

CoastalCURA

COMMUNITIES MANAGING COASTS TOGETHER



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Coastal CURA News & Events

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Coastal CURA Progress

Reflecting on the Past, Moving Towards the Future

The Coastal CURA has been busy in recent months, and our CURA is dynamically moving forward into the Spring season. We have been reflecting on our past challenges and success stories, and as we prepare for our upcoming Biannual Council meeting in May, there has been much discussion about the key elements of our work over the next 1.5 years.

We have many ongoing projects stemming from our community partners (Bear River First Nations' GIS project, Fundy Fixed Gear Council's Fishermen's Survey, among others), and our students. Donna, Kate, and Liz are continuing working towards their PhDs, and Courtenay is in the data collection stage of her Masters degree. We are also welcoming two new Masters students to the

Coastal CURA Team: Melina Puley, and Velta Douglas.

The CURA has also been working on several Capstone Projects to be completed over the coming two years. Sarah Bood, through the Fundy North Fishermen's Association, is working on Coastal CURA's Capstone Film Project, which is a short documentary on Local Coastal Management (see p.2)

In the beginning stages of development are a Capstone Book, as well as an International Conference which is scheduled to take place in June of 2011. The conference will highlight some of the work of the CURA and will delve into the larger questions surrounding community involvement in integrated management.

The Conference will welcome participants from across the globe, thereby opening up the discussion of integrated management to varied perspectives and providing opportunities for in-depth knowledge sharing.

Both the book and the conference will highlight community-university collaboration in integrated place-based and natural resource management.

This special issue of our newsletter will highlight some of the work done by Coastal CURA Participants. We have many updates, and this is but a small sample of what we have accomplished and experienced over the past year! We encourage you, our reader, to check our website at www.coastalcura.ca if you would like to learn more!

Inside this issue:

Coastal CURA Film Projects 2

Coastal CURA & Curriculum Development 2

Coastal CURA Awards & Announcements 3

In Their Own Words: Student Updates 3

Recent Publications and Presentations 4

A Need for Fishermen's Associations in NS 4

Contact & Partner Info 4

Coastal CURA Reaches Out to Government

By Melanie Wiber

On March 22, 2010, Tony Charles and Melanie Wiber attended a half day session at Carleton University co-hosted by the Policy Research Initiative, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and the Regulatory Governance Initiative of the School of Public Policy and Administration.

The focus of this "Critical Conversation" was "Place-Based Decision-Making", and it involved Director-Generals, ADMs, Senior Assistant

Deputy Ministers, Managers, and Directors from Provincial and Federal Government organizations such as Natural Resources Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Ontario Power Authority, Agri-Food Canada, Infrastructure Canada, DFO, Environment Canada, and Indian and Northern Affairs.

The short but intense discussions were focused on two questions: what are the top three priorities to

improve place-based analysis and decision-making, and how can the Federal Government play a role?

The Critical Conversation was also the launch for the latest issue of Horizons (Volume 10, No. 4) which includes a paper on integrated coastal management from the community perspective, authored by the participants in the Coastal CURA.*



Photo Credit: Donna Curtis

*See: Charles, Wiber, Bigney, Curtis, Wilson, Angus, Kearney, Landry, Recchia, Saulnier, and White. 2010. Integrated Management: A Coastal Community Perspective. *Horizons* 10(4):26-34.

Coastal CURA Capstone Film

By: Sarah Bood

Film has proven to be an excellent medium for sharing the stories and varied perspectives of coastal community residents on important issues.



Photo Credit: Sarah Bood

A locally-produced short film can be used as a reflective tool for community members, an educational tool for teachers and students, and also a communications tool to present to government officials and political representatives.

Sharing the Waters, the first Coastal CURA short film, begins with a brief introduction to the history of the in-shore fishery in Saint John followed by an overview of issues stemming from the recent increase in marine industrial projects in the harbour. This film has recently been accepted into the CBC's new online Download program.

Currently in production, the **Coastal CURA Capstone Film: A Short Documentary on Local Coastal Management** is a short documentary on the community partners involved with the Coastal CURA and their collective research on participatory coastal management. In this film, a number of different coastal groups, such as fishermen associations, First Nation communities, and conservation organizations will share the efforts they are making to organize, address conflicts, and manage their resources in a sustainable way. Their stories will show that we can improve upon our current methods of coastal management by building trust and meaningful relationships between coastal residents and government workers.

Coastal CURA & Curriculum Development - Saint John High School Students Grapple with Harbour Issues

By Melanie Wiber:

Students at Saint John High School and Woodlawn Learning Centre are getting up-close and personal with something Saint Johners hold dear: the Saint John Harbour and its environment.

Over the past winter term, students in three different classes explored Harbour management issues through innovative classroom exercises, such as a mock stakeholders' meeting to debate Harbour management strategies. Local stakeholders came to class to tell students about the ongoing problems facing the Saint John Harbour. Presenters represented local lobster fishermen, Canaport LNG, the Saint John Waterfront Development Corporation, and the Saint John Port Authority. The presenters discussed many issues including problems surrounding shipping-lane traffic and concerns regarding fishing gear loss.

