Annual Report

2015-2016

ACZISC

Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee

Home of COINAtlantic

COASTAL AND OCEAN INFORMATION NETWORK

This year saw the ACZISC enter into some new ventures. We were successful in being awarded Atlantic Ecosystem Initiative funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada on a new project focussed on facilitating the deposition of species occurrence data into the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). Working with partners at Cape Breton University, the Atlantic Reference Centre at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability identified relevant data sets and moved several data sets through to the OBIS Canada Information Toolkit (IPT) available for harvesting by OBIS. In conjunction with this work, a new tool was developed that made all the public data sets stored in the IPT available as OGC compatible web mapping services and provided access to the full metadata record by dynamically creating a COINAtlantic GeoContent Generator record.

Another new initiative was the change in format for meetings with the objective of attracting a more diverse audience. The September 2015 meeting was the first meeting of this type and it focussed on aquaculture and included the participation of government, industry and university perspectives on the topic.

Finally the transition from the ACZISC brand to the COINAtlantic brand has been approved by both the ACZISC membership and the Board of the ACZISC Association subject to a transition plan that would be approved at an Association AGM or special meeting. One of the main objectives of this venture is to attract wider participation from the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) Community of Practice by reducing the intimidation factor of being called a 'steering committee' that implies exclusivity and using a moniker that was somewhat more understandable while maintaining the dual objectives of encouraging the adoption of ICOM and the sharing of data and information to support it.

(from the left) Jennifer Barr (Finance Officer), Jessie Jawanda (summer student), Andrew Sherin (Director), and Alexi Baccardax Westcott (Project Officer)

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Financially, the year ended more or less as predicted although the continued move away from dues based funding to contract and project based funding continues to be a challenge to maintain the core products of newsletter, website, and workshops.

Finally, this message would be incomplete if I didn't recognize the efforts of the other members of the Secretariat, Alexi and Jennifer, and our wonderful summer student Jessie Jawanda. In addition the AEI project could not have accomplished its objectives so successfully without the commitment of Mary Kennedy and Jeff McKenna. **Andrew Sherin, Director**.

Table of Contents

Director's Message i

Table of Contents ii

Vision, Mission and Priorities 1

Accomplishments 2015-2016

Priority 1 Action on Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management

The Coastal Update Newsletter 2

The Website 3

Meetings 5

Workshops and Webinars 6

Collaboration 7

Priority 2 Sharing of data and information

Atlantic Ecosystem Initiative 9

COINAtlantic Tool Development 10

Priority 3 Encouraging the engagement of organizations

Aquaculture / Sectoral participants 11

From ACZISC to COINAtlantic 11

Financial Statements 12

Appendix A ACZISC Meetings

Appendix B Membership

VISION

To achieve the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources in Atlantic Canada through integrated coastal and ocean management.

MISSION

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

Priority 1

Encouraging action on the implementation of Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) as a tool to realize environmental, economic and social sustainability.

- Delivery of products that meet the needs of ACZISC members and the wider ICOM community of practice (CoP) and advance the fuller realization of ICOM.
- Collaborate with other parts of the ICOM CoP to increase awareness in others outside of the ICOM CoP of the importance of ICOM to environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Priority 2

Collaborative sharing of data and information between members and with the wider ICOM CoP on the ICOM issues of priority to members.

- Reducing barriers to access to data and information.
- Facilitating the commitment and investment of data providers to inter-organizational and public access to data and information.

Priority 3

Encouraging the engagement of organizations in the ACZISC that is reflective of the diversity of the ICOM CoP.

- Develop more inclusive and structured processes for determining the guest list of each ACZISC meeting.
- Solicit ACZISC affiliation from groups not presently at the ACZISC table as important additions to the ACZISC network.
- Encourage organizations in the ICOM CoP to participate in information sharing through social media and the newsletter.

Accomplishments

2015-2016

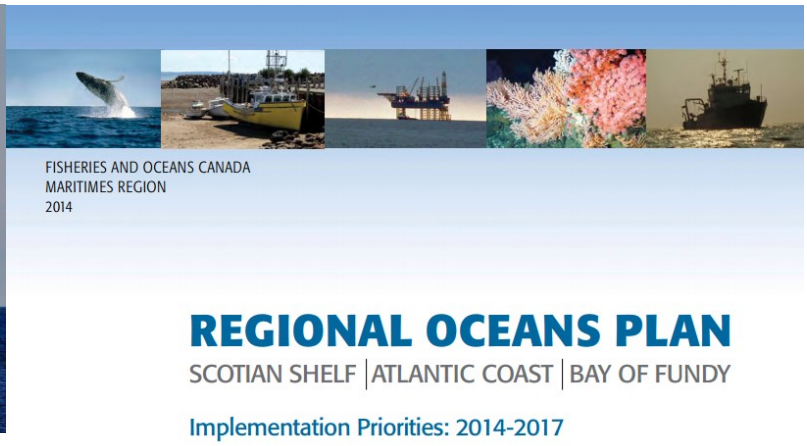
Priority 1

Action on Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM)

