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Coastal CURA News & Events

Riding the Wave of Research

Defining IM – In Our Own Words

As Coastal CURA research advances, we recognize the need to define our own version of integrated management (IM). In order to engage in dialogue on the topic of IM with others we need to clearly portray what it is we mean by IM. Over the past year we have been exploring what IM looks like at the local level in each partner region.

Our Reflection Workshop in September 2007 gave us the opportunity to

share the different local visions of IM and taught us that there are many different approaches and meanings (and indeed, sometimes a stigma) attached to the term “integrated management”.

In March of 2008, we looked at First Nation and government examples of IM. The March meeting prepared us for our next step in September 2008 when

we identified the key values and characteristics that we want included in our definition of successful IM.

Currently, we are engaged in the necessary research to gain an understanding of the varying models and policies related to IM, to bring forward our own vision of IM for community-centred integrated management.

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Partner Profile: Mi’kmaq Confederacy of PEI

CURA partner organization Mi’kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI) links together the two First Nations of Prince Edward Island, Abegweit and Lennox Island. Established in 2002, the MCPEI represents the collective interests of the PEI Mi’kmaq to foster a society that respects and sustains their existing aboriginal and treaty rights.

Before 1500 AD (approximately), the Mi’kmaq enjoyed relatively exclusive access to the Malpeque Bay watershed and its resources. There was an abundant supply of terrestrial and oceanic species to consume. The Mi’kmaq met their subsistence requirements by seasonally adjusting their habitat to a locality where food resources were available. For example, before European contact, during the spring the Mi’kmaq primarily inhabited river-mouth and coastal geographies; their diet was stapled by myriad fish species, waterfowl, and shellfish (source). Overall, the Mi’kmaq have a storied history of adapting their subsistence cycle to meet new environmental conditions. However, this tradition became severely compromised when French traders, explorers, and mission-

aries arrived in Atlantic Canada throughout the 16th century. Over the past five hundred years the Mi’kmaq diet has transformed profoundly. It has mutated from a diet based fully on the consumption of local resources to one that relies on global industrialized food production. Now, it closely resembles an “average” North American diet; food is purchased in large super-markets, fast-food chains, with a very small portion of food resources originating within the community, Malpeque Bay.

Before European contact the Mi’kmaq held exclusive authority over both the resources of Malpeque Bay and related decision making processes. In contemporary times, the Mi’kmaq are just one of a diverse and stratified group of stakeholders, who wield influence over the resources of Malpeque Bay.

One of the key findings from the CURA process of reflection was the identification of the Mi’kmaq as a stakeholder group that could jump start the process of forming a collaborative community based partnership for the Malpeque Bay watershed. This finding

is based on the Mi’kmaq’s history of both positive and negative experiences living in the watershed; these communities comprehend a wide continuum of stakeholder issues and objectives.

When this information was presented to the First Nation communities — the effect was dramatic, the community was empowered and all age groups were engaged. For the first time they had a compilation of documented evidence, presented pictorially, that not only showed they have been present as a people on their lands for over 10,000 years, but also depicted the course of evolution of nature and their society.

This first stage of research, focused on reflection, has been a positive springboard to move forward toward the development of a First Nation led Integrated Management plan for Malpeque Bay. This research also feeds into the CURA Comparative Study which examines and incorporates aspects of specific research activities in our partner locations.



Bear River First Nation

Student Activity Update

Over the summer, undergraduate student intern, Jessica Burgoyne, worked on multiple components of research for the Coastal CURA. Her research included a compilation of site profiles for use in the CURA wide Comparative Study, preparing case studies for a web-based database, website redesign, partner map creation and some administrative support. In September, Jessica began working as an administrative assistant under the supervision of the CURA administrator and also began her undergraduate honours degree conducting research that is of interest to partners in the Coastal CURA. Specifically, her research examines the effect of fishing trends and patterns on the spatial distribution and density of related land and sea based fishing activities. This research will be supported by a literature review, interviews and visits to the Digby/Annapolis Region.



Student Tour '08

From May to August, Elizabeth (Beth) Lenc, an undergraduate student, worked in the Coastal CURA office handling the day-to-day administrative tasks associated with the project. Beth organized the development of the CURA Ocean's Day booth on the Halifax waterfront. She also developed a community-based fishery management database that will be added to the redesigned website and a CURA calendar of events that has been used for CURA outreach planning. In addition, Beth helped with website re-construction.

