

MINUTES
SWNB Marine Advisory Committee Meeting
Harry Hachey Conference Centre, St. Andrews, NB
December 17, 2014

Committee Members present

Jessie Davies
Gerhard Pohle
Mike Rouse
Bob Sweeney
Greg Thompson
Chris Saulnier
Matt Abbott
Heather Chase
Dr. Aruna Jayawardane

Absent

Wendy Wetteland
Patricia Saulis
Ken Hirtle
Maria-Inez Buzeta
Larry Ingalls
Lois Mitchell
Kimberly Watson

Government Co-chairs

Faith Scattolon, RDG DFO Maritimes
Hélène Bouchard, ADM NB DAAF

Government Secretariat Present

Karen Coombs (NBDAAF)
Loretta McAleenan (NBDAAF)
Jason Naug (DFO)
Rob Stephenson (DFO)
Sarah Cheney (DFO)

Presenters/Observers

Heather Breeze (DFO)
Marty King (DFO on phone)
Courtenay Parlee (UNB PhD student)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Hélène Bouchard chaired the meeting. Faith Scattolon participated via phone.

2. Review of Agenda:

- A follow-up on Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) was added to the agenda.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes from the May 13, 2014 MAC meeting were reviewed and accepted.

4. Marine Advisory Committee Updates:

- The three new members (Matt Abbott, Heather Chase and Chris Saulnier) were welcomed to the MAC.
- The need to find a new Citizen Co-Chair was raised with the request that any expressions of interest be sent to the Secretariat.

- Bob Sweeney was thanked by the Co-Chairs for the role he had played as Citizen Co-Chair over the past 2.5 years.
- Bob described some of the commitment involved in serving as Co-Chair.
- There was a discussion on the need to undertake a 3 year review of the MAC to ensure it is meeting its mandate. Terms of Reference and other MAC background materials can be found on the website (www.bofmrp.ca).
- The plan is to undertake this review during the current phase to limit any delay in momentum as happened during the previous phase from MRP to MAC.
- Initial comments/questions were made relating to:
 1. *What are the tangible accomplishments of the MAC?*
 2. *What is public perception of the MAC?*
 3. *Is the CVC really being used?*
 4. *There are a number of existing permitting/review processes, so we need to ensure MAC's role is adding value.*
 5. *MAC, as a process, is still in the early phases.*
 6. *The Secretariat has tried to get topics on the table to discuss but have not always been successful; need to document why.*
- A questionnaire will be developed to discuss a range of issues associated with the MAC.
- This evaluation will be finished by July 2015 and will be based on the Terms of Reference and other relevant documents used by MAC including outcomes agreed upon at the start of the MAC phase.

Action: Secretariat to develop questionnaire for input by government and MAC members. The development, administering, collation of results, and development of recommendations will be completed by July 2015.

5. DFO's Regional Oceans Plan and Activities in the SWNB:

- Jason Naug presented an overview of his department's recently developed Regional Oceans Plan that described the approach that DFO is taking to support ocean and coastal management in the Maritimes Region. Discussion points included:
 1. This plan will use spatial planning methods and tools to support improved management.
 2. Public engagement remains an important part of DFO's overall approach including using the MAC to discuss and get feedback on our program work.
- Heather Breeze presented the approach that DFO is taking to compile information and examine current management of the Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) within the Bay of Fundy. Input was sought on the criteria being used in this work and the areas being prioritized for management purposes. Discussion points included:
 1. *The Wolves could be of greater priority based on potential LNG considerations.*
 2. *EBSAs are based on existing data but they are comprehensive?*

3. *Would like to ensure discussion around EBSAs and MPAs are coordinated for the fishing industry.*
 4. *DFO's Fishery Management will have input on profiles and use them in management considerations.*
 5. *Various management considerations will apply to these EBSAs beyond fisheries uses.*
 6. *Many of these EBSAs currently have management measures (e.g., aquaculture exclusion areas, rockweed exclusion zones).*
 7. *MAC needs to add advice that adds value to this work on EBSAs.*
- Marty King presented an overview of the Marine Protected Area Network Development program being undertaken by DFO. Input was sought on how to effectively engage the MAC and other local stakeholders on various aspects of MPA network development over the next couple of years, including defining strategic objectives, identifying conservation priorities and designing an MPA network that balances conservation needs with socioeconomic and cultural considerations. It was noted that this work would help prepare an MPA network design which would undergo broader consultation with stakeholders and local interests.