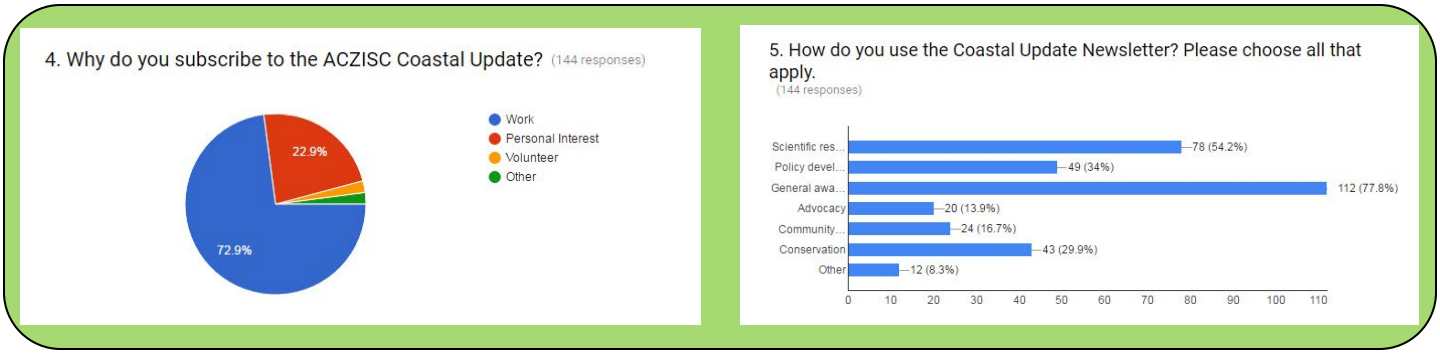
The Coastal Update E-newsletter

The Coastal Update E-newsletter is prepared by the ACZISC Secretariat each month and distributed to over 5,500 recipients. It contains brief items with hyperlinks to more detailed information related to ICOM, geomatics, and coastal mapping, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Selected lead articles in the newsletter during the year included the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Maritimes Region, **Regional Oceans Plan** for the Scotian Shelf, Atlantic Coast and Bay of Fundy, a new **International Open Data Charter**, the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans reports on aquaculture in Canada, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea's report **Marine Spatial Planning Quality Management System**, New **Nova Scotia Aquaculture Regulations**, **Ocean and Coastal Acidification off New England and Nova Scotia, Oceans Day at COP 21,** Future trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision, the Nova Scotia government's **Open Data Portal**, and **Engaging Communities in Offshore Wind: Case Studies and Lessons Learned from New England Islands.**



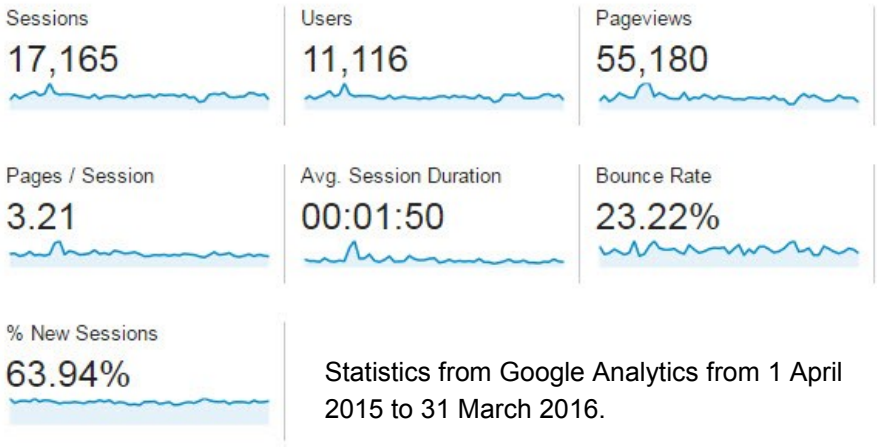
Between 23 March 2016 and 19 April 2016, 144 responses to a survey were received from newsletter recipients. Most survey respondents were from Canada (67%), the rest from the United States, the United Kingdom and elsewhere. More then 50% of the respondents were from Atlantic Canada. A third of the respondents classified themselves as government, a quarter as academic and 20 % non-profit. A Food and Agriculture Organization employee and a First Nations person self identified. The reach of the newsletter was extended by 22 % of the recipients passing all or parts of it on to others. As the figures below show most respondents use the newsletter for work purposes including scientific research, policy development, and conservation as well as general awareness. In this final category the newsletter acts as an effective “watching brief” on coastal and ocean management for practitioners and those with an interest in the subject.



THE WEBSITE

The ACZISC’s website **coinatlantic.ca** is an information hub for coastal and ocean information. The site contains information on the ACZISC and its activities including links to documents , presentations, and videos from ACZISC meetings, workshops, and webinars, and the Coastal Update e-newsletter archive.