Over the summer, Courtney Nickerson (Joint Anthropology and Int'l Development Honours, UNB) travelled all over the South Western Shore of New Brunswick gathering information from those who know the area best, the local

onshore fishers. Under the supervision of Dr. Melanie Wiber and direction of Maria Recchia (FNFA), she examined the economic contributions of the onshore fisheries sector to local SWNB communities. Courtney was able to get to know the communities and their people while conducting the interviews, taking time to clam dig and enjoy local seafood. In her final report Courtney expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to work with coastal communities on such an important theme.

Rob Cameron, a masters student intern from Saint Mary's University, continued his research with the Coastal CURA in May and June. He prepared national and international case studies that identify community focused management initiatives. These case studies will soon be available for viewing on the CURA website. Rob wrapped up his work with the CURA and headed off to Bolivia to conduct research for his masters in international development.

Courtenay Parlee, a masters student, University of New Brunswick, officially joined the Coastal CURA at the September biannual face-to-face meeting. Courtenay has an interest in examining power differentials and their impact on management decisions and the factors that contribute to dispute resolution.

Kate Bigney, interdisciplinary PhD candidate, Dalhousie University, spent the summer completing her dissertation proposal, collecting policy documentation and investigating organizations working on coastal resource policy in the region. She conducted site visits with CURA partners and attended the Environmental Studies Association of Canada conference at the University of British Columbia in June. Kate and Alex Wilner, a post-doctoral fellow with the TAPIR program (Trans-Atlantic Post-Doc for International Relations), won the Canadian Navel Review's third Annual Oland Essay Competition for their article "One fish, two fish, three fish... no fish: Canada's Navy and the global

fisheries crisis". Kate is currently working on interpreting the information she collected from CURA partners and preparing for more field visits in 2009.

This past summer under the supervision of Melanie Wiber (UNB) and in co-operation with FNFA, Donna Curtis, PhD student at UNB, worked on identifying information access issues surrounding the growing aquaculture industry in Southwestern, NB. The goal of the project was to identify and access relevant information and knowledge that will assist in coastal management decisions for the Southwest Bay of Fundy. A metadatabase of relevant capture fisheries and aquaculture legislation, policies, websites, etc. is being completed for FNFA to assist with their ongoing community participation. Donna, Melanie and Maria Recchia, Executive Director of FNFA, prepared a paper summarizing the NB legislation changes initiating the project, the information gathering process and future information uses and formats that will be of benefit to the association. Donna presented this paper at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting in New Hampshire on July 28-31, 2008.

Liz Wilson, interdisciplinary PhD student, Dalhousie University, was contracted to oversee the workings of the CURA office and summer interns from May to August. During this time, Liz also travelled to partner locations collecting baseline information for the Coastal CURA comparative study. Liz is currently enrolled in a qualitative methods course and hopes to use the opportunity to focus on refining her research proposal based on some of the information she collected on coastal social-ecological systems over the summer. Liz is continuing to provide administrative support by writing up a report for the CURA workshops held in September, website reconstruction, and the development of a communications plan.

Cultural/Team-building Experience—Bear River, NS

The month of September brought the Coastal CURA face-to-face Council meeting and a series of workshop sessions. This event was held in Bear River First Nation from the 14th to 16th of September. Representatives from all our partner organizations were present. Our opening and closing ceremonies included Mi'kmaq traditions led by former Bear River Chief, Frank Meuse Jr., at Stone Bear Tracks & Trails. The workshop was broken into

three main sessions: Session 1 – Visioning: moving forward with a community version of integrated management; Session 2 – Sharing experiences on community level integrated management; Session 3 – Action to move forward with a CURA vision of IM. Aside from the important topics discussed, our members had the opportunity to experience the natural surroundings at Stone Bear, a place where you feel the presence of the Mi'kmaq culture.

The storytelling and interpretive walks gave everyone a chance to let go of everyday thoughts and allowed for genuine teambuilding and personal reflection. We thank Bear River First Nation for inviting us onto their land and sharing a bit of their culture with us.



Stone Bear Tracks & Trails

Cost & Earnings Survey— Southwest New Brunswick

Maria Recchia, Fundy North Fishermen's Association, Melanie Wiber, UNB and Murray Rudd, Memorial University have been collaborating on a costs and earnings survey for Southwest New Brunswick. The project had two main approaches to data collection. First, Courtney Nickerson, a student from UNB, spent the summer conducting 24 semi-structured interviews. The second approach involved questionnaires which were mailed to all active license holders in LFA36. Data collection on both is complete and we are now in the process of analyzing the resulting data.

