

**Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
Meeting Briefing Note**

Title of Item: Outcomes from Canadian Steering Committee Meeting

Submitted by: Bill Whitman, for Canadian Steering Committee Members (Bill Whitman, Heather Breeze, Kathryn Parlee, Bill Appleby, Peter McLaughlin, Lee Sochasky, Peter Wells, Glen Herbert)

Type of Item (place X in appropriate box)	For Decision	For Direction x	For Information x (internal GOMC)	For Information (External)
--	---------------------	------------------------	--	-----------------------------------

Background (required):

Following the March 16 Secretariat Team meeting, the Canadian Steering Committee has been working together to identify shared interests and priorities to assist with planning for the June 2016 GOMC / Working Group meeting.

IMPORTANT: The priorities and interests listed in this briefing note and the following document “Canadian GOMC departments and agencies: Priorities and Interests April 2016”, are in DRAFT format for discussion purposes only.

Canadian representatives (Heather, Kathryn, Peter M, Lee, Bill W) met on the afternoon of April 1 to conclude discussions around guidance and input to the June GOMC meeting sessions. The intent was to clarify interests and high level input to supplement further discussions at the April 4th Working Group planning session. There was consensus among the above Canadian meeting participants on the following comments.

Comments pertaining to the suggested level of discussion for the June meeting sessions:

- Council needs to be engaged in a high level discussion on one of the priority topics of common interest in a way that moves us forward on an issue. If there is sufficient buy-in at Council level, further exploration of specific activities/initiatives (that support the Council high level guidance) will flow from that.
- Suggested that the Council sessions will not or may not be the right venue for getting into discussions of the specific tools
- Recommend naming as “sessions”, not “workshops”

Suggested Topics Below: (See attachment “Canadian Priorities Draft” for further detail)

Common Areas of Interest Identified amongst the Canadian Working Group representatives:

Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events as a cross-cutting theme:

- Coastal Resiliency, in particular, Vulnerability of coastal infrastructure to weather extremes and climate change
- Links between changing climate, ocean and ecosystem health, and the sustainability of coastal resources such as sustainable fisheries
- Also: general interest in possible high level discussion linked to marine and coastal planning

Actions, Outcomes or Decisions Requested:

- Bill Whitman will brief WG members about Canadian Steering Committee outcomes at the outset of discussion regarding development of the June 2016 GOMC / WG agenda.
- Working Group members will work together to develop June 2016 GOMC agenda by bringing together the range of feedback received to date.

Supporting Documentation (If applicable, list additional documents included in the Briefing Book following this Briefing Note):
DRAFT Canadian GOMC Departments and Agencies: Priorities and Interests April 2016, (pp. 2-4 of this briefing note)

DRAFT

Canadian GOMC departments and agencies: Priorities and Interests April 2016

This list is intended to be used for the purpose of finding areas of interest around the GOMC for future work plans, discussions, and presentations. Draft version being provided to GOMC Secretariat for planning and discussion purposes. For further information on any specific item, please contact the departmental representative.

Common Areas of Interest Identified amongst the Canadian Working Group representatives:

Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events as a cross-cutting theme:

- Coastal Resiliency, in particular, Vulnerability of coastal infrastructure to weather extremes and climate change
- Links between changing climate, ocean and ecosystem health, and the sustainability of coastal resources such as sustainable fisheries
- Also: general interest in possible high level discussion linked to marine and coastal planning

Draft Listing of Departmental Interests (NSDFA, NBELG, ECCC, DFO):

Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture – Priorities/Interests

**For June meeting Sessions: Policy or tool sessions that link to any topics and context below would be of interest.*

1. Enabling Responsible Seafood Industry Growth (from NSDFA Commercial Marine Fisheries Strategy, in draft stage)

- a. ***Assist seafood industry (fish and marine plant harvesting, seafood processing, aquaculture) to adapt to ecosystem changes; i.e., Gaining a better understanding of How Climate and Ocean Change is and will continue to impact fisheries and aquaculture? Are there tools that enhance awareness and understanding? How to remain resilient and adaptive to these environmental changes?***
- b. Interests include, but not limited to:
 - i. **regional ocean temperature changes** and shifts in commercial and forage fish abundance, distribution, spawning timing, and seasonal movement;
 - ii. **ocean and coastal acidification** and impacts on shellfish and plankton; data, monitoring and applied research, adaptation
 - iii. **More frequent intense storms and flooding and Sea Level Rise** impacts on fish harvester and seafood industry-associated infrastructure; data, information, and tools
 - iv. **aquatic invasive species** - impacts on fish habitat and wild fishery and aquaculture, adaptation and control.
- c. *Safety at sea, on the wharf, and in the processing plants*
- d. *Training and development of the industry*

2. Regional geospatial Data, Mapping Tools and Products: Interests include:

- a. Continued development and management of coastal and marine datasets; quality and standards
- b. Collection and utilization of **remote sensing** data (and techniques and standards) for coastal and marine planning; particular interest in application to aquaculture planning,

submerged aquatic vegetation, mapping and analysis of seafood sector risks and vulnerability to storms, flood.

- c. Develop **mapping and visualization tools** to enhance understanding and decision-readiness of the data; Examples include: flood forecast tools
3. **Marine-Coastal Pollution Emergencies:** *(NOTE: as many are aware, there is an existing Canada-US initiative, CANUSLANT, that works on this issue so I'm listing here to record it as departmental interest. It's not necessarily one for GOMC unless there was a value-add that GOMC could bring?)* Preparation and planning for oil spills or other marine pollution events primarily within context of protecting economy and public safety, and particularly as related to protecting fishery, marine plant harvest, seafood processing, and aquaculture.
4. Emerging trends in marine aquaculture, marine renewable energy, other marine or coastal zone industry sectors. (IF there's a potential capacity for GOMC to add value or meaningfully engage Council in some way)

New Brunswick Environment and Local Government

- Marine /coastal planning based on multiple uses and approaches including but not limited to the following
 - MPA's (one of many tools)
 - Community Values Criteria
 - Cumulative impacts of entire watershed (how do we broaden discussion beyond the marine area)
- Marine and Coastal Emergencies: To build on what was outlined above, add coastal component speaking to coastal resiliency to the impacts of spills.

Environment and Climate Change Canada

***Please note this input is draft. It has been provided solely for the purpose of this conversation and has not been vetted by departmental colleagues.**

In general but not focused specifically on the GOM:

- Marine conservation and protection
 - Managing and expanding National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
 - Support to DFO in achieving targets and deadlines
- Climate change and air pollution
 - GHG reduction
 - Green infrastructure and clean technology
 - Science to better understand and adapt to climate change
 - Health and well-being of Canadians
 - Resiliency in North and Indigenous communities
 - Resiliency of infrastructure (e.g. incorporate climate changes into building codes, design/rehabilitation of public infrastructure)
- Endangered species recovery planning
- Remediation of contaminated sites
- Protection of freshwater
 - Education
 - Stewardship
 - Science/mapping

- Clearwater and wastewater infrastructure/technology
- Transboundary water issues (mainly with/via IJC)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- Marine conservation/marine protected areas (we have targets and deadlines)
- Collaborative marine and coastal spatial planning (e.g., for conservation, aquaculture, renewable energy, oil and gas, etc.)
 - identifying information needs
 - collecting appropriate information, including spatial information (maps)
 - tools and techniques (including mapping)
- Climate change and related impacts (e.g., ocean acidification)
- Research and monitoring (DFO Maritimes is currently developing a regional coastal monitoring framework, also looking at enhancing work on contaminants and pollutants)
- Aquatic invasive species (there are new federal regulations to be applied by DFO)