

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Coastal groups applaud release of State of the Coast report

(Halifax) Members of the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia are pleased the public will finally see a status report on the health of Nova Scotia's coasts. Two years in the making and finally released Wednesday, the province's "State of the Coast" report is the first step in a formal process to develop and implement a Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy by the end of 2010. The report provides background information and was designed to form the basis for an informed multilateral discussion of coastal management options for the province.

The Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia, a broad-based group of organizations alarmed by serious environmental and socio-economic threats to the province's coasts from climate change, poor planning, and flawed governance, sent a congratulatory message to Nova Scotia's Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Sterling Belliveau signaling their support for the province's initiative but underlining again the urgency to get a coastal policy in place.

"A coastal policy for Nova Scotia is long overdue," said Ishbel Monroe of the Coastal Communities Network. "We're playing catch-up with other jurisdictions, like Maine and New Brunswick. Our coastal communities have a vital role to play to help bring it to fruition quickly."

"Nova Scotians are eager for leadership and action," said Jennifer Graham, Coastal Coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre. "With every storm surge, with every controversial development project, the need for a clear policy becomes more and more apparent. We need policies and regulations now to protect sensitive areas and open the door to the revitalization of our coastal communities."

In its letter to Minister Belliveau, the Coalition urges the government to speed its progress on coastal issues and expressed its eagerness to play an active role in forging the new policy. "This may just be a background paper," said Graham, "but it's a step in the right direction. We look forward at long last to reading it, studying it and helping drive this process forward."

For more information

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Signatory Groups

ACAP-Cape Breton
Avon Peninsula Watershed Protection Association
Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation
Bras d'Or Stewardship Association
Clean Annapolis River Project
Clean Nova Scotia
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NS Chapter
Coastal Access Committee
Coastal Communities Network
Ecology Action Centre
East Coast Environmental Law Association
Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area Society
Friends of MacNabs Island Society
Friends of Nature
Friends of Port Mouton Bay
Friends of the Pugwash Estuary
Gulf Aquarium Marine Station
Halifax Field Naturalists
Heavy Current Fisher's Association
Nature Nova Scotia
Kingsburg Beach Action Committee
Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy
Northwest Arm Coalition
Nova Scotia Nature Trust
Nova Scotia Salmon Association
Nova Scotia Sea School
Partnership for the Sustainable Development of Digby Neck & Islands Society
Port Joli Basin Conservation Society
Sackville Rivers Association
Sierra Club of Canada, Atlantic Chapter
South Shore Naturalists
St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association
Surfing Association of Nova Scotia