



**Gulf of Maine  
Council on the  
Marine Environment**

**Meeting Briefing Packet**  
*Final Version • September 2, 2003*  
Hilton Saint John • Saint John, NB  
September 8-9, 2003



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**Monday, September 8, 2003, Montague Room**

7:30 AM	<b>Fundy Trail hike with Russ Henry, leader</b> (see end of briefing packet for further information)
1:00 PM	<b>Welcome, introductions, special announcements, and agenda review for consent</b> <i>Patricia Hinch, Working Group Chair, NS Department of Environment and Labour</i>
1:05 PM	<b>Council business – consent agenda (updates included in briefing packet)</b> A. June 2003 meeting action and decision items, <i>Michele L. Tremblay, Council Coordinator</i> B. Financial reports including Special Projects monies, Action Plan Grants, NOAA III, and other grant applications status, <i>Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association</i> and <i>Patricia Hinch, Canadian Gulf of Maine Association</i> C. Peter Gough gift disposition, <i>Justin Huston, NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</i> D. Secretariat staffing, <i>David Keeley</i> E. EQMC and PEPC contract staff updates, <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis</i> and <i>Steve Jones</i> F. Council website and Web Guild, <i>Seth Barker, DIMC Co-chair</i> G. <i>Reference Handbook</i> and PEPC orientation packet project, <i>Michele L. Tremblay</i> H. Council survey on meeting preferences, <i>Michele L. Tremblay</i> I. Council Transition year proposal, <i>Michele L. Tremblay</i> J. Action Plan tracking, <i>Michele L Tremblay</i>
1:10 PM	<b>Approaches to better engaging the Council</b> <i>Discussion led by David Keeley, ME State Planning Office and Patricia Hinch</i>
1:40 PM 15 min. 15 min.	<b>Council activities</b> 1. Coastal Governance Forum, <i>Justin Huston</i> 2. Valuing Natural Capital Forum - white paper outlining options for next steps, <i>David Keeley</i>
2:10 PM  5 min. 5 min. 5 min. 5 min. 5 min.	<b>Committee and Action Plan discussions</b> <b>1. Goal I</b> Habitat Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Habitat Conservation Subcommittee</li> <li>▪ Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee</li> <li>▪ Habitat Restoration Subcommittee</li> <li>▪ GOMMI (Habitat Committee subcommittees)</li> </ul>
2:35 PM	<b>Break</b>
2:50 PM  10 min. 10 min.	<b>Committee and Action Plan discussions (continued)</b> <b>2. Goal II</b> 1. Environmental Quality Monitoring, <i>Steve Jones</i> and <i>Peter Wells, EQM Committee</i> 2. Sewage Management Task Force, <i>Peter Wells, Environment Canada and Patricia Hinch</i>
3:10 PM	<b>3. Goal III</b> Sustainable Nature-based Tourism Initiative, <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office</i>
3:15 PM 5 min. 5 min.	<b>4. Cross-cutting committees</b> 1. Public Education and Participation Committee, <i>Theresa Torrent-Ellis</i> 2. Data Information Management Committee, <i>Seth Barker, ME Department of Marine Resources</i>
3:25 PM	<b>Upcoming events, workshop, conference status</b> 1. Indicators Workshop, <i>David Keeley</i> 2. Gulf of Maine Summit, <i>Barry Jones, Gryffyn Coastal Management Inc.</i>
3:45 PM	<b>Committee re-engagement</b> <i>David Keeley</i>
4:15 PM	<b>Time for unfinished morning business or hike Irving Nature Centre south of Saint John</b> (see end of briefing packet for further information)
6:30 PM	<b>Meet in Hilton Saint John lobby for supper as a group (or groups) for 6:45 reservations.</b> From there, we will walk to D'Amico for a lovely Italian supper in a restored building



**Tuesday, September 9, 2003, Montague Room**

9:00 AM 10 min. 10 min. 20 min.	<b>Scientific Research</b> 1. RARGOM, <i>David Keeley</i> 2. BoFEP, <i>Peter Wells</i> 3. Approaches to “State of the Gulf” reporting, <i>Peter Wells</i>
9:40 AM	<b>Developing staffing recommendations for the Council’s Transition Task Team</b> <i>Patricia Hinch and David Keeley will facilitate this lively discussion</i>
10:40 AM	<b>Council December 2003 meeting plans</b> <i>Patricia Hinch</i>
10:45 AM	<b>Break</b>
11:00 AM 20 min. 20 min. 20 min.	<b>Special Presentations on community initiatives - 15 minutes each for discussion and 5 minutes each for questions, answers, and discussions</b> 1. North American Waterfowl Management Plan/Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, <i>Reg Melanson, Canadian Wildlife Service</i> 2. ACAP Programs and How they Fit into the Council’s Action Plan - <i>Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada</i> 3. Sustainable Tourism and Decision Making - <i>Sherene Faulkner Jackson, Master's Candidate, School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University</i>
12:00 PM	<b>Lunch on your own and museum tour</b> (at your pleasure—please see end of briefing packet for further information)
1:30 PM	<b>A Who’s Who of Gulf of Maine Invasives</b> <i>Andrea Locke, Department of Fisheries and Oceans</i>
1:50 PM 20 min. 20 min.	<b>Special Presentations on government initiatives - 15 minutes each for discussion and 5 minutes each for questions, answers, and discussions</b> 1. Oceans Strategy, <i>Joe Arbour, Department of Fisheries and Oceans</i> 2. Kings County Wetlands Conservation Initiative, <i>Reg Newell, NS Department of Natural Resources and Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Project</i>
2:30 PM	<b>Other items and announcements</b>
2:45 PM	<b>Adjourn</b>

## **June 2003 Working Group meeting attendance and action and decision items**

**Working Group Meeting • Cape Codder Resort, Hyannis MA • June 2-3, 2003**

### **Working Group members in attendance**

Joe Arbour, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Brad Barr, NOAA National Ocean Service; Paul Boudreau, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Paul Currier, NH Department of Environmental Services; Verna DeLauer, NH Office of State Planning; David Hartman, NH Office of State Planning; Russell Henry, NB Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture; Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada; Pat Hinch, NS Department of Environment and Labour; Justin Huston, NS Department of Fisheries and Oceans; David Keeley, ME State Planning Office; Reg Melanson, Environment Canada; Susan Snow-Cotter, Working Group Chair and MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Theresa Torrent-Ellis, ME State Planning Office; and Paul Wilson, NB Department of Environment and Local Government.

### **Others in attendance**

Holly Bamford, NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; Brenda J. Boleyn, Committee for Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs; Ruth Carmichael, Boston University Marine Program; Lou Chiarella, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service; Maura Christhilf, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Anne Donovan, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Christine Gault, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve-MA Department of Environmental Management; Kim Hughes, NB Department of Environment and Local Government; Barry Jones, Gryffyn Coastal Management Inc.; Jon Kachmar, GOMCME Restoration Sub-committee and ME Coastal Program; John Kelsey, Friends of Pleasant Bay; Cindy Krum, US Gulf of Maine Association; Katie Lund, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management; Elizabeth Mills, NOAA Oceans and Coastal Resource Management; Carl Myers, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Ethan Nedeau, GOMCME Science Translator; Lauren Pidot, ME State Planning Office; Andi Rierden, *Gulf of Maine Times*; Kate Smukler, NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center; Jon Stone, Environment Canada; Peter Taylor, GOMCME Science Translator; and Michele L. Tremblay, Gulf of Maine Council Coordinator.

### **Decision items**

1. The Working Group will recommend using a “by project” financial reporting format now and will later transition to a “categories of projects” format later. Language will be added to indicate that reports are in US Dollars and will show unspent Secretariat funds as a “balance forward.”
2. The Council will contract with Ethan Nedeau for 10 hours per week. Peter Taylor will be contracted to spend approximately 30 hours per week on science translation and 10 hours per week as Web Producer. A “part-time” technical person will be contracted to work on the website. The PEPC contract position will be re-posted.
3. The NS Secretariat will ask Michele Tremblay if she will extend her contract with the Council for one year and work locally to contract with an administrative assistant. The NS Secretariat year will be a transition year. The Working Group will propose to the Council that it forms a transition task group to examine current operations and explore options for future staffing.
4. The current Habitat Protection Sub-committee will now be called the Habitat Conservation Sub-committee and will assume the work of the Marine Conservation Task Force.

