

**Southwest New Brunswick
Marine Advisory Committee
Consensus Based Advice / Recommendations**

February 26, 2013

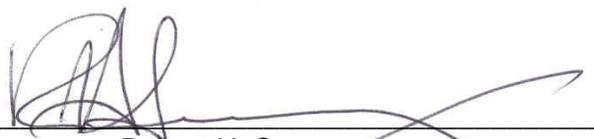
Background:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is seeking the advice and/or recommendations of the Marine Advisory Committee (MAC) in regard to the DFO proposed initiatives in the development of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network in the Scotia Shelf Bioregion as it applies to the Southwest New Brunswick Marine Planning Area in the Bay of Fundy.

MAC Advice / Recommendations

DFO presented proposal materials to the MAC at the December 6, 2012 meeting. Based upon the information provided by DFO at that time the MAC advice and recommendations is as follows:

- DFO should announce to the public as soon as possible its' intentions to develop a network of marine protected areas. A communications strategy, including content and delivery format, should be developed by DFO in consultation with and based upon advice from the MAC.
- DFO should seek early, active and meaningful public participation in the initial design of a network for this region.
- The MAC felt that the current scope of DFO considerations in the establishment of a MPA Network needs to be expanded to include the socio-economic and the cultural impacts it could have on the existing resource users and local communities. How will this impact upon existing jobs critical to the economic well-being of the region?
- The importance of the biological components of specific MPAs needs to be vetted by local communities for their input and evaluation to ensure early engagement and acceptance by the public.
- Early discussion on the expected objectives is required as well as an assessment of the best approach or tools to meet these objectives. In considering a MPA what will be considered as the baseline information / criteria to merit a designation?
- There needs to be a clear understanding on how aboriginal treaty rights may be impacted by a MPA Network.


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MAC Co-Chair