

“The Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability is a multi-stakeholder organization whose mission is to promote the long-term viability of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence ecosystem. Our mandate includes the facilitation of communication across sectors, governments and community interests, and allows our members to work together towards a vision of a Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence region that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. Our membership includes representatives from community organizations, provincial, federal and municipal governments, First Nations, industry, and academics, from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Québec.”

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1. INVITATION TO ATTEND THE NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE SGSLCS

Members and friends of the Coalition are invited to attend the morning session of the next Steering Committee Meeting of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability scheduled for February 9, 2002 at the Own's Art Gallery, Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B. Presentations will be given by Kenneth Campbell from the PEI Fishermen's Association; David Boyce from The Southeast Environmental Association; Cindy Crane, from the Prince Edward Island Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Environment. Please call Marie-Josée (506-743-7437) to confirm your presence and get more detail.

2. NEW STAFF ON BOARD

We are now 3! Sarah Mubareka and Brigitte Julien are now part of the staff. Through an agreement between Natural Resources Canada and the SGSLCS, Sarah is providing support to community-based organization in the use of GIS (Geographic Information System) applications. Sarah will also be maintaining the Coalition website. Brigitte is our new Working Groups Coordinator. She will assist and facilitate various activities identified by our working groups.

Sarah and Brigitte can be reached at murares@UMoncton.CA and mee@UMoncton.CA respectively or by phone : 506-858-4495.

3. 2ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SGSLCS

The 2nd annual general meeting of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability is planned for April 12 & 13 in Miramichi, NB. We will be looking for nominations to fill the seats on the Steering Committee (SC). Recall that there are 7 categories of partners on the SC, with representatives from Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Québec. If you are interested in representing the following sectors on the Coalition, please contact our coordinator : community organizations and/or NGO's; academia; industry; First Nations, federal, provincial and municipal governments. Welcome to all!

4. OIL AND GAS UPDATE

- The Public Review Commission, put in place to review the effects of potential oil and gas exploration and drilling activities offshore Cap Breton, is currently conducting public hearings in Nova Scotia until January 31. A session also took place in Prince Edward Island on January 25 at the Rodds Marina Inn in Montague, PEI. The public and concerned and interested parties are invited to attend the sessions being held at the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre, Wagmatcook, Cape Breton (until January 31). Hearings run almost every day from 10 am to 6 pm. For further information and for the complete hearing schedule, please visit the Public Review Commission website at www.publicreview.ns.ca

- A 154 page report "Crude Costs: A framework for a full-cost accounting analysis of oil and gas exploration in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia" was commissioned by the Save our Seas and Shores (SOSS) coalition to provide a detailed background for the Public Review commissioner in areas including the costs and benefits of exploration versus the risks to existing economic activity (tourism, fisheries, etc), the record of human rights abuses and environmental damage by the oil and gas companies in this public review, the threat to species at risk and a range of other issues. The report was prepared by two Halifax based researchers, Linda Pannozzo and Laura Landon using techniques of full cost accounting. The full report can be found on the Public Review Commission web site or at the Sierra Club site: WWW.sierraclub.ca/national.

- The following are a list of expert witness submissions prepared for the Public Review Commission. For more information on these reports, please contact Dr. Irené Novaczek at inova@isn.net

Christopher W. Clark, PhD, I. P. Johnson Director of the Bioacoustics Research Program at Cornell University, NY, USA. "Commentary on the potential effects of oil and gas exploration and drilling activities on the marine environment with particular attention to the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence and Sydney Bight regions, but including the Scotian Shelf region."

Robert R. Abbott, Ph.D., Strategic Environmental Consulting Inc., San Rafael, California, USA. "Potential impact to fisheries resources from seismic explorations using airguns in the waters off Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada."

James Argo, PhD, IntrAmericas Centre for Environment and Health, Wolfe Island, ON Canada "Unhealthy effects of upstream oil and gas flaring"

Arthur N. Popper, PhD, Rockville, MD "Concerns of the Fishing industry and Petroleum industry"

Mary J. Gorman and Percy Hayne, Merigomish, NS "Brief prepared for the Public Review Commission"

David Lincoln for the Sierra Club Canada "SENSE AND NONSENSE - THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF EXPLORATION ON MARINE ORGANISMS OFFSHORE CAPE BRETON"

- A series of issue backgrounders for the general public was designed by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) to answer questions about specific industry issues as well as give a general overview of the industry. Topics include:
 - Drilling an Offshore Well: in Atlantic Canada;
 - Emergency Planning and Response: protecting people and the environment in the offshore oil and gas industry;
 - Health and Safety: in the offshore oil and gas industry in Atlantic Canada;
 - Offshore Drilling Rigs;
 - Outlook for the Natural Gas Industry: in Atlantic Canada;
 - Producing Oil and Gas Offshore;
 - Seismic Surveys: the search for oil and gas in offshore Atlantic Canada;
 - Transportation of oil and gas: from the Atlantic offshore to market.

