CoastalCURA
COMMUNITIES MANAGING COASTS TOGETHER

Volume 2, Issue 2

Spring/Summer 2009

Coastal CURA News & Events

Empowering Coastal Communities

Engaging at the Local Level for Large-scale Results

In the course of our Coastal CURA research, we have seen – in the Maritimes and beyond – many examples of local and community-based coastal management initiatives. These efforts range from stream rehabilitation oriented toward improving livelihoods and ecosystems, through to planning efforts that seek to proactively determine a locally-desired mix of coastal and ocean uses. We are also monitoring large-scale integrated management schemes, which have varying degrees of community involvement. Our research is seeking to understand what is needed to better support local initiatives and to have coastal communities more engaged and empowered in large-scale efforts. Indeed, why is it that local initiatives often receive little support, and in some cases actual opposition, from higher levels of government, and why do some large-scale efforts fail to inspire coastal communities?

As described later in this newsletter (see CURA Networking & Knowledge Sharing), the Coastal CURA has reached a stage at which we are generating a variety of research results addressing the above themes. We are now presenting these results to community and academic audiences as well as to government bodies. Notably, we were asked by the federal government's Policy Research Initiative (PRI) think-tank to present a keynote address to their March 2009 workshop on Collaborating Around Spatial Approaches to Integrated Management. Our presentation, on "Integrated Management: A Coastal Community Perspective", generated considerable discussion about how governments can more effectively engage at a local level. It will form the basis for further discussion with governments.

The research and capacity-building work of the Coastal CURA is continuing through participatory research that connects academic and community partners, through the ongoing work of several doctoral and masters students, through innovative approaches to community GIS and cultural production (including film-making), and through the grass-roots activities of several Coastal CURA partners. Many of these initiatives are described further in this newsletter.

Inside this issue:

Student Update	2
Clamming Industry	2
Calling for Integrated Management of Saint John Harbour, NB	3
Cost & Earning Survey Update	3
CURA Networking & Knowledge Sharing	4
Contact & Partner Info	4

Partner Profile: Fundy North Fishermen's Association

FNFA fishermen with materials recovered during HADD project—see article "Partner Profile"

The **Fundy North Fishermen's Association (FNFA)** is a membership organization that represents inshore fishermen in Southwest New Brunswick. The Association works to maintain fishing livelihoods as a vital component of coastal communities. FNFA has been involved in groundfish, scallop, and lobster research. As a partner of the Coastal CURA, FNFA works on research and capacity building that focuses on coastal management. To date, they have completed a film that looks at inshore fishermen in Saint John Harbour, NB and have completed the data collection for a cost/earnings survey of the inshore sector as well as a qualitative study of harvesters of onshore species such as clam, periwinkle, dulse, and rockweed, as well as river and lake species such as eel, gaspereau, and shad. As part of the HADD (Habitat Alteration, Disruption or Destruction) program as compensation for damage that occurred with the construction of the Canaport LNG terminal in Saint John Harbour, they worked at retrieving "ghost traps" (traps lost as a result of tugboat and shipping damage to fishing gear) from the harbour—FNFA will be receiving the Gulf of Maine Council Industry Award for this project.

Recently, the Association has been exploring the potential for integrated management in Saint John Harbour, New Brunswick where large-scale industrial development projects are limiting fishermen's access to fishing grounds and wharves. This activity is directly impacting fishing livelihoods in surrounding communities – see article on page 3 for more details.

Student Update

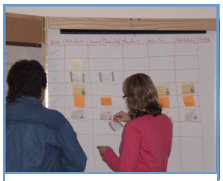
Our long-term thesis students have been busy with their classes and research has started up with the beginning of the spring/summer field season.

In addition to spending research time with our partners in the Maritimes, Kate Bigney facilitated and co-facilitated two panel sessions at international conferences, the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management and the Centre for Maritime Research (MARE) Conference. The latter session was facilitated by CURA collaborator Fikret Berkes, partner representative Maria Recchia (FNFA) and Kate. The session included paper presentations on CURA research, a screening of the CURA film "Sharing the Waters, Saint John, NB" by Sarah Bood and discussions surrounding the presented material.