The site is organized into themes (see figure above). Under each theme are a number of sub-themes accessible through pull down menus and links to publications. The website content is refreshed regularly with an annual concentrated effort to develop new articles, review broken links, incorporate newsletter items into the theme pages and publication links. In 2015-2016 the process to update



Statistics from Google Analytics from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

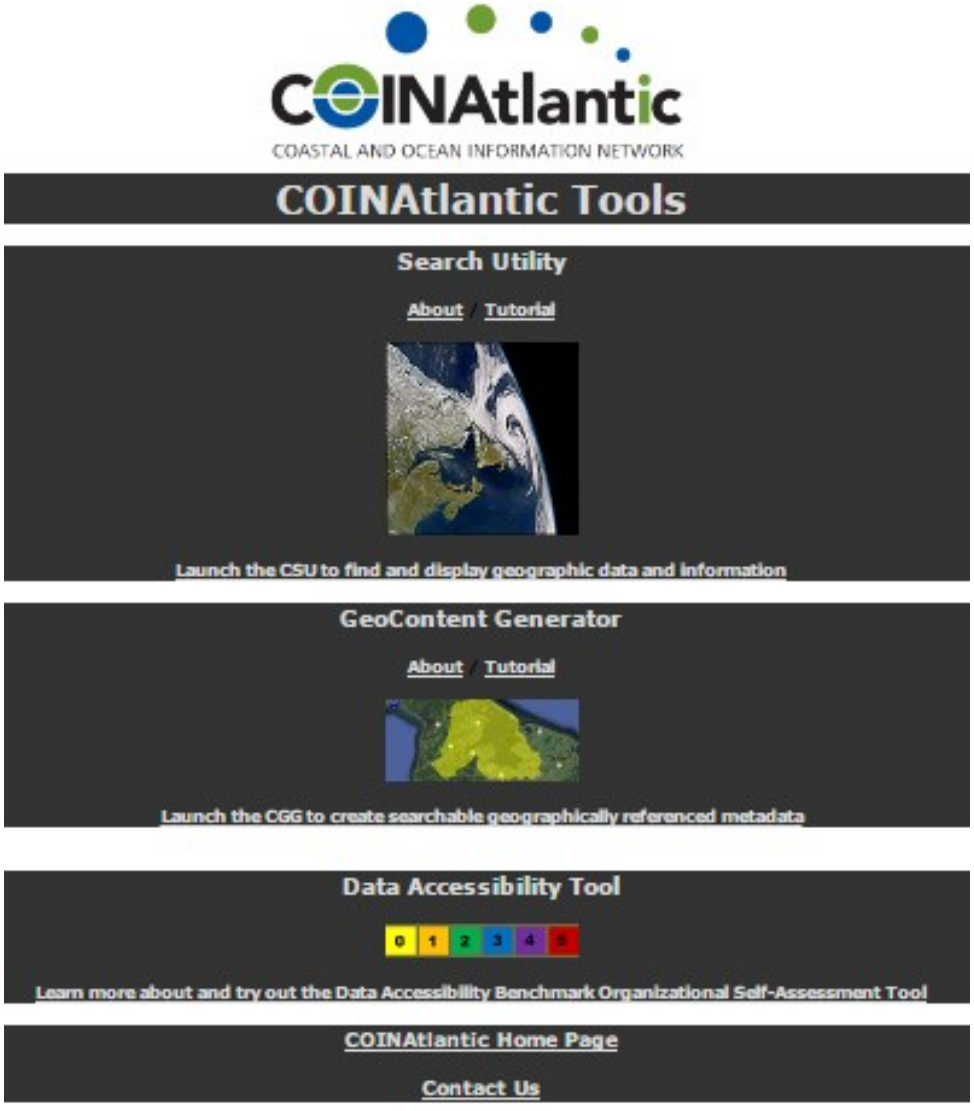
The location of website users by city. The size and colour of the blue dot represents the number of users in each city.

the content management system to Joomla 3 and initiate a new look and feel was started. This work will be completed in 2016-2017.

A NEW WEBSITE FOR TOOLS

In 2015-2016 the COINAtlantic Toolset (described later in this report) were consolidated under a new internet URL **coinatlantic.tools**

All three tools, the Search Utility, the Geocontent Generator and the Data Accessibility Self-Assessment Tool, their descriptions and tutorials can be accessed from this new website.



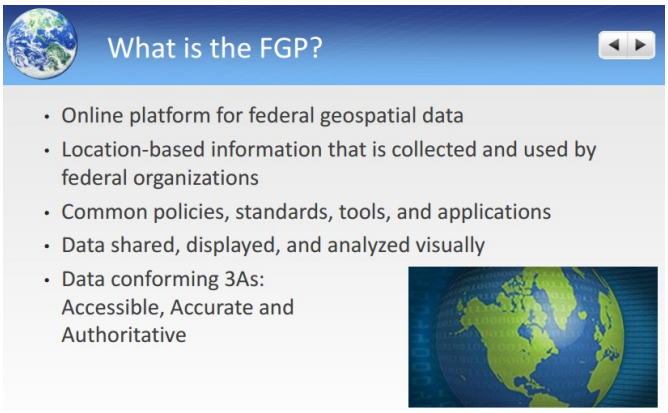
MEETINGS

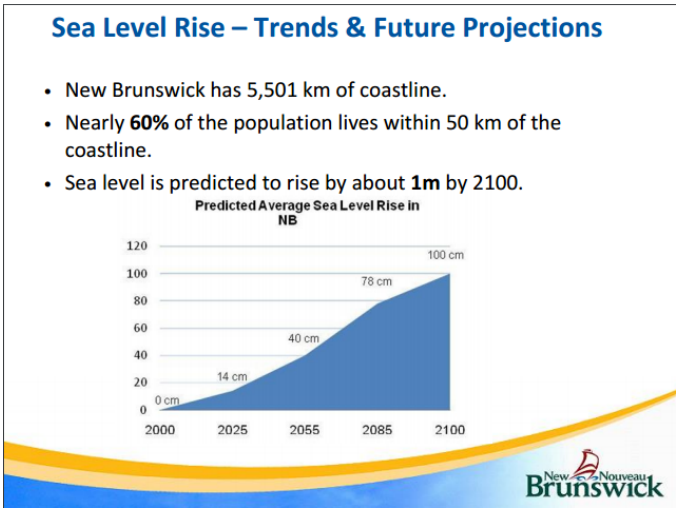
The ACZISC met twice in 2015-2016, in Moncton, New Brunswick 20-21 May 2015 and in Halifax, Nova Scotia 16-17 September 2015. Meetings held in the winter had severely reduced attendance often due to weather, so it was decided to reduce the number of meetings to two per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. It is planned to augment the face to face meetings with additional webinars. The two meetings attracted 48 participants from federal and provincial governments, non-governmental groups, including university and industry. Details on the presentations and the presenters are included in Appendix A.

