



Report of the First Newfoundland and Labrador Protected Areas Forum

Protected areas forum provides an ambitious list of action items

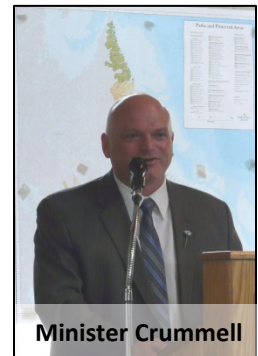
On May 13, a one-day forum on protected areas was held in St. John’s. This is arguably the first time in ten years such a forum was held. The event was organized by the Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS-NL) and Nature Newfoundland and Labrador (Nature NL). The day was well attended with 47 people. The following is an overview report. Additional information is included in the appendices, including a partial record of the proceedings and list of resolutions and action items.

Participants were welcomed by CPAWS president, Dan Ficken, followed by CPAWS vice-president Bob Halfyard, who introduced the Minister of Environment and Conservation, Hon. Dan Crummell. On behalf of the Government, Minister Crummell affirmed the critical importance of protected areas and expressed a commitment to protecting provincial and federal landscapes and to enhancing protected areas.



Dan Ficken

He announced the establishment of a new ecological reserve, the first in the province in over two years and only the second fully established in over ten years. The new Lawn Bay Ecological Reserve is a very positive step and one that should be celebrated. The reserve protects the only known nesting colony of Manx Shearwater in North America, as well as other seabirds. With regards to the Mealy Mountains National Park, he stated that government is consulting with aboriginal and other groups in Labrador. Similarly, he pledged to hold consultations on the proposed Eagle River Waterway Park adjacent to the Mealy Mountains, but did not commit to any timeframes. Minister Crummell spoke of the importance of the public in decisions about protected areas and the environment, citing the role of CPAWS and other groups, and that of the recently reactivated Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC). [See *Appendix 1* for the full text of Minister Crummell’s speech.]



Minister Crummell



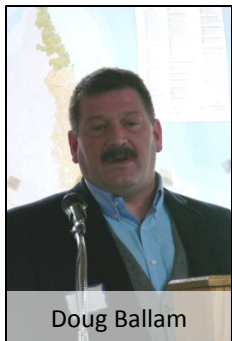
Alison Woodley

The minister was followed by Alison Woodley, CPAWS Conservation Director for Parks. Alison gave a well-prepared presentation that included statistics from around the world and the country. Globally, countries have protected a total of 15.4% of Earth’s landmass. In our province, we have protected only 4.6% of lands in IUCN-ranked PAs, such as ecological reserves. Protecting critical marine areas is

even more challenging, with only 3.4% of world ocean area so far protected. Many of the world's established protected areas are patchy and incomplete in terms of what is protected and less than a quarter of these are considered to be effectively managed. In 2012, most of the world's countries agreed to increase their protection of land and inland water areas to 17% and of coastal and marine areas by to 10% by the year 2020, with emphasis on areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services (*Aichi Biodiversity Targets* : www.cbd.int/sp/targets/).

Key Points:

- People tend to think far more of our lands and waters are protected than actually are.
- Canada currently has 10.3% of land and inland waters protected, with mostly poor representivity and inadequate size; protection of coastal areas is scant.
- With only 4.5% of its area protected, Newfoundland and Labrador ranks 2nd last among all provinces and territories.
- The fact that much of our lands and waters are publicly owned should make it easier to reach the PA targets.
- Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario are provinces with progressive protected areas planning.
- Newfoundland and Labrador does not have a publically stated target and has yet to release its protected areas plan.
- Every other Canadian province has long since released their protected areas plans, which include a list of new candidate protected areas and a timetable for establishment.



