

MEDIA RELEASE

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Nova Scotia takes a stand for the coast – at last EAC welcomes Provincial commitment to Coastal Development Strategy by 2010

Halifax – The Provincial government took an important step towards coastal protection when it publicly committed to developing a coastal development strategy by 2010. The Honorable Ron Chisholm, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture released a coastal management framework today outlining the province's strategic priorities over the next two years.

Jennifer Graham, Coastal Coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre is pleased with the provincial announcement "The Province is finally taking a stand on coastal issues. This public statement of the province's intent to develop a Coastal Development Strategy by 2010 is recognition that Nova Scotia's coasts are vital to our continued environmental sustainability and economic prosperity"

The Coastal Development Strategy has the potential to resolve pressing issues, such as the loss and degradation of sensitive coastal habitats, emerging conflicts around new activities in the coastal zone, the negative environmental consequences of poorly planned coastal development, and the skyrocketing costs of protecting and repairing coastal infrastructure destroyed by storm surges and flooding.

While Graham likes that the framework recognizes that all levels of government and the public play a role in coastal resources management, she urges the government to move ahead with implementing clear rules around what activities are appropriate and which are not in sensitive coastal areas. "Let's learn from other places. There is an overabundance of coastal strategies and frameworks, and a shortage of clear rules and enforcement. The government can demonstrate its commitment by ensuring its coastal management framework leads to meaningful change, especially in land use practices in coastal areas of Nova Scotia that are especially vulnerable to sea level rise."

The Fisheries and Aquaculture website outlines the framework and government's commitment to the coastal management initiative. The framework and related activities are available online at www.gov.ns.ca/fish/marine/coastalzone.

For further information:

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