

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee



***2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT***



## **ACZISC SECRETARIAT**

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*The **ACZISC 2008-2009 Annual Report** is available in PDF format on the ACZISC website at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm> and in hard-copy from the ACZISC Secretariat – email [aczisc@dal.ca](mailto:aczisc@dal.ca).*

23 June 2009

*To the Members of the ACZISC and the Association:*

*It is with pleasure that the ACZISC Secretariat presents the **ACZISC 2008-2009 Annual Report**. I would like to highlight a number of items in the Annual Report:*

- ***Informing the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) community of practice and networking with them** remained a focus of the ACZISC, primarily via the **ACZISC meetings and workshops**, the **ACZISC Coastal Update e-newsletter** and the **website**.*
- *The ACZISC made significant progress in the ongoing **establishment of COINAtlantic - the Coastal and Ocean Information Network** - to facilitate **access to data and information in support of the ICOM community of practice** in Atlantic Canada:*
- *The ACZISC continues to provide **staff support for the Operational Centre of the International Ocean Institute in Canada**, based at Dalhousie University. The major activity of the NGO is organizing and delivering the annual 8-week **IOI-Canada Training Programme on Ocean Governance**.*

*Finally, I would like to thank Members for their continued and enthusiastic support of the ACZISC and its activities. **We look forward to 2009-2010 !***

*Yours sincerely,*

*Michael J.A. Butler  
Director, ACZISC Secretariat and  
President, ACZISC Association*

# ACZISC 2008-2009 Annual Report

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# THE ACZISC

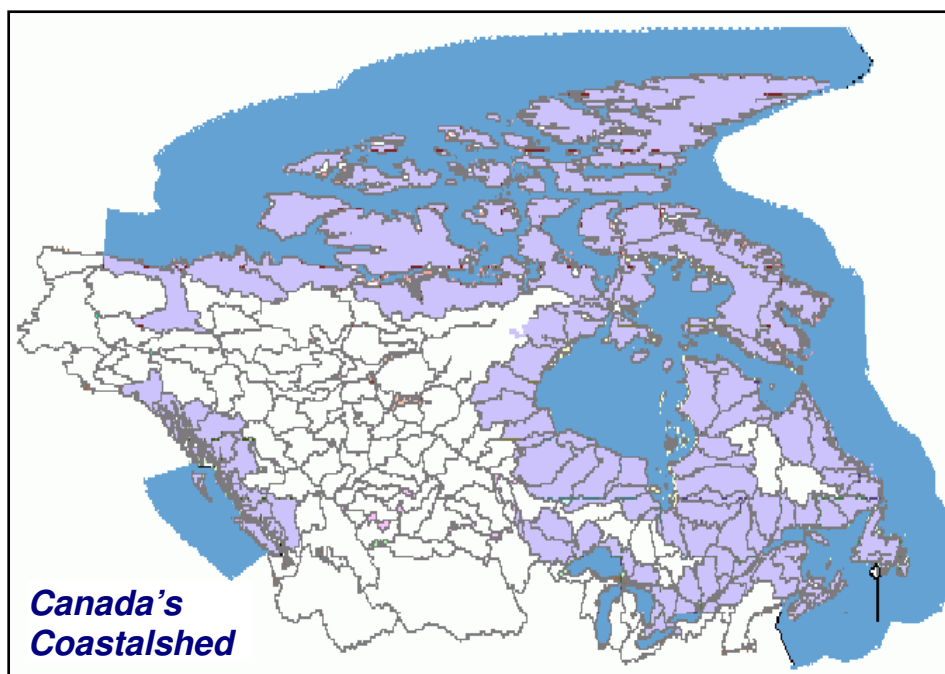
The ACZISC celebrated its 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January 2009. The Committee was established in 1992, following the recommendation of the participants of a Workshop organized by a former agency of the Council of Maritime Premiers and held in Amherst, Nova Scotia. The ACZISC works to **foster cooperation in Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management, Coastal Mapping and Geomatics in Atlantic Canada**. The ACZISC Strategic Thrusts are included in Appendix 1 (page18).

## Operational Context

**Coastal and ocean resources and activities make significant contributions to the economies of the Atlantic Provinces.** A selection of studies on the value of these resources is available at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs.htm>.

