

**SWNB Marine Advisory Committee Meeting  
Harry Hachey Conference Centre  
St. Andrews, NB  
September 25, 2013**

**Committee Members present**

Jessie Davies  
Mike Rouse  
Bob Sweeney (citizen co-chair)  
Gerhard Pohle  
Maria-Ines Buzeta  
Ken Hirtle  
Greg Thompson  
Nick Paul  
Dr. Aruna Jayawardane  
Lois Mitchell

**Absent**

Phillip Ells  
Klaus Sonnenberg  
Kim McKinley  
Mac Greene  
Larry Ingalls

**Government Co-chairs**

Robert Rioux, DM NB Agriculture,  
Aquaculture & Fisheries  
Faith Scattolon, RDG DFO Maritimes

**Government representatives present**

Harvey Millar (DFO)  
Russell Henry (NBDAAF)  
Loretta McAleenan (NBDAAF)  
Jason Naug (DFO)  
Maxine Westhead (DFO)  
Rob Stephenson (DFO)  
Karen Coombs (NBDAAF)  
Barry Hill (NBDAAF)  
  
Betty House (ACFFA)  
Matt Abbott (Fundy Baykeeper)

**Opening Remarks:**

Bob Sweeney, as Citizen Co-chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and round table introductions were made.

**Review and Approval of Agenda:**

It was suggested that “business arising from the minutes” be added to future agendas. The Agenda was reviewed and adopted.

**Approval of minutes of May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

Questions/concerns:

- When the minutes are circulated to the committee, any errors or omissions should be directed to Loretta within a two week period.
- Time should be allotted at each meeting to discuss any outstanding issues
- Maria had made some comments with regard to the closure of the SABs library that were not incorporated into the minutes. Loretta will make sure the minutes are revised with those comments and recirculated.

### **Marine Debris Working Group**

After discussions at the meeting in May, a working group, comprised of MAC members and Secretariat support, was formed to discuss marine debris issues and to formulate recommendations on how to deal with marine debris. Ken Hirtle took on the role of chair for this working group. Matt Abbott and Betty House were also asked to provide some assistance.

### **Marine and Coastal Debris Update and Discussion (Ken Hirtle)**

Key Advice / Recommendations for MAC Consideration:

#### **Prevention**

- One agency, creating a culture of debris prevention through education, communication, regulation, EPRP and involving all stakeholders.

#### **Correction**

- Implement beach clean ups, establishing stakeholder's group to manage programs and funding (stakeholders and government).

#### **Feedback / Discussion**

- Color coding of rope to identify commercial fishing and aquaculture. Would only point to the industry but not the particular owner, however might determine if codes of conduct are being upheld. Might help focus where energy should go for improvement
- Small Craft Harbours should work with harbour authorities to put dumpsters on wharves
- There is a need for ongoing education
- One agency (central place) is important to lead and coordinate efforts
- Rather than establish a management group, have a summer student do the work and report to MAC. Fund a job rather than a group or committee.
- A management group should be funded by government as well as stakeholders to hire a student. One or two people to manage the work would be more efficient.
- Important to keep prevention in mind and have better coordination of clean-ups
- Implement a ticketing system
- May be helpful to do some research into existing tools and utilize those (i.e. Fundybaykeeper could contribute some of their technical resources)
- Issue an invitation to various funding pools, government and non-government for an individual or existing group that might be able to do this work. This might take less time than forming a management committee and it could get things started sooner.

Robert applauded the Marine Debris Working Group for their efforts. Good idea to have industry and government involvement. Clean-ups are not new. Some people around the table have been involved in beach clean-ups in the past. It is going to be very important to have a coordinated and cooperative effort when looking at marine debris clean-up and for seeking support. Funding will also need to be discussed.

Faith also applauded the work that has gone into this and that there are some solid recommendations. She also indicated that she feels the prevention component is very important. The group also picked up on some of the best practices that have been done. Dumpsters on wharves, for example, are not insurmountable. There are lots of things here that are very practical and can be done. In terms of clean-ups and measuring the success of prevention, had the group thought about some sort of annual report on the state of marine debris. This would be a way to both support and encourage those who are doing a good job but also a way to identify what progress needs to be made. It might be beneficial to look into the model used in NS (Ship to Shore). There are other players who have a role in this such as Saint John Port Authority and the people who run the ferry terminals. They may have Codes of Conduct and Best Practices that may be useful. They have a role in education and communication to make sure their marine debris doesn't end up in the water.

Bob stated that it is important to recognize that these recommendations are being brought to the MAC from the Marine Debris Working Group for their acceptance. There are short term and long term actions items within the recommendations. The following are short term action items or successes:

#### Communication and Education

- Engage municipalities, Atlantic Canada Fish Farmer's Association (ACFFA), Traditional Fisheries Coalition (TFC), tourism operators and Southwest Solid Waste Commission (SWSWC)

#### Viable Alternatives

- Investigate recycling options (i.e. Fundy Plastics)

#### MAC Website

- Public access
- Record successes

Q. Could the person hired work under the supervision of an already established agency, for now, to be able to establish what the committee wants and present the guidelines to them?

A. That would be the quickest way. The only problem is that this group would already have established agenda items.

Q. What is the consensus on the amount and level of advice that the MAC would give and to whom? How do we take what the working group has done and formulate consensus advice that can be put out publicly?

A. The recommendations are brought to the MAC for their consideration and comments. With the recommendations and the action items that have been noted, the Secretariat could start work on them tomorrow.

A comment was made that the MAC has given enough information to government so that they can say that they will support the work that needs to be done. The MAC needs government to come back to them with agreement that they support a public private partnership before we proceed any further...

