



Coastal CURA News & Events

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"Many of these [different research approaches] have been innovative for both the academics and the community partners"

The First Wave of Research

Developing our research based work on grassroots interests has led to several different approaches to our research. Many of these have been innovative for both the academics and the community partners. We have hosted workshops, for example, on basic GIS and mapping techniques, as a spring board for community work on counter mapping and spatial analysis and ecological relationships based on local knowledge.

We have adapted methods to increase the geographical range of our learning circles, by employing teleconferencing facilities that allow us to get both verbal recordings and written transcripts of the learning circles we have held on clam aquaculture, subsistence fishing and the

ten-year history of the Fundy Fixed Gear Council.

We have also facilitated case studies on the impact of clam beach privatization on clam harvesters, the public consultation process for approving quarries and aquaculture sites, the negotiations over transport lanes in industrial harbor development, and the political struggle over integrated management of specific sites in the Maritimes.

Community-based workshops

Melissa Landry, Kate Bigney, and John Kearney are developing a series of workshops on community-

based management. These workshops will be offered in communities across the Maritimes; we also hope to bring them together as a three week course at Saint Mary's University.

The workshop topics were developed in conjunction with the CURA partners and include: policy and advocacy; social-ecological connections in community and ecosystem-based management; inclusiveness, skills, processes and values for community-based management; community organizing, communications and networking; sustainable livelihoods; traditional and local ecological knowledge, and governance. Several of these will be developed in the coming months.

Profile: Bear River First Nation



Bear River First Nation has a strong interest in environmental conservation and rehabilitation, both terrestrial and aquatic, and in studies of the traditional uses by Mi'kmaq people of the land and sea.

Bear River has been involved in a series of Community Focus Sessions and Household Engagement Meetings designed to identify various aspects of the com-

munity's integrative approaches to managing natural resources. The sessions and meetings resulted in, among others, the revitalization of their fish habitat and stream restoration project that began in the 1990s.

The fish habitat and stream restoration project is embedded in a larger network of projects at Bear River, including: traditional land use, eel restoration, the lobster food fishery, a sustainable forestry pro-

gram, a Species at Risk project with field research in Kejimikujik National Park.

The success of this project has been noted by DFO and Nova Scotia Adopt a Stream and aided in the exploration of connections between livelihoods and the food fishery, and identified cultural connections to stream systems. For example youth workers had the opportunity to learn the techniques of building an traditional eel weir.

Student Updates



**Student Tour
Nova Scotia and New
Brunswick
May 27—30, 2008**

Kate Bigney, interdisciplinary PhD candidate, Dalhousie University, was voted in as the student representative for the Ocean Management Research Network, received an award from the Dalhousie Interdisciplinary PhD program and helped organize the conference “Epistemic Bridges: Interdisciplinary in the Academy” (April 10th & 11th, 2008) at Dalhousie University. Kate’s PhD research will consist of a critical analysis of ecosystem-based management and integrated management policy in the Maritime provinces

Liz Wilson-interdisciplinary PhD student, Dalhousie University, received an Izaak Walton Killam Predoctoral Scholarship and President’s award from Dalhousie



**Face-to-Face
Meeting in
Summerside,
Prince Edward
Island, March ,
2008**

Randy Angus (Mi’kmaq Confederacy of PEI) attended the **Coastal Zone Canada Conference 2008, ‘Managing our Oceans and Coasts for a Sustainable and Prosperous Future’** in Vancouver, May 25th-29th representing the Coastal CURA. He presented a paper entitled Coastal CURA- Community Based Integrated Management. The presentation included aspects of the new poster developed for Oceans Day by Beth and Liz, and also reflected on the MCPEI project on integrated resource management in Malpeque Bay.

Co-convened with the Canadian Coastal Science and Engineering Society, a wide range of topics were discussed. Of particular interest were the presentations by First Nation Governments from BC on how they were developing marine use planning, creating economic development opportunities, re-establishing themselves in the sea resources economy, and defining the role of First Nations in governance of coastal waters.



**Although the
weather was
dreary for her
camping trip,
Maria “continues
to be inspired by
the people at this
CUExpo
conference”**

and a scholarship from the P.E.O International Peace Scholarship fund (United States). Liz, a graduate of the Marine Affairs Program, Dalhousie University presented her 2007 research project for the Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre at the Resilience 2008 Conference in Stockholm, Sweden. Liz will be overseeing the summer activities of the CURA office, and working with Tony Charles on an integrated management comparative study.

Donna Curtis-interdisciplinary PhD student, University of New Brunswick (UNB), has joined the Coastal CURA and will be working under the supervision of Dr. Melanie Wiber (UNB). Donna will be working closely with CURA partner Fundy North Fishermen’s

Association (FNFA) undertaking an information audit. Donna has also received funding for her summer internship from the Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems at Simon Fraser University.