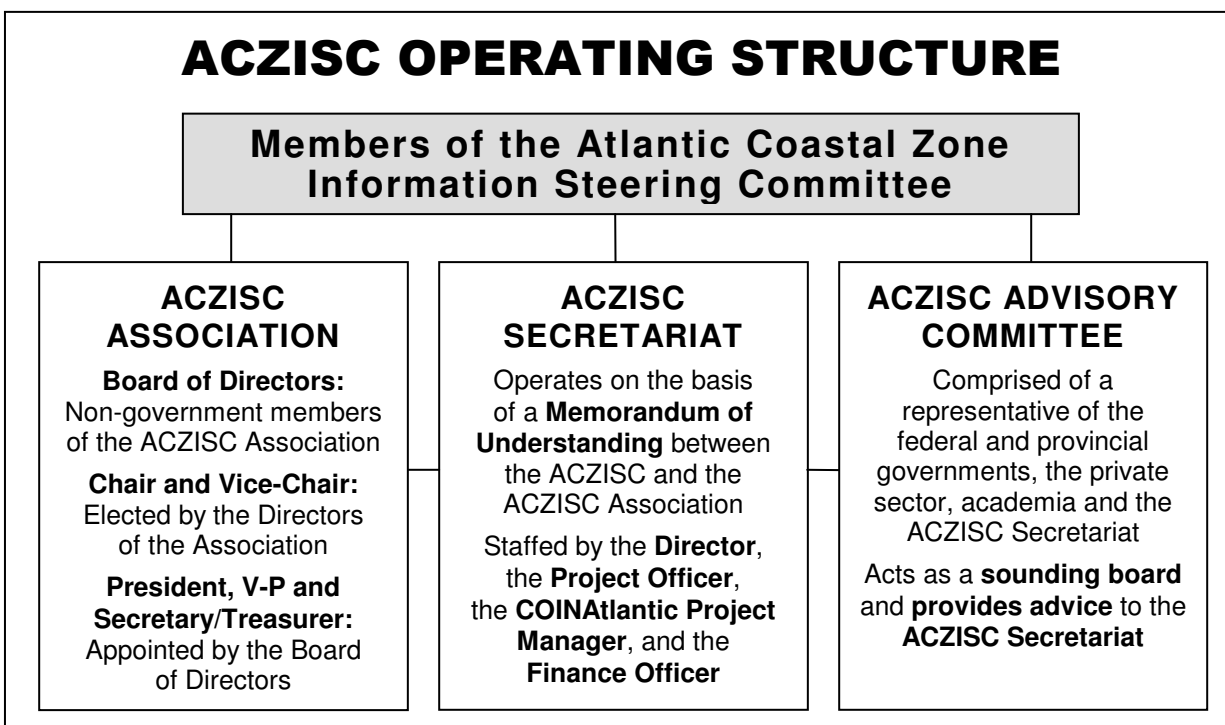
The coastal zone encompasses a multitude of activities and the management of its resources overlaps several jurisdictions and involves multiple stakeholders. In Atlantic Canada, the coastal land-water interface, *i.e.* the “coastalshed”, is exposed increasingly to a wide variety of physical, biological and chemical stresses that threaten the region’s economic, social and ecological sustainability.

**Inter-governmental and inter-agency cooperation is therefore essential for managing the coastal zone, as is access to and the use of information concerning coastalsheds.** The ACZISC advocates and facilitates this process.



# OPERATING STRUCTURE

The **ACZISC Operating Structure** consists of four major components: the **Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee**, the **ACZISC Association**, the **ACZISC Advisory Committee** and the **ACZISC Secretariat**. The following schematic describes the Operating Structure.



## The Committee

The **ACZISC Committee functions as a 'horizontal mechanism'** to implement its mandate. It was used as a case study in two reports published by the Government of Canada to document the challenges of operating successful horizontal and collaborative initiatives and key lessons learned:

- **Using Horizontal Tools to Work Across Boundaries: Lesson Learned and Signposts of Success**, published by the Canadian Centre for Management Development in 2002 – see [http://www.cspc-efpc.gc.ca/pbp/pub/pdfs/P106\\_e.pdf](http://www.cspc-efpc.gc.ca/pbp/pub/pdfs/P106_e.pdf).
- **Managing Collaborative Arrangements: A Guide for Regional Managers**, published by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat in 2003 – see <http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/fcer-cfre/documents/mca-gec/mca-gec-eng.pdf>.



