



Brazil meets Nova Scotia! By Courtenay Parlee

In late July and early August, 2010, a Brazilian group including biologists, community extension workers, government and fishing community representatives was sponsored by the World Fisheries Trust (www.worldfish.org) to visit the Canadian Maritimes, both to learn about fishing and aquaculture practices here, and to network with their counterparts around the region. Following several days in PEI, participating in a conference and holding various meetings, a key part of the visit took place on the south western shores of Nova Scotia, where they came to learn about the situation of the clam harvesters in clam harvesting area 2, along the Bay of Fundy. The group went on a clamming excursion which was facilitated by Wanda van Tassel, a local small scale fisher woman and owner of Fundy Adventures (www.fundyadventures.com) and involved local harvesters Ken Weir, Terry Wilkins and Spencer Sabean. Demonstrations were provided on the local harvesting techniques and discussions between the participants focused on similarities and differences between their practices, community based management systems and empowerment. The evening ended with a feast of clams and original music played by Terry. This was definitely a highlight! Because the Brazilian group were very interested in learning about depuration, 'value-added' processing and distribution marketing aspects of the industry, the group went on a tour of Innovative Fisheries Products in Belliveau Cove. Scientific explanations were given as to how the depuration process works, the reasons that clams must be cleansed, and the regions that the clams were from. In addition, Hubert Saulnier invited everyone down to Meteghan for lunch and then to the dock. We looked at fishing gear and discussed the different types of fisheries in the area and how they are managed. At the dock it just so happened that cod, hake and shark were being unloaded from a boat that had been out for 4 days! The Brazilians spent a couple of days in Digby and then 4 days in New Brunswick, before returning to Nova Scotia. There they met with Carolea, Wanda, Bill and Courtney to talk about issues relating to gender, governance, government and empowerment. Because the Brazilian government has just recently developed a Department of Fisheries and Oceans, it was of interest to the group to discuss government processes which have been both successful and unsuccessful in both countries. Finally, the group made their way to Halifax for a wrap-up meeting with Tony and a final sleep in Canada.



For more information on the People of the Tides project (Brazil): <http://www.worldfish.org/projects-sa.htm>