Doug Ballam

Next on the agenda was Douglas Ballam, vice-president of Nature NL. Mr. Ballam traced the history of protected areas in the province. He illustrated how the pace of protected area establishment has slowed over the past ten years to the slowest point in our history. Between 1949 and 1995, Newfoundland and Labrador boasted one of the best provincial parks systems in North America, one of the best pieces of protected areas legislation and a modest but steady rate of protected areas establishment, at about one per year. Then, between 1995 and 1997, government deregulated (e.g. eliminated) over fifty parks, started ignoring their legislation and effectively stopped establishing protected areas. We are currently at

the lowest point in our protected areas history since confederation, and a determined effort by everyone will be needed to bring our province in line with others, let alone meet national or international targets

The morning ended with a presentation by Parks and Natural Areas Division staff, Jeri Graham and Erika Pittman, who presented a detailed, overview of the existing provincial protected areas system. The 1995 strategy which underlies this system specifies protection



Bob Halfyard, Erika Pittman, and Jeri Graham

for the categories: wilderness areas, ecologically representative areas, and areas that are special in terms of biodiversity. This is challenging, given that 25 distinct natural regions have been identified for the Island and 39 for Labrador. So far, protection is considered complete for only 50% of wilderness areas and 28% of representative areas. No complete natural areas system plan (NASP) was offered. In response to a question, it was acknowledged that the relatively small number of staff in Parks and Natural Areas Division was a factor limiting progress toward completion of the system. It can be argued, however, that the PA process involving Parks and Natural Areas division and WERAC would benefit from release of the NASP.



Terrestrial Panel: Susan Squires, Ian Goudie, Aaron Obrien, Geoff Gallant, Luise Hermanutz

After lunch, the afternoon became interactive with two discussion panels. One was on terrestrial conservation issues and the other was on marine conservation issues. Some of the concerns highlighted during the terrestrial session included the lack of a comprehensive provincial protected areas plan, the loss of the park/reserve interpretation programs and managers, the poor conservation funding situation in the province and the need for more land use planning. On the marine side, participants expressed concern that conservation groups do not focus enough on marine protected areas or the marine environment in general. Their list of concerns included the severe lack of marine protected areas, the need for more education on the need for MPAs and the removal of the petroleum on the sunken paper carrier, the Manolis L.



Marine Panel: Evan Edinger, Sigrid Kuehnemund, Rodolphe Devillers, Bill Montevecchi

The day wrapped up with the entire group contributing to a list of action items to address these deficiencies (See Appendix 3). Eight major issues were identified:

1. More focus is needed on marine protected areas and issues.
2. There is no natural areas system plan.
3. Protected areas are not connected.
4. We lack a park/reserve interpretation/education program.
5. There is no comprehensive land use plan.
6. There is not enough PA management and enforcement.
7. More local stewardship is needed.
8. We need more forums like this in the future.

One or more resolutions followed from each of these, with a list of appropriate actions. The list is a work in progress – the issues are clear enough, as are the resolutions. The list of necessary or possible actions is undoubtedly incomplete, but it is certainly ambitious. Overall, the response from participants to this outcome was quite positive.

Now, the question is: who will undertake these actions and how will we organise ourselves most effectively to do it? As a start, the volunteers and limited staff of CPAWS-NL and Nature NL have taken on the job of producing these proceedings of the forum and, more importantly, will work with all conservation groups to connect and pool resources so as to ensure that the action items are addressed. We will work toward having significant progress by the time of our second annual protected areas forum in 2016.



Newfoundland and Labrador Protected Areas Forum - May 13, 2015

APPENDIX 1 – Text of Minister Crummell’s Address*

Speaking Notes
Newfoundland and Labrador Protected Areas Forum
Honorable Dan Crummell
May 13, 2015, Fluvarium, St. John’s

Thank you, Dan.

Good morning everyone.

I’d like to start by thanking Dan and the entire CPAWS Newfoundland and Labrador team for the kind invitation to speak at today’s event.

This government, through the Department of Environment and Conservation, remains committed to a clean, sustainable environment and healthy, resilient ecosystems for the social, physical, cultural, biological and economic well-being of the province – now and into the future. And like CPAWS, we recognize the critical importance of protected areas as an essential contribution to effective ecosystems conservation. We are also committed to protecting provincially and nationally significant landscapes and contributing to a Canada-wide network of protected areas. This commitment is clearly evident through our network of 18 Ecological Reserves; 2 Wilderness Reserves; 13 Provincial Camping Parks; 7 Natural and Scenic Attraction Parks; One Waterway Park, 10 Provincial Park Reserves; the T’Railway Provincial Park and 3 National Parks.