Membership in the ACZISC is **inter-agency, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral**. Members represent governments and organizations which have a mandate for and can contribute to the development, coordination and implementation of ICOM initiatives, including policy, and mechanisms and tools to facilitate access to coastalshed data and information.

In 2008-2009, membership included the four Atlantic Provinces, ten federal departments and agencies, NGOs, community organizations, academia and the private sector. See Appendix 2 on page 19 for a detailed list of ACZISC members, as of March 2009. Representation on the ACZISC was as follows:

### ● ***Atlantic Provinces***

**New Brunswick**, represented by the Departments of Agriculture and Aquaculture; Environment; and Fisheries

**Newfoundland and Labrador**, represented by the Departments of Environment and Conservation; Fisheries and Aquaculture; and Natural Resources

**Nova Scotia**, represented by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

**Prince Edward Island**, represented by the Departments of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development; and Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour

### ● ***Federal Departments and Agencies***

**Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency**, represented by the Policy Advocacy and Coordination Division

**Environment Canada**, represented by the Strategic Integration Office and the Sustainable Communities and Ecosystems Division

**Fisheries and Oceans Canada**, represented by the Canadian Hydrographic Service - Atlantic; the Oceans and Science Branch of the Gulf Region; and the Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch of the Maritimes and Newfoundland and Labrador Regions

**Health Canada**, represented by Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety

**Industry Canada**, represented by Partnerships Canada and Innovation, Policy, Analysis and Intelligence

**National Defence**, represented by Defence Research and Development Canada - Atlantic; and Maritime Formation Environment



**Natural Resources Canada**, represented by GeoConnections; the Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic; and the Surveyor General Branch

**Parks Canada Agency**, represented by the Atlantic Services Centre

**Public Works and Government Services Canada**, represented by Geomatics and Spatial Technology

**Royal Canadian Mounted Police**, represented by Coastal Watch

### ● ***Academia***

Represented by the **Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences**

### ● ***Community Organizations***

Represented by the **Atlantic Coastal Action Program**; the **Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership**; and the **Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability**

### ● ***Private Sector***

Includes personnel from **CEF Consultants**; the **EIT Group**; and **Interpretation Resources Inc** who serve on the ACZISC Association Board of Directors

### ● ***Other Agencies and Associations***

**Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board**; **Marine Institute**; **Coastal Zone Canada Association**; **Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association**; and **Ocean Science and Technology Partnership**

## **ACZISC Association**

In November 2003, the ACZISC **established the ACZISC Association to act as the legal entity for the ACZISC**. The Association is registered as a not-for-profit organization under the Nova Scotia Societies Act. The objects of the Society are listed in Appendix 3 (page 21).

The **ACZISC Association Board of Directors** is composed of non-government members of the ACZISC Committee. It is chaired by Brent Rowley, EIT Group. The other members of the Board are: Norval Collins, CEF Consultants; Brad Fay, Interpretation Resources Inc; Grant Gardner, Memorial University; and Randy Gillespie, Marine Institute.

Meetings of the Board of Directors were organized and held on 30 April 2008 and 16 January 2009. The **4<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association** was held on 22 January 2009 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.



## ACZISC Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee was established in 1995 **to provide advice on issues** related to: the effective administration and operation of the Secretariat and ACZISC; the identification and securement of funding for the Secretariat and ACZISC programs; and the comprehensiveness of ACZISC membership.

The Advisory Committee are: Justin Huston, Chair (provincial representative); Grant Gardner (academic representative); Tim Hall (federal representative); Brent Rowley (private sector representative); and Michael Butler (ACZISC Secretariat). The Secretariat communicates with the Advisory Committee on an as-needed basis.

## ACZISC Secretariat

The ACZISC Secretariat operates on the basis of a **Memorandum of Understanding** between the ACZISC Committee and the ACZISC Association.