After completing two semesters of classes both Courtenay Parlee and Donna Curtis presented results of their CURA related research at the spring Bay of Fundy Ecosystems Partnership Workshop held in Wolfville, NS. Courtenay is now working out of the MRC office preparing her research proposal for ethics review. Liz and Donna are both completing one of their PhD comprehensive exams over the summer. Liz is also doing further work on the CURA Comparative Study and starting some of her preliminary PhD field research which means visits to community partner locations.

In May the CURA welcomed Olando Harvey to the project as a summer intern. He is from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and is completing his masters in the Dalhousie Marine Affairs program and his interests revolve around Fisheries Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management. Olando is working with CURA partner MCPEI to advance their agenda of creating an effective Integrated Coastal Zone Management within the Malpeque Bay, PEI. The primary outputs of his work will be a comprehensive stakeholder list and a stakeholder engagement/inclusion strategy for Malpeque Bay.

The first CURA student theory retreat was held over two days in the month of June. CURA students and their CURA academic supervisors met to discuss key theoretical ideas and brainstorm on research outputs. Also in attendance was former CURA masters student intern Bob Capistrano who is rejoining the CURA team for six months as a UN Nippon Fellow working with Dr. Charles.



Liz & Donna at theory retreat

Is the Clamming Industry in the Annapolis Basin in Jeopardy as a Result of the Digby Sewage Treatment Plant and Privatization of Leasing Areas?

By Courtenay Parlee, Masters Student

Clam harvesting area 2 in the Annapolis Basin of Nova Scotia is currently undergoing significant changes. Historically, local clam diggers worked as independent harvesters entitled to an unrestricted catch limit. Approximately fifty years ago, the Annapolis Basin produced 60% of the soft shelled clam harvest in Nova Scotia. Recently however, management of the clamming industry has changed dramatically as a result of the privatization of closed clamming areas.

The Digby Nova Scotia sewage plant in the past has overflowed into the Annapolis Basin causing specific areas to be closed for clam diggers because of high bacteria counts (SouWester, 2008). Since the 1980's the municipal, provincial and federal governments have ignored pleas by the Clam Harvesters Associations to have the system updated and prevent any further overflow and contamination of fish stocks (Wiber & Bull, 2009). Alternatively, a sole depuration company named Innovative Fishery Products Inc. (IFC) has been issued monopolistic control of closed areas through a recent ten year aquaculture lease. The depuration process reduces the pathogenic organisms present in the shell stock and therefore clams that would otherwise be deemed unacceptable for consumption can be processed for sale and food. Privatization appears to be a growing trend (Sullivan, 2007).

Clam digging in Annapolis Basin, NS

In mid-May of 2008, clam diggers were confronted with a whole new level of closure in the basin. With the large rainfall, the Digby Sewage Plant once again overflowed into the Annapolis Basin with no larger amounts emitted than in the past, however, the entire basin was closed for clam digging. Consequently, "clam fishermen say their income has decreased from about $30,000 in a good year to $15,000 this season" (Truro Daily News, 2008). Clammers are "losing their ability to make an honest living…" (SouWester, 2008) and provide for their families. When the associations met with government officials to discuss the closing of the Annapolis Basin, it was revealed that the United States, one of the biggest importers of the clams, has asked for tighter sanitation measures if Canada is to send clams to the US market - and Canada has responded with a new protocol that is being tested in the Annapolis Basin. The issue with closing areas is the difficulty to re-open them. Tests and results are not confirmed in one day; it is a lengthy and arduous process. The function of the depuration company also provides little incentive for governments to improve the problem (Sullivan, 2007); thus providing more fish harvesting areas to be leased to the depuration company. Furthermore, although the overflow of sewage into the Annapolis Basin "violates the section of the Fisheries Act that prohibits depositing a deleterious substance into fish-bearing waters" (Boyd, 2003, p.36), there is little threat of enforcement by law. Consequently, municipalities do not feel obligated to allocate money to upgrade the sewage facilities (Boyd, 2003, p.36). Not only are individual clam diggers and their families affected by sewage spills and the new protocol, but the entire livelihood of the clamming industry in the Annapolis Basin is in jeopardy.

Will the clam diggers of the Annapolis Basin lose their independence and have to make a choice to submit to the IFC or find work elsewhere?