### **Action items**

1. The Council will reconnect with RARGOM and its new contact Jeff Runse and request its participation in Working Group meetings and add him to the Working Group listserv. Suggest that a RARGOM contact be identified to attend upcoming Working Group meetings, bring forward ideas and recommendations, and report to the RARGOM membership. Request from RARGOM an update on status of draft Marine Research Plan and its plans to finalize it. Solicit three to five members to review the current Council-RARGOM agreement and draft recommendations to update it including

- increasing participation in Council Committees, lack of science in GOMCME activities, and liaison roles with RARGOM and Council.
2. Peter Taylor will work with volunteers and use their suggestions to initiate the Web Guild. He will work with Working Group members, project leads, and jurisdictional representatives to identify the remaining Guild members and convene a conference call to initiate the Web Guild. The Web Advisory Council will work with contractor supervisors to have Web Guild participation included in their scopes of services.
  5. The Peter Gough artworks will be placed in the Halifax Art Gallery for sale or rent. Reprints will be placed for sale in the gallery shop. The Council will retain rights to use the photographic images of the paintings for reprint on note cards, tote bags, awards, and other media and materials. Proceeds of the sale/rent of the art would be deposited into the Canada association account. The Task Group will continue to explore the option of partnership with an existing note card fundraiser program. Justin Huston will lead this the Gough project.
  3. BoFEP is planning the 6<sup>th</sup> Bay of Fundy Workshop (2004) entitled “The Changing Bay of Fundy—Beyond 400 Years” and asks the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to be a Workshop sponsor. The GOMCME had supported the previous 5<sup>th</sup> BoFEP Workshop in 2002 through Special Projects funding. Pat Hinch asked that the WG consider becoming a sponsor of this workshop in support of Canadian NGO programs and science research in the Bay of Fundy. There was general agreement from the WG that this project be supported. The suggestion was made that the funds come from the GOM Action Plan grants. However, this was a misunderstanding as BoFEP has not submitted an application to the GOM Council Action Plan grants program this year for the 6<sup>th</sup> workshop). The BoFEP Workshop Organization Committee will make a formal request for sponsorship in the future.
  4. Jon Kachmar requested a response from the Working Group on the following: 1. support for the next Restoration Subcommittee meeting in the US to include site visits to restoration projects underway to transfer methodologies across borders. 2. assistance with identifying habitat restoration needs and priorities in the US and Canada to be included in the GOM Habitat Restoration Plan—a lead agency and point of contact needed. 3. assistance with identifying habitat restoration projects in the US and Canada to be included in the GOM Habitat Restoration Web Portal—a lead agency and point of contact needed. 4. define interactions between the GOM Habitat Restoration Plan and the other Habitat Committee Subcommittees (Monitoring, Conservation, GOMMI) and request input from Working Group on the *Habitat Restoration Plan* working draft before September Working Group meeting so that more complete draft can be presented in September.
  5. The Working Group approved work to begin on the five activities in the GOMCME Sewage Implementation Plan. These were:
    - a. Produce and update technical review of human and ecological health risks and impacts of sewage/municipal effluents, with emphasis on the GOM;
    - b. Identify levels and detailed composition of the key contaminants of ecological concern in regional sewage, including nutrients, EDC's, pathogens and NH<sub>3</sub> specific to regional sewage;
    - c. Prepare a summary report of public education programs offered within each jurisdiction;'
    - d. Develop a fact sheet on highlights of the Regional Sewage Management Workshop and recommendations re sewage management; and
    - e. Develop components of an educational program and prepare a fact sheet on the socio-economic and environmental impacts of sewage discharge and the role of the public in proper maintenance of on-site systems and in water conservation.
    - f. The Sewage Management Task Force will remain in operation. The Working Group further approved that Pat Hinch and Peter Wells will work with the appropriate committee chairs and contract supervisors to have these Sewage Management Implementation Plan items incorporated into contractors' scopes of services as well as in GOMCME committee work plans.
  6. Agency participation is needed on the Gulf of Maine Summit planning group for Nova Scotia, New



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Brunswick, New Hampshire, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Geological Survey. Summit coordinators or others will work with the appropriate jurisdictional and federal partner Working Group representatives to identify candidates. Joe Arbour will work on participation for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. David Keeley and Susan Snow-Cotter will work on US participation.

## Financial reports including Special Projects Monies, Action Plan Grants, NOAA III, and other grant applications status

Management Committee Recommendations for the \$25,916<sup>1</sup> NS Secretariat Year Special Projects Monies as of August 21, 2003

Priority rating <sup>2</sup>	Project/entity and contact	Proposal/explanation	Cost
U/I	Gulfwatch Peter Wells	The project will be for initiating a pilot bioeffects study with mussels at selected sites in the GOM, coinciding with the Fall 2003 sampling season. The focus will be on testing the response of several known and standardized molecular-cellular biomarkers in <i>Mytilus edulis</i> tissues at a minimum of 10 sites (including appropriate reference sites) from Cape Cod to the Bay of Fundy. This will contribute to assessing the health of the mussels at a number of sites, correlated with tissue contaminant residue levels and provide some insights as to whether or not the accumulated compounds are causing effects or contributing to effects in the individual organisms. Importantly, the pilot study will allow the demonstration of the state-of-the-art molecular biomarker assays in mussels, hence showing the practicality of employing such tests routinely in the Gulfwatch monitoring program and others in the GOM area. The plan is to send out a detailed RFP to a minimum of four know, qualified consultants to seek their interest (discussion have already been held with them), comments, and detailed proposals. The Management Committee has requested that the Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee prioritize these projects to determine how the \$5,000 will be spent.	\$5,000
U/I	Indicators Workshop David Keeley	In 1/2004 we're co-hosting a regional indicators workshop at UNH - that will provide the basis for our indicators discussion at the 10/2004 State of the Gulf Conference in St. Andrews. As a matter of convenience my office will accept registrations, log funds and send the checks to the US Association to process. They will then enter into contracts for the event at UNH. I need no cash here to support SPO's work. The Association bookkeeping time and contracts management is wicked tight and this is new work for Cindy/Mary.	2,000
U/I	GOM Summit Susan Snow-Cotter and David Keeley	This project is to support a Gulf of Maine Summit Conference Coordinator to help develop the conference program and infrastructure for a conference to be held next year. The focus of the conference is on the preparation of a "State of the Gulf" report on the environmental health of the Gulf of Maine based on the input of local forums representing the many watersheds throughout the Gulf. This report is intended to act as a baseline from which achievements or lack of it relative to the implementation of the GOMC Action Plan elements can be judged. The conference is also intended to bring these local forum groups together to share ideas and experiences, and to bring their activities into a gulf-wide perspective. Also for	10,000

<sup>1</sup> \$25,000 is currently budgeted for Special Projects for the NS Secretariat Year. The USGOMA proposes that \$916 remaining after awarding Action Plan Grants be re-allocated to Special Projects.

<sup>2</sup> U = urgent and important, I = important, NI = not important, and NINU = not important and not urgent



		contracts for writers to prepare State of the Gulf materials for October 2004 conference. We would need to release contracts this Fall and Winter. The State of the Gulf work group is meeting at Huntsman in mid-August and will have more specific ideas at that time. Possible amount is scaleable.	
I	PEPC Verna Delauer	Travel money to North American Association of Environmental Educators conference in October: I submitted a workshop proposal on transboundary partnering in Environmental Education using the Gulf of Maine Council's PEP Committee as an example. It got accepted. This is one of, if not the, largest environmental education conference in the world. This would be an excellent opportunity to network among others doing similar type of work as well as discuss our strategies and challenges. I believe that the Council should be selling itself as a leader in transboundary partnering and by sharing what we've done with others and learning from them, we can start to advertise ourselves as such. Because of the state situation here, I am not sure if they will send me. Can some of the money be used to get me and possibly one other person there-it's in Anchorage Alaska in October and I already have a place to stay and meals are included so it would just be plane fare which wouldn't be much I bet in October.	\$1,000 <b>GRANTED</b>
I/NU	PEPC Verna Delauer	Gulf of Maine Council Visibility Campaign: PEPC is starting a visibility campaign as part of this coming year's projects. This campaign will consist of media, web site, and other avenues of getting out the Council's priority issues. Andi Rierden, Jon Stone, and Carl Myers are the leads on this project. Money used would update the PEPC display, send PEPC members to speak at conferences like the one mentioned in proposal #1, work on a new brochure and any other promotional materials. We've also discussed a kids web magazine on our site and a kids' page in the <i>Times</i> .	8,000
<b>Total of all requests</b>			<b>\$26,000</b>

**Contact:** Patricia Hinch

### Action Plan Grants and NOAA III

**Contact:** Cindy Krum

### Financial Reports

Council of Atlantic Premiers Trust Fund Gulf of Maine Council Canadian Association of Delegates  
 Statement of Change in Trust Fund Balance for the Three Months Ended June 30, 2003

### Issue

Account Statement - Association of Canadian Delegates

### Background

The Council of Maritime Premiers (CMP) Office holds the Canadian Association account in trust on behalf of the Association of Canadian Delegates. As an in-kind service, the CMP Office manages the Association account, ensures that an annual independent audit is conducted on the account and prepares tax returns for the signature of Directors of the Association.

Attached is an account statement for the period ending June 30, 2003. There has been no further



activity on this account since June.

**Discussion questions**

None. This is an information item only.

**Recommendation/recommended action(s)**

For those Canadian agencies who have not paid their annual contribution to the GOMC, please do so as soon as possible. Cheques or money orders should be made payable to the Council of Maritime Premiers Trust Fund - Gulf of Maine Council Canadian Association of Delegates Account at the following address:

Council of Maritime Premiers Trust Fund  
Gulf of Maine Council Canadian Association of Delegates Account  
PO Box 2044  
Suite 1006 • Royal Bank Building  
5161 George St  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2Z1 Canada  
Attn: Mr. Rod Casey, CFO

*Revenue*

Pronvice of New Brunswick	\$20,388.75
Province of Nova Scotia	21,611.25
Yarmouth Forum	1,000.00
Interest	449.56
Total revenue	43,449.56

*Expenditures*

None	0.00
Increase (Decrease) in Trust Fund during the year	43,449.56
Trust Fund Balance beginning of year	20,409.84
Trust Fund Balance end of year	\$63,859.40

**Contact:** Pat Hinch and Justin Huston

**US Gulf of Maine Association Financial and Budget Reports**

These reports will be sent by the USGOMA under separate cover via an email to the Working Group listserv.

