

## The Southwest New Brunswick Marine Resources Planning (MRP) Initiative: Community and government learning from one another

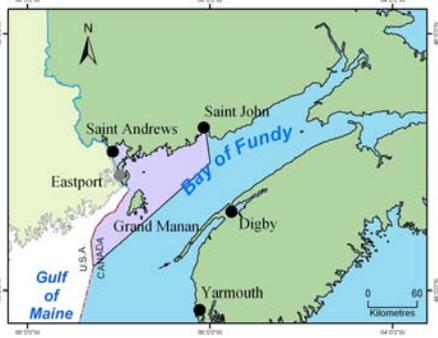
Jessie Davies  
 Southwest New Brunswick Marine Resources Planning Steering Committee  
 Glen Herbert  
 Oceans and Coastal Management Division, DFO Maritimes Region

## Outline

- About Southwest New Brunswick
- Existing planning efforts
- Community issues
- MRP chronology and phases
- Lessons learned
- What's next



## Southwest New Brunswick



## Southwest New Brunswick



## Existing planning efforts

- Government
  - Federal – Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, Transport Canada etc.
  - Provincial – Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries, Environment, Natural Resources etc.
  - Local – municipal and county-level
  - International – St. Croix International Waterway Commission, Gulf of Maine Council
- Community
  - St. Croix Estuary Project
  - Eastern Charlotte Waterways
  - Fundy Baykeeper
  - Bay of Fundy Stakeholders' Forum



**With all of this planning, what more could possibly be needed?**

## Community issues: on the water

- The area experiences typical coastal management issues:
  - Traditional fisheries – aquaculture interactions
  - Exploratory/expanding fisheries
  - Proposals for new developments
  - Environmental quality



## Community issues: the fundamentals

- What is needed:
  - Consideration of **community values**
  - Greater **public participation**
  - Increased **transparency, accountability and access to information**
  - Consideration of **cumulative effects**



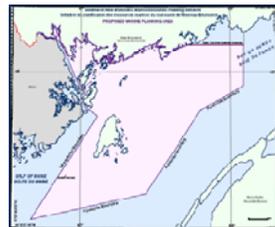
## MRP chronology

- **Bay of Fundy Stakeholder's Forum** was established in 2001
- In 2004, DFO and the NB Department of Fisheries established the **SW New Brunswick Marine Resources Planning (MRP) Initiative**



## Phase 1

- Design a planning process:
  - Multi-sector planning committee met from Sept 2004 – Sept 2005
  - Completed a report describing activities for next phase
  - Government secretariat served as a technical resource



## Phase 2

- Develop a marine plan:
  - Multi-sector steering committee led by non-government chair (under contract)
  - Community consultations held
  - Developed an initial plan/discussion paper: **Preferred Future of the Bay**
  - Government secretariat served as technical resource



*10 goals, 23 objectives, 27 actions and a proposed set of "community values criteria"*

## Phase 3

- In Spring 2010, process focussed on:
  - Stakeholder advisory council
  - Community values criteria
  - Public communications strategy
- Federal-provincial secretariat more involved in steering committee discussions
- Final report and recommendations for government



*a true "deliberative" approach...*

## Stakeholder advisory council

- Key recommendation is for a stakeholder advisory council
- Roles:
  - Advice and recommendations to government
  - Develop and promote use of community values criteria
  - Ensure transparency and accountability



## Community values criteria

- Received support from both stakeholders and governments
- Guidance to stakeholder advisory council and governments
- Pilot for other areas?



## Lessons learned: community perspectives

- Difficult to truly “leave your hat at the door”
- Knowledge and commitment around the deliberation table is more important than representation
- Community people need to trust that government is going to support them
- Important to strike the right balance between moving forward and not leaving anyone behind



## Lessons learned: government perspectives

- Commitment at senior government level is essential
- General lack of trust in government
- It is better to admit that something is not going to fly early than perpetuate false hope
- Being involved as a bureaucrat in a deliberative process is tricky
- Working with the community steering committee has strengthened federal-provincial relations



## What we've learned together

- Multi-stakeholder processes are challenging, painful (but also rewarding) and take a long time
- Benefits of the planning process are beyond actual products produced
- Varying degrees of willingness among community and sector interests to get involved and accept change
- No 'tried and true' template
- Keep language and processes simple



## What's next

- The steering committee will present its final report and recommendations in July
  - Proposed ToR for stakeholder advisory council
  - Way forward for defining community values criteria
- Government will review and respond by Fall 2011