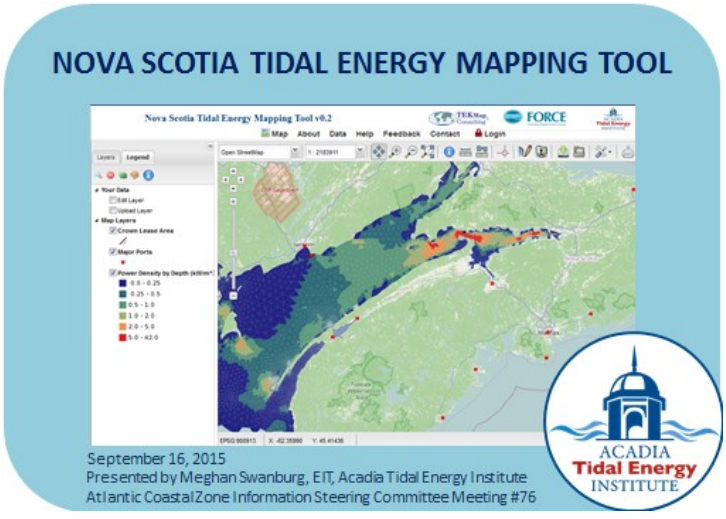
The September meeting in Halifax had a focus on aquaculture with presentations by the Government of Nova Scotia on their new regulations, a presentation by the Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia, and a presentation on aquaculture research. This thematic approach was well received and will be used more frequently for future meetings. The meeting on 16 September was followed by a field trip organized the Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia to AquaPrime Mussel Ranch in Ship Harbour, Nova Scotia.

The Moncton meeting had a remote presentation on the Federal Geospatial Platform which will become the online platform for federal geospatial data. The ACZISC has been following the development of the FGP since an initial presentation on FGP at the ACZISC on 27 January 2013. FGP had not been released to the public by the end 2015-2016.

A key feature of both meetings was the Roundtable of brief reports from participants concerning their new projects, reports, or opportunities.







