

Greetings Members and Friends of the OMRN!

Get ready: 2009 OMRN National Conference, Ottawa, 21-24 October

News from the OMRN Network Secretariat

- ♦ **Full steam ahead for the 2009 OMRN National Conference: The Network Secretariat, Board and Working Group Leaders and session organizers** have been busy preparing for the upcoming OMRN conference 21-24 October to be held at the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa, Demarais Building, 55 Laurier Avenue East.
- ♦ The OMRN is very pleased to announce that the **Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, the Honorable Gail Shea** will be addressing delegates at the Opening Session of the first full Day of the Conference on Thursday morning, October 22. Minister Shea will be joined by **Dr. Mona Nemer, Vice President (Research) of the University of Ottawa**, and the **Dean of the Telfer School of Management, Dr. Micheal Kelly** at the Opening Conference Session.
- ♦ Friday, October 23, Day 2 of the Conference features an address by **Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada Claire Dansereau**. The OMRN is very happy to welcome the DM to our OMRN conference and we look forward to her remarks on Friday morning.
- ♦ Day 2 of the Conference features the 2009 Canada Ocean Lecture to be delivered by **Dr. Ron D'Or of the Department of Biology – Life Science Centre, Dalhousie University**. Ron is **Director of the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) and Senior Scientist of the Census of Marine Life (CoML)**. The OMRN also acknowledges and celebrates with Ron his recognition as **Canadian Geographic's 2009 Environmental Scientist of the Year**. Congratulations Ron! The Canada Ocean Lecture is a free public lecture and we are anticipating an overflow crowd. Come early to find a seat in our 4th Floor Desmarais Building Plenary Room, DMS4101.
- ♦ About 150 participants have already registered and submitted abstracts for the Conference via our on-line system. We encourage you to register as soon as possible. Selected details of the Conference program are available on the OMRN website at: www.omrn-rrgo.ca. The detailed Conference Program and Abstract Book will be distributed to all delegates on registration at the Conference site.
- ♦ The OMRN is pleased to sponsor **The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Oceans, Habitat, and Species at Risk Sector Special Pre-conference Workshop**. The event will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 from 8h30AM – 5PM at the University of Ottawa Room DM4170. The Pre-Conference Event is entitled: **Special Session on Identification of Social and Cultural Values in support of Integrated Oceans Management**. The purpose of the meeting is *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*. This event is open to conference delegates. However, please note that space is limited and seats will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. For further information please contact: **Mark Waddell, Fisheries and Oceans Canada**, Tel: (613) 991-1650 E-mail: Mark.Waddell@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- ♦ **Maureen Woodrow, OMRN Executive Director**, member of the Canadian Health of the Oceans Network (CHONe) Board of Directors and **Patricia Gallagher, Linking Science and Local Knowledge OMRN Working Group Leader**, member of the CHONe Science Advisory Committee attended the CHONe network meeting held in Montreal from 30 Sept to the 2 October 2009. The

CHONe network secretariat is based at Memorial University. Paul Snelgrove is the Network Principal Investigator. CHONe is an NSERC strategic network focused on biodiversity science for the sustainability of Canada's three oceans. The network includes researchers from 15 universities across Canada, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and seven other government laboratories. Maureen and Pat are important links for the OMRN to the activities and projects of CHONe. For further information on CHONe visit www.marinebiodiversity.ca/CHONe.

