

# Nova Scotia

## Participation in the Gulf of Maine Council - Talking Points

### Why do we participate?

- As a member of the Council, we can access a regional network (e.g., New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts and New Brunswick) and federal agency professionals that are working on watershed and coastal issues that are important to Nova Scotia. As a result we can perform our work in Nova Scotia more quickly and efficiently.
- Between 2007 and 2011 Nova Scotia received nearly \$200,000 through the Council's habitat restoration program that generated \$260,000 in match. Three grants enabled planning, design, and construction phases for the removal of the Clementsport Dam. One grant contributed to the restoration for the French Basin Salt Marsh in Annapolis Royal.
- By working through the Council we can address issues that require a regional response. Examples of these issues include the restoration of migratory fish stocks that are affected by river barriers; collection and assessment of data on the effects of contaminants on people, marine water quality and shellfish resources; and the impact of human activities on the seafloor.
- Provincial agencies, higher education and non-profit organizations participate in its committees. Most of their work is performed electronically (e.g., email, conference calls and webinars). Their ongoing, voluntary participation allows them to share their expertise and learn creative approaches from their colleagues that can be applied in Nova Scotia.
- Council products and services that Nova Scotia places a priority on include: climate change adaptation best practices; habitat restoration grants; environmental monitoring data; stream barrier removal guidelines; publications on salt marshes and American eels; and distribution of the *Gulf of Maine Times* to Maine people involved in industry, education, conservation, science, recreation, and health.

### What is our "return on our investment"?

- Nova Scotia's annual dues are \$20,000, which is then matched by state, federal and private funding for a total annual budget of roughly \$800,000 – a 40 to 1 match.

- The Premier makes four appointments to the Council (e.g., Ministers of the Departments of Environment, and Fisheries and Aquaculture, and two non-government representatives) that represent Nova Scotia's interests in two meetings a year.
- Participation in the Council's activities allows Nova Scotia to access human and financial resources and best practices throughout the region. Thus with relatively small investment Nova Scotia can leverage regional expertise, capacity, and funds, saving the government time and money.
- As a member jurisdiction, Nova Scotia municipalities and non-profit organizations can receive habitat restoration grant funds. In the past five years, over \$200,000 in grants have been awarded in Nova Scotia.

### How does the Council's 2012-2017 Action Plan support provincial agency priorities?

- The three goals in the Action Plan align directly with the mandates of the Departments of Environment (ENV), Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA), and Natural Resources (DNR).
- Action Plan activities of particular interest include: improve and protect water use and quality (ENV), habitat restoration (ENV/DFA/DNR), marine and aquatic monitoring (ENV/DFA/DNR), ecosystem health indicators and environmental reporting (ENV/DFA/DNR), best practices for adapting to a changing climate and coastal storms (ENV/DFA/DNR), reducing human impacts on the seafloor and environment (DFA), and sustainable communities (ENV/DFA/DNR).
- Nova Scotia's marine environmental monitoring efforts are augmented through the Council's regional data and information management efforts, such as the Gulfwatch Program and the Ecosystem Indicators Partnership.