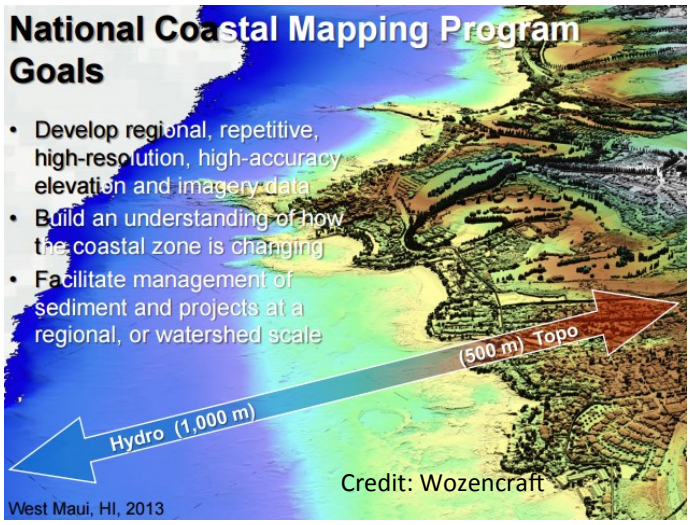
Workshops and Webinars

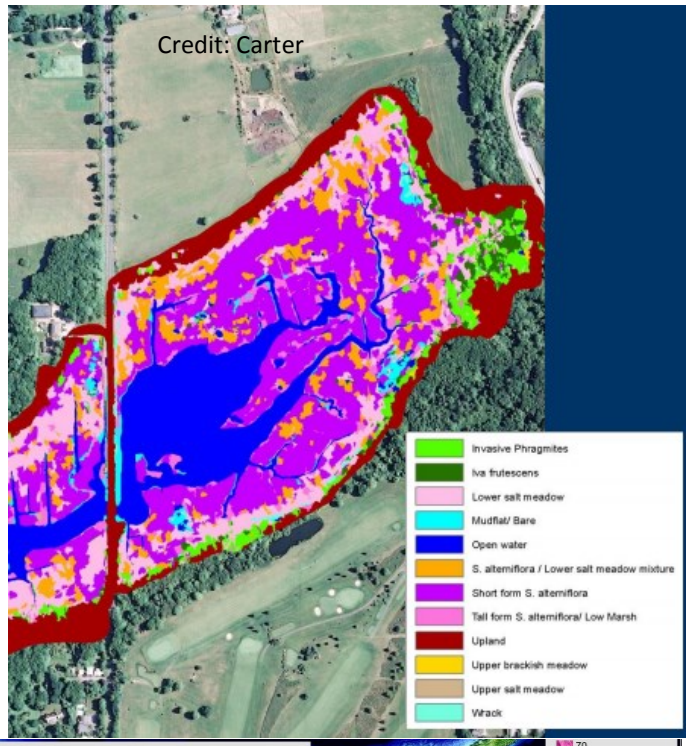
Remote Sensing For Coastal Mapping

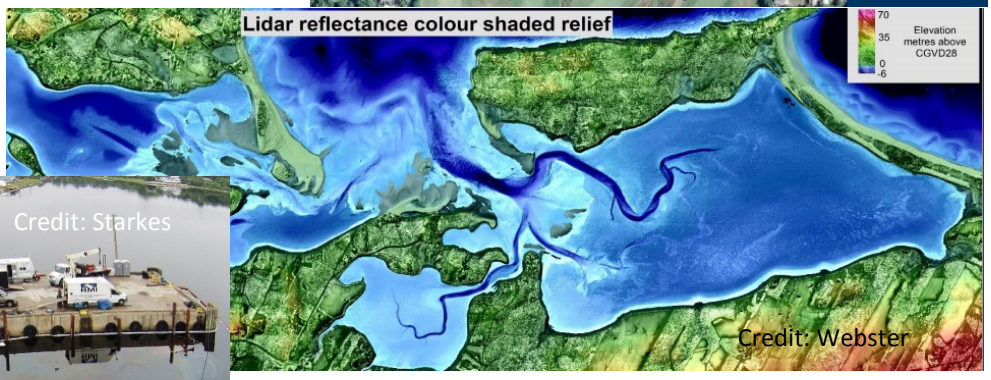
The ACZISC Secretariat was contracted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to organize a workshop for provincial and federal staff on remote sensing for coastal mapping. The organizing was coordinated with a subcommittee of the Coordinating Committee of the Regional Committee on Coastal and Ocean Management. The workshop was held in Amherst, Nova Scotia on 9 November 2015 and was attended by 39 participants on site and an additional 12 participants on line.

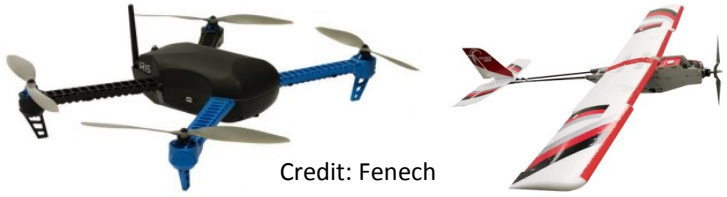
Two invited speakers came from the United States, Jennifer Wozencraft with the Joint Airborne Lidar Bathymetry Technical Center of Expertise of the US Army Corp of Engineers and Jamie Carter with the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, joined regional experts from government, universities and private industry to present a review of the technologies used for coastal mapping, technology integration, product development for managers, and opportunities for cooperation.

The session was documented on the website with copies of the presentations and video recordings.









COLLABORATION

Eel Grass Monitoring

The ACZISC is a partner in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition for Sustainability's project "Atlantic Eelgrass Monitoring Consortium". We participated in eel grass monitoring training, assisted in establishing the site at Port Mouton, Nova Scotia and were part of the team collecting information and samples on two visits.

Transport Canada's Regional Advisory Council

The ACZISC was invited to make a presentation to the Atlantic Region Advisory Council and participated in subsequent meetings. Required under the Canada Shipping Act, the Councils provides the parties involved in and/or impacted by marine oil spills and the oil spill response regime to meet, identify, discuss and realize opportunities.

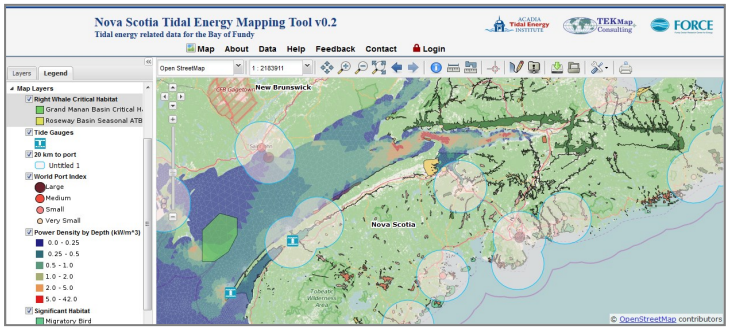
State of the Scotian Shelf Reporting

The ACZISC continued to host the theme papers for the State of the Scotian Shelf Report in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Maritime Region.

Canada's Marine Coasts in a Changing Climate

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

The ACZISC Secretariat continued to participate in the advisory committee for "Canada's Marine Coasts in a Changing Climate", a Government of Canada report that discusses current and future risks and opportunities that climate change presents to coastal regions of Canada. The report was released officially in early April 2016 at the Adaptation Canada Conference in Ottawa.



Nova Scotia Tidal Energy Mapping Tool

The ACZISC Secretariat continued to provide advice to the Acadia Tidal Energy Institute on the development of their Tidal Energy Atlas. The Atlas was released to the public in April 2016.

International Ocean Institute

The ACZISC Secretariat presented a lecture on data sharing for the 35th anniversary training programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management at Dalhousie University.