**Contact:** Cindy Krum

## Peter Gough gift disposition

### Key messages

- No progress has been made on this issue since the last meeting.
- The transfer of the paintings from Peter Gough's residence to the Halifax Art Gallery will take place this fall.

### Background

- Peter Gough has donated a number of his paintings to the Council.
- The artwork will be placed in the Halifax Art Gallery for sale or rent. Reprints will be placed for sale in the gallery shop.
- The Council will retain rights to the photographic images of the paintings for reprint on note cards, tote bags, awards, etc.
- Proceeds of the sale/rent will be deposited into the Canada Association account.

**Discussion questions:** None

**Recommendations:** None

**Contact:** Justin Huston

## Secretariat staffing

### Background

At the June 2003 Working Group and Council meetings there were spirited discussions about the duties, organizational structure, title, and budget for the Secretariat staff that support the Working Group and Council. Since inception in 1989 the Council has had a “coordinator” to manage its affairs. In the late-1990s the Council selected Laura Marron as the permanent full-time Secretariat coordinator and accepted a pro-bono host-jurisdiction offer by the NH Department of Environmental Services to provide a workspace, equipment and limited clerical support (e.g., phone, mailings, supplies, etc.). The Council is currently in a transition period with Michele Tremblay (replacing Laura).

Over the past 13 years the Council’s annual work plan (e.g., number of projects, activities, etc.), the number of contract staff, and budget have increased significantly. The issues the Council seeks to address are:

- Is the current administrative mechanism sufficient to manage the effort;
- What changes would be most responsive to the Council’s needs and budget.

In June a transition team was assembled (Arbour, Balser, Finney, Hudson, Huston, James and Keeley) to present a recommendation at the Council’s winter meeting. This group has asked for advice from the Working Group.

### Discussion

As a starting point, briefing materials were prepared by an ad-hoc group in May and June for consideration at the summer meeting. Some key guiding principles seemed to emerge from the June discussion including:

- All parties want the Council to continue to be a member-driven organization (versus a staff-driven organization) with routine contributions by all parties of in-kind assistance ;
- A host jurisdiction (as an efficiency/cost containment and commitment measure) chosen through a competitive process is a concept that works and should be continued.

Options – three options emerged from the June meeting – the status quo; a coordinator with enhanced duties and authority; and a coordinator with part-time logistical/administrative support. (Each of these options envisioned a full-time coordinator.) Key issues to be resolved for the transition team include:

- Duties and scope of authority of the positions in the above three options;
- Relative value and effectiveness of the options including environmental benefits that accrue given a particular staffing investment level and benefits to the Gulf of Maine Program (e.g., greater coordination, etc.);
- Cost and funding sources.

### Recommendations/recommended actions

Incorporating the comments received from Working Group members, David and Pat will prepare a white paper for discussion during a Council teleconference call later in September.

**Contacts:** Pat Hinch and David Keeley

## Council website and Web Guild

### Background

The redesign and implementation of the new Council web page has been completed by the contractor, ImageWorks. The page has been shifted from World.com to the ISP Alentus.com. Much deserved congratulations goes to all those involved in the transition over the last six months.

The foundation has been laid for the newly formed Web Guild to build upon. This new foundation includes a wider selection of web tools and resources, a new look and feel to the Council page, and a new organization for web page maintenance and expansion. Though there have been informal discussions, Peter Taylor will organize the first conference call for the Web Guild in September. Though the agenda has not been set, Peter is developing protocols and standards documents for use by the team.

As we no longer have the able services of Brian Mardirosian as web master, Allan Gillis will provide technical support on a limited basis. In the past few months Allan has worked on a number of changes to PeopleFinder interfaces, has helped work through other transition problems, and provided support to Andi Reirden for the Time. He will be the technical specialist on the newly formed web team.

### Action Required

Council members are encouraged to visit and explore the new pages at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/> and to submit news items to Peter Taylor. Also, please visit your committee page(s) and check membership and contact information.

**Contacts:** Seth Barker and Peter Taylor

## Reference Handbook

The Council Coordinator re-formatted the Reference Handbook web page to the new GOMCME website format, corrected the [now] out-dated links, and revised the Councilor biography document. There are some links, such as the missing awards history page, that do not work in the *Reference Handbook* web page. Other than these changes, there has been no further action on the Reference Handbook since May 2003. The Council Coordinator is working with the Public Education and Participation Committee US Co-chair to coordinate with their proposed orientation packet project. The current draft of the Reference Handbook may be viewed at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/internal/rh/rh.asp>. Please note that this is a new address.

**Contact:** Michele L. Tremblay

## Council survey on meeting preferences

In June, the Council Coordinator drafted and distributed to Councilors a survey. Working Group members were forwarded the message and survey and asked to urge their Councilors to respond. To date, 2.5 responses have been received. The Management Committee has directed the Coordinator to re-distribute the survey in September. The Coordinator revised the due dates and re-send the survey on September 2, 2003 with a response date of September 26, 2003. Councilors may respond via inline email text, returning a completed word processing document form electronically or via postal service mail, or orally over the telephone.

**Contact:** Michele L. Tremblay

## Council transition year proposal

The Council Coordinator worked with George Finney to identify a US co-chair for the Transition Task Team. Don Hudson agreed to serve in that role. The Coordinator polled the co-chairs for possible conference call dates and forwarded those dates to the rest of the Team. The co-chairs felt that the call was premature and would like to re-schedule it for September. In the interim, they will gather background information and an agenda to present to the rest of the Team for its first call (please see Tuesday, September 9, 2003 agenda item "Developing staffing recommendations for the Council's Transition Task Team." The Secretariat Working Group Chair is in contact with the Transition Team Co-chairs.

**Contact:** Michele L. Tremblay supporting George Finney's and Don Hudson's co-chairship when requested.

## Action Plan tracking

**Goal 1 Objective a Strategy** Increase awareness

**Action # 02** Identify and help distribute existing habitat publications and create new fact sheets; use Council's display

**Timeline** Complete fact sheets for insertion in the Times by June 2004, Council display by December 2002

**Measure** Fact sheet will be completed. System created for circulating Council display, additional mobile displays will be created

**Contacts** PEPC contract staff Jon Kachmar

**C, O, or S** S (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments** PEPC Coordinator will create facts sheet and Council display. Jon Kachmar will assist with fact sheet Habitat Restoration content development.

**Status** The first draft of the habitat fact sheet content is complete. Final edits and graphic enhancement will be completed when PEPC contract staff is engaged.

**Goal 1 Objective a Strategy** Improve management

**Action # 04** Document the research and educational tools most needed for managers to improve habitats

**Timeline** 2004

**Measure** Summary reports from focus groups

**Contacts** Peter Taylor Marianne Janowicz Katie Lund

**C, O, or S** O (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments** The HCSC is undertaking an inventory of activities, projects, and organizations that have developed are developing habitat conservation tools

**Status**

**Goal 1 Objective a Strategy** Improve management

**Action # 05** Expand coastal training initiatives in the US and create a parallel program in Canada that provides science-based info and training to coastal decision-makers

**Timeline** Complete by 2004

**Measure** Formation and conduct of training programs

**Contacts** David Keeley Larry Hildebrand Marianne Janowicz Katie Lund

**C, O, or S** O (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments** The inventory of habitat conservation tools will identify coastal training initiatives on both sides of the border

**Status**

**Goal 1 Objective b Strategy** Develop a marine mapping strategy

**Action # 11** Develop and implement a Gulf-wide strategy for mapping bathymetry, sediment, and habitats

**Timeline** Complete by March 2003

**Measure** Completed GOMMI Strategic Plan Peer Review workshop in March 2003  
Strategic Plan will be finalized in May 2003 for implementation to 2006 and beyond

**Contacts** Susan Snow-Cotter Marianne Janowicz Katie Lund

**C, O, or S** O (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments** The inventory will also identify mapping projects that are habitat conservation tools (see Actions 4, 5, and 12)

**Status**

**Goal 1 Objective b Strategy** Develop a marine mapping strategy

**Action # 12** Establish, maintain, and enhance a clearinghouse that identifies available ocean mapping data

**Timeline** late 2003 to April 2004

**Measure** Under consideration by GOMMI

**Contacts** Susan Snow-Cotter Marianne Janowicz Katie Lund

**C, O, or S** O (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments** As part of the inventory exercise (see Actions 4, 5, and 11), the HCSB will evaluate tools that are identified as a result of the project and discuss/recommend ways that they can be more effectively used and widely known

**Status**

**Goal 1 Objective b Strategy** Develop a marine mapping strategy

**Action # 13** Develop a classification framework for mapping that describes habitats, species complexes, and interactions uniform terms to enhance regional coordination

**Timeline** Not applicable

**Measure** Coastal services Center develops classifications standards. In May 2003 GOMMI will consider Gulf of Maine Pilot

**Contacts** Joe Arbour Paul Boudreau Marianne Janowicz Katie Lund

**C, O, or S** O (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments** Although not currently in the HCSC workplan, it fits in with the discussion on tools (see Actions 4, 5, 11, and 12) and how to better disseminate information on those tools.

**Status**

**Goal 1 Objective c Strategy** Increase rate and improve effectiveness of habitat restoration

**Action # 16** Create and distribute a regional restoration plan that prioritizes sites for habitat restoration.

**Timeline** Complete by Draft GOM Habitat Restoration Plan for June 2003 Council meeting in Cape Cod, MA.

**Measure** Completed Draft Gulf of Maine Habitat Restoration Plan by June 2003

**Contacts** Jon Kachmar

**C, O, or S** O (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments** Draft restoration plan (GOM Habitat Restoration Strategy) was presented to and reviewed by the WG in 6/2003. It is currently under revision with edits from the HRSC and WG.

