



Spring 2011

Volume 4 Issue 1

## Coastal CURA News & Events

### Engaging Together in June - CURA Events & Updates



Madelaine Patterson participates in Oceans Day activities on the Halifax waterfront, June 3, 2011  
Photo: B.Field

Winter has come and gone, but spring and summer promise some exciting events for the Coastal CURA (Community-University Research Alliance).

June is **Oceans Month**! Which means the Coastal CURA has been active within the community, attending events while continuing to support our community partners and students as they advance their projects. On June 3rd, the CURA took part in Oceans Day activities on the historic Halifax waterfront by educating students and other guests on CURA initiatives.

The Conference Planning Committee has been busy with preparations for the upcoming international conference **People in Places: Engaging Together in Integrated Resource Management**, which will be held June 26th-29th, 2011 at Saint Mary's University. The conference also includes the **People in Places Film Festival**, which highlights short films from around the world featuring communities engaging with their natural resources. This event is open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend. The People in Places film festival is being held in conjunction with the **International Ocean Institute Second Annual Oceans Film Festival** (see poster on p. 4), which runs from June 15th-June 27th in Halifax.

We hope to see you all out and about for Oceans Month!

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### ThisFish: An Atlantic Lobster Traceability Pilot Project

By: Hubert Saulnier

**Canadian fish harvesters are leading the world in seafood traceability. Thisfish** is a seafood traceability system that connects consumers to fishermen, from ocean to plate.

The ThisFish system began in British Columbia two years ago as a partnership with fishing industry groups and fishermen. In the fall of 2010, it expanded to Atlantic Canada, within the lobster fishery, through a partnership with the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters.

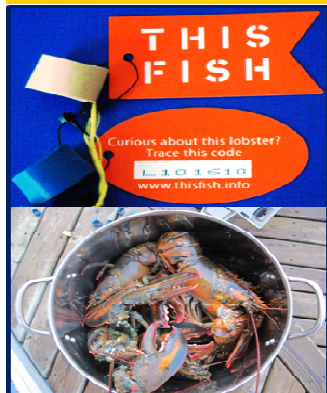
ThisFish allows fishermen to brand their catch, make better market connections to support loyal customers, and promote transparency, collaboration and trust in the supply chain.

The lobster traceability system consists of four parts: a coding, tagging and labeling system to identify catch; an online tool for fishermen to upload and manage their traceability information;

a website for consumers to retrieve info on their catch; and, an online analytics tool that allows fishermen to monitor tracing activity and receive market feedback.

The lobster tagging pilot project in Atlantic Canada kicked-off on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in LFAs 34 and 35. Currently, there are five harvesters in these areas actively tagging. Over 7,000 lobsters were tagged and over 800 were traced through the ThisFish website in the month of December 2010 alone.

LFAs 26, 27 and 11 are in the preparation stages of this initiative and fishermen in these areas will begin tagging in the near future. ThisFish hopes to expand seafood traceability nationwide with the help of Atlantic fish harvesters who are contributing to the design and troubleshooting of the first system of its kind in Canada.



ThisFish Tags and Lobster  
Photos: L. Wilson & M. Patterson

## CURA UPDATE: Coastal CURA Partner Projects 2011

### Risk and resilience in small scale (inshore) fisheries: Perspectives from local fishermen and community fishers in Canada and South Africa.

By: Liz Wilson

Coastal CURA student, Liz Wilson is a PhD candidate in the Interdisciplinary Program, who is currently being hosted by the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University. Her research focuses on the practical application of risk and resilience concepts in small scale coastal fisheries. Liz is very interested in learning about how fishermen in the Southwest New Brunswick and Saint John area, Canada and South Western Cape area, South Africa have coped and / or are dealing with changes in their small-scale fisheries (resilience). Changes may relate to economical, technological, ecological, political and social factors. A key element of her research is in understanding how current conditions and coping skills of coastal fishermen and fishers can help prepare them for threats (risks) and / or enhance opportunities that could affect their fishery and livelihoods in the future.



