

OMRN National Conference 2009

Pre-Conference Event

Special Session on Identification of Social and Cultural Values in support of Integrated Oceans Management

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2009 (Prior to start of OMRN National Conference)

Time: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Location: University of Ottawa (Room DMS4170 – 4170)

Meeting Purpose:

To examine and discuss evolving methodologies for the spatial identification of social and cultural values in support of coastal and marine planning and management in Canada.

Description:

Under the federal *Oceans Act*, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada has the responsibility for leading and facilitating the integrated management of activities occurring in or affecting Canada's oceans. This effort has focused on five priority Large Ocean Management Areas (LOMAs) including: Beaufort Sea, Pacific North Coast; Gulf of St. Lawrence, Eastern Scotian Shelf, and Placentia Bay-Grand Banks. Within each of these areas the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada is coordinating the development of management plans in collaboration with other federal departments, levels of government, aboriginal organizations and affected coastal and marine interests.

To date, planning within each of the LOMAs has primarily focused on assessing the biological and physical characteristics and requirements of coastal and marine ecosystems. From the onset, however, there has been acknowledgement of the need to also consider the social, cultural and economic values and opportunities associated these areas in order to ensure their sustainable use and development. To help initiate the social, cultural and economic portion of coastal and marine planning processes, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has begun investigating the use of methodologies to appropriately identify these values.

As socio-economic and cultural experts with an interest in Integrated Oceans Planning and Management, you are welcome to attend this information session and discussion which will focus on the development and practical application of methodologies to spatially identify socio-economic and cultural values that are both in development and have been used in and outside of Canada. The aims of the session will be to increase awareness of this field of research as well as hold an open discussion on how these methodologies may be best applied in order to serve both coastal and LOMA planning needs in Canada.

For further information please contact:

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