International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN)

The ACZISC Secretariat participated in ICAN by publishing its newsletter (December 2015 and March 2016) and participating in its Steering Group. The Director attended the 7th ICAN workshop in Cape Town, South Africa in April 2015, conducted a mini workshop on "Data accessibility self-assessment and Interacting with Users" and led discussions on communications issues.

CoastGIS 2015 field trip around Table Bay, South Africa

Atlantic Coastal and Estuarine Science Society

The ACZISC Secretariat attended the 2015 conference of the ACCESS held in St. Andrew's New Brunswick.

CoastGIS 2015

The Director contributed to the International Science Committee of CoastGIS 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa in April 2015. He organized a workshop on LiDAR technology in collaboration with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa) and the US Army Corp of Engineers, presented a lecture within the symposium's workshop on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures, and presented two papers in the regular sessions.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DIGITAL EARTH

9th Symposium of the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE)
Halifax · Nova Scotia · Canada
October 5 - 9, 2015

GEOMATICS ATLANTIC 2015
Atlantic Canada's Contribution to the Blue Planet

Digital Earth

The ACZISC Secretariat attended Digital Earth and Geomatics Atlantic held in Halifax in October 2015. Two papers were presented and a workshop was conducted on COINAtlantic Tools.

Photo: From the left: Linda Pikula, NOAA and ICAN SG, Andrew Sherin, and Dawn Wright, ICAN and ESRI.

Priority 2

Sharing of data and information

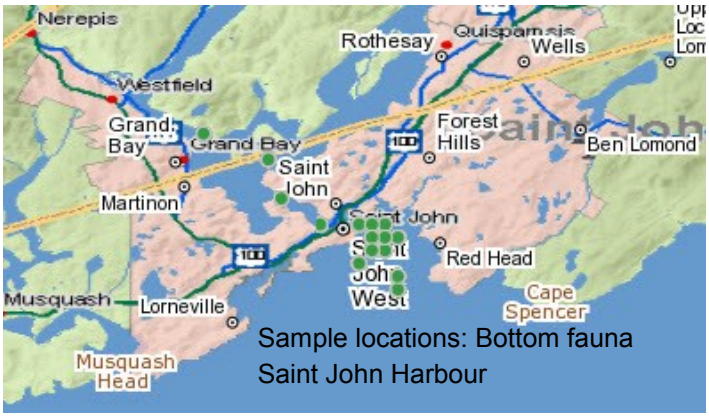
Atlantic Ecosystem Initiative
Environment and Climate Change Canada

COINAtlantic joined with four partner organizations to identify and prepare species occurrence data sets for upload to the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). The project *Atlantic Canada's Biological Data for Ecosystem Planning and Decision-making: Opening Access and Increasing Reuse* identified 130 published data sets suitable for OBIS, and processed 30 for uploading. OBIS data sets for the Atlantic Reference Centre and the Nova Scotia Museum were refreshed. A report *State of Accessibility of Marine Biological Data in Atlantic Canada* was written.

"Biodiversity is essential for the health of the planet and for humans …." (Williams et al. 2011)

COINAtlantic
COASTAL AND OCEAN INFORMATION NETWORK

State·of·Accessibility·of·Marine·Biological·Data·in·Atlantic·Canada¶



Our AEI Project Partner Agencies

Cape Breton University

Bras d'Or Institute for Ecosystem Research

Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability

HUNTSMAN Ocean Sciences Océaniques

Atlantic Reference Centre

Museum of Natural History

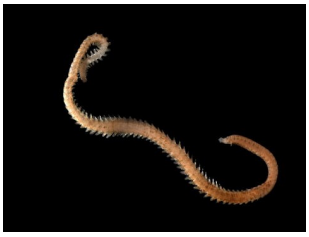
Nova Scotia

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Cet projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

Canada

Gammarus oceanicus



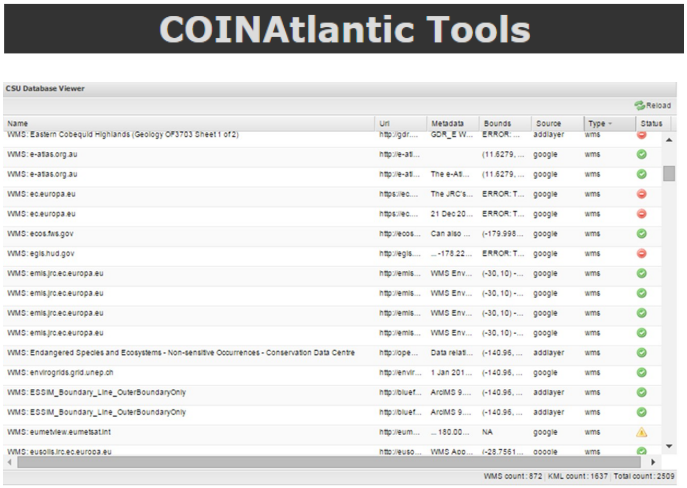
Eteone longa

Homarus americanus stage 1 larva

COINAtlantic Tool Development

Web mapping service reliability indicator

Taking advantage of the COINAtlantic Search Utility (CSU) local data base, a daily process is run to interrogate all the urls stored in the database. The process requests the boundary information from each resource and generates a traffic light indication. If the url responds appropriately, the process tags the data base entry as 'green'. If the resource responds but does not provide the boundary information, it is tagged as 'yellow'. If the resource doesn't respond, it is tagged as 'red'. It is intended that this information will eventually provide reliability information in real time for CSU users and the data resource providing agencies.