- ♦ **Maureen Woodrow** will attend an International Meeting of professional inshore fishers sponsored by the French Institute for Exploitation of the Seas (IFREMER). Two professional fishermen from Change Islands, NL (**Stephen Brinson and Alvin Richards**) will accompany her. These fishermen are funded by the Association for Research Development in the Aquitaine (ADERA) and the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER). Maureen's is supported by Canadian Fisheries, Oceans and Aquaculture CFOAM and IFREMER.
- ♦ **Kate Bigney, Student Director on the OMRN Board** is completing her PhD research with the Coastal CURA team (www.coastalcura.ca) led by **OMRN Leaders Tony Charles and Melanie Wiber**. This past summer Kate completed the bulk of her dissertation fieldwork with coastal communities in the Bay of Fundy. She also attended and presented CURA work as well as her own research at two international conferences: the 15th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management at the BOKU in Vienna, and the MARE Center for Maritime Research 2009 Conference at the University of Amsterdam in Amsterdam. The MARE conference in particular brought together top researchers from around the globe who study marine and coastal issues. The work of the Coastal CURA project was very well received at both conferences, with many people interested in how to connect with and learn from coastal communities in Canada as they interact with new ecological, political, economic and socio-cultural environments. Kate is also involved in presenting the Coastal CURA work with colleagues at the dedicated **OMRN Conference Dialogue Session** on Thursday, October 22, Day 1 of the 2009 OMRN conference. The session will result in challenging and inspiring discussions on these topics and many others

News from the OMRN Working Groups

a. Adaptive Co-Management – Derek Armitage (WG Leader)

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b. Socio-Economics of Climate Change – Nathan Young (WG Leader)

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- ♦ The Working Group on Adaptive Co-Management and the Socio-Economics of Climate Change will be holding a joint paper session at the upcoming OMRN National Conference October 21-24 in Ottawa. Speakers come from across the natural and social sciences. The session promises to be lively, as we will be discussing the effects of climate change on, among other things, resource development, new economic activities, and Arctic peoples. The conference session is entitled: **Arctic Change, Arctic governance: Climate sovereignty and Arctic Peoples**. Speakers include Tanuja Kulkarni, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Dr. Rob Hubert, University of Calgary, Dr. Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, fox Consulting, Yellowknife and Dr. Carina Keskitalo, University of Umeå, Sweden. Climate change is initiating “a race to the top of the world”, and Arctic nations such as Canada are turning their attention to natural resource exploitation in the region (including oil). Arctic Peoples, long neglected by southern Canada, will be strongly affected by these changes. This is a session not to be missed.

b. Coastal Community Health – Remy Trembley (WG Leader) ?

- ♦ **Carol Amaratunga OMRN Board member and Dean Applied Research Justice Institute of British Columbia** and member of the coastal Community Health working group received a grant in

response to the social imperative for enhanced emergency planning in 'forgotten coastal, rural and remote communities'. The Justice Institute of British Columbia, in consultation with project partners and communities, is designing, pre-testing and disseminating a suite of simple and effective indicators, tools, and training materials for decision makers/practitioners to assess the capability and resiliency of rural health care systems and communities. The JIBC team will develop an integrated risk assessment, communication and management framework (IRACM) to enhance organizational all-hazards response planning along with a set of rural community resiliency indicators (RCRI). In terms of outcomes, the project will foster and build disaster preparedness, planning, and response and recovery capacity in pilot rural, remote and coastal communities in Canada.

- ♦ Dr. Eileen O'Connor, School of Human Kinetics and the Institute of Population Health is organizing and chairing a session at the OMRN National Conference on Health Risk and Concerns for coastal community residents in Canada. Details to follow in the Conference Program.

c. Fisheries and Aquaculture – Scott Parsons (WG Leader)

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- ♦ **Dr. Scott Parsons, OMRN Fisheries and Aquaculture Working Group Leader** was a keynote speaker at the Fisheries Community Alliance Forum held in St. John's NL on Sept 10, 2009 which discussed the amendments proposed by the Federal Government to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Convention. Scott and a small group met with **Premier Danny Williams** to present their findings and opposition to the proposed NAFO Convention changes. The group were also invited to present to the Senate and Parliamentary Committee on Fisheries and Oceans on this same issue.
- ♦ The Fisheries and Aquaculture Working Group is presenting a dialogue session and 2 presentation sessions at the OMRN Conference. The Dialogue Session on Thursday, October 22 features a team debate on the topic of property rights versus common property of our fisheries resources. One presentation session will include papers on stock assessment, extinction, economic development, and partnerships in exploitation. The second will be a Panel discussion on recent research funding by NSERC to develop research networks dedicated to Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture, and Capture Fisheries Research for Canada.

d. International Ocean Governance – Moira McConnell (WG Leader)