The primary **function, roles and responsibilities** of the Secretariat are:

- to function as the executing agency for all the decisions of the ACZISC and its bodies and the Association and its Board of Directors
- to convene the meetings of the ACZISC and its bodies
- to convene the meetings of the Association.

The offices of the ACZISC Secretariat are located in **Ocean House** on the campus of Dalhousie University at 1226 LeMarchant Street in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The ACZISC Secretariat is staffed by Michael Butler (Director), Claudette LeBlanc (Project Officer), Paul Boudreau (COINAtlantic Project Manager), and Jennifer Barr (Finance Officer).

In 2008-2009, criteria and guidelines for replacing ACZISC Secretariat staff were developed by the Secretariat staff and ACZISC members, the ACZISC Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors. The guidelines include timelines, options for Secretariat services in the future based on various funding options, and the host agency's contributions.



*Jennifer Barr, Michael Butler,  
Claudette LeBlanc and Paul Boudreau*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2008-2009 operating budget for the ACZISC Association was approximately \$171K. The major budget items were staffing, travel, and fees for administrative services.

The **2008-2009 ACZISC Association Financial Report**, prepared by Jennifer Barr, Secretary/Treasurer, ACZISC Association, is as follows:

## REVENUE

Balance carried forward from 2007-2008	-2,140
Dues:	
Newfoundland and Labrador	10,000
Nova Scotia	7,400
Prince Edward Island	5,000
Federal Departments	78,493
Outstanding 2007-2008	6,000
Contract Revenues:	
IOI-Canada	50,000
GeoConnections	41,159
DFO Gulf Region	2,675

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<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 198,587</b>
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## EXPENSES

Staffing	135,434
Travel	9,398
Administrative Services	17,334
Telephone / Fax / Email	1,304
Photocopying	375
Courier and Postage	404
Office Supplies	1,101
Printing	309
Equipment	1,397
Interest	408
ACZISC Association	3,866

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<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 171,330</b>
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<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>\$ 27,257</b>
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In-kind contributions from Dalhousie University	\$ 24,000
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# ACTIVITIES IN 2008-2009

The 2008-2009 ACZISC Workplan was implemented by the Secretariat with the assistance of ACZISC members and associates. The focus of the Workplan continued to be on **information dissemination and networking**, primarily via **the ACZISC meetings and workshops**, the **Coastal Update e-newsletter** and the **website**. The ACZISC also continued to engage the **Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management** community of practice in Atlantic Canada and to pursue the establishment of **COINAtlantic** - the **Coastal and Ocean Information Network** - in support of ICOM.

Michael Butler also continued to serve as Director of the Canadian Operational Centre of the International Ocean Institute (IOI-Canada), based at Dalhousie University.

## Information Dissemination and Networking

### ● **ACZISC Coastal Update e-newsletter**

The Coastal Update e-newsletter contains brief **items related to ICOM, geomatics and coastal mapping**, with links and/or contacts for further information. These items relate to projects and programs; manuals, reports, proceedings; research and development activities; and conferences, workshops and other events.

In 2008-2009, the ACZISC Coastal Update was prepared and emailed each month by the Secretariat **to ACZISC members and to more than 5,400 associates**. Approximately 80% of the recipients are from Canada and the remainder are from numerous countries worldwide. The distribution list is composed of personnel from all sectors, including: governments at the federal, provincial/territorial/state and local levels; academia; First Nations; the private sector; students and teachers; NGOs; foundations; associations; the media; and international organizations.

The Coastal Update, including subscriber feedback, is posted at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/update.htm>.

***"I find the Coastal Update to be a great resource and a wonderful snapshot. I appreciate the effort!"***

*Gary Sonnichsen, Subdivision Head, Marine Environmental Geoscience, Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic, Natural Resources Canada*

***"I'm amazed at the wealth of information that you have in the Coastal Update e-newsletter. There is always something useful to help me with my work."***

*Cindy Fowler, GIS Integration and Development Program Manager, Coastal Services Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*

## ● **ACZISC Website**

The ACZISC website - <http://aczisc.dal.ca> - is updated at a minimum of twice weekly. It includes: information about the ACZISC; ACZISC publications; the Coastal Update e-newsletter; a selection of Coastal Resource and Habitat Inventories; and links to ICOM-related websites/agencies, conferences, documents, maps and imagery, resources for students and teachers, and related programs and groups.

