



Fall/Winter 2010  
Volume 3 Issue 2

## Coastal CURA News & Events



### Creative Outreach Connections: CURA Conversations

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This past summer was a busy time for the Coastal CURA (community-university research alliance) team. We moved forward in setting our CURA's direction and identified some key goals for our final year. The team also identified a need for a reflective process, in which we can look back at our experiences as a CURA. Over the years, we have been in touch with likeminded CURAs across Canada and abroad; we are also

making connections with CURAs that have just begun over the past year or so. These relationships create prime opportunities for discussion between CURAs about lessons learned. Knowledge sharing, community engagement strategies, and communication techniques are approaches that we can transfer to one another, making CURAs more effective as the years go on. To this end, Coastal CURA will be hosting a

**CURA Conversations** event on June 25th, 2011 in Halifax, NS Canada. We encourage those who work in a CURA setting to contact us for more details. For those involved in CURAs that focus on natural resources, this could be a great opportunity to attend both this meeting, as well as our People in Places Conference, also at the end of June. For more information on this meeting, please contact us at: [coastalcura@smu.ca](mailto:coastalcura@smu.ca). We hope to see you there!

### PARTNER PROFILE: Fundy Fixed Gear Council

By: Carolea White, FFGC

**The FFGC was created in 1996** by three fishermen's associations: the MFU Local 9, Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association (BFIFA) and the Islands Inshore Fishermen's Association (IIFA). The FFGC is the management board for the under 45' groundfish fishery on the Nova Scotia side of the Bay of Fundy. It is one of eight such management boards in the Scotia-Fundy Region, including most of Nova Scotia and southwest New Brunswick. "Fixed gear" includes handline, longline and gillnet fishing gear. "Groundfish" includes cod, haddock, and pollock, as well as halibut, hake, dogfish and flounder.

**The region served by the FFGC** is the Nova Scotia side of the Bay of Fundy, which comprises the counties of Digby, Annapolis, Kings, Colchester, and Cumberland. In 1996, DFO allocated community quotas to be managed by

regional management boards. This was the start of a community based approach to fisheries management.

**The FFGC has partnered with other organizations** in the past such as the Right Whale Recovery Team (trying to make it safer for whales to travel in the Bay of Fundy) and Clean Oceans (returning garbage to shore). At the present time the FFGC is doing a pilot project called "Off the Hook", Atlantic Canada's first Community Supported Fishery.

**The FFGC is one of the community partners of the Coastal CURA.** By working together, the FFGC has expanded its network with other coastal communities involved in coastal management. Through their work with the Coastal CURA, the FFGC has been exploring the true meaning of Integrated Management.



Fundy Fishermen's Day FNFA Booth.



Hubert Saulnier, FFGC

## CURA UPDATE: Coastal CURA Partner Projects 2010/2011

The Coastal CURA Partners are gearing up for their 2010/2011 projects. We have several continuing projects that have been re-funded for a second (or third!) year, as well as some exciting new initiatives!

- **Maria Recchia** and **Sheena Young** of the **Fundy North Fishermen's Association**, and **Melanie Wiber** of the **University of New Brunswick**, will be conducting a survey on Fishermen's Knowledge of Impacts of Finfish Aquaculture on Traditional Fisheries. These study results will be invaluable to FNFA's voice at the 'Integrated Management' table.
- The **Fundy Fixed Gear Council** will be creating a poster and brochure depicting its history and activities, as well as the FFGC's growing participation in the community.
- The **Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI**, will be developing written materials for distribution in Western PEI. These materials will explain the unique nature of Malpeque Bay, as well as providing a basic understanding of integrated resource management, and Aboriginal rights and issues in the area. Additionally, with the help of **Donna Curtis** (PhD

student, University of New Brunswick) and **Melanie Wiber** (University of New Brunswick), MCPEI will conduct a small pilot scale research project to

examine the "ingredients" of social learning and assess if the ingredients lead to better information flow, the idea being that social learning may play a vital role in the IM process.