Students played the roles of Saint John Port Authority, lobster fishermen, Harbour industrial players, the City of Saint John and the federal departments of Transport and Fisheries and Oceans. They debated issues that need more public discussion. Taking what they learned through the meeting, students worked on media assignments to communicate their perspectives on what can be done to improve the operation of Saint John Harbour.

Velta Douglas, a Masters student at UNB's Faculty of Education, developed the program. She is very happy with the response:

"Studying local issues is a key element in environmental planning. The students took on positions that they normally wouldn't and put themselves in roles they may not have been so comfortable with. Yet each student rose to the challenge and this allowed for great debate and deliberation on the Harbour issues."

Ms. Douglas hopes this experience has helped students develop informed opinions about environmental management options in Saint John Harbour, building capacity in young people to plan and steward this vulnerable and strategic aquatic environment.

Coastal CURA Awards & Announcements!

- We would like to congratulate the Fundy North Fishermen's Association for their recent Gulf of Maine award for environmental stewardship.
- Congratulations to Hubert Saulnier and the Maritime Fishermen's Union. Their Clean Oceans Initiative has been awarded the Gulf of Maine's Visionary Award because of its efforts to reduce marine debris.
- Courtenay Parlee recently won the best photo competition at the Ocean Management Research Networks conference in Ottawa (see her photo on the right!).
- Donna Curtis won a best poster blue ribbon prize at the Annual Rural Sociological Society Meetings in Madison, Wisconsin this August.

Staffing Update: The Coastal CURA would like to welcome Madelaine Patterson to the Coastal CURA team. A newcomer to the Maritimes, Madelaine recently completed a Masters degree in Environmental Security and will be taking on the responsibilities of the Coastal CURA coordinator.



Photo Credit: Courtenay Parlee

In Their Own Words: Student Updates More to come in our next newsletter!

Donna Curtis, PhD Candidate, UNB



Since my last update I have had the opportunity to keep working on and attending Coastal CURA research and events.

During the first week of September I was able to participate in the Fundy North Fishermen's Association (FNFA) Ghost Trap Trawling project for the second time. This is such a great project to be a part of and a definite hands-on learning experience. In October, I was able to attend the Ocean Management Research Network conference in Ottawa from the 18th-23rd. I served as a "rapporteur" (i.e. minute and note taker) for three sessions and also gave a presentation on my research work with the FNFA during a Coastal CURA session.

Since then, much of my work has focused on working with Melanie Wiber, UNB, and Maria Recchia, Executive Director of FNFA, on tackling a new strategy for communicating with the fishermen of the association. Building on our information-flow work from last year, we had a hunch that VHF radio might be a format of interest. After conducting a telephone survey we were able to confirm that a short VHF ra-

dio fishery broadcast appealed to the fishermen. Maria and I have completed our Restricted Marine Radio Operators Certificates and are now in the process of locating radio equipment. Tracking down the right gear also provided me with the perfect excuse to attend the Canada East fishing industry trade show where I not only had tonnes of fun checking out the fishing gear but was able to connect with several vendors and tell them more about the Coastal CURA work. Maria is aiming for a first run of short broadcasts during the upcoming spring lobster fishery so "stay tuned."

The above, along with the occasional research question from an academic or community partner and my comprehensive work, has made for an interesting few months. I'm now looking forward to developing a comparative fishery communication and information-flow project with Randy Angus, of our community partner, the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island.

I will also be preparing a poster for the 2010 UNB Graduate Research Conference and, if accepted, papers for the 2010 Coastal Zone Canada meetings in PEI and the inaugural Fishery Dependent Information Conference to take place in Galway, Ireland this coming August.

As we move into our last years of the Coastal CURA I am excited to be a part of our capstone projects and thankful for the ongoing opportunities to work with all of our partners. Thanks!

Courtenay Parlee, Masters Candidate, UNB



From the time that the last CURA student update was released, my focus has been on completing assignments for the Coastal CURA. Additionally, I have been working on completing the different requirements for my thesis.

In September I joined the CURA management committee and many of the capstone committees (book, conference, film). The Ocean Management Research Network (OMRN) conference was held from October 21st to the 24th where I worked as a rapporteur. Duties as a rapporteur included taking notes and making summaries of the sessions we were assigned to. It was a great opportunity as a student to meet other students, academics and community members from different disciplines who focus on Oceans issues.

My thesis proposal and ethics proposal were due in November and they were completed successfully. My ethics proposal was fully approved in January and data collection began in the month of February and has continued into the months of March and April. From March 17th to the 19th I (along with Kate and Donna) was provided with the chance to attend the OMRN summit which was held in Ottawa to discuss the future of the network.