For the qualitative interviews, several different types of respondents were sought using snowball sampling. The main target for respondents were harvesters of onshore species such as clam, periwinkle, dulse, and rockweed, as well as river and lake species such as eel, gaspereau, and shad. The main processors of these species in the region were also contacted for interviews. Also, persons who were identified as knowledgeable about their community were contacted to discuss the onshore sector of their local economy. Specific questions were developed for each of the three different groups of respondents. All were

asked about the health of the stocks they relied upon, as well as factors affecting stock health. All respondents were residents of small coastal communities between Saint John and St. Andrews (including Campobello and Deer Islands), with the exception of two gaspereau/eel fishermen who resided in the Grand Lakes area. All respondents reported a surprising number of people in their communities who made use of the various onshore species.

To view a preliminary "working document" report on the findings please visit the CURA website.



Giving Consideration to Data & Information Resources Used for Integrated Management

By Donna G. Curtis, PhD Student

When the Canadian parliament proclaimed the 1997 Oceans Act, one of its most promising features was the direct mandate for the adoption of integrated management. This approach, which recognizes the multifaceted and often competing demands on ecosystems, serves not only to protect and preserve the natural resources in question but also acknowledges that similar consideration must be given towards the individuals and communities whose social, economic and cultural livelihoods are dependent on ocean ecosystems. The Eastern Scotia Shelf Integrated Management initiative or ESSIM* is one of five Canadian offshore large oceans management areas (LOMAs) designated by DFO for establishing ecosystem based integrated management.

Much attention has been given to the methodology used (i.e. workshops, stakeholder consultation and literature reviews) by the ESSIM Planning Group to identify 270 indicators of human use factors. Both methodology and indicators can be found in the March 2008 ESSIM Social, Economic and Cultural Overview and Assessment (SECOA) Report. However, the steps taken to identify and select indicator data sources are cause for concern. Before ESSIM's SECOA is put forward as a template for further LOMA integrated management initiatives I would like to highlight four specific points for consideration.

Advances in communication and information technology (CI Tech) over the last 30 years leaves no debate about our abilities to access information in Western nations. CIT includes the almost limitless access of satellite radio, television, cellular phones and PDAs, and extends to online Internet search engines and databases providing instantaneous data at our fingertips. The ESSIM SECOA

suggests that half of the 75% of indicator information needed is readily available, the majority in government sourced online format. My first concern is that data quantity does not equal quality. Although it may be accessible, it is important to acknowledge that information collected on the subjects in question can *only* be provided by government sources. In a democratic state only those elected to govern have the right to ask, gather and compile much of the information that is needed for public debate. Due to limited resources and decreasing budgets, information collection is done selectively and on issues that are of political concern but not necessarily of concern to citizens. We cannot say information is neutral when the very questions that get asked have an agenda.

In recent years federal and provincial legislation has provided increased access to information but keep in mind that increases in data accessibility requires increased information management. The more information is managed the more it is manipulated through bureaucratic processes; as a result, information may be disjointed, incomplete, aggregated to protect privacy, collected in incompatible measurements, or simply unavailable. Many of these data compilation tactics are said to be done to protect the rights of the individual and avoid public misconception. However, having only half of the story leads to misunderstanding and uninformed decision-making.

This brings me to my third point, the inherent misleading nature of databases. Databases are fixed; they are not flexible or open to interpretation. Each data record in a database is made up of numerous fields. Each field represents a piece of information, whether a name, a street address

or an income. Because computer technology operates on a binary level (i.e. 0 or 1; yes or no; on or off) fields can only hold specified bits of information. Since visibly, I have none of the four options of hair colour on my driver's license form, a field that must be completed, whatever I select is an inaccurate reflection of who I am. How does this limitation of CI Tech compound as we build larger and larger databases that we are to use for national level decision-making?

Finally, my greatest concern is our tendency to neglect information and knowledge sources beyond those provided by CI Tech. Although the ESSIM initiative identifies a gap in community information they have not selected local knowledge or traditional knowledge to be used either in place of, or in tandem with government online resources. How can we understand the "human use element" if we are not talking to the humans? As much as we want to duplicate the methodologies used for the measuring of ecological indicators, whether for simple ease of use or for "justifying" social sciences practices, it cannot be done. Indicator data will only be relevant if local and traditional knowledge is gathered and used in decision-making.

