

# The Role of Communities, First Nations, Aboriginals and Municipalities in Coastal Management

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

The results of the workshop *The Role of Communities, First Nations, Aboriginals and Municipalities in Coastal Management* are summarized here. The objectives of this workshop were to: (1) explore mechanisms for encouraging and promoting meaningful participation and involvement from coastal communities, First Nations, aboriginals and municipal governments in provincial coastal policy and management, and (2) help chart a course both for establishing successful coastal management initiatives at the community and municipal level and for ensuring their long-term involvement in the government's Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy.

The workshop marked the fourth event in a series of public events and strategic workshops under the name *Coastal Nova: Where Nova Scotia meets the Sea* ([www.ecologyaction.ca/content-coastal-nova](http://www.ecologyaction.ca/content-coastal-nova)), organized by the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia, the Ecology Action Centre, the Environmental Studies Program at Saint Mary's University, the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University and the Coastal CURA.

This summary document, along with the full workshop report, have been sent to representatives of the Government of Nova Scotia with the hope that they will be used to advance coastal policy and management in Nova Scotia

## List of Roles and Enabling Actions:\*

1. "Everyone has a role to play in coastal management."

2. Ensuring that all stakeholder values and input are recognized

- Information management is a key requirement
- Access to information
- Scientific data must be translated into terminology public can understand
- Empower communities by developing integrated education programs for coastal communities involving participation from all levels of government
- Create community education programs focusing on the coastal management process
- Formalize role of communities in the coastal management process
- Establish community management boards and community forums
- Create government funding programs for communities
- Create governance bodies which include community stakeholders
- Information exchange and collaboration between all levels of government (including First Nations) and community groups
- Use of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) in the coastal planning and management process
- Create a coastal ombudsman to publicize coastal issues and convene interested parties
- Establish leadership development program for communities
- Establish a strong provincial coastal policy – one with teeth!

3. Documenting Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge (MEK), Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) for coastal management

- Must be acknowledged and integrated into the coastal management process
- Information must be safeguarded against exploitation
- Information must be accessible and translated
- Creation of a MEK, TEK and LEK Database

4. Defining goals and objectives of coastal management

5. Developing comprehensive coastal land use planning strategies for the municipality and implementing management measures

- Collaborative process between government, communities and First Nations
- Provincial government should support municipalities in coastal planning
- Municipalities must be informed about what resources are available to them
- Municipalities can take a leadership role to build a community vision by engaging community members in planning for their communities
- Municipal monitoring programs
- Creation of municipal coastal management databases and newsletters

6. Providing independent evaluation of provincial coastal management efforts towards goals and objectives

- Develop suite of appropriate indicators

**\* For a more in depth review of the workshop - including key points, invited speakers, challenges and key messages to the provincial and municipal governments – see the workshop report at:**

[www.ecologyaction.ca/content/coastal-nova](http://www.ecologyaction.ca/content/coastal-nova)

**Representatives from the following organizations participated at the workshop.\***

AMEC – Earth and Environmental; Cameron Consulting Inc.; Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS); Clean Nova Scotia; Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia (CCNS); Coastal CURA; Dalhousie University; Ecology Action Centre ; Ecotrust Vancouver ; Environment Canada; Environmental Services Association of Nova Scotia (ESANS); Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); Friends of Port Mouton; GPI Atlantic; Halifax Regional Municipality; Marine Affairs Program, Dalhousie University; Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council; Municipality of the County of Kings,; Municipality of the District of Lunenburg; Municipality of the County of Pictou; Municipality of the District of Shelburne; NEXUS Coastal Resource Management ; Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources; Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage; Provincial Oceans Network (PON); Royal Roads University; Saint Mary's University; School of Planning, Dalhousie University; Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations ; St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association; Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources; United Nations Nippon Foundation; Yarmouth/Argyle/ Barrington District Planning Commission

*\*The roles and actions presented here have not necessarily been endorsed by all organizations listed here or their representatives.*