And this is a very impressive network, I’m proud to say. But government cannot take sole credit for it. Rather, these achievements represent collaboration between the province, members of the public, and engaged and committed individuals who give freely of their time and energy towards sustaining Newfoundland and Labrador for future generations. And I’m speaking specifically here about members of the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council, or WERAC, an 11-member committee whose purpose is to advise the government on the creation and management of wilderness and ecological reserves.

I’m very happy to see WERAC members present today and I’d like to take a moment to acknowledge their important work. Together, WERAC and the my department’s Parks and Natural Areas Division work to ensure that all public and private interests are fairly heard and considered when reserves are being planned and established. Public meetings are called to acquire input when reserves are proposed and WERAC members are in attendance. Once a reserve is created, the Parks and Natural Areas Division manages it, and ensures that it keeps its ecological integrity.

In May 2014, 11 members were appointed to the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council. The appointments include three re-appointments and eight new appointments. The Council has been active in its work since that time and, in March, I was pleased to have the opportunity to attend the Council’s first meeting of the year in St. John’s. During the meeting, members elected Yolanda Wiersma of St. John’s, and Graham Wood of Grand Bank as co-chairs. For the first time ever, the council established a Labrador sub-committee, headed up by well-known Labrador resident Joe Goudie from Mud Lake, to bring more attention to wilderness conservation in Labrador. I look forward to continuing to work with WERAC on matters related to wilderness and ecological reserves throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

And today’s event provides me with the opportunity to thank WERAC members for their continued dedication and commitment to the creation and management of wilderness and ecological reserves in this province, including the two latest additions, which I’m pleased to announce here today.

The first is the Sandy Cove Ecological Reserve. The limestone barrens in the Sandy Cove Ecological Reserve support a species of plant found nowhere else in the world. Long’s Braya is a small plant that grows only on a 10 kilometre

stretch near the community of Sandy Cove on the Great Northern Peninsula. Sandy Cove Ecological Reserve is globally significant because it contains 95% of the world population of Long's Braya, which is listed as Endangered under both provincial and federal legislation, occurring on undisturbed habitat.

The Reserve was designated as a provisional ecological reserve in April 2007 and received full ecological reserve status in March 2013. Sandy Cove Ecological Reserve is protected under the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act (WER Act). The Act allows the public to participate in how reserves are established and managed, and the high level of protection afforded through legislation ensures that the protected areas will keep their unique natural qualities into the future. The Act guides the creation of all ecological and wilderness reserves. Additional legislation outlines the regulations governing activities within individual wilderness and ecological reserves.

The Limestone Barrens Action Committee, the Limestone Barrens Habitat Stewardship Program, and the Limestone Barrens Species at Risk Recovery Team have been engaged in the establishment and stewardship of the reserve over the years. I look forward to visiting the community this summer to celebrate the establishment of the reserve, and the efforts of local residents that led to its protection.

And just last month, the Lawn Bay Ecological Reserve, which was established as a provisional reserve in 2009, was given full ecological reserve status under the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act as a seabird ecological reserve. The small islands within Lawn Bay Ecological Reserve are home to thousands of nesting seabirds. The reserve was established primarily to protect the only known colony of Manx shearwater in North America. The Manx shearwater is a nocturnal seabird that nests in burrows up to four feet deep and has been recorded with a lifespan of over 50 years.

The islands also provide habitat for at least seven other breeding seabird species, including a significant colony of Leach's storm-petrels, smaller numbers of great black-backed gulls, herring gulls, black guillemots, black-legged kittiwakes, common murrelets and from time to time, arctic and common terns.

Although small in size, the islands and waters within Lawn Bay Ecological Reserve are important habitat for thousands of feeding and fledging seabirds. The Reserve includes Middle Lawn Island, Colombier Island and Swale Island.

