

## **Workshop I: Gathering knowledge, assessing the gaps**

A workshop to implement the ESSIM Spatial Conservation Action Plan  
November 14, Seaforth, NS

Since the Spatial Conservation Action Plan concept was presented to the ESSIM Stakeholder Advisory Council in July 2007, a core team has been working to bring together information products, i.e. maps and data about known areas of ecological importance and a database and classification of existing spatial conservation tools. This information has been combined in a gap analysis, a GIS-based look at how well the current network of closures, marine protected areas and other measures meets ESSIM ecosystem objectives.

The aim of this workshop is to obtain feedback on the information, analysis and findings to date, and on how to move forward. The gap analysis provides a picture of existing conservation measures, and will help us to identify the places and conservation features that may or may not currently be adequately or effectively conserved. Exploring these results and identifying ways to fill the gaps will need to be a collaborative effort – all interested individuals and organizations are therefore encouraged to attend. This workshop will be focused on discussion, feedback, and sharing of insights and information.

Background materials for the workshop will be posted on the Action Plan web page, hosted at: <http://ecologyaction.ca/marine/ESSIM>.

### **Workshop Agenda:**

- 8:30 Maps will be posted on the walls for review and discussion (Coffee and muffins)
- 9:30 Welcome, introductions, overview of the day
- 10:00 The Action Plan – relationship to the ESSIM plan, work to date, and expected process
- 10:30 The gap analysis methodology – brief overview
- 10:45 Coffee Break
- 11:00 Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)
  - Discussion: what's missing; what other information exists about these places; what do we know about their status/integrity; how do they relate to the ESSIM objectives?
- 11:30 Seabed feature classification
  - How does the map of general habitat types correspond to your knowledge of the region? How does it relate to the ESSIM objectives?

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Existing managed areas

- Discussion – what’s missing; how well do these areas serve their intended purpose; are there voluntary measures we haven’t mapped; how useful is the classification?

1:30 Gap analysis results and interpretation

- Discussion: How do you interpret the results of this analysis, what conclusions do you draw? What recommendations do you have for refining the analysis? For interpreting the results? What would a gap analysis look like if the ESSIM objectives were met, i.e. what should be our goal for spatial conservation on the Scotian Shelf?

3:00 Next steps and workshop II

- What other kinds of information do we need to prioritize gaps? To identify options?
- What other info do we need about the available tools?
- How do you see the Action Plan proceeding?

4:30 Adjourn

### **Workshop II**

Using feedback gathered in Workshop I, the core team will revise the inventories and gap analysis and share the results. The next step is to collaboratively identify which of these gaps are most urgent, and what options exist to begin filling them.

Workshop II (to be held during the winter, prior to the ESSIM Forum workshop) will be a chance to explore tools, scenarios and opportunities for conservation action. It is hoped that participants will develop a set of recommendations for priority conservation measures that can go forward to the ESSIM Forum and to government, industry and others who are charged with implementation.