This year, Google Analytics (GA) was installed on the ACZISC website. GA is a free service offered by Google that **generates detailed statistics about the visitors to a website**, including keywords usage, traffic sources, average time on pages, etc. The statistics will be used to enhance the website.

## ● **ACZISC Meetings**

As in previous years, three ACZISC meetings were held in 2008-2009 **in the Atlantic provincial capitals by rotation**. The meetings were attended by members and by associates from all sectors, including government departments and agencies, First Nations, NGOs, community groups, the private sector, and by university students.

The meetings were held in St. John's, NL on 14-15 May 2008; in Fredericton, NB on 24-25 September 2008; and in Dartmouth, NS on 22-23 January 2009. The meetings are supported via in-kind contributions from ACZISC members.



*Participants at the ACZISC Meeting, January 2009 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth*

## ● **Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada**

The **Coastal Activities** reports, based on the roundtable components of ACZISC meetings, are a **valuable information resource for ICOM and geomatics personnel**. In addition to being made available to meeting participants, the minutes and coastal activities reports for 2008-2009 made widely available via the ACZISC website at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm>.

## ● **Presentations and Discussions**

In addition to the Administration section and the Roundtable Review of Coastal Activities, the ACZISC meetings include focused **presentations** with discussions on topics relevant to ICOM, geomatics and coastal mapping. Several of the presentations made in 2008-2009 were posted on the ACZISC website at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs-ACZISC.htm>. The presentations were:

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>PRESENTATION TITLE</b>	<b>PRESENTER(S)</b>
14-15 May 2008, St. John's	<b>Issues Scan of Selected Coastal and Ocean Areas of Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	Patrick Shea, Provincial Coastal and Oceans Network
	<b>Placentia Bay Integrated Management Promotional Video Presentation: A Coastal Management Area Perspective</b>	Introduced by Calvin Manning, Placentia Bay Integrated Management Planning Committee
	<b>COINAtlantic Concept, Update and Report on Activities</b>	Paul Boudreau, ACZISC Secretariat
	<b>SmartBay Assessment</b>	Don Hogan, ACOA
	<b>Academic Research and NRC Chairs in Atlantic Canada with a Focus on ICOM</b>	Grant Gardner, Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences
24-25 September 2008, Fredericton	<b>Update on the Southwest NB Bay of Fundy Marine Resources Planning</b>	Andrew Breau, NB Agriculture and Aquaculture, and Fisheries
	<b>Update on the NB Coastal Areas Protection Policy</b>	Paul Jordan, NB Environment
	<b>Using Risk Assessment for Integrated Management</b>	John Legault, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
	<b>Grand Banks Marine Representative Areas - Potential Area Identification for Parks Canada</b>	Norval Collins, CEF Consultants
	<b>COINAtlantic Concept</b>	Paul Boudreau, ACZISC Secretariat
	<b>Managing and Administering Coastal and Marine Spaces - COINAtlantic Marine Cadastre Prototype</b>	Michael Sutherland, University of West Indies
22-23 January 2009, Dartmouth	<b>Parks Canada's National Marine Conservation Areas Program</b>	Rob Thompson, Parks Canada
	<b>Planning for Coastal Zone Canada 2010</b>	Kelly Cantelo, PEI Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development
	<b>COINAtlantic Concept</b>	Paul Boudreau, ACZISC Secretariat
	<b>Environment Canada and the Canadian Coastal and Oceans Agenda</b>	Larry Hildebrand, Environment Canada
	<b>Integrating Science and Planning Practice for Coastal Adaptation to Climate Change in the Halifax Regional Municipality</b>	John Charles, HRM and Gavin Manson, Geological Survey of Canada - Atlantic





**COINAtlantic** - the **Coastal and Ocean Information Network for Atlantic Canada** - is an initiative of the ACZISC. The goal is to develop, implement and sustain a network of data providers and users that will support secure access to data, information and applications **in support of integrated coastal and ocean management** - for details, see <http://COINAtlantic.ca>.

In 2008-2009, **Phase 1 of the COINAtlantic network was implemented**, with the support of ACZISC members and with **financial support from GeoConnections** via a Collaboration Agreement between GeoConnections and the ACZISC Association.

