

**Coast of Bays Coastal Planning Workshop Report
The Southern Port Hotel, Harbor Breton
April 9, 2005**

Attendance

Conrad Collier - Coast of Bays Corporation
Joan O'Brien - DFO
Craig Mercer - NSGA
Baxter House – Coast of Bays Arts & Exploration Centre
Herb Dunphy - Municipalities
Ross Hinks – Conne River Band Council
Steward May – Harbour Authorities
Tamara Strickland – CZM Planner

Regrets:

Steve Moyse - DFA
Mildred Skinner – FFAW (Fishers)
Joseph Mackey – Recreational Boaters
Eric Day – FFAW (Processors)
Stan Hill – A&E Centre (Tourism)
Roy Cox – Fisher's Committees

Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Conrad Collier welcomed everyone to the workshop and expressed the importance of committee members understanding the process and concept of coastal planning and the role they are to play. Mr. Collier also explained that coastal planning is an integrated process, which involves many stakeholder groups from around the region.

Election of Executive

The position of Vice-Chair was filled by Mr. Steward May. The Committee still has to fill the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

Presentation from Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Ms. Joan O'Brien from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) presented background information to the committee regarding Coastal Planning, specifically Canada's Oceans Strategy, the Ocean Action Plan, Integrated Management, Marine Protected Areas and Marine Environmental Quality.

During Ms. O'Brien's discussion of Coastal Planning, she stressed that it involves managing human activities NOT the resources themselves. Coastal Planning also has sustainable development as one of its main objectives, which takes into consideration all environmental, economic and social aspects involved.

In Ms. O'Brien's discussion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as a tool in Coastal Planning, she explained that establishing a MPA in an area does not mean this area becomes a no-activity zone. MPAs can be a no-activity zone if the people of the area feel this is necessary but MPAs are flexible and can be put in place for the protection of only one species if that is what is needed. Therefore all other activities related to other species in the same area may continue if they have no effect on the protected species. Also, the MPA could stipulate that activities for the protected species may cease for only part of the year, for example during critical times i.e. spawning.

In addition, establishing an MPA takes five to six years, allowing enough time for proper scientific data and traditional knowledge to be collected and for the stakeholders and the public to approve the details of the MPA. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans does have the right to designate an area as a MPA for a period of 90 days in an emergency situation.

Ms. O'Brien also briefly touched on Marine Environmental Quality as another tool that can be used in Coastal Planning. She explained that this program identifies the state of the environment at a particular point in time. This information can then be used as a baseline for future comparison.

A copy of Ms. O'Brien's presentation has been included with this report.

Coast of Bays Coastal Planning Presentation

Mr. Collier presented an overview of the Coast of Bays region with respect to Coastal Planning. During this presentation the committee members were given the opportunity to view the Coast of Bays Community-Based Coastal Resource Inventory Atlas and a draft version of the sensitive areas information compiled by DFO for the region.

A copy of Mr. Collier's presentation has been included with this report as well.

Discussion of Role(s) of the Committee

- Conflict Avoidance:
 - Communication is vital; information sharing
 - Representatives must bring back information to their stakeholder groups
 - Lack of information is a huge problem; "Misinformation causes conflict."

- ❑ The salmon stock in Conne River is declining
 - Aquaculture Exclusive Zones at river mouths is a concern
- ❑ Toad crab experiments
 - The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA) is not taking into consideration local fisher knowledge, therefore false results are being obtained
- ❑ Herring in Fortune Bay
 - Is this a sustainable fishery? Must maintain the stock.
 - Small herring are being meshed in the seine
 - Need to increase the mesh size to keep this from occurring in the future
- ❑ Boundary of Coastal Planning area
 - Need to establish an inland and offshore boundary, should include Sagona Island and Brunette Island (This will be addressed at the next meeting)

Next Steps

More information is required on the state of the herring stock in Fortune Bay, the cod stock in Doctor's Harbour, and any other significant spawning areas in the Coast of Bays region and the level of research completed. Conrad Collier will write a letter to the Director of the Science Branch of DFO, Mr. Julian Goodyear, requesting this information on behalf of the Coastal Planning Committee.

The committee also decided that it needs a list of available information regarding all sectors. This will possibly be a task for the coordinator during the summer.

Conrad Collier will be preparing a proposal to seek funding from DFO and DFA for a coordinator (hopefully a coordinator will be in place during the summer). The coordinator will develop an outline for the Integrated Management Plan; finalize the draft communication strategy; conduct one-on-one consultations with stakeholders; compile a library of information pertaining to the Coast of Bays region and Coastal Planning; and determine what information is missing and present this to the committee. The committee can then prioritize the missing information and use this as a guide for future projects.

Mr. Collier will also be preparing a second proposal seeking funding to send the coordinator and the Chairperson to New Orleans to attend a ICZM conference that will be held there in July. The proposal will be submitted to Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), DFO and the DFA.

It was also discussed that in the future the Coastal Planning Committee should ask government departments to notify them of activities that may affect the region or boundary area once it is established. Before this can occur the committee must have a mandate in place.

It was decided that all committee members would receive copies of all DFO documents that pertain to Coastal Planning in the Coast of Bays region, which will enable them to make more informed decisions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Coastal Planning Committee will be held in mid-September. One of the main topics of discussion during this meeting should be the mandate/vision of the committee.