



Spring is in the air!

The Coastal Current

A Quarterly Newsletter Keeping You Current on Marine Protected Areas Issues in Your Community

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Eastport MPAs Steering Committee Looks to the Future

The Eastport MPAs Steering Committee met in Eastport on March 18 with a busy agenda and a good turn-out.

New business started on a positive note: the committee was pleased to welcome some new members! Arthur Crisby is our new representative from the Eastport Town Council. Former fisherman Jan Negrijn operates Coastal Connections boat tours out of Terra Nova National Park. Sylvia Rumbolt of Gander is the FFAW Stewardship Advocate for Central Region. Terry Travers of Sandringham, who did our catch sampling in Newman Sound for several years, will represent Happy Adventure Harbour Authority. Welcome to all!

We are still looking for one or two new members for the Eastport MPAs Steering Committee for the next few years. Our core voting members are the fishers of the Eastport Peninsula

Lobster Protection Committee, and we want to keep that component strong for years to come, so if you are a young lobster fisher, expect to hear from us soon!

Eastport MPAs Management Plan comes up for review this year and members started planning that process. The first step will be a special meeting to review goals and objectives, look at our accomplishments over the past few years and renew our long-term vision. Meanwhile, MPA monitoring results from the past several years will be peer-reviewed by a science panel. With their input, and the outcome of our discussions, the committee will be ready to start public consultations later this year.

MPA Biologist Jennifer Janes informed us that the data from last year's sampling and tagging programs has been processed and she is satisfied with the results. A public presentation

of science results is planned for the end of April. We also learned that, pending approval of funding, lobster sampling will go ahead again this year. Committee members put forward suggestions for other research they would like to see done.

Nearly every Eastport MPA meeting has some discussion about signage and boundary markings and this one was no exception. Members were informed that we have made progress with a design for staff buoys and are now seeking input from the Dept. of Transport and Coast Guard.

The meeting finished up with friendly chat between members and visiting Conservation & Protection Area Chief Ben Rogers. He confirmed that C&P have had a technology upgrade recently and their surveillance capability is much enhanced, so those MPA lobsters can rest easy.



New members, left to right: Art Crisby, Jan Negrijn, Sylvia Rumbolt and Terry Travers

Gilbert Bay MPA Steering Committee Meeting and Public Meeting

On March 10th, 2010 a Gilbert Bay Steering Committee meeting was held at Alexis Hotel in Port Hope Simpson. The Committee discussed plans for the future and a schedule for the MPA Management Plan review process. It was also reported that the joint investigation by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Environment Canada into the Gilbert Bay oil spill is ongoing. Fishery Officer (FO), Carl Bradley gave an update on enforcement in the MPA for the past few months. No violations of the MPA regulations were found during this period and the FO's continue to get support from the community as well as the Labrador Métis Nation guardians.

Corey Morris (DFO Science) gave an update on the Gilbert Bay cod monitoring program and the status of the cod population in the Gilbert Bay MPA. Indicators suggest that the abundance and biomass of the population is currently low, compared to the previous 10 years of monitoring information. The 2006 year class looks very strong compared to other

years. Fish from this year class are currently between 25 and 30 cm in length, and will reach sexual maturity in 2-3 years. As these fish continue to grow and reproduce, they will be important contributors in maintaining a healthy cod population. Cod overwinter in the inner portion of Gilbert Bay and undergo a summer feeding migration, leading many individuals to areas outside the Gilbert Bay Marine Protected Area. Future research interests are to work with commercial and recreational fishers to determine if, or what proportion of, cod from Gilbert Bay are incidentally caught during northern cod fishing activities, using a new genetic technique.

Later that evening a public meeting was held to provide information on the Gilbert Bay MPA and discuss future plans. Several members of the Gilbert Bay Steering Committee in addition to three DFO employees were in attendance to answer any specific questions regarding the MPA in Gilbert Bay or any issues they wanted to bring to DFOs attention. Two people new to the community showed up to find out more about the MPA.

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Gilbert Bay Steering Committee meeting in Port Hope Simpson

Integrated Management: a Good Idea Takes Hold

We hear the term “Integrated Management” a lot lately, but if you aren’t directly involved in the process, you could be forgiven for wondering if this is just the latest buzz word, or if there really is something new going on in the world of resource management. The term was probably first coined in 1992 and caught on quickly. It means that the management of a complex reality—such as

an ocean—should take into account *all* factors involved. That means understanding how the factors interact, how they affect each other and how they affect the ecosystem as a whole. It is a tall order, but an ecosystem is all about interaction and inter-dependence, so we need to think along these lines to manage it properly. In 1997, Canada’s new *Oceans Act* named Integrated Management

(IM) as a foundation principle. Since then, the process has involved bringing together diverse stakeholders to share their knowledge and experience, to represent their needs and concerns and to work together to create management plans that are fair, sensible, and sustainable. Although IM doesn’t happen overnight, it is a good idea whose time has come.

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