Southwest New Brunswick

Photos: L. Wilson

In May, 2011, Liz completed the first part of her research with the much appreciated assistance of Ms. Sheena Young, Director of Fundy North Fishermen's Association (FNFA), her family and FNFA members. During this period she was able to conduct over 30 very informative interviews with key participants. Some of the main threats identified included the expansion of aquaculture and related chemical leakages into surrounding

waterways; the impacts of large corporations on small scale community fisheries (e.g. access to wharf space, quota), and the accumulation of pollutants from land and marine based sources. Future opportunities included Government investments in small scale resource initiatives, the expansion of licensing within experimental fisheries and governance support from community-based associations such as the FNFA. The next stage of her research will be conducted from mid July through to November, 2011, where Liz will be hosted by the Environmental Evaluation Unit, University of Cape Town. Under the enabling guidance of the Unit's Director, Dr. Merle Sowman and support from PhD candidate Jackie Sunde and team, Liz is very much looking forward to learning about the culture, issues and opportunities of small scale coastal fishers in South Africa.

Liz is very grateful to all who have supported her research, with a special thanks to the participants, local associations and organizations. Liz would also like to acknowledge the Coastal CURA project and Robin Rigby Trust Fund for their very generous financial support and the mentoring she has received from her committee (Dr's M. Wiber, L. Fanning, R. Pelot, and P. Lane) and supervisor, Dr. Tony Charles.

### Fishermen's On-the-Water Observations Aquaculture-Traditional Fishery Interactions Southwest New Brunswick, 2011

By: Sheena Young, Melanie Wiber, and Liz Wilson

**The knowledge and observations of fishermen** are recognized as a source of significant ecological information in fisheries management. Recently, a study was conducted which documented observations of inshore fishermen in Southwest New Brunswick and along the Fundy coast regarding the impact of finfish aquaculture on their fisheries.

Over time, fishermen have lost access to important fishing grounds in the area through environmental degradation and alternative industries. Finfish aquaculture sites have proven particularly incompatible with herring weirs, but other fisheries have also been affected.

In the recent study, fishermen involved in lobster, herring, scallop, and sea urchin fisheries all reported observing significant environmental changes around aquaculture sites including species abandonment of the area and physical

changes to species. These and other concerns suggest that more comprehensive and detailed studies are required to establish the environmental and economic costs of finfish aquaculture, especially their affects on the capture fishery and the stocks on which that fishery relies.

This research was presented and well received at the Huntsman Centre on May 28th, 2011, for the Canadian History and Environment Summer School.



Sheena Young presents May 28th in Saint John  
Photo: L. Wilson



# People in Places: Engaging Together in Integrated Resource Management

International Conference: June 26-29, 2011, Halifax, NS, Canada



The program for this dynamic three-day conference moves from reflections on resource management initiatives of the past, through learning in the present, and building policy for the future.

## Pre Conference and Conference Events:

Attendees have the opportunity to participate in many exciting events, scheduled around the conference to facilitate knowledge sharing while showcasing Nova Scotian culture.

### **Sunday June 26**

#### **Field Trips to Port Mouton & Digby, NS**

Conference delegates visiting Port Mouton will learn about the community's experiences with open-net salmon aquaculture. The trip will include a scenic boat trip around Port Mouton Bay and a local lobster chowder lunch. Those visiting Digby will participate in a local fishery by pulling lobster traps with co op fishers in the morning and taking part in a clam harvesting adventure in the afternoon. **To sign up, contact us at [coastalcura@smu.ca](mailto:coastalcura@smu.ca).**

#### **Coastal CURA Film Premiere 7:30-8:30pm**

Scotia Bank Theatre, Saint Mary's University

To initiate the conference we will debut the Coastal CURA film, 'A Coastal Partnership: Maritime Stories of Integrated Management', by former CURA student Sarah Bood.

**A Free Public Event**

### **Monday June 27**

#### **People in Places Film Festival 7:00-9:30pm**

McNally Theatre Auditorium, Saint Mary's University

Please join us for a viewing of short films from across the globe featuring community efforts to manage coastal, marine and terrestrial resources. Film submitters will be present for a question and answer period following the film presentations.