A Joint Project Agreement was signed in 2008 between the ACZISC and the Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch of DFO Maritimes with regards to **staffing for COINAtlantic**.

Accordingly, Paul Boudreau is serving as the COINAtlantic Project Manager and is based at the ACZISC Secretariat at Dalhousie University. In 2008-2009, discussions were initiated related to extending the Joint Project Agreement to the end of March 2010.



The following are the major activities that took place in 2008-2009 with regard to the **development and implementation of COINAtlantic**:

- Phase 1 of the COINAtlantic Web Mapping Application was developed and implemented, with financial support from GeoConnections.
- The COINAtlantic corporate identity, including a logo and website, was developed.
- COINAtlantic Management Committee meetings were held twice monthly.
- Two COINAtlantic Advisory Committee meetings were held in Halifax.
- COINAtlantic Workshops were organized and held on 14 May 2008 in St. John's, NL; 24 September 2008 in Fredericton, NB; and 23 January 2009 in Dartmouth, NS, in conjunction with the ACZISC meetings.
- A COINAtlantic Team Leaders meeting was organized and held in December 2008 in Dartmouth, NS.
- The COINAtlantic Next Steps Workshop was organized and held in February 2009 in Dartmouth, NS.
- A draft COINAtlantic Business Plan was prepared.
- COINAtlantic NGO requirements were documented.

- A 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Review of COINAtlantic was carried out.
- COINAtlantic collaborated with CoastalCURA, the SGSLCS and the Atlantic Ecosystem Partnership with regard to organizing and delivering NGO Capacity Building sessions in nine locations in Atlantic Canada in March 2009.
- COINAtlantic presented and/or participated in a number of workshops and other events:
  - Coastal Zone Canada, May 2008 in Vancouver, BC
  - CGDI Sustainability Workshop, June 2008 in Ottawa, ON
  - DFO Geospatial Workshop, September 2008 in Winnipeg, MN – travel funded by DFO Gulf Region
  - 4<sup>th</sup> ESSIM Forum Workshop, November 2008 in Halifax, NS
  - Oceans Innovation Conference, November 2008 in St. John's, NL
  - Ecosystem-based Geospatial Planning Tools for Canada's Inland Sea, November 2009 in Sydney, NS
  - Atlantic Environmental Science and Technology Forum, November 2008 in Halifax, NS
  - Principled Ocean Governance Workshop, Dec 2008 in Barbados - travel funded by the NIPPON Foundation
  - Meeting of the Gulf of Maine Council Working Group, December 2008 in Halifax, NS
  - Information Without Borders, February 2009 in Halifax, NS
  - Meetings with GeoConnections, EC Information Management, DFO Oceans and DFO CHS, March 2009 in Ottawa, ON
  - Workshop on Moving Forward on a National Strategy for Managing and Sharing Ocean and Inland Water Information, March 2009 in Ottawa, ON
  - DFO OHSAR Branch Management Committee, March 2009 in Halifax, NS
  - Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership, March 2009 in Portland, ME.

## Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management

The ACZISC ICOM Working Group advocates the implementation of integrated coastal and ocean management (ICOM) in Atlantic Canada. In addition it promotes collaboration with regard to ICOM opportunities and activities, with particular reference to policy issues. In 2008-2009, the ICOM Working Group was co-chaired by Tim Hall and Patrick Shea.

ICOM Working Group meetings were organized and held on 14 May 2008 in St. John's, NL; 24 September 2008 in Fredericton, NB; and 23 January 2009 in Dartmouth, NS, in conjunction with the ACZISC meetings.

ICOM Working Group members participated actively in activities associated with the ongoing development and implementation of COINAtlantic – see pages 13-14.

The Working Group finalized a **document on the role of the ACZISC in facilitating information sharing**, particularly regarding policy issues with and among other relevant groups in the region. The objective of this discussion paper is to provide a



broad context for Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) in Atlantic Canada, and to illustrate how the ACZISC contributes to the ICOM community of practice. A brief history of ICOM in Canada is also provided. The document is available on the ACZISC website at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/ACZISC-ICOM.pdf>.