Copies of the brochures can be obtained through the CAPP website: www.capp.ca

- The Atlantic Canada Petroleum Institute is organizing an "Offshore Oil and Gas Environmental Effects Monitoring Workshop: Approaches and Technologies", scheduled for 29-31 May 2002 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. This workshop will share information on new approaches and technologies for carrying out EEM, including cumulative effects monitoring, and will focus on two questions: Are EEM programs giving us the information we need? How can they be improved? For information, access http://www.acpi.ca/EEM/ACPI_EEM.htm

- In a press release issued in November, the Save Our Seas and Shores' Coalition reported the following: " Fisheries Standing Committee supports call for moratorium on petroleum development, questions validity of licensing policy and the public review process "
From Save Our Seas and Shores' November 2001 Press release:
"Fishermen, environmentalists, First Nations, tourism operators and other concerned citizens now have cause to hope that a moratorium could be set in place to protect the Gulf of St Lawrence from the dangers of petroleum exploration and development. In their recent report reviewing Canada's Oceans Act, the Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries states: "The Fisheries Standing Committee feels it may be prudent to consider placing this region under an oil and gas moratorium similar to that on the Georges Bank region".
To get a copy of the full text or for further information, please contact: Mary Gorman (902) 926-2128, Irene Novaczek (902)964-2781, Allister Marshall (902)535-2426, Mark Butler (902)429-2202 or visit <http://www.nsis.com/~egilsson/herereither.htm>

5. AN ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT was recently signed between the provinces of New Brunswick and Québec. The agreement concerns transboundary environmental impacts and includes the sharing of information and knowledge as well as expertise on environmental matters. Details on the agreement can be found at: <http://www.gnb.ca/elq-egl/0004-e.thml>

6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE "PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH"

The federal government of Canada is consulting the public on the proposed "guiding principles" of the Precautionary Approach/Principle until the end of March, 2002, in order to inform Canadians and to seek their views. As part of the multi-departmental approach, DFO is seeking comments from its stakeholders, international partners and the general public. The feedback will serve to inform the government's thinking on whether the guiding principles are appropriate, would improve consistency, provide an appropriate balance of flexibility and predictability, and be adaptable. For more information, please consult DFO's public internet site at: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/cppa/menu.htm>

7. TRADITIONAL FISHERIES MAPPING FOR THE SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE

The Traditional Fisheries Knowledge Internet Mapping Application provides quick and easy access to geographic information on the fisheries resources for the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. The areas of interest comprise the north and eastern shore of New Brunswick, all of Prince Edward Island and the Gulf Shore of Nova Scotia. More than 1000 fishermen were interviewed in the data collection and verification process. The maps and information on the project are available at <http://24.201.0.91/dfo/Home.asp>

8. MACROECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE GULF REGION

A review of current economic conditions of the Gulf of St. Lawrence region as prepared by the Policy and Economics Branch, Gulf Region, Fisheries and Oceans, Moncton, New Brunswick is available at http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pe-pe/es-se/macro_economic_economique-e.html

9. SCIENCE HORIZONS YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Environment Canada's Science Horizons Youth Internship Program is a collaborative effort with post-secondary institutions, provinces, community groups and non-government organizations. It is designed to help young scientists and post-secondary graduates acquire meaningful employment and experience in their chosen field through the provision of; hands-on experience in environmental projects and, mentoring and coaching by experienced scientists and program managers. Deadline for applications for the 2002/03 funding year is 5:00 pm. on February 1st, 2002. For further information on the program, please visit http://www.ec.gc.ca/sci_hor/

10. COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS PROGRAM

Funding will be available for community organizations under the Community Interactions Program, an offshoot of St. Lawrence Vision 2000. Community Interactions is a joint program involving Canada and Quebec, which provides technical and financial support to implement various projects proposed by riverside communities and relating to the protection and conservation of the St. Lawrence. Funding for this program is provided jointly by Environment Canada, the Quebec Department of the Environment and the Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec. Deadline for application is February 1, 2002. For further information: 1-800-463-4311, or visit the St. Lawrence Vision 2000 Web site at www.slv2000.gc.ec.gc.ca.