**Status** The final strategy is expected to be completed by the 12/2003 WG and Council meeting

**Goal 1 Objective c Strategy** Increase rate and improve effectiveness of habitat restoration

**Action # 17** Fund habitat restoration development activities, restoration, and post-restoration monitoring.

**Timeline** Post-doc and Wells Reserve will present an update of progress to Restoration Subcommittee in May 2003.

**Measure** Projects funded by GOMC/NMFS Habitat Restoration Grant Partnership; Habitat monitoring dataset.

**Contacts** Jon Kachmar

**C, O, or S** O (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments** Second round of the three-year GOMC/NOAA grants awarded to recipients in March. Habitat restoration monitoring continues after staffing changes. The new post-doctorate will be presenting and update in May 2003

**Status** The 2003-04, Year 3 of the grant program RFP will be released on 8/15/03 and due on 11/14/03. An



application to NOAA is currently in process and due to the funder 12/2003

**Goal 1 Objective c Strategy** Increase rate and improve effectiveness of habitat restoration

**Action # 18** Seek increased funding from government, foundations, and business for planning, restoration, and monitoring.

**Timeline** 2001-2006

**Measure** Increase in amount of funding from 1996-2001.

**Contacts** Jon Kachmar

**C, O, or S** O (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments** ME SPO is seeking additional funding for restoration and monitoring

**Status** ME SPO is applying for funding from NOAA. The HRSC is working on funding a joint project with HJV between the US and CA. HRSC staff is an active member of the ME Corp Wetlands Restoration Partnership Advisory Committee

**Goal 1 Objective d Strategy** Raise awareness of the threats that ANS pose for the Gulf region.

**Action # 24** Identify and help distribute existing ANS publications and create new fact sheets as needed.

**Timeline** Complete and ongoing

**Measure** Bibliography of existing publications posted on NEANS Panel website, completed fact sheet(s) distributed and posted on NEANS Panel website.

**Contacts** Michele L. Tremblay

**C, O, or S** C (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments**

**Status** Fact sheet is completed and posted at <http://www.northeastans.org/neanspanelfactsheet.pdf>. Resources continually updated at <http://www.northeastans.org/resources.htm>

**Goal 1 Objective e Strategy** Enhance local and regional capacity for citizen stewardship.

**Action # 28** Administer a competitive grants program to support local and regional initiatives that advance Action Plan goals.

**Timeline** RFP distributed February 2003. 14 Awards Granted. Action grants completed June 2004.

**Measure** Action Plan Grants awarded completed. Grantees complete projects.

**Contacts** Cindy Krum

**C, O, or S** C (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments**

**Status** Fourteen awards granted. See [/www.gulfofmaine.org/council/opportunities/ap\\_grant\\_awardees\\_2003.asp](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/opportunities/ap_grant_awardees_2003.asp) for list of grantees

**Goal 1 Objective e Strategy** Enhance local and regional capacity for citizen stewardship.

**Action # 30** Enhance links among non-governmental organizations using the Council's online NGO directory as a communication and research.

**Timeline** Complete by 2006, first phase 2003.

**Measure** User-friendly NGO Directory at Council's revised web site.

**Contacts** PEPC contract staff

**C, O, or S** O (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments**

**Status** The NGO Directory is online. It will be marketed through 2004 by new PEPC contractor

**Goal 2 Objective a Strategy** Increase awareness

**Action # 32** Create and distribute fact sheets about Gulfwatch findings and priority contaminant issues.

**Timeline** Periodically, as results become available. Ongoing 2001-2006.

**Measure** Create and distribute fact sheets about Gulfwatch findings and priority contaminant issues on the GOMC website and as printed material for distribution.

**Contacts** Ethan Nedeau EQMC contract staff PEPC contract staff

**C, O, or S** O (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments**

**Status** Gulfwatch fact sheet is complete and will be inserted in the winter issue of the Times

**Goal 2 Objective a Strategy** Improve management

**Action # 45** Begin formulating a set of environmental health indicators that describe the current conditions, threats and management challenges facing selected Gulf resources (related to action 35)

**Timeline** NO RESPONSE

**Measure** NO RESPONSE

**Contacts** Steve Jones Peter Wells Marianne Janowicz Katie Lund

**C, O, or S** S (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments** An outcome of the HRSC workplan item of evaluating impacts/threats to the marine environment would be to work with other committees to identify appropriate indicators to track the impact of these threats

**Status**

**Goal 2 Objective c Strategy** Enhance local and regional capacity for citizen stewardship

**Action # 49** Administer the Council's competitive grants program which support local and regional initiatives that advance the Action Plan's goal of human health and ecosystem integrity.

**Timeline** RFP distributed February 2003. 14 Awards Granted. Action grants completed June 2004.

**Measure** Action Plan Grants awarded. Grantees complete projects.

**Contacts** Cindy Krum

**C, O, or S** C (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments**

**Status** Fourteen awards granted. See [www.gulfofmaine.org/council/opportunities/ap\\_grant\\_awardees\\_2003.asp](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/opportunities/ap_grant_awardees_2003.asp) for list of grantees

**Goal 2 Objective c Strategy** Enhance local and regional capacity for citizen stewardship

**Action # 51** Enhance links among non-governmental organizations using the Council's online NGO directory as a communication and research tool.

**Timeline** Completed by 2006 Phase I 2003

**Measure** User-friendly NGO Directory at Council's revised web site.

**Contacts** PEPC contract staff

**C, O, or S** S (*Completed, Ongoing, or Stranded indicate Actions with no identified lead*)

**Comments**

**Status** The NGO Directory is online. It will be marketed through 2004 by new PEPC contractor

**Contact:** Michele L. Tremblay

## Approaches to better engaging the Council (and Governors/Premiers)

**Background:** The past three years were a formative time for the Council. It commenced with the development (and eventual adoption) of the *2001-2006 Action Plan* that sets the Council's strategic objectives. The Council then amended its committee structure to align more directly with its three primary themes (e.g., habitats, contaminants, and maritime activities). It is now timely to consider ways to improve the effectiveness of the Council and the Working Group.

**Discussion:** Participation in the Council by provincial, state, and federal representatives (including the non-government members) is tied to at least three items:

- the Council's substantive agenda (e.g., is it worthy, important, tied to the members, etc.);
- the way it conducts its business (e.g., #, length and quality of meetings; briefing materials; decision-making process; reporting to Governors/Premiers; etc.) including their interpersonal relationships; and
- its ability to make measurable progress.

One approach to better engaging Council members is to identify measures (see examples below) that can be used to assess the current and desired level of engagement.

### *Measures of Engagement*

- committing time (e.g., CME members, WG, committee people and staff in the agencies)
- financial resources (e.g., contributing money – big and small to make projects happen)
- high degree of accountability (e.g., willingness to be accountable via reporting)
- participation in meetings (e.g., prepared, organized, arrive on time & depart when completed)
- realigning or refocusing agency priorities to be supportive of GOMCME Plan
- publicly outspoken, champion and advocate for GOM Program and its priorities (e.g., willingness to go to others to secure resources)

As the Working Group discusses ways to secure/cultivate greater engagement by the Council it can consider the following:

- select items in the Plan that are important to a jurisdiction and move into the Council's annual work plan (e.g., get them to see the Council as a way to get things done back home that they need to work on)
- garner Governor/Premier and/or legislative commitment
- get highly motivated people involved with the Program
- provide money to make things happen (e.g., matching or seed money)
- reward good/helpful behavior (e.g., recognize contributions, thank people, etc.)
- use tactful peer pressure (e.g., reporting back on previous commitments, etc.)
- make meetings productive with a sense of urgency/importance and fun/interesting (e.g., desirable portfolio)
- get Council members to take ownership of an issue and lead discussions

**Contacts:** Patricia Hinch and David Keeley

## Coastal Governance and Management Forum

**Issue:** The planning committee for the December forum seeks the Working Group's input on the scope and format of the forum.

**Key messages:** The goal of the forum is to facilitate dialogue about provincial and state coastal governance & management in the Gulf of Maine. Given the broad scope of coastal governance & management, the planning committee thought it best to narrow the scope to coastal development: a topic broad enough to cover off a wide range of issues (coastal access, water quality, competing industries, etc), but still tangible enough to focus the forum.

### Coastal Governance and Management DRAFT agenda:

9:00-9:20	<b>Intro</b> -- <i>Potential speaker: Bruce Hatcher</i> <i>Coastal Development—What is it? What are its impacts? Why are we concerned?</i> <i>Forum—goals, outcomes, participants</i>
9:20-10:20	<b>Jurisdictional Overview: Coastal development, patterns, and trends throughout the GoM.</b> -- <i>Each jurisdiction will have 10 minutes to present</i>
10:20-10:45	Break
10:45-11:30	<b>Synopsis of governance and management of coastal development</b> -- <i>Theory, practice, similarities/differences in the Gulf of Maine region. Potential speaker?</i>
11:30-12:30	<b>Panel Discussion</b> : key issues, lessons learned, best practices, opportunities and barriers
12:30-1:30	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30-3:30	Panel Discussion <i>continued</i>
3:30-4:00	<b>Wrap-up/Conclusion</b> -- <i>Potential speaker?</i>

### Background:

- There will not be an emphasis on producing a formal report or recommendations; rather, like the previous GOMCME forums, the aim will be to bring folks together and facilitate open and informal dialogue.
- The structure of the agenda reflects an interest in making sure the panel discusses issues and interacts with the audience, and is not a series of prepared presentations. Knowledgeable speakers will provide a solid background on coastal development and governance in the GOM, leaving the panel free for discussion. During the fall, the planning committee will develop discussion topics and specific questions for the panel.
- One of the underlying purposes of the Forum is to tactfully impress upon Nova Scotia the importance of a proactive and integrated approach to governing and managing coastal development.
- The planning committee had sought Secretariat special project funds to bring a speaker from Europe to present European perspectives and experiences with coastal development; however, no monies are available and this component has been dropped.
- Dalhousie's graduate Marine Affairs Program has agreed to co-host the forum, providing space and resources for the meeting. Dr. Bruce Hatcher, MAP Director, has offered to open the forum and set the stage.