Discussion points included:

1. *Concerns were raised about potential LNG facilities in the area and the possibility of interim protection measures.*
2. *Social and economic considerations are being included in the MPA analysis but sites have to be justified from an ecological perspective. It was noted that Parks Canada can develop protected sites that meet social or cultural criteria exclusively.*
3. *MAC would be more comfortable engaging the public after they better understand the MPA network development process and the ecological significance of the EBSAs.*
4. *Broader public engagement seems to be a gap in the consultation plan proposed for developing a network of MPAs. The process should be announced publicly and information should be made available to anyone that might be interested.*
5. *It was noted that all interested parties with local or traditional ecological knowledge should be engaged to ensure this information is considered in the process.*

(See attached presentations)

Action: *MAC to help host a meeting early in the New Year with DFO to discuss topic further.*

6. MAC Priorities: Community Values Criteria (CVC) and Climate Change:

- Rob Stephenson led the group in a discussion of the previously identified priorities (CVC and Climate Change) to determine a path forward. It was agreed that the DFO EBSA and MPA Network discussion would be added as the current priority. This would take into consideration the application of the CVC. The topic of climate change will be addressed further at a later date. Discussion points included:

1. *DFO needs to make a formal announcement on this MPA Network program.*
2. *MAC needs to understand process better before providing advice.*
3. *Would like to apply the CVC to the work on MPAs and EBSAs.*
4. *Previous marine uses map (from MRP Phase) should be incorporated into these discussions and the analysis underway.*
5. *MAC likes the fact that DFO is engaging them early in this process.*
6. *DFO would like updated information such as from the human use atlas, and for the MAC to provide feedback on the objectives and process being used. Additional feedback will be sought at later stages of this process.*
7. *MAC would like to know what various communities (user groups and geographic communities) feel about this work.*

Action: A Working Group of MAC and DFO will develop Terms of Reference for how the MAC will be engaged in the discussions of EBSAs and MPA network development. MAC members to participate include: Jessie Davies, Greg Thompson, Matt Abbott and potentially Maria-Ines Buzeta. DFO staff will include Marty King, Heather Breeze and Jason Naug.

7. Marine Debris Update:

- Karen Coombs presented an update on the work of the Marine Debris Management Group created from the work and recommendations of the MAC. The multi-sectoral group held its first meeting in October. Topics discussed included: its Terms of Reference, funding, a regulatory review, and the planning of a winter workshop where a broader community of relevant organizations will be brought together to share information and determine priorities for action. Initial funding will be provided from the MAC budget to plan and host the workshop and get a dedicated coordinator hired.

(See attached presentation)

8. Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA):

- Follow up questions from the MAC had been sent to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) via email relating to the time taken to make a positive identification of ISA and the ability to review aquaculture Site Management Plans. The email response to these questions by CFIA had been circulated to the MAC. Additional points raised included:
 1. *Could the policy around compensation be reviewed to expedite the process when confirming ISA? Currently the operator could be compensated once ISA is confirmed. Should the operator wish to remove suspected ISA infected fish prior to CFIA confirmation, no compensation is available.*
 2. *It was noted that CFIA is currently examining their policy.*

Action: Secretariat will check with the Regional Committee on Coastal and Ocean Management (RCCOM) on whether a recommendation should go to DFO (as federal co-chair) for follow up with CFIA or directly to CFIA on this compensation issue.

9. Roundtable Comments:

- *Good meeting*
- *Likes change in direction and use of CVC*
- *Happy with new members*
- *Important to inform the public*
- *MPAs important in this region and we need to be careful how work on them is communicated as misconceptions can lead to opposition*
- *Happy with work on marine debris*
- *Good that group is moving from theory to practice*
- *Have time to consider MPAs*
- *Interaction with MAC on EBSAs and MPAs is of great value to DFO*