$7,500



Throughout the months of January, February, and March 2007, the MAARS CARDA's attended many Fishery Stakeholders Advisory Committee Meetings, Science Workshops, and Oceans Management Sessions. Listed is a very small sample of predictable stakeholder interfaces which occurred during the past three months:

1. Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management, 4th Planning Sessions, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
2. Seal Hunt Advisory Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia
3. Development of the Species at Risk Act for New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick
4. Mackerel Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia
5. Eel Advisory Committee Meeting, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
6. Salmon Federation Meeting, Stellarton, Nova Scotia
7. Northumberland Strait Working group, Moncton, New Brunswick
8. Seal Harvesters presentation, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
9. Northumberland Strait Summit meetings, Moncton, New Brunswick
10. Transport Canada proposed regulations presentation, Truro, Nova Scotia
11. Fishermen and Scientists Research Society Annual Meeting, Truro, Nova Scotia
12. Boyne's Cove Dredging Proposal, Moncton, New Brunswick
13. Announcement of Musquash Estuary Marine Protected Area, Saint John, New Brunswick
14. Technical Working Group for the Southwest New Brunswick Marine Resources Planning Initiatives, St. George, New Brunswick

**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  
The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council & The Native Council of Prince Edward Island

*Community of Mi'kmaq, Malicite, Passamaquoddy/Aboriginal Peoples  
continuing on traditional ancestral homelands in the Maritime Region*

**Advancing Aboriginal Fisheries & Oceans Entities  
Best Practices, Management and Decision-making**

MAPC-MAARS

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