### Discussion questions:

- **Scope:** **1)** Are Working Group members comfortable with a focus on coastal development? **2)** On a state/provincial focus? **3)** Are there specific issues people would like to see more focus on (for example: coastal access)?
- **Speakers/Panel members:** **4)** Arthur Hanson, Canada's Ocean Ambassador (and past MC at the GoMCME ocean zoning forum in Boston), was suggested as a possible panel moderator and wrap-up speaker. Any thoughts? I have no idea if he would be interested or is available. Other potential speakers? Dr. Hatcher has indicated that he could fill these roles if need be. **5)** Five to seven panel members are needed, one from each jurisdiction, and perhaps a federal representative from both the US and Canada. More? Less? Who--any potential panel members jump out?

**Recommendations:** No specific recommendations at this time except to discuss the above questions.

**Contact:** Justin Huston

## Valuing Natural Capital

**Background:** In June 2003 the Council convened a forum on Cape Cod to explore ways the Council (and its member organizations) can incorporate the valuation of natural capital in their planning, policy and funding decisions. The stated purpose of the forum was:

To assist Gulf of Maine decision-makers and members of the public identify and quantify the long-term economic and ecological trade-offs of the region's development patterns that are too often premised on short-term economic gains. This interactive forum will explore how other regions of the world are valuing natural capital<sup>3</sup>, review its link to sustainable development and offer recommendations on how the Gulf of Maine might better integrate this concept into planning, investment and decision-making programs.

Detailed minutes are available for the Forum. The session concluded with Council member George Finny offering the following remarks and suggestions on "next steps."

1. Natural resource evaluation is something the Council should continue to support in their role as facilitator and convenor. This aligns well with the Council's Action Plan.
2. Start where we are rather than from where we want to be. More specifically, build on the existing Action Plan and anticipated work products (Gulf of Maine summit, indicators project, sewage management, etc.)
3. We might pursue an ecosystem type project such as the Baltimore Ecosystem Project described by a panelist.
4. The Council needs to put a working group together. They might convening workshops throughout the region to present the idea.
5. We need to be thinking strategically about where we want to be in 2007.

**Discussion:** To maintain momentum on the project and to respond to the Council's June decisions a briefing paper with a recommended strategy is being prepared for presentation and discussion at the September Working Group meeting.

**Contact:** David Keeley

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<sup>3</sup> Coastal natural capital is the natural system that provides space, substratum, renewable and non-renewable resources that supports and regulates the physical, biological, and chemical processes in the coastal zone (i.e. the geologic and hydrologic systems and cycles, flora, fauna, and ecosystems that provide human beings with tangible and intangible goods and services that have economic value). (Lange, 1999) Further, that the fundamental substitution of physical capital for natural capital that is now occurring in market-driven land use change is unsustainable – that the lost value of open landscapes and functioning ecosystems is greater than the private and public market economic value gained.

## Habitat Conservation Subcommittee

### **GOM Habitat Conservation Sub-Committee** **Draft Terms of Reference**

#### **Purpose**

The Habitat Conservation Sub-Committee will focus on activities that assist in maintaining the integrity of coastal zone ecosystems from the landward extent of the coastal watersheds to the further marine boundaries of the Gulf of Maine. These activities will include developing information and tools to assist managers, the public and the scientific community in maintaining these ecosystems. It will also involve creating partnerships to encourage conservation of the coastal zone.

#### **Duties**

The Sub-committee will serve as the focal point for Gulf-wide coastal zone habitat conservation initiatives pursued by the Gulf of Maine Council's state, provincial and federal jurisdictions. The committee will:

1. Serve as a forum for sharing habitat conservation information and methods;
2. Identify guidelines and models for conservation;
3. Identify and promote conservation activities in identified habitats or habitats that have been restored;
4. Identify research needs in relation to coastal zone conservation;
5. Coordinate activities with the other sectors of the Habitat Committee;
6. Coordinate with the Public Education and Participation Committee to effectively communicate information regarding habitat conservation to the public.

#### **Organization**

**Membership** — The sub-committee will be comprised of interested parties from the state/provincial governments, the federal agencies, the academic community, First Nations, non-governmental organizations and individuals.

**Chair** — The sub-committee will be co chaired by a Canadian and a US representative, chosen by the respective Council membership.

**Meetings** — The sub-committee will meet as required with a minimum of two meetings or conference calls per year and maximize the use of electronic communication.

**Reporting and Decisions** — After each meeting, a meeting report will be generated and provided to members of the Habitat Conservation Sub-Committee and to the Habitat Committee and available electronically on the Gulf of Maine Council website. To the extent possible, the sub-committee will strive for consensus in its decision-making.

**Member expectations** — Sub-committee members are expected to actively participate in committee deliberations, to communicate the sub-committee's coastal zone conservation efforts to their host institution, and to consider the Council's Action Plan when contributing to the sub-committee.

**Contacts:** Marianne Janowicz and Katie Lund

### **Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Marine Habitat Conservation Strategy** **Draft Guiding Principles**

*Conservation means to value, protect, manage, study and advance habitat issues associated with coastal marine ecosystems. It is an ongoing process of understanding the elements in ecosystems and how they function as a whole. It involves developing the ecological, political and social foundations needed to sustain the coastal marine environment.*

#### 1. Ecologically Sustainable Development

The Gulf of Maine region should encourage social, cultural, and economic uses of the marine and coastal

environment that do not compromise the integrity of the ecosystem or the needs of future generations. Sustainable development embraces all values, both non-consumptive and consumptive, and favors long-term over short-term benefits.

## 2. Use of Science for Decision-making

Management decisions should be based on the best available science, professional judgment, and common sense. Decision-makers should have access to and use the latest scientific information about biological, chemical, and physical dynamics and management strategies and tools.

## 3. Regional, Ecosystem-based Planning and Management

Management should weigh impacts on all species, habitats, and ecosystems in the Gulf of Maine and its watershed, rather than making decisions focused on individual species or sites. A collaborative, adaptive approach to management and monitoring at the regional scale is necessary, and precautionary actions should be taken that account for uncertainties.

## 4. Public Information and Participation

Conserving marine habitats requires the trust and support of a wide variety of stakeholders and other citizens. From the start, they should be engaged in dialogues as valued participants in the management process; provided clear, objective, and relevant information for education, decision-making, and tracking progress; and involved in cumulative local efforts to accomplish conservation goals.

## 5. Technology Innovation

The Gulf of Maine region will distinguish itself as an innovative test-bed for technologies to address pressing marine management issues. The region needs to seek out, adapt, and apply the most appropriate technologies for marine research, monitoring, and management that are developed by businesses, nonprofits, and government organizations.

**Contacts:** Marianne Janowicz and Katie Lund

tba

Nova Scotia – tba

A first conference call of the steering group will be scheduled for October 2003.

### **Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee**

Loss and degradation of coastal and marine habitats pose significant management challenges throughout the Gulf of Maine region. In its Action Plan for 2001-2006, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (the Council) set forth overarching goals of protecting and restoring critical habitats, protecting human health and ecosystem integrity, and encouraging sustainable maritime activities. The complete Action Plan is available at [http://www.gulfofmaine.org/action\\_plan2001-06.html](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/action_plan2001-06.html). The Council recognized that many of the objectives and strategies that are identified in this plan would be enhanced by a coordinated approach to regional habitat monitoring. Accordingly, in early 2003 the Council chartered a new subcommittee of its existing Habitat Committee to focus on habitat monitoring. Work of the Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee will complement that of two other Habitat Subcommittees (Habitat Protection, Habitat Restoration) in advancing the understanding and management of the region's vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems.

### **Background**

The goal of habitat monitoring is to identify and document the effects of human and natural activities on the extent and ecological condition of coastal and marine habitats. In December, 2002, the Atlantic Northeast Coastal Monitoring Summit brought together scientists and resource managers from government, academic, and non-governmental organizations from the U.S. and Canada to define the need for a coordinated monitoring network in the region. The full report of the Summit is available at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/library/nemonsumm/>. Summit participants concluded that there is significant value in looking at habitat issues from a regional scale. Multiple threats to habitat integrity exist throughout the region, including direct alterations (e.g. dredging, dragging, coastal construction, ditching, dicing) and indirect human impacts (e.g. point and non-point source pollution, hypoxia, climate change). The consequences to coastal and marine ecosystems are far reaching, ranging from changes in primary production and biogeochemical cycling to major shifts in the local and migratory biotic communities. By documenting habitat status over both time *and* space, integrated regional monitoring would provide the ability to compare local data with regional trends. Information derived from habitat monitoring at a regional scale would be useful for identifying impaired areas. Regional data would contribute substantially to



development of predictive models for forecasting the effects of various threats on the structure, function, and sustainability of critical habitats. Ultimately, the potential to influence habitat management, regulatory, and policy decisions is enhanced by the delivery of information that is coordinated in approach and broad in geographic impact.

