



2009 NATIONAL CONFERENCE: DETAILS ON CONFERENCE DIALOGUE SESSIONS THURSDAY OCT. 22

CONFERENCE DIALOGUE SESSION 1.I | OCEANS GOVERNANCE | 9h00 – 12h30

Title:

Well Managed Coasts: More than just the water!

Summary:

Throughout the world the health of coastal environments continues to decline, even in countries with long established processes for the integration of coastal management. Within Canada, coastal management continues to be challenged by jurisdictional responsibilities and a seemingly pervasive belief that our coasts remain relatively un-impacted by human activities. The optimism generated by the Oceans Act (1996) has eroded in the face of its continued emphasis on the management of coastal waters. This despite growing international acceptance that 80% of coastal impacts are caused by land based activities. Guidance on coastal resource management and development remains sadly lacking. As a result, we continue to rely largely on reactive rather than proactive government instruments to address development conflicts and to regulate pollution. While the Oceans Act clearly excluded the Great Lakes from their role as our fourth coast, managers of these shores face similar challenges to those working in marine areas, and could contribute much to the collective Canadian knowledge base. This Well Managed Coasts initiative, which welcomes participants from all four coasts of Canada, is being developed in cooperation with OMRN and the C-FOAM Research Cluster at the Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa. The session will provide an opportunity for coastal decision-makers and researchers to discuss the challenges and insights posed by linked land-water management issues, such as shoreline development, land cover change and the impacts of climate change on coastal environments and communities. Participants to the session should come prepared to share their experience and tools, and to participate in the planning and development of improved instruments for coastal management in Canada.

CONFERENCE DIALOGUE SESSION 1.II | OCEANS GOVERNANCE | 9h00 – 12h30

Title:

International Fisheries Governance: Jigging Towards Sustainability?

Summary:

The widespread degradation of marine ecosystems and declines in fish stocks in the world's major fishing regions have given rise to numerous calls for new approaches to marine resource management and ocean governance. Additionally, the international community has recognized, and expressed its concern about, the threats posed by illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities to both the targeted fish stocks and the health of marine ecosystems. This dialogue 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 (RFMOs), and measures that target IUU fishing.

CONFERENCE DIALOGUE SESSION 2.I | OCEANS GOVERNANCE | 13h30 – 17h00

Title

Coastal Communities Engaged in Coastal Management

Summary

Coastal communities across Canada are on the front lines of dealing with environmental, social and economic challenges facing the coastal zone. In addition, these communities are often at the forefront in developing and implementing 'integrated' approaches to linking the various human uses of the coast, and to managing related conflicts. There is thus much for governments and others involved in larger-scale management to learn from our coastal communities. This session explores the varied ways in which communities are already involved in coastal management, and how they can be better supported to build this engagement, both in terms of local initiatives and participation in larger-scale efforts. The session focuses in particular on new results from Canada's Maritimes produced through the Coastal Community-University Research Alliance (Coastal CURA, www.coastalcura.ca), a unique grouping of First Nation communities, fishermen's associations, universities and coastal resource centres that has been examining processes of integrated management on the coast, and building local capacity for engaging in these processes. Invited speakers Evelyn Pinkerton and Fikret Berkes will provide their responses to these results, drawing on their experience in Canada's Pacific and Arctic regions, as well as internationally.

CONFERENCE DIALOGUE SESSION 2.II | CANADA'S ARCTIC | 13h30 – 17h00

Title

Arctic Change, Arctic Governance: Climate, Sovereignty and Arctic Peoples

Summary

Canada's Arctic is about to become a very different place – physically, economically, and socially. 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 the true "Arctic sovereignty" issue of our time.

CONFERENCE DIALOGUE SESSION 2.III | OCEANS GOVERNANCE | 13h30 – 17h00

Title

Considering Aboriginal traditional knowledge in the implementation of the federal *Species at Risk Act*

Summary

The federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) recognizes that the roles of Aboriginal Peoples and wildlife management boards established under land claims agreements are essential for the conservation of wildlife in Canada. It also recognizes that the traditional knowledge of Aboriginal Peoples should be considered in the assessment of which species may be at risk and in developing and implementing recovery measures. While in some cases Aboriginal traditional knowledge (ATK) and Western science reconcile nicely with each other (e.g., bowhead whale), in other cases ATK and Western science seem to tell different stories (e.g., polar bear). Mechanisms must therefore be developed to ensure that ATK is appropriately considered in the traditionally science-based SARA processes. This session will provide various (i.e., Inuit, Maliseet, scientific, policy, legal) perspectives on ATK in the context of SARA and will explore mechanisms to achieve an enhanced level of cooperation and collaboration between Aboriginal Peoples and Western scientists.

CONFERENCE DIALOGUE SESSION 2.IV | OCEANS GOVERNANCE | 13h30 – 17h00

Title

Traditional Ecological Knowledge for Environmental Decision-Making --Practical or wishful thinking?

Summary

Modern coastal and ocean resource and environmental management requires an ecosystem-based approach that considers the processes and interconnections between species and their environment. An important source of this type of knowledge is the traditional and local ecological knowledge of coastal Aboriginal and community groups. Growing awareness of the value of TEK is reflected in the increasing requirements for TEK to be included in environmental assessments, co-management arrangements, Species at Risk recovery plans, amendments to the *Fisheries Act*, and in all coastal and ocean management decision-making processes. The need to use TEK in a meaningful and respectful way is readily acknowledged and accepted by many involved in government, science and industry. The challenge for Aboriginal and government resource managers is *how* to apply TEK. This session will explore ways of incorporating TEK into coastal and marine decision-making processes, and ways of sharing sensitive and proprietary knowledge.