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- ♦ Members of the International Ocean Governance Working Group are participating in the Marine Law Institute at the University of Maine School of Law, Portland, ME, and the Marine and Environmental Law Institute at Dalhousie University, Halifax, upcoming conference commemorating the 25th anniversary of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Case Concerning Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary in the Gulf of Maine Area (Canada/United States of America). The conference will be held 13-14 November 2009 at Black Point Inn, Prout's Neck, Maine. David VanderZwaag, OMRN Board member, is a co-convenor of the conference. The meeting will commence with a panel of original case participants, followed by three conference sessions addressing the significance of the case for maritime boundary problems, Gulf of Maine transboundary fisheries management, and ocean energy production. Each session will open with brief presentations and proceed with round-table discussion. The emphasis will be on the exchange of ideas. For further information on the conference, please contact Susan Rolston, IOG Working Group Coordinator, at srolston@dal.ca. A report of the conference will be posted to the IOG Working Group website later in November
- ♦ The International Ocean Governance session at the OMRN Conference will feature a dialogue on International Fisheries Governance: *Jigging towards sustainability*. The session will explore some of the governance approaches used at the international level for marine living resources including the ecosystem and precautionary approaches, allocation criteria used in regional fisheries management organizations and measures that target IUU fishing.

*.Linking Science and Local Knowledge – Patricia Gallagher (WG Leader)**pgallaug@sfu.ca*

- ♦ In June 23-24, 2009, the Centre for Coastal Studies at Simon Fraser University hosted a Speaking for the Salmon community workshop in Kamloops, BC to evaluate the legislation and policy protecting wild salmon biodiversity in BC by examining the case study of the Interior Fraser coho salmon. **Dr. Arne Moers**, Biological Sciences, SFU and Member, Scientific Committee on Species at Risk, gave a special presentation, "Science, Policy and Species at Risk in Canada" to launch the dialogue. A report from the meeting will be available later this Fall.
- ♦ The Centre for Coastal Studies at Simon Fraser University is pleased to announce a public dialogue, "Building a Vision for Green Energy in BC" taking place on November 3-4, 2009 at the Centre for Dialogue, SFU Vancouver. The goal of the dialogue is to examine options for renewable energy with a main focus on hydro electric power. If you are interested in resource management, policy, the ecological footprint and/or the social, economic and environmental trade-offs associated with various energy options, we hope you will be able to join us. Registration and program information is attached and updates will be posted under the "news and events" section at: <http://www.sfu.ca/cstudies/science>

*f. Marine Protected Areas – Phil Dearden (WG Leader)**pdearden@mail.geog.uvic.ca*

- ♦ The OMRN MPA Working Group will hold a special forum 6-7 October 2009 prior to the OMRN national conference entitled *Marine Protected Areas in British Columbia: Where are we going and how do we get there?* The form will be held at Oceanfront Grand Resort, 1681 Cowichan Bay Rd Cowichan Bay, BC. For further information contact Laura Tisseur (604-782-7772 or email her at marine@cpawsbc.org).
- ♦ **The OMRN MPAWG** will co-sponsor a visit and two talks by **Tundi Agardy** who is an internationally renowned expert in marine conservation, with extensive field experience in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, the third week of September at the University of Victoria. The talsk are entitled:
"Steering a Much needed Course Correction for Ocean Management" and
"Benefits of using a marine spatial planning approach to meeting marine conservation"
- ♦ The MPAWG has organized two sessions at the OMRN conference with focus on *Charting Progress in MPA Network Creation in Canada*. Speakers will include **Harvey Lemelin** and **Bob Payne** from Lakehead University, **Ashley Sprague** and **Sabine Jessen, OMRN Board Member At Large of CPAWS**.

*g. Ocean and Coastal Indicators – Ratana Chuenpagdee (WG Leader)**ratanac@mun.ca*

- ♦ The OMARN Coastal Indicators Working Group will chair a session at the upcoming OMRN conference entitled "*What matters most? Developing Sensible Indicators for the oceans.*" Speakers will include **Jake Rice** DFO, **Susanna Fuller** Ecology Action Centre and **Derek Johnston** from the University of Manitoba.