### **Next Steps – Action Items**

The Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee will focus its efforts on regionally significant habitats within three broad areas:

- a) coastal landforms above high-tide and anadromous fish habitat;
- b) estuaries, including tidal marshes, mudflats, and seagrass beds;
- c) marine systems (extending from nearshore subtidal to the 60-m depth contour).

The composition of the subcommittee will reflect expertise in these three habitat types. Steps identified as critical to the success of a regional habitat monitoring network include the following:

1. Create a steering committee whose role will be to define the scope of efforts within each broad habitat type and make recommendations on subcommittee membership.
2. Identify specific issues or habitat types as the initial focus for regional monitoring
3. Select monitoring questions and variables
4. Identify and prioritize desired products (e.g. regional condition assessments, web-accessible regional data and information, tools for data interpretation, identification of action thresholds useful to management, etc.)
5. Identify key partners (existing monitoring programs) and funders to support the network
6. Prepare a marketing strategy
7. Standardize data collection and analysis methods
8. Secure funds to commence a pilot

### **Structure and Role of Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee**

The Council's Habitat Monitoring Subcommittee will serve as the focal point for Gulfwide coastal and marine habitat monitoring initiatives pursued by the Council's state and provincial jurisdictions and its participating U.S. and Canadian federal agencies. The subcommittee will serve as a forum for information sharing and will promote habitat monitoring activities and partnerships that require or are enhanced by Gulfwide coordination. Membership will be derived from each state/provincial government and federal agency participating in the Council, as well as First Nations/Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions. The subcommittee will advise the Council on policy and funding issues related to habitat monitoring, and will meet as required to reach consensus in its decision making. The subcommittee will maximize use of electronic communication; physical meetings will be limited to one or two per year. Members are expected to participate actively in all deliberations, to coordinate the subcommittee's coastal and marine habitat monitoring efforts with their host institution, and to contribute time and resources to implement the Council's Action Plan.

**Contacts:** Hilary Neckles and Reg Melanson



## **GOMMI (Habitat Committee Subcommittee)**

GOMMI members are finalizing the strategic plan based on comments from Spring Peer Review Meeting. The final strategic plan document is expected to be complete in September.

GOMMI has coordinated with GOMOOS and other partners in developing a successful grant application to the US/Canadian Spatial Data infrastructure Project to support a collaborative project between organizations in the US and Canada to coordinate, create, maintain and share geospatial data to support decision-making over a common geography. This project will integrate into an ongoing project in cooperation with managers to create a tool that will facilitate adaptive, ecosystem-based management of the Northern Shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Maine. Geospatial data will focus on benthic habitat.

Conference calls will proceed an initial meeting slated for Boston on October 31.

GOMMI is appreciative of the Council's contribution of Peter Taylor and Ethan Nedeau's time in developing the excellent and very well received Seafloor Mapping fact sheet, distributed widely in the United States and Canada. We will use this fact sheet as the basis of an outreach effort to gain increased support for GOMMI.

**Contacts:** Susan Snow-Cotter and Brian Todd

## Environmental Quality Monitoring Committee

### Background

The EQMC met twice recently to discuss its program and progress, June 11-12<sup>th</sup> in Orono, ME, with the full committee (chaired by S. Jones), and July 11<sup>th</sup> in Orono, ME., with S. Jones, P. Wells and C. Finlayson. Both meetings were intended to review progress on analyses and data reports, plan the sampling for Fall 2003, plan for the review of the program, plan additional projects (as discussed in 2000-01), and discuss additional related projects. Highlights of the June meeting included: considerable discussion of the status of all outstanding samples and their analyses; status of the labs contracted to do the analyses; content of the annual data reports; additional bioeffects measures to include, as per disposition of the monies offered by H. Russel and the WG. An additional meeting in July reviewed all of the action items from June. It also reviewed the Coordinators progress and planned outputs. Particular emphasis is now being placed on catching up with sample measurements and data reports; writing additional papers prepared on priority topics (e.g. mercury, dioxins and furans); and contributing to communications (e.g. fact sheets).

### Discussion

The working group should have a considered discussion on the following:

- a) Status of the current sampling and analyses – catching up.
- b) New bioeffects monitoring with mussels/use of H. Russels 20K\$ and GOMC 5K\$ - approval to send our RFPs to 4 prospective parties.
- c) Tissue Archives – issue dead or alive? Alternatives to our own archives at the ARC/HMSC – using the CWS Ottawa or DFO archives?
- d) Interaction with GOMOOS re in-situ monitoring, and funding for this.
- e) Proposed external review of monitoring program as of 2004.
- f) New coordinator for the EQMC – duties and outputs.
- g) Recruitment of new members for the EQMC.

**Contacts:** Steve Jones and Peter Wells, Co-Chairs.

## Sewage Management Task Force

### Background

The sewage issue is a major one in the GOM, given the continued inputs of untreated, partially treated and treated municipal effluents, and the pervasive effects of non-point inputs e.g. closure of shellfish beds in many locations, especially in the Bay of Fundy. Hence, it is a priority in the Action Plan, under Goal 2. A successful sewage management workshop was held in April 2002, the Proceedings of which are now completed, and distributed. Several talks have been given on how to proceed implementing the recommendations of the workshop, the last one by P. Hinch at the June GOMC meeting in Hyannis.

### Discussion

The WG could consider the next steps for this task group:

- a) Members of task force.
- b) Priority and funding for recommended actions.
- c) Technical report on sewage as issue in the GOM.
- d) Communication products, based on 2002 workshop.

**Contacts:** Pat Hinch and Peter Wells

## Sustainable nature-based tourism initiative

### Actions

The workshop will be held at the Colony Hotel in Kennebunkport, Maine, October 19 – 22, 2003. Jonathan Tourtellot, National Geographic Traveler, has agreed to join us on Sunday night with a presentation on Geotourism. Potential participants have been identified in each jurisdiction and invitations have been sent. Background packets and registration materials are being sent to those interested in participating.

### Discussion

What are outcomes that are desired by the Council. These would be based on the three questions which are to be answered by the workshop participants :

1. How can sustainable tourism be used as a tool for protecting coastal environments in the Gulf of Maine?
2. How can local communities be empowered to participate in the management of destination areas?.
3. How can the industry employ sustainable tourism techniques while growing their market advantage?

**Contact:** Theresa Torrent-Ellis

## Northwest Indicators Workshop

**When:** January 6-8, 2004

**Background:** The Action Plan (page 22 - #37) calls for an expanded environmental monitoring program by networking existing programs and developing plans to address priority gaps in the region's current monitoring approach. In December 2003 the Council, in partnership with EPA and others from throughout the region, convened 125 representatives from the region's monitoring programs to explore methods and mechanisms to integrate some of these programs. (Christy Finlayson's monitoring program inventory served as the backbone of the event.) A series of recommendations were ratified at the event and a full meeting summary is available.

A US and Canadian steering committee for the Northwest Indicators Workshop (January 6-8, 2004 at the University of New Hampshire) is meeting via monthly conference calls. The committee is staffed through an EPA contract by Battelle Laboratory. The region for this workshop (as with the December 2003 event) is the Bay of Fundy south to Long Island Sound.

The committee has created the following vision and mission statements.

**Vision:** A sustainable Northwest Atlantic ecosystem that ensures environmental integrity and that supports and is supported by economically viable, healthy human communities.

**Mission:** To track the status and trends in ecosystem integrity throughout the Northwest Atlantic region through collaborative partnerships. To provide information for management decisions at regional and local scales.

The goal of this indicators workshop is to achieve consensus on a list of key indicators for which regional data will be compiled and tracked to indicate changing trends in ecosystem integrity through the Northwest Atlantic region. Environmental, societal, and programmatic sub-goals include:

### *Environmental*

1. Assure a healthy ecosystem with balanced and diverse populations of indigenous plants and animals, maintain or increase the abundance and distribution of harvestable species, and restore the ecological functions of degraded and lost habitats.
  - Possible monitoring – fish assessments, bird counts, wetland inventories and assessments, stream flows, eco-rich area assessments
2. Assure that it is safe to eat the fish and swim in the waters whether you are human or animal. Sediments, air, land, and water are not sources or pathways of contamination that affect the integrity of the ecosystem.
  - Possible monitoring – chemical contamination in all matrices including fish and shellfish; effects of changing water quality on coastal resources (e.g., HABs; hypoxia); changes in discharge/emission quantities
3. Assure that exotic species are controlled and managed.
  - Possible monitoring – number of exotic species found in major/minor ports.
4. Assure that the area for shellfish harvesting continues to increase and eliminate bathing beach closures while maintaining protection of human health.
  - Possible monitoring – beach closure frequency/location, shellfish closure.

