

A Comparative Analysis of Community Engagement in Coastal Management

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Participatory Coastal Management

- A Community University Research Alliance (CURA).
- Aboriginal communities, fisher groups, universities, local resource centres...
- Research and enabling for community involvement in coastal governance.
- Highlighting community values and a local vision.



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Coastal CURA: Our Three Key Themes



REFLECTION & EVALUATION

Reflection on
the Past

New
Methodologies

*Learning from
Past Experience*

PLACE-BASED INITIATIVES

Participation in
Local Coastal
Management

Comparative
Analysis

*Iterative Learning
in the Present*

CAPACITY & POLICY STUDY

Local Capacity

Policy Overview

Building Networks
with Government

*Planning
for the Future*

QUEBEC

GULF OF ST LAWRENCE

CABOT STRAIT



CHALEUR BAY

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

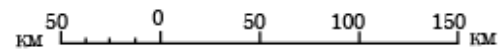
NEW BRUNSWICK

NOVA SCOTIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



SCALE

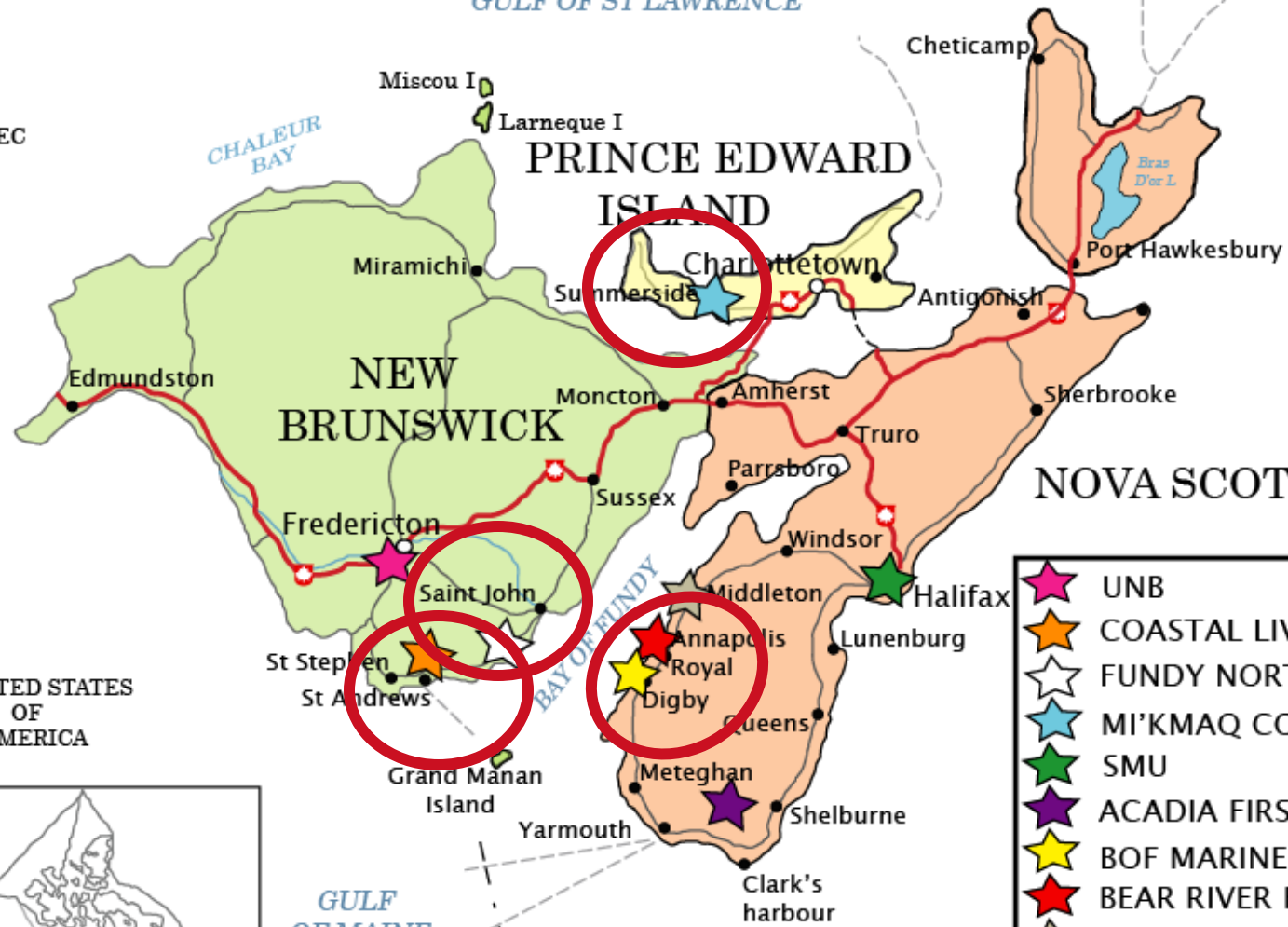


GULF OF MAINE

ATLANTIC OCEAN

CANADA
U.S.A.

