

## Community Involvement in Coastal Resource Management: A Comparative Study of Maritimes Experience

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### Coastal Community-University Research Alliance

The Coastal CURA is a partnership of First Nations communities, fishery-related organizations and university partners, to build knowledge and capacity, across Canada's Maritimes, in support of community values, wellbeing and involvement in managing our coasts and oceans. Coastal CURA focuses on both immediate and long term needs in three key ways: (a) participatory community-based research; (b) improving our analytical & evaluative tools and (c) developing organizational & institutional capacity.

### Aims and Objectives of the Study

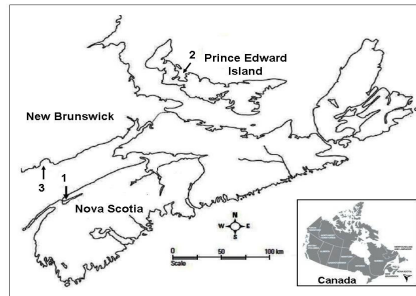
Community partners are actively involved in coastal resource management, whether grass-roots or government-led. Their need to participate in such multi-use management may result from a proactive perspective or to defend their access to coastal areas and resources. This paper describes three broad approaches that are being used to engage communities in coastal resource management - in Malpeque Bay (PEI), Annapolis Basin (Nova Scotia) and Saint John Harbour (New Brunswick).

### (1) Annapolis Basin: Nova Scotia

Community engagement in coastal resource management within and surrounding the Annapolis Basin has been ongoing since 1996 with various initiatives demonstrating the successful role of community engagement in adjacent coastal ecosystem resource management. Community values underpin the work and define attributes of integrated coastal and ocean management in this area; these values include the integration of social, cultural, environmental and economic spheres, local decision making and research, maintaining cultural identity and integrity, and a multi-stakeholder approach.



Community / grass root capacity building initiatives



General Overview of the Study Sites

### (2) Malpeque Bay: Prince Edward Island

In 2006, the idea for developing an integrated management plan for Malpeque Bay - a focus of food harvesting, transportation, recreation and economic development for PEI First Nations for thousands of years - was initiated by the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI). A three-pronged strategy to engage and involve the different stakeholders involves (1) land use analysis, (2) qualitative rating for each user group to determine the interactions between different industry sectors, and (3) community consensus meetings to discuss the integrated management plan.



Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI holistic integrated management approach

### (3) Saint John Harbour: New Brunswick

Saint John Harbour has been both a major commercial/industrial hub and a fishing port. Today, fishing community concerns for the area include: (1) the loss of traditional fishing areas due to industrial projects; (2) the loss of lobster traps and gear from increased vessel traffic, and (3) secure access to fishing wharves, following the tightening of security. A number of stakeholder committees have been established but the ad hoc nature of these committees compounds the problem as there is no one lead government agency to drive an integrated management plan.



Community engagement with industry & government agencies

### Acknowledgements

We thank all participants in the Coastal CURA initiative, and particularly those in the Annapolis Basin, Malpeque Bay and Saint John Harbour areas, for their support in this research. Financial support from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada is gratefully acknowledged.



	Annapolis Basin	Malpeque Bay	Saint John Harbour
<b>Vision for integrated coastal-ocean management</b>	Community-based resource management that builds on local capacity & values for maintaining healthy & resilient communities and ecosystems.	A broader stakeholder plan that includes land based activities and supports the economic aspirations of Lennox Island First Nation community.	An umbrella committee with representation from existing committees to facilitate dialogue across and within different groups.
<b>Ecological description of the areas</b>	26.2 km <sup>2</sup> , 6.8m-9.3m tidal range, watershed covers approximately 408 km <sup>2</sup> . Major rivers - Annapolis, Bear, Allans and Moose.	244 km <sup>2</sup> , >2m tidal range, shallow with numerous shoals. 35 watersheds, covering 483 km <sup>2</sup> entry into the Bay, Ramara Site.	240 km <sup>2</sup> , 6.6m-9m tidal range, watershed covers approximately 55,110 km <sup>2</sup> . Major rivers - Saint John & Kennebecasis.
<b>Cultural Influences &amp; Impacts</b>	Mi'kmaq, French, British, Black Loyalists. Habitat modifications - dykes introduced by the Acadians.	Mi'kmaq, French, British, earlier links with Basques & American fishing fleets. Impact on diets - Mi'kmaq.	Maliseet & Passamaquoddy, British, French, Irish, Black Loyalists.
<b>Social impacts from fishery events</b>	Rural - Fisheries decline (1990's) & ITQ's. Fluctuations in the size of scallop and lobster fleets. End of hand trawling and wild salmon fishery. Reduced herring fishery and access to clam beaches.	Rural - Fisheries decline (1990's) & ITQ's. Focus on aquaculture (oysters and mussels), and farming (e.g. potatoes). End of wild salmon fishery. Impacts on aquaculture from invasive species and disease.	Industrial - Fisheries decline (1990's) & ITQ's. Fluctuations in the size of scallop & lobster fleets. End of herring and salmon fishery in the harbour. Impacts on watersheds from land-based sources.
<b>Economic focus and influencing factors</b>	Fisheries, tourism, agriculture, aquaculture, transportation. Lobster & clam price fluctuations in 2008-2009.	Agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, fisheries, forestry, transportation. Lobster & clam price fluctuations in 2008-2009.	Industry-oil and gas refinery, transportation, fisheries, tourism, forestry. Fluctuations in lobster prices 2008-2009.
<b>Governance</b>	Federal, Provincial, Municipality, First Nation	Federal, Provincial, Municipality, First Nation	Federal, Provincial, City, Municipality

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### Selected Literature

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