When using any resource, living or non-living, we must take into consideration the attributes of the resource in question if we are to ensure its sustainability and understand the implications of its use. We must consider information or data as we would any other resource. The ESSIM initiative provides the opportunity to set the framework for how social, economic and cultural indicators will be measured, compiled and considered for integrated Canadian oceans management. We cannot start with misinformation.

* For more ESSIM information www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/e/essim/essim-intro-e.html.

CURA Partner Networking & Knowledge Sharing

Over the summer, clam harvesters from both sides of the Bay of Fundy met to discuss clam management strategies and the long-term viability of this industry. A major concern is the current lack of consultation with clam harvesters in the implementation of a new shellfish safety protocol that has dramatically increased the area of beaches that are closed for harvesting activities. In New Brunswick, clam harvesters are represented by the **Charlotte County Clam Harvester Co-operative Ltd.**, while in Nova Scotia they are recognized as the **Area 2 Clammers' Association (A2CA)**. These groups have been working with regional organizations: in the New Brunswick case, **Eastern Charlotte Waterways** and in the Nova Scotia case, the **Clean Annapolis River Project** (both organizations are part of the Atlantic Coastal Action Program or ACAP). Several CURA partners have a connection to clam harvesting. The MRC has been working to build capacity among clam harvesters in the Digby area and facilitated their recent decision to amalgamate two associations into one – forming the A2CA - in order to better deal with issues affecting sustainable harvester livelihoods. BRFN has a long history of harvesting clams in their region of Nova Scotia. As a voting member of the Annapolis Watershed Resource Committee, they have cooperated with the clam harvesters and with local municipalities in assessing the impact of the provincial decision to grant a corporate seafood enterprise exclusive ten year leases to productive

shellfish beaches.

As these clam harvester organizations have much to learn from each other, the Working Group on the SocioEconomics of Integrated Management (Ocean Management Research Network) collaborated with the MRC to bring them together to discuss common interests. The Nova Scotia group was particularly interested to hear about the clam cooperative formed on the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Fundy. At the conclusion of the one-day meeting, both sides agreed that future cooperation and perhaps collaboration would be useful.

In September, the **Coastal Learning Communities Network** (the CLCN is affiliated with the Coastal CURA) held a teleconference on subsistence fisheries – this is the fourth learning circle in the series with more to come. This learning circle marks the first time in which small-scale fishers from **Coastal Links** and the **Masifundise Development Trust of South Africa** joined the call. Then in October, the CLCN held a national workshop in Stephenville, NL. From the NL workshop, a draft position paper on subsistence harvesting was developed by the CLCN and then presented by CURA partners Arthur Bull (MRC) and Sherry Pictou (BRFN) at the **Civil Society Workshop** in Bangkok, Thailand. Arthur and Sherry were also fortunate to meet face-to-face with the CLCN African members during the conference. This conference was held one week before the official **FAO Confer-**

ence on Small-scale Fisheries. The CLCN position paper was used to create an official position paper that was then presented by Arthur Bull at the FAO conference on small-scale fisheries. Proceedings of the NL workshop and learning circles can be found at <http://clcn.seedwiki.com>. After the conference in Bangkok, Arthur and Sherry attended the **5th Annual Via Campesina Conference** held in Maputo, Mozambique and then the **Food Secure Canada Workshop** in Ottawa – both excellent knowledge sharing and networking events.

Learning circles are a proven tool for the unification of organizations with common interests and goals, in the sharing of experiences for knowledge generation and support. The CoastalCURA is a proud supporter of the CLCN and their ongoing series of learning circles. Since its initiation, our partners have worked closely with the CLCN, specifically; the MRC has contributed leadership through Arthur Bull's facilitation and Sherry Pictou (BRFN) has helped create links to other First Nation and indigenous communities. The Ocean Management Research Network has also joined in this partnership and provides financial and academic support.



Ocean's Day Display '08

CoastalCURA

COMMUNITIES MANAGING COASTS TOGETHER

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- Acadia First Nation
- Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre
- Bear River First Nation
- Fundy Fixed Gear Council
- Fundy North Fishermen's Association
- Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations)
- Saint Mary's University
- The University of New Brunswick