## Revenue Generating Activities

Michael Butler, the Director of the ACZISC Secretariat, continued to also serve as Director of the IOI-Canada Operational Centre. IOI-Canada and the ACZISC Secretariat are co-located at Ocean House on the Dalhousie University campus. IOI-Canada's primary responsibility is the organization and delivery of the annual **Training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management** at the University. The 8-week Programme is specifically designed to benefit mid-career professionals from developing countries who are responsible for some aspect of marine management/ ocean governance.

The **2008 Training Programme on Ocean Governance** was held from 21 May to 19 July. A wide range of academics, government personnel and practitioners, **including several ACZISC members and associates**, were invited to present to the participants on their area of expertise. The **development of the 2009 Training Programme**, the 29<sup>th</sup> in the series, has been initiated; the course is scheduled for 20 May to 17 July. Additional information on the Training Programme is available at <http://internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca>.

## Collaboration with Other Programs

The participation of the ACZISC Secretariat and Members in the following programs, in executive and other roles, has significantly increased inter-program cooperation and coordination in Atlantic Canada:

### ● ***Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership***

BoFEP is a "Virtual Institute" of individuals and groups that **promote the integrity, vitality, biodiversity and productivity** of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem, and the **social well-being and economic sustainability** of its coastal communities. BoFEP also facilitates communication and cooperation among interested individuals and organizations - <http://www.bofep.org>.

The Bay of Fundy Science workshops, organized every two years, are a major BoFEP activity. The **8th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop** is scheduled for 26-29 May 2009 in Wolfville, NS. The theme for the Workshop is *Resource Development and Its Implications in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine*. Abstracts for presentations on the ACZISC and COINAtlantic have been submitted by the Secretariat.

## ● ***GeoConnections and the CGDI***

GeoConnections is a national partnership program established to develop the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI). The **CGDI provides Canadians with on-demand access to geographic information** (e.g., maps, satellite images) and **related services and applications** in support of sound decision making - <http://www.cgdi.gc.ca>.

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the GeoConnections program (1999-2005) focused on developing policies, standards, technologies and partnerships. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase (2005-2010) supports projects that enable decision-makers to use location-based information to benefit public health, safety and security, the environment, and Aboriginal communities.

In addition to providing 'direct' financial support for COINAtlantic in 2008-2009, GeoConnections funded a number of initiatives which will **contribute significantly to the information base being accessed by COINAtlantic users** in support of ICOM in Atlantic Canada.

## ● ***Coastal Zone Canada Association***

The Coastal Zone Canada Association is a **non-profit society of coastal zone management professionals and others interested in and supportive of ICM goals**. The CZCA was established in 1993 by members of the ACZISC and other individuals to organize and deliver the inaugural CZC '94 Conference in Halifax and its successor biennial conferences - <http://www.czca-azcc.org>.

The **Coastal Zone Canada 2008 Conference** was held on 25-29 May 2008 in Vancouver, BC. Several ACZISC members were in attendance. The **Coastal Zone Canada 2010 Conference** has been scheduled for 25-29 July 2010 in Charlottetown, PEI. The theme is *Healthy Oceans - Strong Coastal Communities*. Presentations on Conference planning are made on a regular basis at the ACZISC meetings.

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

The Council is mandated to **protect and conserve coastal and marine habitats** within this bi-national ecosystem, which includes the Bay of Fundy and its watersheds. Membership on the Council includes New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire - <http://gulfofmaine.org>.

The **Gulf of Maine Council Action Plan** is based on three overarching, long-range goals: Coastal and marine habitats are in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition; Environmental conditions support ecosystem and human health; and Coastal communities are vibrant and have marine-dependent industries that are healthy and globally competitive. Several ACZISC members are active in the Council Working Group and committees.

### ● ***Ocean Management Research Network***

The aim of the Ocean Management Research Network (OMRN) is to **create and share knowledge for the application of critical thinking and best practices to oceans management in Canada**. Interaction between the natural and social sciences is encouraged. The OMRN is interdisciplinary, providing a forum for researchers, managers, and policymakers to evaluate timely and innovative linkages, integrate lessons learned, transfer and share knowledge, and help create an expert core of ocean researchers - <http://www.omrn-rrgo.ca>.