11. EECOM, THE CANADIAN NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

launched an annual program of awards for excellence in environmental education. Any individual or organization, regardless of whether they are a member of EECOM, can nominate an outstanding Canadian individual and/or Canadian institution for an award. Nominations will be accepted until March 1st. Check out the details on the seven categories of awards, the evaluation criteria, the nomination procedures, the nomination form:

<http://www.eecom.org/english/awards.html>

12. GPI ATLANTIC - GPI Atlantic is a non-profit research group, founded in 1997, to develop an index of sustainable development and well being - the Genuine Progress Index. GPI Atlantic has new reports available: <http://www.gpiatlantic.org/realitycheck/> GPI Atlantic's newsletters can be found at: <http://www.gpiatlantic.org/index.shtml>

13. AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- THE "ATLAS OF ECOLOGICALLY & COMMERCIALY IMPORTANT AREAS IN THE SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE has been finalized. The atlas was prepared through funding from the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF). The Atlas can be found at the site www.cnsopb.ns.ca under Environment/Environmental Reports.

- NAFTA-CEC (North American Free Trade Agreement)

North America is facing a "widespread crisis" due to its shrinking biodiversity, according to a the CEC report on the state of the environment, *The North American Mosaic*, released by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).

The report assembles information so that policymakers and private citizens can decide what steps to take to move more rapidly towards sustainability. It examines the economy and our daily lives to show the risks and the damage we are causing, not just to the environment but to ourselves and to our health. The attached website has the full report of the NAFTA-CEC report on the State of the Environment <http://www.cec.org/soe/index.cfm?varlan=english>

14. UPCOMING EVENTS

- C-CIARN Atlantic (Canadian Climate Impact and Adaptation Research Network) will host its first annual workshop on **February 7 and 8, 2002** at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Researchers, stakeholders, and policy makers from around the Atlantic region are encouraged to attend this two day workshop on the impacts of climate change on the Atlantic Provinces and discuss possible adaptation strategies. For further information <http://www.dal.ca/~cciarn/happenings/workshop/index.html>

- Annual ACORN (Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network) Agri-Food Conference "Growing Organically - From Beets To Beef", at the Delta Beausejour Hotel Moncton, on **March 8-10, 2002**. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Kevin Jeffrey, Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network, toll free: 1(866) 32-ACORN, Email: kjeffrey@isn.net, Website: www.acornorganic.org

- Atlantic Council for International Cooperation's (ACIC) Annual General Meeting, Mayfield Quality Inn, Mayfield, North Shore of PEI. – **March 10, 2002**. Contact: ACIC, Tel: (506)375-4795, Email: info@acic-caci.org, Website: <http://www.acic-caci.org>

- International Symposium on Contaminated Sediments

The 2nd International Symposium on Contaminated Sediments: Characterisation, Evaluation, Mitigation/Restoration, Management Strategy Performance is scheduled for **26-28 May 2003** in Québec City, Québec, Canada. Symposium topics include sediment characterisation, contaminant evaluation, mitigation/restoration methods and management strategy performance from the geological, geotechnical, biological and geophysics perspectives. It will review recent advances on contaminated sediments management related research and focus on engineering aspects of contaminant transportation, erosion, stability, monitoring and modelling. For more information: <http://www.scs2003.qgl.ulaval.ca/>

- Conference on coastal, estuarial and offshore engineering and environmental management

A national Conference on Coastal, Estuarial and Offshore Engineering and environmental Management will be held from **4-7 June 2003** in Moncton, New Brunswick. The conference will be of interest to coastal engineers, geomorphologists, oceanographers, and related professionals. The conference is being organized under the auspices of the Hydrotechnical Division of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE). For further information, please email Brian C. Burrell: bburrell@nbnet.nb.ca

- Coastal Zone Canada 2002: MANAGING SHARED WATERS: Towards Sustainable Transboundary Coastal Ecosystems. The event will take place June 23-28, 2002 in Hamilton, Ontario. The conference will bring together the marine and freshwaters coastal communities to share experiences and address capacity needs related to the sustainable development of marine and freshwater coastal regions. The conference will access a wide range of coastal issues including the special challenges of transboundary coastal regions. Deadline for submitting abstracts is February 15, 2002. To attend or receive more information, www.pollutionprobe.org/managing.shared.waters/index.htm

15. OTHER LINKS

- A Community Dialogue Toolkit was developed by the Rural Secretariat in response to needs expressed by communities. The Community Dialogue Toolkit is a "how to" guide to holding community-based dialogue sessions. It was written to be used by community leaders of all types. Anyone who can start a conversation can use this toolkit. It offers a flexible approach that can be easily adapted to your community and its objectives. The toolkit can be used to identify goals, build partnerships and seek out solutions that fit the community. You are also encouraged to share the results of your dialogues with the Government of Canada and other levels of government in order to maintain an awareness of rural Canada and the challenges it faces. The kit is available on the Rural Website at: <http://www.rural.gc.ca/>

NOAA Photo Library (<http://photolib.noaa.gov/>) - Explore our Blue Planet through the eyes of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration by browsing through the agency's extensive (and searchable!) online photograph collection. You'll find spectacular images not only of our oceans and coasts, but also a wide variety of marine flora and fauna. You can even download images free of charge!