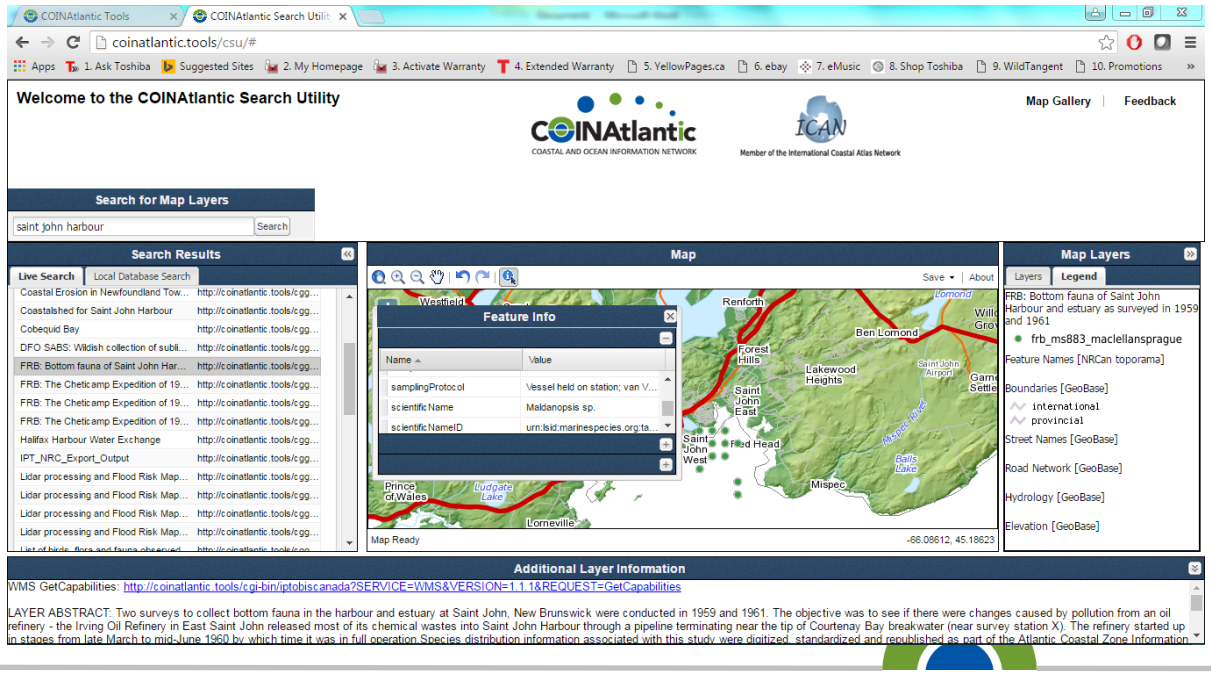


OBIS Canada web mapping services

As part of the AEI project mentioned above, an automated process was developed that regularly scans the data resources held on the OBIS Canada Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT). For each resource found on the IPT a web mapping service (WMS) and a COINAtlantic Geocontent Generator (CGG) file are generated. The WMS enables any geographic information system to display the geographic location of all the records in that data resource. The CGG file enables the discovery of the service on the internet and gives access to detailed metadata stored on the IPT.

COINAtlantic Search Utility (CSU) Customization

As done in the past a customized version of the CSU was developed for the IPT data sets. (http://coinatlantic.tools/csu/?mapset=acmsd2015) In addition the identity function was activated to allow users to interrogate each individual record displayed in the CSU.

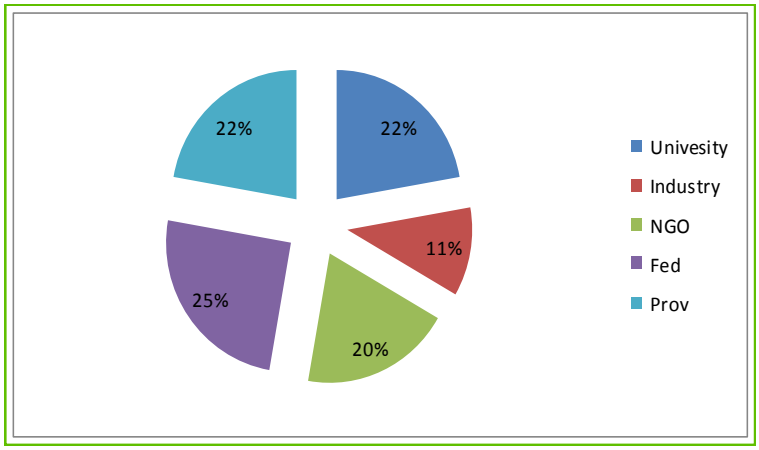


Priority 3

Encouraging the engagement of organizations

(Left) Participants in the September 2015 workshop focused on aquaculture, from the left, Anne Castonguay, Alison Harris, (both with the Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia), and Bill Whitman, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; (Right) Darlene Meade, AquaPrime Mussel Ranch demonstrates the preparation of mussels.

The September 2015 meeting was focussed on aquaculture with a specific initiative to involve the aquaculture industry. The Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia was invited to make a presentation and through their offices a field trip was organized to the AquaPrime Mussel Ranch Ltd. in Ship Harbour, Nova Scotia.