I will be visiting Lawn Bay, along with my colleague the Honourable Darin King, MHA for the area, in mid-June to join residents of the community to celebrate this great achievement. I'm pleased to note that representatives from WERAC will also be participating in the event, given their important work towards the establishment of the reserve. In fact, I believe that Dr. Bill Montevecchi will be a featured speaker. Bill has been involved in this project for quite a few years, having made presentations to the community about the birds there and the significance of the archipelago as an Ecological Reserve. In fact, he still carries out research in the area, and will be working in the reserve this summer. Bill, on behalf of the department, and the Provincial Government, thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to joining you at the event in June.

Before moving away from ecological reserves, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to speak about the Mistaken Point Ecological reserve located in Portugal Cove South. The site has more than 10,000 fossil impressions, ranging from a few centimetres to some two metres in length readily visible for scientific study and supervised public viewing along the coastline.

Mistaken Point is in an incredible place. The preserved fossils found at the site are dated between 580 and 560 million years old making them the oldest-known, large complex life forms found on Earth and a critical milestone in the history of life on Earth.

And not only do we think Mistaken Point is incredible, but it is currently being considered by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Under the World Heritage Convention, UNESCO's goal is to ensure conservation of the world's natural and cultural heritage and encourage local participation in the preservation of that heritage.

The World Heritage Committee decides which heritage sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List, reviews the state of conservation of existing sites, allocates financial assistance through the World Heritage Fund, requests that participating State Parties take action to enhance the protection and management of threatened World Heritage Sites, and reports its findings to the General Conference of UNESCO.

Our official nomination dossier was forwarded to the World Heritage Centre in Paris, France, in January of this year. The nomination package will now be reviewed by a series of experts of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and a site visit will be conducted in the summer or fall of this year. A site evaluation team will report back to the World Heritage Committee and a final decision is anticipated by July 2016. Preparation of the nomination package was an incredible joint effort between our Parks and Natural Areas division and Mistaken Point Ambassadors Inc and I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all involved for their outstanding work in this endeavor.

We are also working with WERAC on the finalization of a Natural Areas System Plan. We are committed to protecting biodiversity and the natural heritage of the province through completion of this plan, which will represent a significant contribution to the goal of sustainable development as well as provide for the effective management of a wide variety of truly unique and beautiful landscapes.

The process to establish new Reserves is found in the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act. WERAC will conduct public consultations and then make recommendations to government on the establishment and management of each proposed reserve.

This government will continue to work, in collaboration with WERAC and other partners, towards development and assessment of potential protected areas.

Another exciting initiative I'm pleased to speak about today is the establishment of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. In 2010, Canada and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador announced that the two governments had agreed to establish a 10,700 square km national park reserve in the Mealy Mountains in Labrador. They also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Since then, a negotiating team with representatives from the Province and Parks Canada has been working to finalize a land transfer agreement. This agreement sets out the terms and conditions for the transfer of provincial Crown land to Canada for the purposes of establishing a national park; and the obligations of both parties, specifically highlighting the social and economic benefits that Canada will commit to the Province in return for the transfer of provincial land.

A draft Land Transfer Agreement has been finalized and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Parks Canada are currently consulting with the Labrador Innu, the NunatuKavut Community Council and the Nunatsiavut Government on the draft agreement.

One of the primary issues raised by Labradorians in the feasibility study was that traditional land use activities should be allowed to continue within the national park reserve without a sunset clause. Such traditional land uses include, among others, the continuing use of personal cabins, boil-ups, cutting wood for personal use, gathering medicinal and healing herbs, berry picking, fishing, and hunting, trapping and snaring small game.

This approach to traditional land use was supported by the federal and provincial governments and the land transfer agreement will contain a framework and principles guiding the continuation of traditional activities by Labradorians within the national park reserve.

I certainly look forward to concluding the land transfer agreement and seeing the area formally designated as a national park reserve under the Canada National Parks Act.