For a list of references for this article contact coastalcura@smu.ca

Calling for Integrated Management of Saint John Harbour, NB

By Melanie Wiber and Maria Recchia

The southwest coast of New Brunswick, including the port city of Saint John, has experienced significant environmental challenges over the past two decades. There have been significant declines in groundfish stocks, expanding petrochemical development (LNG plant construction in Saint John, tanker traffic, submarine gas pipelines, and a planned new oil refinery), tidal power test sites, tourism growth and coastal gentrification. The larger Saint John Harbour area also serves as a catchment basin for the most heavily industrialized area of the province of New Brunswick, affected by agricultural and forestry run-off, pulp and paper mills, textile plants, the existing oil refinery, a brewery, freighter and cruise ship terminals, harbour dredging and dredge dumping, as well as raw municipal sewage outflows (in excess of 6 million litres per day). Mitigating these impacts requires better understanding of and management tools for social and economic behaviour and decision-making. There is an urgent need to build effective integrated management institutions to respond to those issues.

Jurisdictional issues are a significant aspect of the management challenge. The primary federal agencies with coastal and ocean responsibilities are the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Environment Canada and Transport Canada. Provincial and port authorities also have jurisdiction over some activities and spatial areas. International regulation must also be considered as Saint John is an international port. These jurisdictional overlaps have resulted in fragmentary and cumbersome harbour management. While the 1997 Oceans Act called for integrated management, progress has been disappointing for many stakeholders. Integrated management promised a much stronger role for them in the planning process but many stakeholders feel that their involvement is tokenism. In addition, public consultation has not always produced good local understanding of or local support for new initiatives, creating divisiveness rather than consensus (see CBC online news, 2007).

Fundy North Fishermen's Association (FNFA) is one stakeholder group that has been involved in public consultation for many of the new developments in the harbour. Among their members are a number of fishermen who fish within the harbour. FNFA has been innovative in participating in many planning exercises. For example, they are interveners in the environmental impact assessment for the Eider Rock Oil Refinery project, particularly with respect to the potential impact of the project on the inshore fishing industry and local ecology. They have worked for several years with the DFO and Environment Canada to assess the impact on migrating lobsters of harbour dredging and of the dredge dump site off Black Point. This year work is being done to develop a management plan and monitoring protocol for the dumpsite in addition to the establishment of a formal committee to address the issue. In the Post-9/11 security environment, the Saint John Harbour Authority has severely restricted fishermen's access to the wharf facilities in the port city, and FNFA has been working with harbour authorities to develop alternatives.

FNFA has representation on many of the ad hoc committees that have formed around specific Saint John harbour issues, including: the Dredging/Dumping Committee (chaired by Environment Canada), the SJ Wharf Committee (Small Craft Harbours/DFO), the LNG Community Liaison Committee (Canaport LNG) and the Harbour Traffic Committee (Transport Canada/Port Authority).

In all of these activities, the FNFA membership has experienced first hand the frustrations created by the existing stakeholder consultation process. Part of the problem lies in the workings of the planning institutions – into which stakeholders and the public are invited, but for which there is unclear channels of responsibility and authority. Stakeholders often come to the table determined to protect their own economic interests, and with little knowledge or understanding of broader issues. As the consultation process requires unanimity, a single holdout stakeholder can scuttle innovations and responsible management. This has proven disastrous to environmental stewardship.

Increased boat traffic in Saint John Harbour is displacing local fishermen.

What appears to be needed is strong government leadership in establishing an integrated planning board to facilitate all harbour planning and operations. To further this end, FNFA has initiated a research project to examine best practice in other Canadian harbours and to investigate integrated management of international harbours outside of Canada. It is hoped that new policy initiatives can be guided both by the experiences in Saint John harbour and by best practices from elsewhere.

Update: Costs & Earnings Survey, SWNB - Preliminary Results

As first reported in our Fall/Winter Newsletter, Fundy North collaborated with Coastal CURA academics last fall (2008) in a costs and earning survey that was sent out to all active license holders in LFA 37. Preliminary statistical analysis is generating some interesting findings.

