

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

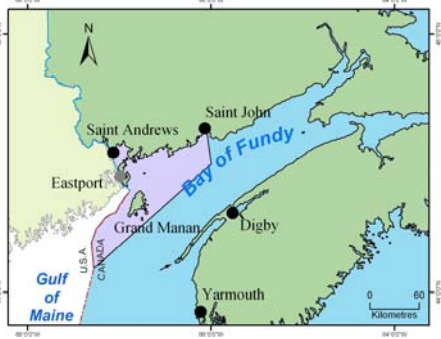
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Outline

- 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**



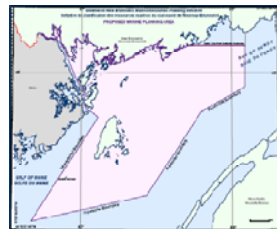
MRP chronology

- **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

Southwest New Brunswick
MARINE RESOURCES PLANNING

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