The Coastal CURA is pleased to welcome Courtney Nickerson, Courtney Parlee, Elizabeth (Beth) Lenc and Jessica Burgoyne to the team. Courtney Nickerson, and Courtney Parlee (UNB) will be working with Dr. Melanie Wiber, Dr. Murray Rudd (Memorial University) and the FNFA on an economic study of the inshore fisheries. Jessica, Beth and former intern Rob Cameron will be working at St Mary’s with Dr. Tony Charles on CURA related activities.

Partner Updates

Maria Recchia (Fundy North Fishermen’s Association) attended the **CUExpo conference** in Victoria in May 4-7, 2008, on behalf of the Coastal CURA. An interesting keynote speaker was Dr. Rajesh Tandon from India. His view of the roles of community-university partnerships included demonstrating practical alternatives, empowering citizen voices, educating humble leaders, questioning no alternatives and knowledge being the basis of politics today.

A panel of CURAs discussed ways in which they used the media to present their stories and research such as a regular newspaper column, radio program and newsletters. The United Way showed a powerful new TV commercial where each person spoke one sentence on what they give back to their community. The leaders in the audio-visual workshop discussed using digital stories and podcasts that were played on a free community radio station.

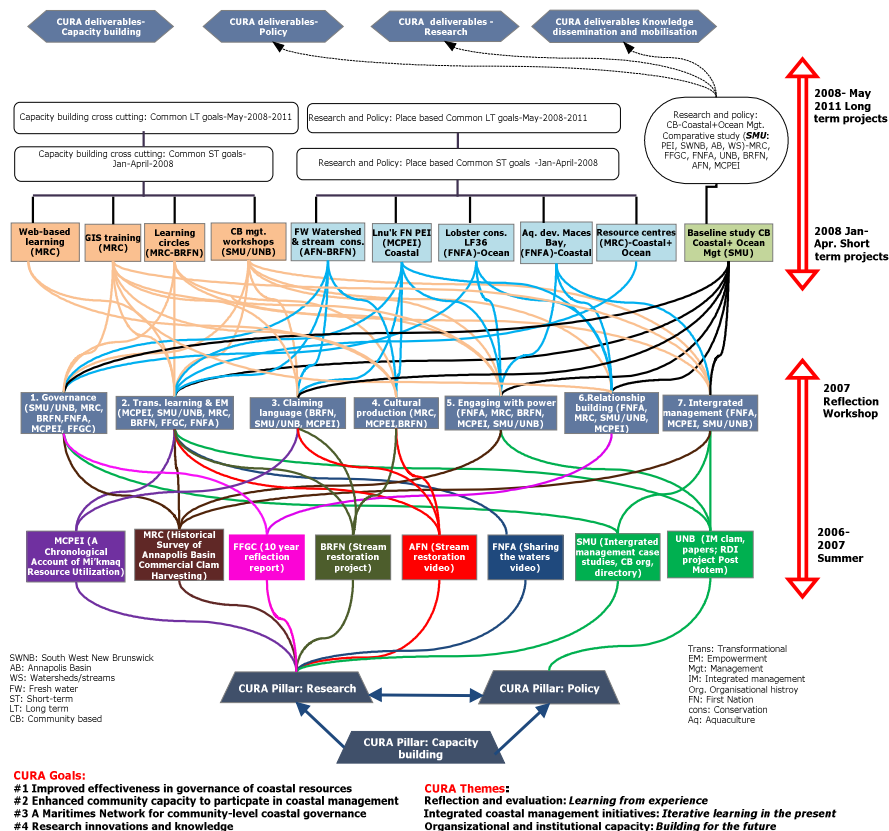
In a session that linked research with policy change a recurring point was that policy decisions are rarely evidence based and we need to understand the politics to be appeal to the politicians. Writing very detailed briefs, becoming more succinctly as it progresses through the government channels is a possible approach.

Dr. Melanie Wiber and Maria Recchia have collaborated on an editorial piece on the recent lobster management problem Fundy North experienced that can be found on the OMRN website: (<http://www.omrn-rngo.ca/index.php?action=editorial.index>)

Arthur Bull (Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre) worked with clam diggers from Digby and Annapolis counties in Nova Scotia to form the Clam Harvesting Area Two Clammers Association. A first in 50 years, the goals are to revitalize the clam industry by working with federal, provincial and municipal agencies, buyers, First Nations, and other communities.

The next Steps: From Matrix to Web—the Complexity of Coastal CURA research

As a group, we (coastal CURA members) appreciate the complexity of the research we are undertaking. In an effort to visually display this complexity we collectively developed a “matrix” of approaches and themes – a process of adaptive learning from which we have gained enormously. The matrix was our first attempt to show how we ‘fit together’ and it clarified the many links that bind our work together; we are collectively focused on many different aspects of integrated coastal management in many different geographic, cultural, social, political and economic situations. Although it served as a great starting point, it was not long before we started to feel ‘boxed in’ and wanted to do work that cut across different angles – this ultimately led to the development of a research web (see figure). The web configuration is complex, however it depicts the range of interactions of our research and relationships. One reason for our complexity is to allow for flexibility, to accommodate the different situations and perspectives present. By embracing complexity, we accept the realities of community work where research cannot be done in isolation from the environment, politics, other communities and industry interests.