*h. Ocean Technology and Geomatics – Sue Nichols (WG Leader)**nichols@unb.ca*

- ♦ The Ocean Technology and Geomatics Working Group organized a community workshop called "The Rights Stuff: Towards a Marine Cadastre for St. Margaret's Bay" in early July in conjunction with the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association (<http://heartofthebay.ca>), DFO, ACZISC, and COINAtlantic. A prototype of a marine cadastre was demonstrated and there were presentations on legal issues and COIN Atlantic. A panel discussion then followed with representatives of the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Province of Nova Scotia, NRCan, and the Stewardship Association. Members of the local community as well as government representatives were asked for input. The prototype and more information about COINAtlantic can be found at

<http://coinatlantic.ca/>. Work will continue on the marine cadastre to enhance the content and user friendliness.

- ♦ The working group's session at the conference will focus on the Potential Roles and Challenges of Volunteered Geographic Information on Oceans and Coastal Management.

j. Socio-Economics for Integrated Management – Melanie Wiber (WG Leader)

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- ♦ **OMRN Socio-economics of Integrated Management (SEIM) Working Group Leader Melanie Wiber**, will chair a panel session on *Integrated Management: the Latest Failure in Coastal and Ocean Management* at the OMRN Conference. The panel addresses the range of issues and challenges arising across Canada as integrated ocean management initiatives are being developed. Papers from **Kate Bigney, John Kearney, Dave Nicolson, and Evelyn Pinkerton** will focus on the local capacity to participate in integrated management initiatives, and on measuring the impact of policy on coastal communities. The panel will take a broad approach to management, looking at both the mechanisms and processes by which administrative responsibility is shared, the information flows and barriers, and the way decisions are taken. We will examine how local capacity develops or fails to develop in the context of current resource management approaches, and how to promote integrated management through more effective tools for engagement.

k. Tourism and Coastal Development – Peter Williams (WG Leader)

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- ♦ The **OMRN Tourism and Coastal Development Working Group** have organized a session at the OMRN Conference with presentations varying from local benefits in the Honduras, to Arctic cruise ships, defining coastal areas in Nova Scotia, and issues of valuing water. Details of these talks will be provided in the Conference Program.
- ♦ **The Prospects for Gray Whale Conservation and Nature Tourism in Bahia Magdalena, Mexico.** The conservation of biodiversity is regarded as a global resource management issue of increasing significance, and community-based management is considered as crucial to any possible solutions. However, ensuring that conservation succeeds and contributes to sustained development, particularly in rural settings in developing countries remains a challenge. The challenge is to identify and assess situations where economic, social, institutional and ecological conditions come together to provide the right circumstances for potentially successful environmental management. This study developed and applied a systematic and inter-disciplinary methodology for such evaluations, using whale watching in Baja, Mexico as a case study. The Eastern Pacific gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) is a highly migratory species. Of critical importance for the bearing and nursing of calves are the lagoons and bays of the West Coast of Baja California Sur, where the whales' presence is the focal point for a rapidly expanding local whale watching industry. The conservation of this gray whale population and the need to develop new economic opportunities for local communities could create conflicts between the main stakeholders. Inevitably, this situation makes it more difficult to reconcile conservation and economic development objectives. The goal of this research was thus to develop and apply a systematic framework for examining the prospects for successful community involvement in resource management. Consequently, the research focused on the conditions characterizing eco-tourism development involving large, charismatic species (e.g. whales). The objectives of this research included evaluating the potential financial attractiveness of nature tourism, examining the tradeoffs amongst resource use activities that compete with nature tourism development, assessing the human and social capital characteristics of local communities, and incorporating the

international dimension of the problem.