The OMRN biennial conferences provide a forum for ocean and coastal researchers, managers and policy-makers to share ideas and to discuss the current state of knowledge, research gaps and national priorities for the use and management of Canada's three oceans. Planning for the **2009 OMRN Conference, scheduled for 21-24 October 2009 in Ottawa, ON**, has been initiated. The four themes are: Integrated management and coastal management areas; the Arctic Ocean, TEK and northern development; Ocean's valuation; and State of the ocean's reporting.

### ● ***Ocean Science and Technology Partnership***

The OSTP is an independent, federally incorporated, non-profit corporation developed with the support of Canada's Oceans Action Plan. The mission of the OSTP is: to capture the links between ocean science researchers and technology innovators; to encourage linkages between regional and national networks, information sharing and awareness building; to encourage and support collaboration to build and commercialize technology; and to present a national voice for the ocean technology community - <http://www.ostp-psto.ca>.

In collaboration with the ACZISC and the OMRN, the OSTP organized a workshop on **Moving Forward on a National Strategy for Managing and Sharing Ocean and Inland Water Information**. The Workshop was held on 3 March 2009 in Ottawa, ON.

### ● ***Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability***

The Coalition is a multi-stakeholder regional body representing the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Québec portions of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Coalition is working towards an **environmentally, economically and socially sustainable Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence** through a mutually beneficial inter-dependence of these factors - <http://www.coalition-sgsl.ca>.

The **Coalition Summit on the Social Economy and Sustainable Societies** was held on 5 December 2008 in Bonaventure, Québec. The purpose of the event was to strengthen partnerships between all Southern Gulf stakeholders and to enhance the positioning of watershed organizations and other natural resources based associations as important contributors to the social economy of their respective regions.

## **ACZISC Strategic Thrusts**

The ACZISC terms of reference, identified in the ACZISC 2002-2012 Strategic Plan and subsequently updated in the 2008-2012 Strategic Plan, are as follows:

### **ACZISC Mission**

To promote, facilitate and influence information management, policies and programs that enhance integrated coastal and ocean management (ICOM) in Atlantic Canada.

### **ACZISC Strategic Thrusts**

To achieve its mission, the ACZISC will:

***Provide a conduit to access, exchange and disseminate geospatial and other data / information by:***

- Identifying data and information for ICOM
- Facilitating its availability to members and the public
- Implementing COINAtlantic – the Coastal and Ocean Information Network
- Raising awareness at appropriate venues of current and emerging initiatives and research related to information management
- Encouraging the implementation of appropriate information sharing and dissemination mechanisms

***Advocate the implementation of ICOM in Atlantic Canada by:***

- Networking, communication and outreach
- Providing a forum to share best practices and standards and encourage their implementation
- Raising awareness at appropriate venues of current and emerging initiatives and research related to ICOM

***Capitalize on collaborative opportunities involving ICOM, and geomatics in support of ICOM by:***

- Establishing and maintaining linkages and partnerships among members and with other personnel, committees and organizations.
- Identifying potential collaborative and activities in support of ICOM and geomatics in collaboration with existing and emerging initiatives
- Initiating, coordinating and managing collaborative projects and activities supporting ICOM and geomatics

***Maximize the viability and relevance of the ACZISC by:***

- Identifying and securing funding for the Secretariat, the Association and programs
- Ensuring effective administration and operation
- Ensuring comprehensive membership in the ACZISC
- Publicizing the ACZISC and its activities.

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# **ACZISC Association**

## **Objects of the Society**

The objects of the Society are:

- i To encourage and support the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources in Atlantic Canada through integrated coastal zone management;
- ii To promote, facilitate and influence information management, policies and programs for the purpose of enhancing integrated coastal zone management in Atlantic Canada;
- iii To develop, provide and support public education programs concerning the ocean and coastal environment and its importance as a critical component of global environmental systems;
- iv To strengthen the expertise and capacity in the oceans and coastal zone sectors of government, and parastatal and non-governmental organizations in Atlantic Canada;
- v To develop, provide and support technical assistance projects, training programs, policy advice and consulting resources for professionals engaged in the oceans and coastal zone sectors;
- vi All other activities which are ancillary to the objects of the Society.