Percentage sector participation in 2015-2016 meetings

From ACZISC to COINAtlantic

Approval for the change of brand from the Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee (ACZISC) to Coastal and Ocean Information Network Atlantic (COINAtlantic) has been made. One of the objectives of the change was to provide a more understandable and approachable identity to the work of the Committee / Network that would attract a wider engagement of organizations and individuals.

ACZISC
ATLANTIC COASTAL ZONE
INFORMATION STEERING COMMITTEE

COINAtlantic
COASTAL AND OCEAN INFORMATION NETWORK

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of
ACZISC Association

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ACZISC Association which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2016 and the statements of operations, statement of net assets, and cash flow statement for the year ended March 31, 2016 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audits is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ACZISC Association as at March 31, 2016 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Bedford, Nova Scotia
December 5, 2016
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

~ Founded in 1988 ~
Wardour Centre, Suite 206, 15 Dartmouth Road, Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 3X6
Phone: (902) 468-9634 Fax: (902) 468-9635 Toll Free: 1-877-901-9634

ACZISC Association

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 2016

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	$ 36,061	$ 34,320
Accounts Receivable	12,438	30,628
Prepaid expenses and sundry assets	1,085	504
	49,584	65,452
INCORPORATION FEES	582	582
	$ 50,166	$ 66,034
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	$ 6,341	$ 8,041
MEMBERS' EQUITY		
CONTRIBUTED SURPLUS	37,642	37,642
MEMBERS' EQUITY	6,183	20,351
	43,825	57,993
	$ 50,166	$ 66,034

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

_____ Director

_____ Director

ACZISC Association

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

	2016	2015
REVENUE		
Nova Scotia Revenue	$ 20,000	$ 20,000
Newfoundland Revenue	8,300	8,300
Prince Edward Island Revenue	-	2,500
Federal Departments Revenue	15,000	21,500
Contract Revenue	107,140	84,056
Interest	30	-
TOTAL REVENUE	150,470	136,356
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Contract expenses	27,439	28,303
Insurance	2,200	1,978
Interest and Bank Charges	140	239
Meeting expenses	1,703	1,007
Memberships	56	55
Office Expenses	1,652	1,232
Other Operating Expenses	6,337	3,255
Professional Fees	2,594	1,813
Salaries and Wages	114,772	95,332
Telephone	2,044	2,217
Travel Expenses	5,701	5,773
	164,638	141,204
NET LOSS	(14,168)	(4,848)
MEMBERS' EQUITY, beginning of year	20,351	25,199
MEMBERS' EQUITY, end of year	$ 6,183	$ 20,351

3.

ACZISC Association

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

MARCH 31, 2016

	2016	2015
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash Receipts from Contributors	$ 168,660	$ 108,228
Cash Paid to Suppliers and Employees	(166,779)	(137,206)
Interest Paid	(140)	(239)
	1,741	(29,317)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	1,741	(29,317)
CASH, beginning of year	34,320	63,637
CASH, end of year	$ 36,061	$ 34,320

ACZISC Association

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2016

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The objects of the society are:

1) To encourage and support the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources in Atlantic Canada through integrated coastal zone management;

2) To promote, facilitate and influence information management, policies and programs for the purpose of enhancing integrated coastal zone management in Atlantic Canada;

3) 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;

4) To strengthen the expertise and capacity in the oceans and coastal zone sectors of government, and parastatal and non-governmental organizations in Atlantic Canada;

5) 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;

6) All other activities which are ancillary to the objects of the Society.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Presentation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for Not-for-Profit organizations.

(b) Revenue recognition

The Association follows the accrual method of accounting for funding revenue.

(c) Income taxes

The Association is exempt from income taxes provided certain requirements of the Income Tax Act are met.

(d) Financial instruments

The Association's financial instruments include accounts receivable and accounts payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Association is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from financial instruments. The fair value of these financial instruments approximates their carrying values.

(e) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires

ACZISC Association

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2016

management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from our estimates.

4. CREDIT RISK

The Association is exposed to credit risk on its accounts receivable. To reduce credit risk, the Association performs ongoing evaluation of the financial conditions of its members.

Appendix A

ACZISC Meetings

Meeting	Presentation Title	Presenter
ACZISC Meeting #75, 20-21 May 2015, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada	The Federal Geospatial Platform - an Update	Andrew Moore, Natural Resources Canada
	Gulf of St. Lawrence Integrated Management Plan	Ray MacIsaac, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Gulf Region
	Environmental, Monitoring in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence	Angela Douglas, Executive Director, Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability
	Update on New Brunswick Climate Change Adaptation Activities	Robert Capozi, Department of Environment and Local, Government, Government of New Brunswick
ACZISC Meeting #76, 16-17 September 2015, Halifax, Nova	Aquaculture in Nova Scotia	Dr. Vicki Savoie-Swan, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries
	Aquaculture Association of Nova	Anne Castonguay, Aquaculture
	The Importance of Spatial Perspective in Aquaculture Man-	Dr. Jon Grant, Dalhousie University
	Nova Scotia Tidal Energy Mapping Tool	Meghan Swanburg, Acadia Tidal Energy Institute
	The Atlantic Facilities and Research Equipment Database	Patty King, Science Atlantic

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