**A Free Public Event!**

### **Tuesday June 28**

#### **People in Places Poster Session**

The poster session is designed to highlight the exciting community-based resource management work undertaken across the globe. **A Free Public Event!**

## Keynote Addresses and Plenary Sessions:

### **Monday June 27**

**Keynote Addresses: Scotia Bank Theatre, SMU: 9:15-10:30am**

Clifford Atleo Sr: *Hishshuk ish tsawalk - Everything is One*

Dan Edwards: *The importance of including Communities of Place and local fisheries in the development of fisheries policy*

**Plenary Session: Scotia Bank Theatre, SMU: 3:15-4:30pm**

Bonnie McKay, Carol Penton, & Gordon Slade: *Bringing Community and Fisheries Together: Challenges for Integrated Projects*

### **Tuesday June 28**

**Keynote Addresses: Scotia Bank Theatre, SMU: 9:15-10:30am**

Jackie Sunde & Merle Sowman: *Power in partnerships and governance in process: Reflections on university and community engagement in South Africa*

**Plenary Session: Scotia Bank Theatre, SMU: 3:15-4:15pm**

Ana Minerva Arce Ibarra, Brian Wadhams, and two additional speakers TBD: *The Current State of Aboriginal Resource Management*

### **Wednesday June 29**

**Keynote Addresses: Scotia Bank Theatre, SMU: 9:15-10:30am**

Evelyn Pinkerton: *The Role of the Moral Economy in 21st Century Strategies for Community-Based Resource Management*

Fikret Berkes: *What have we learned about building knowledge and capacity through participatory networks?*

**Plenary Session: Scotia Bank Theatre, SMU: 3:15-4:30pm**

Rick Williams, Tim Hall, and Tony Charles: *Visions for the role of communities in Integrated Resource Management*

# SECOND ANNUAL Oceans FILM FESTIVAL

All Oceans Film Festival events are FREE admission and are open to the public.

**Wednesday,  
June 15th**

**Museum of  
Natural History**  
1747 Summer Street

Doors open at 6:30PM

7:00-7:30PM

***Life at Sea: An Inside Look at Life as a  
Whale Biologist***

Hilary Moors, a local PhD student, will share her personal experience researching whales onboard the Whitehead Lab research vessel Balaena

7:30-9:00PM

***DisneyNature's Oceans***

**Wednesday,  
June 22nd**

**Museum of  
Natural History**  
1747 Summer Street

Doors open at 7:00PM

7:30-8:00PM

***Ocean Acidification: Connecting Science,  
Industry, Policy and Public***

8:00-9:30PM

***Sharkwater: The Truth Will Surface***

Mark Butler, Policy Director of the Ecology Action Centre, will join us for a brief discussion on shark conservation and ocean sustainability.

**Sunday,  
June 26th**

**Saint Mary's  
University**  
Scotia Bank Theatre,  
Sobey Building

7:30PM

***A Coastal Partnership: Maritime Stories of  
Integrated Management***

By local film maker Sarah Bood

**Sunday,  
June 27th**

**Saint Mary's  
University**  
McNally Theatre  
Auditorium, McNally  
Building

7:00PM

***International Stories about Communities and  
their Natural Resources***

Hosted by Maritime film makers, Sarah Bood and Michel Guitard

For additional information send us an email at [loi@dal.ca](mailto:loi@dal.ca)

## Recent CURA Publications

Chares, A. (2011) Integrated Ocean Management and the Fisheries Sector: Interactions, Economic Tools and Governance Structures. Report prepared for Fisheries Department, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Paris, France.

Wiber, M., Young, S. & L. Wilson. (2011). Aquaculture-Traditional Fishery Interactions in Southwest New Brunswick: Implications for Future Research. *OCN-Canada Policy Briefs, Volume 1 (January – April 2011)*.

Charles, A. (2011) Human Rights and Fishery Rights in Small-Scale Fisheries Management. In: *Small-scale Fisheries Management* (R.S. Pomeroy & N. Andrew, editors). CAB International.

Charles, A. (2010) Distributional Impacts of Marine Protected Areas: A Spatial Bioeconomic Analysis. *Natural Resource Modeling* 23:218-252.

Charles, A. (2010) *Good Practices in the Governance of Small-Scale Fisheries, with a Focus on Rights-Based Approaches*. Prepared for FAO Workshops on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.



Hubert Saulnier, hosting the CURA team for dinner, November 2010

**Thank you to our funding supporters:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the University of New Brunswick & Saint Mary's University



**CoastalCURA**  
COMMUNITIES MANAGING COASTS TOGETHER



**Ecology Action Centre**  
40 YEARS OF ACTION



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**  
Inspiring Minds



**CoastalCURA**  
COMMUNITIES MANAGING COASTS TOGETHER

The Coastal CURA is a 6-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.

For more information, please contact:

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**The Coastal CURA consists of eight partners:**

- 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