

**SWNB Marine Advisory Committee Meeting
Harry Hachey Conference Centre
St. Andrews, NB
January 15, 2014**

Committee Members present

Jessie Davies
Mike Rouse
Bob Sweeney (citizen co-chair)
Gerhard Pohle
Klaus Sonnenberg
Wendy Wetteland
Patricia Saulis
Dr. Aruna Jayawardane
Lois Mitchell

Absent

Phillip Ells
Ken Hirtle
Greg Thompson
Maria-Inez Buzeta
Mac Greene
Larry Ingalls
Robert Rioux, DM NB DAAF

Government Co-chairs

Faith Scattolon, RDG DFO Maritimes
Hélène Bouchard, ADM (NBDAAF)

Government representatives present

Harvey Millar (DFO)
Kimberly Watson (NBDAAF)
Jason Naug (DFO)
Rob Stephenson (DFO)
Karen Coombs (NBDAAF)
Barry Hill (NBDAAF)
Loretta McAleenan (NBDAAF)
Rob Capozzi (NBDELG)

Observer

Courtenay Parlee

Via Go-To-Meeting

Heather Breeze (DFO)
Scott Kidd

Opening Remarks:

Bob Sweeney, as Citizen Co-chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made. Courtenay Parlee, a PhD student at UNB who is studying the MAC process as part of her research project, was attending her first meeting.

Review and Approval of Agenda:

The Agenda was reviewed and adopted. Item #5 Infectious Salmon Anemia which was on the agenda in order to complete the discussion on this topic from a previous meeting was postponed until the next meeting. This was done to accommodate a MAC member who could not be present but had initially raised this topic.

Approval of September 25th meeting minutes:

Minutes were reviewed and adopted. Loretta will post them to the website.

Marine and Coastal Debris Update (Jason Naug)

Presentation will be distributed with the minutes.

Jason gave a presentation on the work that has been done by the government partners since the recommendations were made from the MAC at the September 25th meeting. The primary recommendations examined were:

1. Identify Lead Government Department
2. Establish a Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group on Marine Debris
3. Hire a dedicated Marine Debris Coordinator

Discussion:

- The MAC thought it was great news to hear that the governments are supportive of this work and are helping advance it.
- Just cleaning up debris is not enough; will also need prevention and enforcement.
- Need a mechanism in place to keep track of progress.
- Employers need to create codes of practice for debris with specific training requirements similar to safety training. These could then be audited to ensure industry is training staff to reduce waste at the source.
- Could try to get the Saint John Port Authority involved as they have many resources that could be helpful, including codes of practice. It will also be important to get Transport Canada and Environment Canada engaged.
- Need to determine a co-ordinator, what that person would do, and sources of funding.
- It is hoped that within the next six months to get the multi-stakeholder group established.
- When First Nations are included within advisory groups or committees they may have access to different resources.
- Need to find a mechanism to ensure that youth/students are brought into the multi-stakeholder advisory group.
- Since no individual government department has the lead on this issue given its multi-jurisdictional nature, the co-chairs of the MAC secretariat will continue to play a leadership role to help advance this work.

Selecting Priorities for Consideration in SWNB (Rob Stephenson)

Rob reviewed the TOR with regard to the mandate of the MAC and suggested that its key role could be to provide advice on the following areas and how they reflect the CVC:

1. Advice on policies, processes, strategic matters or issues of significant public interest;
2. Advice on emerging issues; and,
3. Advice on current management activities.

The group then spent some time discussing potential future topics for consideration that could benefit from this broad mandate.

The issue of whether the group should be identifying priorities outside the context of a broader overall strategy was raised. Background was shared on previous efforts and discussions on this approach which has evolved to the current MAC process.

Discussion:

- Could consider the amount of financial resources available to address certain issues (such as deteriorating wharves) where if additional resources aren't available, the issues can become much bigger
- Lobster licenses can be operated from outside the province, creating a view that the benefits are not to the local community.
- Trans-shipping
- Loss of social capital as people go out west
- Bring community interest and values to decision making
- Climate change and adaptation – vulnerability of this area
- Alternate energy such as wind and tidal – could develop criteria that regulators could consider if project proposals come forward
- Further work on CVC criteria.
- Overall health of the Bay – examine threats, cumulative effects, roles of saltmarshes and coastal buffers, and conservation tools (including MPAs)
- Consideration of a more structured, holistic perspective
- Further examine the process of MAC, including how to overcome a culture of distrust
- Are conflicts between activities or sectors still an issue? This was the primary reason this initiative began
- The Secretariat could provide MAC a list of priority issues that it would like some feedback and recommendations on.

The MAC members were asked to indicate their top priorities from the list of ideas generated.

List of Priorities from overall discussion

- Overall health of the Bay
- Climate change adaptation
- CVC Template
- Distribution of Benefits (i.e. Lobster licences being operated outside of province)
- Cumulative Impacts
- Conflict between activities

There is a national program involving NRCAN and DFO on climate change adaptation. Faith suggested that perhaps someone could come and speak to the committee on this work. Rob Capozzi said that his department (Environment and Local Government) have a Climate Change Secretariat team with eight people who might also be willing to come and present to the MAC on this work and their capacity.

A point was made that the MAC should ensure it doesn't replicate work already being done by others.

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BOFEP) Ocean Health Index Project (Scott Kidd via Go to Meeting)

Presentation will be distributed with the minutes.

Scott has been contracted to advance some work for BOFEP related to the Ocean Health Index project which is focussing on the SWNB project area. This area was chosen because of its potential data availability. This agenda item was selected primarily as an information piece although some feedback from the MAC was being sought. Scott's contract is until March 31, 2014. Several members of the MAC or Secretariat are involved in this project through BOFEP.

Discussion:

- The OHI can provide a baseline of information about several different aspects of the project area. This can be used by the MAC going forward. A question was raised as to how the scores would change if someone started drilling for oil off the Wolves area since there could be economic benefit but environmental loss. Scott said that he did not know the answer to this question as they have never taken on such an exercise.
- A question was raised on the relationship between the scores from this index and any protocols or agreements that Canada has agreed to. There did not appear to be a direct link but this information could influence various aspects such as governance and enforcement.
- The MAC was asked to provide a list of iconic species that could be used as part of this analysis.

Roundtable comments from the MAC

MAC members were asked to provide any overarching comments at the close of the meeting.

- Would like to ensure full participation of MAC members at these meetings
- Would like another representative from aquaculture and one from environment on the MAC
- Access to some of the mapping that has been done would be a useful tool for a number of the topics
- It would be good to be able to provide input in a political way as well

Action Items

- Loretta to post September 25th minutes to website
- Secretariat to continue advancing Marine Debris work as outlined in presentation
- Secretariat to develop agenda topics based on priorities discussed
- MAC to identify a list of "Iconic Species" for BOFEP project
- Secretariat to look at MAC membership and suggest alternates for those who have not attended meetings.

Next Meeting – Next meeting to be held **May 13, 2014.**