The person that is hired to coordinate this work has to have access to government in order to see that the part that the government does is carried out.

MAC supports the recommendations as they are and Bob will follow up with Robert and Faith.

### **MPA Network Planning Discussion (Maxine Westhead)**

Faith opened by saying that a presentation was given earlier in the year by Max Westhead and Marty King on Marine Protected Area Planning in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. There were a number of questions, feedback and recommendations that came from the MAC with regard to that presentation and DFO's plans on marine protected area planning. Faith introduced Max, who works in the Ocean's and Coastal Management Division and she is the section head responsible for Marine Protected Area Planning and she is here to update the MAC on the work that has been done on MPA planning since the last meeting.

Max stated that her division is embarking on a process to establish MPAs. At the last meeting, she and Marty told the MAC that they would be in consultation this fall, however the time frame has been pushed ahead and they have more time to talk about the process and get more information from the MAC on how to do a good job over the next several years. MPA planning is a long term process with lots of flexibility.

Max reviewed the advice/recommendations that were submitted from the MAC.

### **Questions/Discussion**

In response to the first recommendation from the MAC *"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"*, Max asked the MAC what types of engagement and how can they best communicate with groups (i.e. web, printed materials mailed out, open house, workshops).

- Would it be possible to have a link with the on-line licensing system (i.e. link to fact sheet stating exactly where and what is taking place)?
- It is important to state up front publicly that it is government policy that a certain percentage of an area is to be set aside for MPA.

- There needs to be a clear statement that this is what is going to happen so that when talking to stakeholders the discussion is not about whether or not this is going to happen but rather how do we work together to make it happen in a way that is the least disruptive to the fishing industry's activities but gets to the goal of protecting more marine areas.
- There is a broader audience than fisheries that need to be addressed (i.e. aquaculture, tourism, tidal energy).

The second recommendation was “*DFO should seek early, active and meaningful public participation in the initial design of a network for this region*”. Max asked the MAC what the word active and meaningful meant to them and how they could be implemented.

- Make sure that people feel that they have been engaged and that this is an open and meaningful process
- Form a working group under MAC to work with DFO on MPA issues
- Stakeholders need to be involved from the beginning
- Max suggested that late winter or early spring would be a good time to come back to the MAC when DFO has more details on MPAs in the Bay of Fundy and a better sense of resources levels. May have some concrete next steps and could talk about forming a working group at that point.
- What strategy does DFO have for consulting Aboriginal groups? There is a similar process to that in NS that DFO would use. AAROM groups and First Nation Chiefs.

Recommendation from the MAC is for DFO to make an announcement to the public about the status of MPAs.

Regarding areas that have been identified as having ecological and biological significance (EBSAs), Faith stated that it is important how this type of information is released to the public as it can be misinterpreted. The EBSAs are really just sources of information that are used in the management process and not necessarily management areas...

#### **Internal review held between Secretariat and MAC members (Jason Naug)**

Jason presented the outcome of the review held between the Secretariat and MAC members. This review was done to address any concerns that the MAC members may have had after the first year of a three year initial mandate for the MAC.

Key outcomes stemming from the discussion on the MAC Evaluation:

1. Government is committed to respond in writing on how recommendations put forth by the MAC have been adopted or used. Where recommendation do not apply to either New Brunswick Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries or Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the government co-chairs have committed to speaking to their respective provincial and federal counterparts to support follow up.

2. Extra meetings of the MAC (beyond 3/year) could be held without the government co-chairs needing to be present. However, the government co-chairs would like to be present when the MAC is ready to make recommendations.
3. Meetings will take place if at least one government co-chair is present along with the citizen co-chair. This will reduce the need to reschedule meetings due to the challenging schedules of the government co-chairs.
4. For MAC members who have not participated in the meetings, the secretariat will attempt to use teleconferencing for the next meeting to secure their participation. If those members are still not able to attend, replacements will be sought. In addition, any vacancies in the current membership will be filled.
5. The MAC website should include a profile of each issue under consideration framed in terms of the Community Values Criteria (CVC).
6. The MAC would like to wait until this process has shown greater success/progress before increasing public awareness.

#### **Potential items for discussion at future meetings**

- Marine Debris update
- ISA
- Fisheries Act
- Global warming (climate change)

Nick Paul stated that the Maliseet Nation Conservation Council have been working on developing an International Management Plan for the Saint John River watershed. The Houlton band of Maliseet Indians Council signed off on a resolution to enter into an agreement with the US Army Corp. of engineers. Some of the work that they have been involved in was involving culverts where any problem culverts were identified and some repaired. The work that is done there will be taken to each tributary. Perhaps there won't be as much debris coming down from up river. As that develops, part of the first phase is information sharing. Nick will circulate an update when it becomes available.

**Next Meeting** – Suggested dates are January 15, 2014.

#### **Action Items**

##### **Marine Debris:**

- Bob to finalize recommendations to MAC from the Marine Debris Working Group
- MAC to accept recommendations
- Secretariat and Co-Chairs to discuss recommendations (including roles and responsibilities) within government and follow up actions

- Secretariat and Co-Chairs to update MAC on progress and next steps

**MPAs:**

- Once DFO has a better sense of resources and timelines associated with network planning, they will consider the formation of a MPA working group under MAC to help provide input and direction

**Evaluation:**

- Incorporate recommendations into the planning process for the MAC

**Other:**

- Include time in next agenda to continue discussion and formulate recommendations on Infectious Salmon Anemia from May 2013 meeting.
- Examine if there is enough material finalized to discuss changes to the Fisheries Act and associated policies as a future topic of discussion
- Secretariat to try to secure participation of all members for the next meeting