A declaration was created and has been released. I am particularly pleased that there will be a focus on engaging students through the OMRN and that there will be policy deliverables. The idea of a student chapter was proposed and in light of that initiative I joined the OMRN student committee!

Kate Bigney, PhD Candidate, Dalhousie University



During the fall of 2009, I finished collecting documentation and conducting research interviews for my dissertation. In addition, I participated in the OMRN conference in Ottawa by presenting preliminary results from my dissertation and by serving as the student representative of the OMRN Board of Directors. I spent the winter months beginning data analysis and writing my dissertation; both of which I will continue through the spring and summer as I prepare a draft for the fall of 2010.

This March, along with Donna and Courtenay, I participated in a summit of the OMRN and other oceans organizations. We discussed the future of the OMRN along with the needs of the oceans and coastal communities in Canada. Coastal CURA students had a strong voice at the summit and are taking leadership roles in these discussions. This summer I have been accepted in to the 5th Interpretive Policy Analysis conference in Grenoble, France called "Discourses and Policy Practices: Politics - Legitimacy - Power". I will participate in a methodology workshop where I will have the opportunity to discuss my work with experts in the field of interpretive policy analysis. Other upcoming projects include revisions to the academic paper that emerged from our reflections exercise in the spring.

Recent Publications

Journal Publications

Wilson, L. & Wiber, M. 2009. Community perspectives on integrated coastal management: Voices from the Annapolis Basin area, Nova Scotia, Canada. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 52(11), 559-567.

Charles, Wiber, Bigney, Curtis, Wilson, Angus, Kearney, Landry, Recchia, Saulnier, and White. 2010. Integrated Management: A Coastal Community Perspective. *Horizons* 10(4):26-34.

Wiber, M., Rudd M. Pinkerton, I., Bull, A., & T. Charles. 2010. Coastal management challenges from a community perspective: the problem of 'stealth privatization' in a Canadian fishery. *Marine Policy* 34:598-605.

Chapters in Books

Wiber M. & J. Kearney. 2009. Learning Communities and Legal Spaces: Community-Based Fisheries Management in a Globalizing World. In F. and K. von Benda-Beckmann and Anne Griffiths, eds., *The Power of Law in a Transnational World*. Berghen Press. Pp. 137-155

Wiber M. & A. Bull. 2009. Re-scaling Governance for Better Resource Management? In: F. and K. von Benda-Beckmann and Julia Eckert, eds. *Rules of Law and Laws of Ruling*. Pp. 151-170. Surrey, UK: Ashgate.

Book Review

Curtis, Donna G. 2009. Review of Sinclair P.R. and R.E. Ommer eds. Power and Restructuring: Canada's Coastal Society and Environment (2006). *Newfoundland and Labrador Studies* 24:287-289.

Posters:

Charles, T. & Wilson, L. (2009). Community involvement and engagement in coastal resource management: Maritimes experiences. Poster presentation, Ocean Management Research Network Conference, Ottawa, October 2009

Paper presentations

Wilson, L. & Wiber, M. (2009). Community perspectives on integrated coastal management: Voices from the Annapolis Basin area, Nova Scotia, Canada. Ocean Management Research Network Conference, Ottawa, October 2009.

Opinion Piece: A Need for Fishermen's Associations in Nova Scotia

By Hubert Saulnier

With all the issues facing the fisheries in our local communities it has come to our attention that, like the MFU in the Gulf area of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the strong fishermen's associations in NFLD, we need to have strong, well organized fishermen's associations here in Nova Scotia.

Industry leaders attend many meetings with DFO prior to and within active fisheries and they often have to make 11th hour decisions without being able to fully communicate with the fishermen that will be affected by such quick decisions.

A few years back, several of us community leaders approached the N.S. government regarding this issue. At that time, we held a vote for mandatory participation in a fishermen's association (including the mandatory payment of annual dues), but N.S. was divided into six geographical areas and only two of these areas submitted enough return ballots to support mandatory dues. We think it's time to get another vote out to fishermen; there have been many changes in the N.S. fishery over the past 6-8 years and the need is still here for strong fishermen's associations.

The N.S. government is 100% supportive, and will help us in our efforts to achieve this goal. They realize how important it is to get people at the table that speak on behalf of N.S. fishermen.

We are now looking into the definition of a 'credible organization,' and are figuring out if we can have more than one in the province or within any provincial zone. I personally think that just one association wouldn't be good for N.S. If we can determine credible structures then fishermen will have an opportunity to belong to the association of their choice. Nothing is worse than having a member within your group that really doesn't want to belong there.

All of this would make the job of the provincial and federal governments simpler: Oftentimes they have to alter rules and policies that have become unpopular with the stakeholders because they were implemented without proper consultation.

This idea just got started a few months back and it will take some time to make it viable. One main goal right now is to put it in law so that the project will work in favour of all coastal communities.

Hubert Saulnier is a N.S. fisherman, and an active member of the Fundy Fixed Gear Council.

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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. The Coastal CURA Project consists of eight partners:

- 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