- UNB
- COASTAL LIVELIHOODS TRUST
- FUNDY NORTH FISHERMAN'S ASSOC
- MI'KMAQ CONFEDERACY OF PEI
- SMU
- ACADIA FIRST NATION
- BOF MARINE RESOURCE CENTRE
- BEAR RIVER FIRST NATION
- FUNDY FIXED GEAR COUNCIL
- TRANSCANADA HIGHWAY
- MAJOR ROADS
- FERRY ROUTES
- INTERNATIONAL BORDER
- RIVERS, LAKES



1. Annapolis Basin (Nova Scotia)



- Strong tradition of community-led capacity building, organisational development, to address livelihood issues and habitat recovery.
- Local initiatives: Annapolis Watershed Resource Committee, Clean Annapolis River Project, Bear River First Nation watershed projects, Fundy Fixed Gear Council local fishery management activities.
- Needs: Government respect and support for local initiatives, and avoiding actions that are directly opposite to community interests.

2. Malpeque Bay (Prince Edward Island)



- Lennox Island First Nation and other communities, plus economic activities such as fishing, aquaculture, forestry and tourism activities
- Lennox Island has initiated development of an integrated coastal management plan that includes all users of the Bay and thus goes beyond the aquaculture focus of provincial & federal government.
- Needs: governments buying-in to the process, without using their mandates as an excuse to compartmentalize management.

3. Saint John Harbour (New Brunswick)



- Intensively used ocean & coastal space; various ad hoc committees work on integrated management, but with no overall coordination.
- Many environmental challenges arise, including agricultural/forestry run-off, oil refineries, maritime transportation, raw sewage outflows.
- Needs: Fishermen see the need for one lead government agency to set up an integrated planning board to facilitate harbour planning.

4. Southwest New Brunswick



- Conflicting social interactions along the coast; focus of a marine planning process (initiative of provincial and federal governments).
- Significant challenges identified include power relationships, environmental risk and community participation in coastal governance.
- Needs: government respect and support for inshore fisheries hurt by environmental degradation, poor fish health, greater ocean traffic.

Comparative Analysis



- Boundaries and Influences
- Problems and Challenges
- Regulatory Powers & Local Institutions
- Social Networks and Cohesion
- System Linkages and Resilience
- Community Experience with IM
- Coastal CURA Partner Contributions

Current State of Integrated Coastal Management

Annapolis Basin, NS	Malpeque Bay, PEI	Saint John Harbour	SWNB Coast
<p>Many community initiatives over past decade.</p> <p>Governments not showing interest in IM for the Basin nor for the Nova Scotia side of the Bay of Fundy.</p> <p>Strong individuals in the area, plus Bear River First Nation which is supporting local initiatives.</p>	<p>Comprehensive IM initiative led by Lennox Island FN.</p> <p>Governments not initiating IM specific to the Bay (focus on aquaculture and interaction with other sectors)</p> <p>Lennox Island (and MCPEI) slowly but surely developing support for IM.</p>	<p>Heavy industrial use of the harbour attracts attention to multi-sectoral initiatives, but no real coordination.</p> <p>Fishermen are involved in range of forums, as well as promoting their presence in the community.</p> <p>Education can play an important role in the area.</p>	<p>Conflict between fishery, fish farms major issue now.</p> <p>Government has supported marine planning but now concern over lack of follow-through to fully support community role.</p> <p>Strong fishermen organization and local interest in stewardship give hope for future.</p>

What we Learned in the Coastal CURA:

Community Engagement Adds Value to Coastal Management

- International commitment to “principle of participatory governance” (UNEP 2009) for integrated management.
- Communities are good candidates to support integrated management of their local ecosystems and livelihoods, bringing commitment, local knowledge, and compliance.
- Communities can network together so as to ‘scale up’.



What we Learned in the Coastal CURA:

Community Engagement is Challenging

- Scale mis-match
- Values mis-match
- Goals mis-match
- Leadership
- Equity issues



What we Learned in the Coastal CURA:

Community Values Are Crucial in Coastal Management

- **Values:** Place based; Intergenerational respect; Building consensus; Indigenous perspective; Respect for human rights.
- **Governance:** Reclaiming local authority; Driven by community values; Learning centered; Cooperative; Self governance.
- **Management Decision-making:** Consider “who benefits?”; Open communication with users; Adaptive; Conflict resolution.
- **Outcomes:** Healthy, safe ecosystems & communities; People-centred economy; Resilience/diversity; Transformative change.



What we Learned in the Coastal CURA:

Creating the Future of Coastal Management

- Local initiatives are widespread, supporting coastal communities and building resilience, based on local knowledge & institutions, and strong relationships...
- Governments need to learn how to give legal space and support
- Balance is needed across temporal, geographic & admin scales, 'scaling up' and 'scaling down' to match community-level and government-level processes, encourage innovation at all levels
- Crucial to 'balance goals' (e.g. inter-government coordination, local needs, resolving conflict, enhancing ecosystem health, etc.



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