- The **Bear River First Nation** will be continuing their work with the **NSSA Adopt a Stream Program** on enhancing food and subsistence opportunities of the community and the overall ecological systems of Franklyn brook.
- **Courtenay Parlee** (M.A. University of New Brunswick ) and **Melanie Wiber**, (and many others, including **Marine Affairs Students from Dalhousie University**) will be researching the possibility of achieving an eco-label status for soft shell and quahog clams in Nova Scotia, and to determine how to advertise them as such. Her project will seek to achieve long term economic stability for clam harvesters, which will contribute to the social and cultural fulfillment of their work



Courtenay Parlee learns to fillet a fish. Photo Credit: Scott Lombard

## CONFERENCE REVIEW: Fisheries Dependent Information: Making the Most of Fisheries Information – Aug 23-26, 2010, Galway, Ireland

By Donna Curtis (UNB)

This past August 2010, I had the opportunity to attend the first *Fisheries Dependent Information (FDI) Conference* entitled *Making the Most of Fisheries Information*. Held in Galway, Ireland at the National University of Ireland, this conference hosted over two hundred delegates for four days of keynote addresses (speakers were: Steve Murawski, Chief Science Advisor, NOAA; Lorcan O'Kinneide, CEO, Irish Fish Producers Organisation; Peter Gullestad, Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries; Sebastian Matthew, Advisor, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, India), presentations, posters and group discussions on how fisheries information and knowledge, traditional and scientific data, are both collected and interpreted.

During the conference I presented a paper that Melanie Wiber and I have been working on entitled, *Who Is Empowered By Fishermen's Information And Knowledge?* Our paper argues that with the increased effort and facilitation for collecting and compiling resource user information such as fisheries data and knowledge, we must not lose sight of the potential for information empowerment. If newly adopted co-management processes are seeking equitable relationships, then information and knowledge must be managed equitably and responsibly. With very few attendees having social science backgrounds, raising such concerns opened the floor to thoughtful discussion and provided the opportunity for managers to see a much

broader perspective of the information and knowledge flow process.

By far the highlight of this conference for myself was the international perspective represented throughout. It was exciting to hear such wide

spread interest in the topic from coastal communities and fishing industries around the globe. Representatives spoke from almost all continents and

represented a wide variety of fishing industries, species types, gear types, fleet sizes, etc. including the collecting of goeey duck local knowledge from the west coast of British Columbia, Canada to a longitudinal study of fishermen's knowledge in Eretria. If you are interested and would like more information, I encourage you to explore the presentations available on the conference website: <http://www.marine.iefisherydependentdata/>

My thanks to both the Coastal CURA and the Fisheries Dependent Information Conference Committee which provided the financial assistance that allowed me to attend a very beneficial and insightful conference.



Fishing Weirs, Galway, Ireland.

## People in Places: Engaging Together in Integrated Resource Management

International Conference: June 26-29, 2011, Halifax, NS, Canada

**Around the world**, governments have experienced problems in integrating communities into natural resource management institutions. Collective learning on all sides is necessary to overcome these roadblocks. The timing is critical if the promise of the Rio Declaration is not to be lost – governments face many new demands with respect to resource management such as ecosystem or spatial planning, which may supplant integrated management.

**The People in Places conference** will provide concrete case studies that reflect on the past, illustrate iterative learning in the present (when challenged by climate change, for example), and suggest policy directions for the future. Several panel themes will target key aspects of the problem. One on participatory action

research towards innovative change will highlight mechanisms for tracking community values and priorities that suggest innovative solutions. A series of sessions on engaging with power, relationship building and governance explores issues of cooperation and problems of information sharing between differing power levels. Knowledge mobilization and transformative learning sessions will examine how group learning differs from individual learning and how group learning must be supported through policy change. Enhancing resilient livelihoods and natural environments discussions will promote the exchange of innovative strategies being developed in communities that have direct experience of environmental and economic stresses given resource dependent livelihoods. We have a special interest in involving as many community



Periwinkling with Wanda Vantassel of Fundy Adventures Co.



Fishing Gear



Members of the Ghost Trap Recover Team



Stream Restoration Project Bear River First Nation

**The scope of our conference is unique.** The conference will draw on networks connecting a variety of resource sectors to highlight practical on-the-ground experience. The program begins with Reflection on the Past (Day One), moves on to Iterative Learning in the Present (Day Two), and concludes with Building Policy for the Future (Day Three). Keynote addresses on each day will challenge our thinking on each of these tasks. Panel sessions will further target specific aspects of the subthemes described above to encourage debate and discussion both horizontally between resource sectors and vertically among community representatives, academics, and federal, provincial, municipal and aboriginal governments. Our Film Festival and Cultural Production Presentations, both of which are open to the general public, will explore these three aspects of the program by highlighting the experiences of communities through story telling, song, film, and spoken word. Our 'Open Plebiscite' Session on Day Three will capture the collective learning of the conference attendees. The end result will be tangible recommendations for involving communities in INRM.