“Community work, and action research is as dynamic as the tides of the Bay of Fundy, and is justifiably reflected through complex graphics.”

Integrated Management-from a Community Perspective

Beginning in April, 2008, a coastal CURA research project will monitor and assess a set of coastal management initiatives, and corresponding levels of community involvement, within the four key areas of the Maritimes where our CURA community partners are located. These areas will potentially include (a) Malpeque Bay, Prince Edward Island; (b) Annapolis Basin, Nova Scotia (c) Southwest Nova Scotia and (d) the Southwest New Brunswick coastline.

Community partners in this CURA are already involved in integrated coastal management of some sort, whether grass-roots or government-led. The need to participate may be from a proactive perspective or may be to defend their access to coastal areas and resources. This project seeks to “systematically monitor using a set of suit-

able indicators, the extent to which the management efforts incorporate community participation and local governance” and will help to meet all the objectives of the CURA, with specific focus on:

- Supporting community partners in developing and implementing local-level integrated coastal management plans that incorporate local knowledge, the full range of local uses, and appropriate socio-economic and cultural factors including Indigenous approaches to resource management;
- Assisting in establishing vertical and horizontal linkages to enable partners to scale up and coordinate with

provincial and national decision making;

- Contributing through policy-relevant research to the global understanding of governance challenges, particularly the links between integrated resource management, social learning, social capital and community-based management.

This exciting research crosses a range of partner realities and place-based coastal management initiatives towards new knowledge and methods for (a) participatory approaches to reflection, evaluation and social learning and (b) local approaches to improved effectiveness in coastal resource governance.

Inaugural Coastal CURA Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Workshop

In March (2008) the Coastal CURA, held its first GIS Workshop in Middleton, Nova Scotia. The interest of CURA members on the topic of cultural production resulted in the identified need for capacity building in community mapping. As demonstrated by the terrific participation (20 people from many parts of Nova Scotia and PEI), there is lots of interest in community-generated mapping. Members see GIS capacity building as a way of enabling them to use this powerful graphic tool to state their case in coastal development activities and also bring their own planning maps to the table early on in decision making processes.

The first 1 ½ day long workshop was held as a result of the collaborative efforts of CURA member Bill Whitman and the professional instructors from the Applied Geomatics Research Group (AGRG), the

research arm of Centre of Geographic Science, Nova Scotia Community College – efforts founded on a good working relationship. Researchers, Bob Maher and Roger Mosher, and students Ashley Lawrence and Meredith Roik were invaluable in providing their expertise and resources to the group. The workshop gave CURA members and associated community members an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the basic theory and applications of GPS (Global Positioning System) and GIS. It was also an opportunity to begin talking about interests in ongoing GIS learning activities.

Workshop development has been spearheaded by Bill Whitman who has a strong personal interest in GIS mapping. In his own words, ***"I'm certainly at the novice level myself, but I've long been convinced that maps provide people with an immediate way to convey information or ideas reflecting the space we live in."*** Maps can

be a powerful addition to a community's development or planning toolkit especially when combined with GIS database capabilities. Communities and government departments alike are becoming more active in coastal development and planning. As part of my work with NS Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, I see this project fitting in well with the mandate of the Provincial Government."

Community GIS work has also been an important part of the Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre (BFMRC) in Cornwallis. For many years, the Centre had a staffed and fully-functional GIS facility offering mapping services to the local area. While not currently in use, the equipment may again prove useful as participants' mapping skills and mapping needs develop.

The Coastal CURA has provided the ideal opportunity to experiment with GIS on a grass roots community level. People in this initiative recog-

nize the value of GIS for cultural production, portraying historical information, and sometimes mixing these interests with contemporary maps.

The goal is to continue with these workshops and support continued learning at the grass roots level by maintaining a focus on low-cost/low-tech free or open source platforms and mapping products and utilizing on-line learning tools.

Norma Brown (Acadia First Nation) "Aboriginal archaeology... using GIS to map burial sites".



Carolea White (Fundy Fixed Gear Council) .."how this can be applied at work"..

CoastalCURA

COMMUNITIES MANAGING COASTS TOGETHER

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The Coastal CURA is a 5-year project to build knowledge and capacity, across the Maritimes, in support of community involvement in managing our coasts and oceans. The Coastal CURA is a "Community University Research Alliance" of First Nations communities, fishery-related groups and university participants, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Coastal CURA of eight partners across the Maritimes:

- **Acadia First Nation**
- **Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre**
- **Bear River First Nation**
- **Fundy Fixed Gear Council**
- **Fundy North Fishermen's Association**
- **Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations)**
- **Saint Mary's University**
- **The University of New Brunswick**