Before I move on, I would also like to point out that Joe Goudie of WERAC, and specifically the newly established Labrador sub-committee, has always been a strong supporter of this initiative and I'd like to thank Joe for his ongoing commitment in this area.

And as many of you in the room are aware, adjacent to the Mealy Mountains National Park is the Eagle River watershed. In 2010, government announced its intent to establish a waterway provincial park in this watershed. The proposed provincial park is located in central Labrador and will encompass almost the entire length of the Eagle River (approximately 140 kilometres), totaling an area of approximately 3,000 square kilometres.

The waterway provincial park will be established under the Provincial Parks Act. This designation provides the necessary legislative mechanism to protect an area which exhibits exceptional natural, cultural, and recreational characteristics while at the same time acting as stimulus for sustainable economic opportunities.

The Eagle River is an important and highly productive waterway for Atlantic salmon and the area includes important summer and winter range for the threatened Mealy Mountains woodland caribou herd.

In 2010, the Minister of Environment and Conservation committed to conducting public consultations prior to establishment of the Eagle River Waterway Provincial Park. And today I am reaffirming that pledge because, along with groups such as the Friends of Eagle River, this government is committed to protecting and promoting the River and we believe in the value of meaningful engagement with all affected and interested stakeholders

In closing, I would just like to take a moment to acknowledge CPAWS Newfoundland and Labrador's important work towards the protection of this province's wild ecosystems, natural areas and preserving the full diversity of habitats and their species.

Similarly, Nature Newfoundland and Labrador is to be commended for their environmental activism.

I see by your agenda that you have a number of very educational sessions remaining. In particular, I'm pleased to see that you will have a presentation from Jeri Graham of my department's Parks and Natural Areas division, which I have no doubt you'll find interesting and engaging.

I also see that Dr. Luise Hermanutz will be a featured panelist this afternoon. Just a couple of weeks ago, the Provincial Government announced the addition of nine species under the Endangered Species Act and designated them as either Endangered, Threatened or Vulnerable. I would like to take a quick moment now to personally thank Dr. Hermanutz for her extensive work with the provincial Species Status Advisory Committee, from which she is stepping down from after 11 years. While all members of the committee, current and former, contribute immensely to creating awareness of the species needing protection in this province, Dr. Hermanutz has been one of the backbones of species at risk conservation in the province since the enactment of the Endangered Species Act and I would like to thank her again for her commitment to this area.

It has been said that the greatest danger to our future is apathy. It is wonderful to see a room filled with involved, enthusiastic and dedicated individuals whose passion for the preservation of the diversity and distinctiveness of the Province's rich natural heritage is what will lead to an ecologically sustainable future for the benefit of present and future generations.

On behalf of my department, and the entire Provincial Government, thank you for commitment and enjoy the rest of your day here.

*Text as provided by Minister Crummell's office, with a caution to "check against delivery".

APPENDIX 2 – Issues, Resolutions and Actions put forward and agreed in the final session.

ISSUE	RESOLUTION	ACTIONS
1. More focus needed on marine areas and issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We believe that there need to be more MPAs and they should be identified through systematic planning 2. Manolis L should be drained of all petroleum 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications to MNL and SAM 2. Present at MNL annual meeting 3. All parties state their position, env. Critic 4. Systematic plan for MPAs 5. Provincial government becoming more involved in MPAs – engage the provincial government 6. Work with local communities, letter as initial outreach, building relationships within towns [esp. where there is a potential MPA] 7. Letter from CPAWS to ministers Daly and Crummell regarding Manolis 8. Like Manolis FaceBook page
2. No natural areas system plan	The NASP should be released and resources should be allocated to complete planning and consultations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a press conference/release with PA coalition 2. Letter campaign [province wide] 3. Engage outfitters and adventure tourism, fracking awareness groups 4. Seek high profile champion 5. Social media presence 6. Video clip/appeal
3. Protected areas are not connected	Our protected areas should be ecologically connected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urge management of land use between and outside protected areas so as to be compatible with wildlife 2. Conduct connectivity analysis 3. Explore other scientific options
4. Lack of park/reserve interpretation/education program	Interpretation is an integral part of protected areas management and should be reinstated and enhanced	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. nature classrooms – link to curriculum outcomes 2. marine classrooms 3. stewardship – to integrate school curriculum [engage teachers] 4. positive behaviour list 5. NL outdoor educators – consult to identify new interpretative models 6. More local examples in curriculum – [NL Environmental Educators – new group]
5. No land use plan	Land use planning is essential to the effective and sustainable management of our rural-urban landscapes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lobby premier to produce land use planning act 2. Use municipal route for land use planning at local level 3. Investigate Community trust model
6. Not enough PA management or enforcement	We believe that effective management and enforcement standards should be set and maintained with	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter to premier 2. Adequate funding 3. Community science 4. Community enforcement