A team of researchers at Simon Fraser University carried out the research, with the collaboration of researchers from academic and research institutions in Baja California Sur, Mexico. The SFU researchers include **Duncan Knowler**, as team leader, and a group of graduate students. Duncan is an ecological/environmental economist with extensive experience in the environment and development field. His research has included studies of nutrient enrichment and commercial fisheries in the Black Sea, the economics of invading species, the prospects for community wildlife management in Nepal, the sustainability of shrimp-mangrove systems in India and valuing the preservation of fish spawning and spotted owl habitat in Western Canada. Before joining REM, **Tobias Schwoerer** worked at the Institute of Social and Economic Research at UAA as a research associate on valuation of Tundra ecosystems, fisheries, and sustainability in Arctic communities. Tobias joined REM in Fall 2004 and completed a master's research study investigating the bioeconomics of gray whales as they contribute to income from tourism to communities in Baja, Mexico. **Tara Sawatsky** came to REM in 2005 to pursue interests in community resource management with a focus on international and environmental development, following a cooperative year with the University of Toronto in the Peruvian Amazon and traveling throughout Peru, Mexico, and Guatemala. At REM, she researched the influence of social capital on the development of nature tourism in the whale-watching communities. **Ailish Murphy** is investigating opportunities for international transfers to address conservation in the Baja region. Her research interests include river basin management, management of natural resources in Latin American and African countries, and community based resource management. The team also worked with **Dr. Salvador Martinez-Garcia**, a socio-economist associated with the Departamento de Economía at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur in La Paz, Mexico.

Publications/Reports:

Knowler, D., Williams, P., and Garcia-Martinez, S. 2008. "Community-Based Management of Gray Whale Ecotourism in Baja California Sur, Mexico." In *Transboundary Policy Challenges in the Pacific Border Regions of North America*. Loucky, J., Alper, D., and Day, C. (eds.). University of Calgary Press: Calgary, pp219-235.

Sawatsky, T. 2008. *The Influence of Social Capital on the Development of Nature Tourism: A Case Study from Bahia Magdalena, Mexico*. M.R.M. research project, School of Resource and Environmental Management. Burnaby, BC: Simon Fraser University.

Schwoerer, T. 2007. *The Economic Value of Gray Whales to Local Communities: A Case Study of the Whale Watching Industry in Two Communities in Baja, Mexico*. M.R.M. research project no. 419, School of Resource and Environmental Management. Burnaby, BC: Simon Fraser University. For more information contact Dr. Knowler him at: djk@sfu.ca

- ♦ **Valuing water: Perceived differences in attitude and usage between permanent residents and second-home owners in an island setting.** The recent explosion of second home development in coastal regions around the world is a reflection not only of the increased mobility of capital and people associated with the effects of globalization but also the real estate development models employed in many tourism destinations. Although the residents of such developments may value the quality of the unique environmental resources that characterize the coastal zone, they may be unaware of the potential environmental impacts of their activities on these areas. This is especially the situation with respect to freshwater supplies in island environments. The focus of this research is on understanding the values and behaviours of various island stakeholders with respect to freshwater use and conservation, and the implications of this for formation and implementation of effective water management policies. It examines these questions in the context of a case study of Mayne Island permanent residents and other second home owners who

frequent the area on a periodic basis. Mayne Island is one of British Columbia's Gulf Islands. It is currently confronted with an emerging freshwater supply issue, and its residents are attempting to establish a systematic approach to addressing this concern. Second homes make up approximately 65 percent of all residential properties on the Island and their engagement in resolving this freshwater issue is critical. The findings suggest that while few reported differences exist in the water use and conservation practices of permanent and second home residents, there are discrepancies in the perceived contributions that each group contributes to the problem. These perceptual differences have led to a distinct lack of collective social capital needed to move forward with a coherent water management plan. The findings recommend a variety of strategies for overcoming this problem. The research is part of a larger SSHRC project examining the role of amenity migrants in transforming rural and coastal environments. The larger project is directed by Drs. Alison Gill and Peter Williams of Simon Fraser University. The primary research in this project was conducted by Ms. Shelagh Thompson, MRM, School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University

Reports

- ♦ **Thompson, S. 2009.** Assessing water resource management in a small island lifestyle community. M.R.M. Research Report #463. School of Resource and Environmental Management. Burnaby, BC. Simon Fraser University. For more information on this project and others directed by Gill and Williams contact them at agill@sfu.ca, and peter_williams@sfu.ca.



2009 OMRN National Conference –
See you in Ottawa, October 21-24, 2009.

