

**SWNB Marine Advisory Committee Meeting
Saint Mark's Anglican Church
St. George, NB
May 13, 2014**

Committee Members present

Jessie Davies
Ken Hirtle
Maria-Inez Buzeta
Mike Rouse
Bob Sweeney (Citizen Co-chair)
Klaus Sonnenberg
Wendy Wetteland
Patricia Saulis
Greg Thompson

Absent

Larry Ingalls
Lois Mitchell
Gerhard Pohle
Harvey Millar (DFO)
Barry Hill (NBDAAF)

Government Co-chairs

Faith Scattolon, RDG DFO Maritimes
Robert Rioux, DM NB DAAF

Government representatives present

Karen Coombs (NBDAAF)
Loretta McAleenan (NBDAAF)
Jason Naug (DFO)
Rob Stephenson (DFO)
Kimberly Watson (NBDAAF)

Presenters

Heather Breeze (DFO)
Jeff Hoyt (NS ELG)
Kim Reeder (St. Croix Estuary Project)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Robert Rioux and Bob Sweeney co-chaired the meeting.

2. Review of Agenda:

- The issue of scallop aquaculture was added to the agenda.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes from the January 15, 2014 MAC meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Action items from this meeting were completed.
- A request was made to change a statement regarding marine debris to, “no government department has taken the lead” from “no government department could take the lead”. An explanation was provided on what role the government members have provided to this issue.

- A discussion took place regarding membership and whether or not the MAC members were comfortable having association representatives participate. There was a perception by the members that it might be too difficult for these participants, that are paid to represent the interests of a specific group to “take their hat off at the door”.
- A request was tabled to identify members that would undertake a specific review of the membership composition and identify any subsequent imbalances. It is important to note that there was general comfort by the MAC with association members joining provided they are well informed and committed to the Bay of Fundy. There was also an interest to ensure a balance of ages as well as active participation from the aquaculture producers.
- Philip Ells and Mac Greene confirmed that they are not able to participate in this committee at this time.

Action: A small working group of MAC members will review the membership and propose names (3 needed) and ensure they are present at the next meeting. Secretariat will circulate membership background information and seek participants for working group.

4. Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA):

- The issue of ISA was discussed again as the MAC did not have time to fully discuss this issue previously.
- Three general concerns/questions were raised:
 1. The time it takes to confirm a diagnosis of ISA by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency;
 2. The time required to remove ISA confirmed fish from the water based on a case in Nova Scotia; and,
 3. Whether current Statements of Practice and Site Plans to address various issues associated with ISA can be reviewed.
- It was suggested that these issues and questions be formulated and sent to the CFIA for a response.

Action: Secretariat to articulate key questions/concerns (in consultation with key MAC members) and send them for response to staff at the CFIA.

5. Marine Debris:

- An update was provided on the work that the intergovernmental group has been undertaking with respect to the issue of marine debris.
- A timetable of activities for the year was shared.
- NB DAAF provided an update on a feasibility study they undertook with regard to disposal and recycling at wharves.
- Additional updates will be provided as this project evolves.
- See attached presentation.

6. Ocean Health Index Project:

- An update was provided on the status of the Ocean Health Index project taking place by the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BOFEP).
- Additional iconic species were suggested including herring and rockweed.
- Additional updates will be provided as this project evolves.
- See attached presentation.

7. Scallop Aquaculture:

- A number of general issues were raised by a MAC member regarding potential scallop aquaculture in the Bay of Fundy including:
 1. Movement of scallop spat and related concerns of genetic modification;
 2. The role that MAC should play in the development and evolution of a scallop aquaculture fishery.
 3. Issues related to fisheries management and the appropriate venue for discussion of these matters. Specific issues included:
 - The balance between conservation and socio-economic objectives for fisheries management and the absence of explicit socio-economic objectives
 - Access to fisheries data by industry association for monitoring and by membership of their fleets
 - The ability of fishing industry associations to develop operational plans specific to their needs
- Although much of the fisheries management issues were felt to be better addressed through the Fisheries Roundtable, Faith Scattolon and Robert Rioux provided some feedback on the key points and concerns made. Points were made regarding:
 1. Spat transfers require a license which would examine various related issues. Moving spat does not imply that something is genetically modified and there is no appetite for genetically modified organisms within the Bay of Fundy;
 2. The voluntary nature of the Marine Stewardship Council process acknowledging that most of the focus is currently on conservation and not economic objectives;
 3. Government encourages an industry self-regulation model when industry seeks to develop fleet specific operational plans;
 4. Accessibility of data is being discussed although some technology and privacy issues remain;
 5. It was emphasized by NB that if scallop aquaculture were introduced to the Bay of Fundy that MAC could have the opportunity to review all associated policies and regulations that would be developed..

8. Adapting to Climate Change in New Brunswick:

- Presentations were made by the Climate Change Adaptation Secretariat (NB ELG) and the St. Croix Estuary Project on work that is taking place related to climate change within the MAC project area.
- This was a priority topic chosen by the MAC so the session was meant to provide some background information and determine what role the MAC could provide on this subject.
- It was noted that the Maliseet Nation Conservation Council could potentially assist with efforts as they work in the communities along the Saint John River.
- Efforts will be required to increase awareness of climate change on aquaculture and to link work to the marine environment.
- See attached presentations.

Action: Continue to discuss role of MAC with respect to the issue of climate change.

9. Further Discussion of MAC Priorities:

- The topic of selecting priorities was revisited to provide further clarification to the broad priorities identified at the January 15 meeting.
- The group was reminded to ensure it maintained its focus on making recommendations and not doing the work.
- Business development was identified as a gap but should be covered by the CVC.
- A future topic for input from the MAC may relate to ship-based oil-spill response planning for the port of Saint John; this was part of an announcement made by the federal government earlier in the day for key priority areas in Canada.
- Most of the discussion was around two main priorities. It was agreed to form two small working groups to further explore the role of MAC in:
 - Climate change
 - Application of the Community Values Criteria (CVC)

Action: The secretariat will draft some Terms of Reference for these two working groups and seek members to join them.

10. Other:

Workshop: Research in Support of Integrated Management of the Coastal Economy:

- An overview of this workshop (being held June 12/13 at the Huntsman Marine Research Institute) was provided based on the linkages between it and the MAC.
- The workshop will examine research and training needs focused on the coastal economy.
- It was noted that there is an associated National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) proposal being prepared by UNB to assist in multi-disciplinary training of students.
- The MAC will continue to receive updates on this work.

Next Meeting Date:

- A date in September will be determined.