**Our invited speakers** are well known for their involvement and experience with the empowerment of communities in the management of local natural resources. Their insight will be the backbone on which to build daily conference dialogues, to further the creation of innovative solutions and management strategies for natural resource dependent communities across Canada and internationally. We have invited Dan Edwards, a fourth

generation west coast commercial fisherman and initiator of the West Coast Sustainability Association, to give a reflective presentation on the history of communities and small scale resource harvesters on Canada's West Coast. Jackie Sunde and Merle Sowman of the University of Cape Town in South Africa will be our keynote speakers for Day 2, bringing strong community-university experience, both working on the front lines of community initiatives relating to natural resources in South Africa. On Day 3, Evelyn Pinkerton of Simon Fraser University and Fikret Berkes of the University of Manitoba will participate in a panel to debate policy options. These two Canadians are known worldwide for their work on community approaches to resource management.

**We will be accepting Contribution Submissions until January 31, 2011.** We are seeking presentations in the following formats: Poster and paper presentations; community forum sessions on "hot button issues"; evening short film and documentary sessions; facilitated discussions; cultural productions (video, theatre, photo displays, poems, etc.); story-telling and community testimonials; knowledge sharing; project experiences and field reports; innovative technology displays for industry partners; student-led sessions or discussion groups!

**Submit an abstract at:**

<http://www.coastalcure.ca/peopleinplaces.html>

## REFLECTION PIECE: Coastal CURA's Community Forum at CZC 2010

By: Melanie Wiber (University of New Brunswick)

**The Coastal Zone Canada Community Forum on Coastal Communities and Coastal Management**, designed and chaired by Coastal CURA, heard from three speakers, who each addressed the barriers to, and priorities for, community involvement in coastal management. These presentations were by Jennifer Graham (Coastal Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre), Karen Traversy (Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia), and Chantal Gagnon (Executive Director, Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability). They stimulated a fascinating discussion from others in the room. Several key points emerged.

**The problems we discussed** included lack of transparency in government planning, breakdown of trust between community and government representatives, problems of community representative burn out, and failure of structural arrangements to include community (information flows, lack of resources etc.). Priorities for improving the situation that we discussed included early and easily accessible information during the planning process, providing ombudsmen style support for people who come forward from the community with problems, getting to know affected communities before introducing management changes and improving government flexibility to work across silo boundaries. Other issues that were raised during the open floor discussion included questions of inappropriate scale of management, the frequent changes in government terminology (sustainable management, integrated management, ecosystem based management, spatial management), and continuing jurisdictional confusion. Both community and government representatives had much to say about the frustrations of working within the current system. The Coastal CURA organizers thank all participants for their frank and useful contributions to this exchange. It was an extremely interesting forum.

### CoastalCURA

COMMUNITIES MANAGING COASTS TOGETHER

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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

## Coastal CURA News & Updates

- From July 29-August 5, some of our Coastal CURA students and partners had the pleasure of meeting participants from the People of the Tides project, based in Brazil (<http://www.worldfish.org/projects-sa.htm>). Courtenay Parlee, a Masters student with Coastal CURA spent much time organizing activities and knowledge exchange opportunities for the group .
- Many of our Coastal CURA partners attended the Coastal Zone Canada 2010 Conference in Charlottown, PEI from July 25-29. Please find online a selection of our paper presentations, and a short brief on our Community Forum session. Congratulations to Randy Angus and Melanie Wiber for their well received Plenary Session on *Communities at the Front Line*.
- In May 2010, Coastal CURA held a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Community Involvement in Integrated Ocean and Coastal Management. We would like to thank our government guests and community partners for participating in this timely and important discussion. We look forward to hosting a follow-up session in Spring, 2011. For more information, please contact us at: [coastalcura@smu.ca](mailto:coastalcura@smu.ca).



Research field work in PEI.

## Recent Publications

Wiber, M. & B. Turner. 2010. Moral Talk: the ontological politics of sustainable development. Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. Working Papers, Working Paper No. 123.

Wiber, M. & M. Recchia. 2010. Legal pluralism and integrated management in Saint John Harbour, Canada. MAST 9(1): 81-101.

Charles, A.T. 2010. Good Practices in the Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries, with a Focus on Rights-Based Approaches . Prepared for the FAO of the United Nations Regional Workshops on Small-Scale Fisheries, October 2010.