

MINUTES
SWNB Marine Advisory Committee Meeting (MAC)
Magaguadavic Centre, St. George, NB
December 9, 2015

Committee Members present

Jessie Davies
Gerhard Pohle
Maria-Ines Buzeta
Greg Thompson
Matt Abbott

Absent

Wendy Wetteland
Patricia Saulis
Mike Rouse
Ken Hirtle
Heather Chase
Bob Sweeney
Chris Saulnier
Larry Ingalls
Lois Mitchell
Kimberly Watson

Government Secretariat Present

Terry Hatt (NBDAAF)
Loretta McAleenan (NBDAAF)
Harvey Millar (DFO)
Heather Breeze (DFO)
Jason Naug (DFO)
Peter McLaughlin (ELG)
Arielle Demerchant (ELG)
Rob Stephenson (DFO)

Presenters/Observers

Marty King (DFO on phone)
Penny Doherty (DFO on phone)
Courtenay Parlee (UNB PhD student)
Reba McIver (Marine Debris Co-ordinator)

Government Co-chair

Morley Knight, RDG DFO Maritimes

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Morley Knight chaired the meeting. Roundtable introductions were made.

2. Review of Agenda:

- Agenda was reviewed and approved

3. Review and Approval of April 28th Minutes:

Review of Action Items from minutes

The Secretariat was asked to provide the MAC with a generic site plan in the event of ISAv.
This was provided to the MAC.

Key Points / Discussion

- Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus (ISAv)
 - NBDAAF described the protocols (sampling, testing, disposal) associated with site plans to address ISAv at finfish sites

- It was noted that once ISAv is confirmed at a site that the fish are removed from the site and brought to market.
- If fish are below market size, they are disposed of at compost/rendering facilities.
- It was brought up that there was a case in NS where fish infected with ISAv were left in the water because there wasn't a place to take them. DFO members at the meeting did not recall this happening.

Action: Terry Hatt will report back to MAC with more details on the incident in NS and the status on the availability of landfill or composing facilities in the event of a future incident.

- Aquaculture Activity Regulations:
 - Morley described the recent training efforts by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Environment Canada and the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (DAAF) associated with the new regulations.
 - Morley described the current number and types of Canadian Coast Guard and DFO vessels and the number of fishery officers available for enforcement.
 - Harvey clarified the current level of training for these enforcement officers to address a question as to whether or not there were sufficient vessels and operators to respond in the event of a fish kill report related to the AARs. It was confirmed that resources are available.

Action Items from previous meeting were taken care of and the minutes were adopted.

4. Review of MAC

Three-Year Review (Heather Breeze)

Heather gave an overview of the results of the 3-Year review done by a consultant, Sue Calhoun, based on interviews with the MAC and Secretariat. The review was intended to evaluate whether or not the MAC was meeting the outcomes proposed three years ago. The consultant found that the MAC was valued by both government and Secretariat members and made recommendations to improve the functioning of the MAC. .

Key points / Discussion:

- Although the results of the review indicated that there is interest in the MAC, few members attended this meeting and some members rarely attend.
- Lack of interest could be attributed to little decision making ability of the MAC
- Time and dates of meetings an issue? It was suggested that perhaps have an evening meeting at least once per year.
- Should the MAC members who are not attending be asked the reasons why?
- Should alternates be allowed to attend meetings? Would there be value in this? This would require a change in the Terms of Reference.

- There were concerns that government departments have brought little for the MAC for review.
- Morley stated that meetings should still go ahead when the Co-chairs cannot attend due to last minute scheduling changes. He suggested that the Area Director could take his place at those times.

Action Items

- **Secretariat to follow up with MAC members who did not attend the meeting.**
- **Loretta to circulate Heather's presentation and ask MAC members for further input on the questions related to the recommendations.**
- **Terms of Reference related to membership and alternates to be discussed by government partners.**

Courtenay Parlee Analysis

Presentation and briefing note were distributed before the meeting

Courtenay used the MAC as a case study for her PhD research. She presented the findings of her research on the MAC, focussing on conflict resolution, hats off at the door policy, government at table policy, and the use of the CVC.

Key points / Discussion:

- Conflict resolution seems to be occurring even if not explicitly planned

Action Item

- **Government roles should be clarified in TOR as sometimes they need to be neutral and facilitate and other times they need to promote program efforts.**

5. MPA Working Group Proposal (Matt Abbott)

The MAC MPA Working Group had circulated a proposal with three options for the role the MAC could play in supporting public engagement associated with MPA network planning. MAC members Matt Abbott, Maria-Ines Buzeta, Jessie Davies and Greg Thompson were members of the Working Group, along with Marty King and Penny Doherty from DFO.

Key Points / Discussion:

- As the topic has tremendous potential for conflict, it was felt that 1-2 sessions may not provide enough opportunity to voice opinions.
- Information needs to be organized and presented in a way to avoid conflict and engender discussion; existing information needs to be acknowledged and used.
- This could be a good opportunity for the MAC to inform the public about itself.
- Could an on-line tool be developed and used to supplement the public engagement?
- Is public engagement a value-added role for MAC?
- The MAC should meet to discuss how these sessions should be organized in advance.

- Short window of opportunity and tight timelines for public engagement was stressed by DFO.
- MAC members present agreed to adopt Option #2 of the proposal with the provision that the MAC provides input to the process before, during and after the community sessions. For example, the MAC wishes to have input into the materials needed for the meetings (e.g. maps of human activities) and how MPAs relate to the community values criteria (these social, economic, cultural and ecological values were identified during a previous phase of the MAC).
- Under Option 2, the DFO would host community sessions on MPA network planning, with MAC members encouraged to attend. Community input gathered during the sessions would be used by the MAC in providing advice to DFO on MPA network planning.

Action Item

- **Secretariat will schedule a special meeting of the MAC MPA working group for January. Marty and Penny will correspond with the working group.**

6. Updates

Marine Debris

- Reba McIver gave an overview of the work that has been done with regard to the Marine Debris project including funding proposals that have been submitted (see attached presentation)

ISAv Action Plan

- Terry Hatt covered this ISAv site plan during the review of minutes (see above)

World Class Tanker Safety Systems

- Jason Naug distributed and discussed a 1-page summary of DFO's activities to support this initiative which is led by Transport Canada.

7. Other

- There will be a special meeting of the MPA working group open to all interested MAC members in January to help advance this work.
- The Secretariat will help organize this MPA working group meeting and DFO will pull together and share potential information sources in advance.
- The Secretariat will circulate some potential dates in April 2016 for the next MAC meeting.