### *Societal* (not sure how to monitor or what to look for at this point)

1. Land use, recreation, and economic activities are sustainable and support a healthy ecosystem.
  - Possible monitoring – Extent to which community growth is well planned and based on the combined needs of the ecosystem, economy, and community culture.
2. Reduce economic losses and loss of life from hazardous events (coastal storms destroying houses etc.).
  - Possible monitoring – changes in land area subject to hazards and changes in the population and property value in these high-hazard regions.
3. Aesthetics

### *Programmatic*

1. To provide information needed to establish restoration goals throughout the region.
2. Ecosystem stewardship activities are common and undertaken by public and private organizations in communities around the region.
  - Possible monitoring – number of people participating in stewardship activities throughout the region
3. Promote an informed and educated constituency involved in community decisions affecting the ecological health of the region and its resources.
  - Possible monitoring – number of requests by the public or community groups for information on their area.
4. Collaborative ecosystem management is the basis for decision-making in the region.
  - Possible monitoring – number of actively involved groups in ANCM; number of collaborative meetings held.
5. Enough information/data/understanding/indicators are available to inform the decision-making process.
  - Possible monitoring – use of products by local, state, and federal regulators

**Discussion:** Given the critical linkage between the October 2004 State of the Gulf summit and the pertinent items in the Action Plan (#35 – SOG report, 37 – Integrated monitoring strategy, & 45 – Environmental health indicators) it is timely for the Working Group to discuss and arrive at consensus on these linkages.

The NW Indicators Workshop steering committee is meeting on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> to develop the agenda and identify the supporting materials. These will be brought forward to the WG for discussion at their September 8-9 meeting.

**Contact:** David Keeley

### ***Management priorities and corresponding indicators<sup>4</sup>***

#### **Background**

Environmental managers, scientists, citizens, policy and decision-makers from Nova Scotia to Connecticut will convene in New Hampshire on January 6-8, 2004 to arrive at consensus on indicators of environmental, social and economic for the Northwest Atlantic. An information packet is being assembled for the event that builds on the significant work that is available, both within our region and from away, on indicators and environmental reporting.

#### **Management priorities and corresponding indicators**

A consensus is emerging that while there are many important region-wide coastal and ocean management themes there are six that seem to be most important and urgent. These include:

- Fisheries
- Contaminants
- Eutrophication
- Land use change
- Aquatic Habitat
- Climate change

Described below for each theme are the driving questions managers have articulated and possible indicators that might be used to characterize them.

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<sup>4</sup> A measurement that provides useful information about the condition of the natural, ecological, cultural or economic environment.



### I. Fisheries

Management questions	Indicator Categories
a) What is the status of fish stocks?	Population sustainability
b) What is the impact of fish harvesting on non-target species?	Commercial/recreational fisheries Removal of species (Target and non-target)
c) What is the impact of gear types on habitats and species?	Gear impacts Marine protected areas
d) Is the fishery overcapitalized?	Invasive species impacts

Potential Indicators
Commercial fish/shellfish landings Miles of stream open to fish migration Phytoplankton populations Fish populations (commercial fish stocks, increase/decrease in species, standing stock of oysters) At risk native species (number or percent) Non-native species (number/extent)

### II. Contaminants

Management questions	Indicator Categories
a) Is the contaminant source profile changing? Point vs. non-point? Air vs. water?	Pathogens Sewage
b) Is the source distribution changing?	Mercury
c) What are lethal and sub-lethal effects of contaminants on fisheries and human consumers? (Safe to eat? Safe to swim in?)	Nutrient loading Cumulative effects of contamination Transfer through food chain (pathways and sources)
d) What is the fate and transport of contaminants to the region?	

Potential Indicators
Sediment contamination levels (presence of toxic contaminants not specific to sediments) Tissue contamination levels (shellfish, fish, presence of toxic contaminants) Contaminants in predator species Shellfish harvesting (either days of closure, acre days of activity) Bacteria concentrations Bathing beach closures

### III. Eutrophication

Management questions	Indicator Categories
a) What is the extent of eutrophication in the region?	Dissolved oxygen
b) How successful are the controls?	Harmful algal blooms
c) Where is eutrophication manifested?	Chlorophyll A
d) What is the rate of eutrophication in the region?	Biomass
e) How does eutrophication impinging on human use?	Productivity/Respiration
f) How is eutrophication changing the regions ecosystem?	Dominant plankton species System metabolism
g) Are there hot spots with in the region?	Water clarity Sediment anoxia

Potential Indicators
Dissolved oxygen levels Chlorophyll concentrations Nutrient concentrations

#### IV. Land Use

Management questions	Indicator Categories
a) How is land use changing?	Effects on resident and migratory species
b) Where is fragmentation occurring?	Impervious surfaces
c) What is the ration of natural to man-made?	Alterations to hydrology
d) How is land use affecting habitat?	Land conversion, development, fragmentation & Industrialization
e) What land uses are exacerbating issues of contaminants, nutrients?	Species at risk
f) How is water quality and hydrology changing?	Loss of coastal wetlands, salt marsh, and riparian buffers
g) Where are land management practices and land use planning being implemented?	Sedimentation/siltation
h) How is the increase in impervious surfaces impacting land use? (Habitat, Water quality)	Habitat loss (rate and location) Urbanization/human population shifts

Potential Indicators
Eel grass distribution
Extent and distribution of various habitat types (quality of benthic habitat & wetlands, unfragmented forests)
Acres of restored salt marsh and tidal wetlands
Extent of forest buffers
Areas of lands conserved
Impervious surfaces (trends or extent)
Coastal access (number and type)
Human population (by watershed)

#### V. Aquatic Habitat

Management questions	Indicator Categories
a) How is aerial extent and quality of SAVs changing over time?	Community structure and quality Submerged aquatic vegetation
b) How is aerial extent and quality of coastal and tidal wetlands changing over time?	Sediment management, siltation, dredging Salt marshes
c) How is coastal armoring and sediment management practices affecting coastal habitats?	
d) What is the relative success of restoration Activities?	
e) Where is sedimentation impinging on human uses?	
f) How is sediment character and quality changing?	
g) How healthy and diverse is the population's habitat and biology?	

Potential Indicators
Water temperature
Eel grass distribution
Extent and distribution of various habitat types (quality of benthic habitats)
Restored habitats

#### VI. Climate Change

Management questions	Indicator Categories
a) How is climate change and changing weather patterns affecting hydrology and fresh water inputs?	Extreme events Species movement Temperature and sea level rise
b) How does the change in water temperatures affect biodiversity?	Weather State variables/Physical variables
c) Is there evidence of climate-related regime	Abiotic factors



shifts in biota? d) Have weather patterns been altered? e) How does sea level rise and changing weather patterns effect coastal infrastructure?	Changes in hydrology/salinity Impacts on coastal infrastructure
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<b>Potential Indicators</b>
At risk species (number or percent) Non-native species (number/extent of invasion) Water temperature

## Committee re-engagement

**Issue:** Maintaining high performing committees

**Background:** The committee structure created by the Council is the way that progress in implementing the Action Plan is accomplished. Thus for the Council to attain its objectives it needs to enable and maintain high performing committees.

In 2000, as the Action Plan was being written, the Working Group surveyed committee members about ways to improve committee production. The survey results were discussed and incorporated into a revised organizational structure in late 2001. Further, the Council pledged to:

- Better link committee activities to the Action Plan (e.g., through committee terms of reference [TOR], development of annual work plans, etc.);
- Strengthen committee ability to perform (e.g., all co-chairs are members of the Working Group, consultants to support committees, WG to recruit for new members when needed, etc.)
- Improve communication (e.g., quarterly committee reports, co-chair updates to committee members, monthly e-mail updates from Secretariat coordinator, etc.)

Over the past 12-months considerable time has been invested by the WG chair, the Secretariat Coordinator and the Working Group to help our committees be “high performing.”

**Discussion:** It is timely for the Working Group to assess our progress in addressing the Council's directives and continue to assist our committees perform. Issues for WG discussion include:

1. Committee check-in – Re-survey members in January to determine how well we have responded to the 2000 issues and provide a feedback loop.
2. Co-chair and consultant discussions – Assess the interaction among our co-chairs and their support to determine further improvements (e.g., feedback to committee members from WG meetings, committee minutes, interaction among contract staff/consultants, consultant, and supervisor relations etc.);
3. Working Group and committee interactions – Assess the feedback on jurisdictional participation, respond to quarterly committee reports, further clarify committee TOR/duties, assess resources provided for projects, etc.

**Contact:** David Keeley

## RARGOM

### Background

The Council has \$10,000 in the annual budget to support activities of the Regional Association for Research in the Gulf of Maine that address Council priorities. They are proposing that we partner with them to offer several theme-based meetings. These would be synthetic in their approach (e.g., bringing together people and ideas) that stimulate discussion among the science and management communities. They are expected to have a regional appeal and address “hot issues or bottlenecks in the system.” It is expected these forums will identify research priorities that in the aggregate will lead to a gulf-wide science conference on a 3-5 year cycle.

Potential themes (and possible organizers) for consideration by the full membership include:

- **Coastal Monitoring** -- which builds on the results of the 11/02 *Gulf of Maine Integrated Monitoring Summit* (Possible organizers – J. Turner, S. Jones, C. Hunt, D. Gould/G. Pesch, D. Keeley)
- **Invasive Species** – which builds on the 10/02 Bioinvaders Conference co-hosted by MIT Sea Grant (Possible organizers – J. Pederson, I. Babb, N. O’Conner, S. Snow-Cotter)
- **Census for Marine Life** (Possible Organizers – L. Incze)
- **Plankton & Nutrients** – which builds on the 11/01 *Managing Nitrogen Impacts in the Gulf of Maine* and current NOAA’s update of the *National Estuarine Eutrophication Assessment* (Possible organizers – J. Runge, J. Turner, D. Townsend, R. Langen, S. Bricker)
- **Marine Habitat Conservation** – which builds on the Gulf of Maine Council’s benthic habitat mapping initiative, the 12/02 *Ocean Zoning Forum*, DOI/NOAA’s Marine Protected Areas efforts (Possible organizers – P. Oster, S. Snow-Cotter/GOM Council Marine Habitat Conservation Work Group, A. Armstrong)
- **Fisheries & Climate Change** (Possible organizers – K. Friedman, S. Murkowski, K. Stokesbury)

### Action Required

The Working Group needs to discuss these topics, identify others and develop a letter to RARGOM expressing our priorities. Next steps would include making contact with the possible organizers to determine their interest in organizing a forum and developing a detailed workshop prospectus.

