

**Coast of Bays Coastal Planning Committee Meeting
Coast of Bays Corporation Boardroom, St. Alban's
April 14, 2011**

Attendance:

Conrad Collier – COBC (Chair)
Amy Tucker – DFO
Melissa Burke – DFA
Kevin Lawrence – Fishery
Max Taylor – Recreational Boaters and Cabin Owners
Georgina Brushett – Municipalities
Julia Jensen – Aquaculture
Jeffrey Roberts – Fishery

Regrets:

Roberta Collier
Ross Hinks
Steward May

1. Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm followed by a roundtable of introductions.

2. Adoption of Agenda

With no new items added to the agenda, it was adopted on a motion by **Jeff/Julia**

3. Adoption of Minutes of January 25, 2011

The minutes of the January 25th agenda were adopted on a motion by **Kevin Lawrence/Max Taylor**.

4. Business Arising

Abandoned Mussel Sites

There are still abandoned mussel sites around the Coast of Bays. Many have been cleaned, but there needs to be something done about those that are left. There is concern that once a site is cleaned by the government, then the owner of the equipment might come back looking for it. Will need further action on this in the coming year.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Committee

An update from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Committee will be a regular item on the agenda for the COBCPC meetings. So far the activities of the committee have been going well, but up to this point it has not tackled many big issues. It is being used to allow people to know what is going on. It includes most aquaculture companies in the area (two are not involved) and fishery representatives.

5. Other Business:

Atlantic Salmon – COSEWIC

Salmon counts are down although there is a lot being done with the fishery. There is enhancement being done on the Little River, but the salmon aren't coming back. Aquaculture and climate change could be playing a role.

Action: Ross Hinks went to COSEWIC meetings in Ottawa about Atlantic salmon, and will hopefully provide an update at the next meeting.

Herring

Herring are not around like they used to be and a lot of fishermen have concerns that there is too much being taken. Since the 1970s and 1980s it seemed like the herring were coming back, but now they are declining again. It is the only bait fishery they have in Fortune Bay. Fishermen have talked to DFO about it, but not much action.

Motion: Conrad Collier made a motion that he will draft a letter to DFO about this issue and send it to Kevin Lawrence and Jeffrey Roberts for review before sending it.

Motion accepted by Kevin Lawrence/Jeffrey Roberts.

Action: A letter will be written to DFO from the COBCPC about the issue of herring, which will ask the appropriate individuals to meet with fishers in Fortune and Hermitage Bays to discuss a management plan.

Community Coastal Resource Inventory Demonstration and Discussion

The committee discussed the CCRI that was done in the area in 1997 in partnership with DFO and fish harvesters. It is based on traditional knowledge and shows many coastal uses, such as the places where people fish or have aquaculture sites. It is outdated and someone should be going back to see if the areas are still the same and what has changed. It was felt by the committee that the information should be updated and a funding proposal should be written. The information is also useful for DFO and DFA, and DFA has database that may be similar. Also need to consider tools that other CMAs are using to identify and map sensitive areas and see if this could be linked with CCRI. It could be an education and awareness tool for youth.

Action: Coast of Bays Corporation to complete a funding proposal to update the CCRI. A proposal will be sent to DFO and DFA before the next meeting in the fall.

Processing Facility

There is a possibility for a processing facility in Poole Cove near Harbour Breton. There have been meetings with the Minister and various government departments (INTRD, ACOA, DFA) and the processing company about this. More meetings are needed between all involved for anything to move forward.

6: Roundtable

Melissa Burke

- No update

Kevin Lawrence

- The Boxey Fisher's Committee got their cooler
- Need to consider the impacts of aquaculture sites on the marine environment and if the wastage/feces are being flushed out of the bays
- Would like to know what research is being done on this (especially by DFO and DFA)

Max Taylor

- Coming up on boating season, will be using the same launch site as usual
- Don't have a Harbour Authority
- Looking into getting benches and creating park area, this could be tied in with the boat launch
- The biggest cost with repairing the launch is local materials, which don't last
- A repair was done last year with free labour
- There is money generated from the boat launch fees of \$20/year/user.
- Use a lock and chain system

Georgina Brushett

- There are plans for a fish plant in Conne River, but it doesn't seem like there's anything going on with it
- Needs to complete an orientation with Conrad about the mandate of the COBCPC and her role as municipal representative

Julia Jensen

- No update

Jeffrey Roberts

- The crab fishery is going well in some areas, and in others it is not so good.
- Lobster traps were set that week
- Went to a workshop that week and had a discussion on fishing practices on product handling and quality
- There have been no opening dates for groundfish due to the election, but values on groundfish are looking better this year
- TAC on cod is the status quo
- Going to try to negotiate a set price for lobster this season
- V-notching is still in place, have a proposal in to DFO to reduce carapace size because the lobsters are getting quite large

Amy Tucker

- A stakeholder update form may be helpful for the committee

Action: Amy will create a stakeholder update form and send it along to the committee

7: Closing Remarks

8: Date of next meeting

- The next meeting will be at the call of the Chair, in mid-October, 2011. All members will be contacted by email. The Chair asked for any suggested agenda items to be sent to him soon so he can have time to organize presenters if necessary.

9: Adjournment

- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 on a motion by **Max**.