For example, the total value of fishing enterprises for the 46 fishermen answering this question was $20.815 million. The bulk of these enterprises fell in the $200,000 to $400,000 range. While these enterprises were multi-species, it is clear that lobster is the most significant species landed. Herring was found to be the second largest earner followed by scallop and groundfish. Finally, a number of other species combined were reported to represent a total revenue of $155,000. Total revenues reported from this sample of inshore fishermen for all species landed was over six million dollars, and total expenditures in the region of over three million dollars.

The revenue generated in SWNB by the inshore sector can be estimated from reported earnings. For example, as roughly 50 boats reported a combined revenue of over $6 million, then the 178 boats in LFA 37 would generate approximately $21.36 mil in annual revenues. If we combine these figures with an estimate of revenue generated among Grand Manan fishermen, all of SWNB fisheries are worth roughly $120.65m per year. Further, most of the expenses in this industry are expended locally; the bulk of equipment and supplies purchases reported by fishermen were made in Charlotte or Saint John county. The bulk of fish sales are also local.*

** For more detailed information visit www.coastalcura.ca*

CURA Networking & Knowledge Sharing

We continue to be busy presenting our research results at meetings with government officials and a number of international and national conferences. In March, our Principal Investigator travelled to Ottawa, on our partner's behalves, to make a requested presentation to the **Federal Policy Research Initiative** group on the topic of integrated management from a community perspective. The presentation generated much discussion among those present.

The Coastal CURA had a large presence at the spring **Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) workshop** with partner and student presentations, posters and a CURA partner organized citizen forum on coastal industrial development that was held the day before the workshop began.

In July, the Coastal CURA organized and facilitated panel discussion sessions that included a showing of our film "Sharing the Waters, Saint John, NB" at the **MARE (Institute for Marine Research) Conference** in Amsterdam and the **International Symposium on Society and Resource Management** (ISSRM) held in Vienna, Austria.

In addition to conference and meetings we have collaborated on the organization of workshops to initiate discussion and draw attention to the role of community groups in effective coastal management.

In April, the Coastal CURA, in collaboration with the Ecology Action Centre, organized a one day workshop entitled, "**Coastal Policy in the Maritimes – Community Perspectives**". Representatives from Maritime grass-roots, community organizations joined us in a discussion on the ways regional coastal management issues, including water quality, coastal access, traditional small-scale fisheries and ecosystem degradation and loss, are or are not being addressed. Most importantly, it was an opportunity to hear community views on policy and discuss strategies for ways to support coastal community involvement in the management of our coasts and oceans.

The workshop "**The Role of Municipalities, First Nations, Aboriginals and Communities in Coastal Management**" held in June was the product of a Coastal CURA collaboration with the Coastal Nova series—a series of public events and strategic workshops held in Halifax, NS. The workshop was used to highlight the various perspectives of First Nations, Aboriginals, community organizations, elected municipal representatives, regional development authorities and others charged with coastal and land use planning, economic development and environmental protection responsibilities along the coast. Participants reflected on issues of accountability and governance relating to the respective roles of municipalities and local development agencies, as well as the use of community-based planning models, in ensuring sustainable coastlines. The summary report from the workshop presents key ideas that have arisen on coastal management initiatives and local involvement, as well as potential next steps. It is our goal that the report will by used to help chart a course both for establishing successful coastal management initiatives at the community and municipal level and for ensuring their long-term involvement in the government's Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy. **Summary report available from the CURA website.*

Kate Bigney at MARE Conference

CoastalCURA
COMMUNITIES MANAGING COASTS TOGETHER

Contact us:

Project Coordinator, Coastal CURA
c/o Saint Mary's University
923 Robie Street, Halifax, NS B3H 3C3

Phone: 902-420-5003
Fax: 902-496-8101
E-mail: coastalcura@smu.ca

www.coastalcura.ca

Thank you to our funding supporters :

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Saint Mary's University

The Coastal CURA is a 5-year project to build knowledge and capacity, across the Maritimes, in support of community involvement in managing our coasts and oceans. The Coastal CURA is a "Community University Research Alliance" of First Nations communities, fishery-related groups and university participants, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. ***Coastal CURA*** *Project consists of eight partners spread across the Maritimes:*

- *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*