**Contact:** David Keeley

## BoFEP

### Background

BoFEP (Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership) started in 1995 as a Fundy science project (FMESP) addressing evidence for ecological change in the Bay through its first workshop in winter 1996. BoFEP was formally established in Nov. 1997. Funded primarily by EC and DFO, it conducts biennial workshops, runs a web site, publishes a Fundy Fact Sheet series, and conducts specific projects through a set of working groups (Corophium and mudflat ecology; SMARTS; Minas Basin and ICM; Ecotourism; others being planned). The 5<sup>th</sup> Workshop was jointly held with GPAC, including a Coastal Forum as part of the program; the GOMCME was a sponsor of this workshop. BoFEP has both management and steering committees (SC), with more than 20 groups represented, and a membership of several hundred. Working group chairs are on the SC. In its 8<sup>th</sup> year, BoFEP (in my view) is reaching a pivotal point of development, needing renewed funding and commitment from partners, a renewed secretariat, and new active working members and working groups. Challenges notwithstanding, it is hosting a Minas Basin Forum on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and a 6<sup>th</sup> Workshop in late Sept. 2004.

### Discussion

The WG should consider:

- a) Support for the 2004 6<sup>th</sup> BoFEP Bay of Fundy Science Workshop.
- b) Topics of interest to GOMCME, for the program for the 6<sup>th</sup> Fundy Workshop, Sept-Oct. 2004.
- c) Additional interaction re the GOM Summit Oct 2004.
- d) Interaction with or joint formation of topic-focussed working groups.
- e) Consideration of more formal linkage to the GOMCME.

**Contacts:** Graham Daborn (ACER, Chair), Peter Wells (EC, Co-Chair) and Jon Percy (Sea Pen Communications, Coordinator).

## Approaches to “State of the Gulf” reporting

### Background

State of the marine environment (SOME) reports have been produced for over 30 years by various countries and agencies. They vary greatly in geographic coverage, length, topics covered, level of detail, choice of indicators, analysis and writing style. For the GOM, the extremes are illustrated by the first GOMC report of 1989 (very general) and the exhaustive, scientific, tome on Georges Bank by Backus and Bourne (1987). At the joint GOMC-GPAC St. Andrews meeting in August 2003, the SOE working group reviewed the various approaches that could be taken for preparing an SOE GOM report, particularly including results of the GPAC forums (2002-04). Discussion was held on the most suitable approach to be taken in such reports on SOME, and the choice of indicators. It was agreed that this GOM SOME report will be prepared as a draft backgrounder for the Oct. Summit meeting, based on the notion that the report will be strengthened and supported by the workshop participants at the Summit itself, and completed shortly after the Summit meeting. A draft Table of Contents was produced for the report, reflecting the approach chosen for producing the SOME report for the Summit.

Backus, R.H. and Bourne, D.W.. (Eds.). (1987). *Georges Bank*. The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA and London, UK. 593p.

### Discussion

The working group should consider the action items of the August 2003 St. Andrews discussion meeting on preparing the GOM SOE report (Chaired by David Keeley), and offer its opinion on the following:

- a) Proposed GOM SOME approach and draft Table of Contents.
- b) Proposed authors and presenters.
- c) Proposed scheduling for contributions.
- d) Proposed review process for chapters and full report.
- e) Proposed approach for completion of report.
- f) Proposed funding for preparation and printing.

**Contacts:** David Keeley (SPO, ME); Maxine Westhead (DFO); Barry Jones (esteemed consultant); Peter Wells (prepared by PGW).

## **Using Sustainability Principles to Reconcile Conservation and Tourism Development Interests: A Case Study on Shorebird Viewing in the Bay of Fundy**

### **Abstract**

Good decision-making is an essential element of any sustainability strategy. The primary objective of such strategies is to reconcile the competing values and interests of society, within the limits imposed by finite natural resource availability. Tourism, like other forms of development, must integrate environmental, social, and economic perspectives in order to accomplish this. Processes that use collaboration to build mutually acceptable decisions and agreements provide an opportunity to operationalize these principles, and therefore have the potential to lead to more sustainable forms of tourism.

This research evaluated the Bay of Fundy Biosphere Reserve Nomination Initiative (BRNI) process as a mechanism for moving towards sustainable shorebird viewing, a form of nature-based tourism, in the Dorchester-Grande Anse-Johnson's Mills area of the Upper Bay of Fundy. Sustainability principles and decision-making goals were combined to produce a framework of eight evaluative criteria upon which the research instrument and assessment were based. Data were collected from twenty stakeholders via the administration of an interview questionnaire.

The BRNI process acted as a catalyst for increasing collaborative efforts to address shorebird-viewing issues, but its scope and design are not yet sufficiently defined to allow it to deal with such substantive issues efficiently and effectively. This lack of clarity also affected participation, resource availability, and stakeholder support. The process has improved levels of awareness and understanding about challenges to the sustainability of shorebird viewing and shorebird populations; however, it must become more inclusive and consistent if it is to produce stable decisions and agreements.

Findings provided insights into the design and function of decision-making strategies and processes within a sustainable tourism context. Specific recommendations were made for improving the BRNI process. On a broader scale, lessons were generalized to provide information for others considering the use of collaborative processes to facilitate progress towards the sustainability goal.

**Contact:** Sherene Faulkner Jackson, Master's Candidate, School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University





## **Developing staffing recommendations for the Council's Transition Task Team**

Please see "Secretariat staffing" document on page 11.  
**Contacts:** Patricia Hinch and David Keeley

## WG field trips and other fun and interesting destinations

### Fundy Trail Hike

The Fundy Trail has been open to the public since August 29, 1998. This first phase of the Fundy Trail consists of eleven kilometres of hiking/biking trails, supported by a paved auto parkway, which afford magnificent panoramic views from every angle, and lead to the suspension bridge and Interpretive Centre at Big Salmon River. Over a dozen lookouts and observation areas - many of which are wheelchair accessible are strategically situated at scenic areas. On a clear day, Ile Haute and the coast of Nova Scotia can be seen rising out of the mists across the Bay. Each lookout offers vistas of stunning natural beauty in several directions. These facilities and their associated observation decks serve as linkages to trails and footpaths. The Fundy Escarpment is a two-kilometre wide corridor (one kilometre of land and one kilometre into the Bay of Fundy) stretching from Fownes Beach in St. Martins to the western boundary of Fundy National Park. The one-kilometre width is considered essential because most of the ecosystem dynamics of the Bay of Fundy exist within this area, including nutrient rich salt marshes, tidal flats and the dramatic Fundy tides. The Bay of Fundy is the breeding habitat for Right Whales and is one of the best natural marine and terrestrial observation areas in the world. The corridor offers abundant natural habitat for flora and fauna, offering many species of native plants as well as 250-year-old trees. Moose and other animal sightings are not unusual.

To sign up for the 4-5 hour trip on Monday morning, contact Russ Henry at [russell.henry@gnb.ca](mailto:russell.henry@gnb.ca), before September 4, 2003 to coordinate travel arrangements. Meet in the hotel lobby by 7:30 AM. Bring binoculars, snacks, hiking or comfortable walking footwear, some warm clothes, cameras, and smiles. Many thanks to Russ Henry for organizing and hosting this outing.

**Contact:** Russell Henry

### Irving Nature Park

The Irving Nature Park has graciously agreed to give our group a guided tour of the Park after the meeting on Monday, September 8. In addition to providing information and answering questions, the interpreter will be providing us with guest information packages. This is a great opportunity to stretch, get some fresh air, and enjoy a lovely area along the Bay of Fundy.

The Park is located on an island approximately 15 minutes from downtown Saint John. The 243-hectare (600-acre) Park was created in 1992 by J.D. Irving Ltd. to help protect an environmentally-significant, endangered area. After an extensive clean-up effort, the land has returned to a natural state and is being protected so that it may continue its invaluable environmental role. The shoreline area includes salt marshes, mud flats, and sand beaches and acts as a breeding ground for many shore birds.

We are planning to car-pool to the park after the "unfinished morning business" is complete. If you would like further information about the park, please visit <http://www.ifdn.com/inp/>. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the Working Group meeting room on Monday.

**Contact:** Russell Henry

### New Brunswick Museum

The New Brunswick Museum was established in 1842 and is the oldest continuing museum in Canada. Some of the current exhibits include Marine History, Marine Mammals - the Hall of Great Whales, Birds of New Brunswick, and Canada's East Coast Fisheries. For further information, please visit <http://www.gnb.ca/0130/index.html>. Passes to the New Brunswick Museum have been secured for visits during an extended Tuesday lunch hour (and-a-half).

**Contact:** Paul Wilson

### Other area information

Should you arrive over the weekend, other opportunities for fun, culture, and enjoying nature. You may also wish to browse through other Saint John attractions by visiting

<http://www.seesaintjohn.com/cityattractions.htm>.