	adequate resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. CPAWS Protected Areas Steward program 6. Poll the parties
7. More local stewardship needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Municipal stewardship program should be maintained and enhanced 2. Stewardship should be used more as a conservation tool by ENGOs, communities, trails, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.
8. More forums like this in the future	Do you think we should hold similar forums regularly in the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes - ANNUALLY with follow up 2. More focused [themes]

APPENDIX 3 - PROTECTED AREAS FORUM – MAY 13TH, 2015 - MINUTES

Note: This is a partial record of the proceedings, not a complete transcript.

Bob Halfyard (CPAWS-NL vice-president) welcomed everyone as moderator.

Dan Ficken (CPAWS-NL president) welcomed everyone to PA Forum and introduced the Minister of Environment and Conservation

Minister Dan Crummell:

Outdoorsman as well. Spent last evening getting gear ready. Cabin in central. Heading with dad to cabin to trout. Grew up in the woods. More time there than anywhere. I'm certainly an advocate for CPAWS and what they do. Hunter and fisherman. Like to spend time by self by brook or the other side of the pond. Like to be by self to enjoy nature. Very important subject.

Thanked CPAWS for inviting him to speak

Government remains committed to clean environment. Recognizes critical importance of protected areas. Committed to protecting provincial and federal landscapes. Committed to enhancing protected areas.

Listed province's parks Impressive network. There is more work to be done. We recognize that. Represent collaboration between public who work to sustain environment for future generations.

WERAC work to ensure public and private interests are fairly heard. Public meetings called when reserve areas proposed. In March council had first meeting of year in St. John's. For first time ever established a sub-committee to establish awareness in Labrador, headed by Joe Goudie.

Sandy Cove Ecological Reserve support species of plant found nowhere else in world. Grows on 10 km stretch on Northern Peninsula. Endangered under provincial and federal legislation. Reserve in April 2007, full status in March 2013.

Lawn Bay Ecological Reserve. Provisional reserve in 2009. Given full status as seabird reserve. Established to protect only known colony of Manx Shearwater. Important habit for thousands of feeding seabirds. Will be visiting in mid-June with Darren King.

Mistaken Point. More than 10,000 fossil impressions readily available for public viewing and research. Fossils up to 560 million years old. Critical milestone of life on earth. Currently being considered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Official nomination sent to Paris in January. Review to be done and site visit in the fall or summer. July 2016 final decision expected.

Finalizing natural areas system plan. Protecting biodiversity. Contribution towards sustainable development. WERAC to conduct public consultation on each proposed reserve.

Establishment of Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. MOU signed - Parks Canada working to finalize land transfer agreement to establish a national park. Highlighting commitments of govt for transfer of the land. Working with locals on agreement. Traditional land use activities — will they be able to continue. Personal cabins, cutting woods, healing herbs, boil ups. That's supported by provincial government. Joe Goudie (WERAC) - always been a strong supporter of this. Thanked for his commitment.

Eagle River Watershed. Provincial government has proposed a provincial park, entire length of river. Important and highly productive waterway for salmon. He's spent a lot of time on the river. Incredible landscape. Proud to help move that forward. Reaffirmed pledge to protect and promote the river. Value meaningful engagement with all affected stakeholders.

Acknowledged and commended CPAWS and Nature NL.

Noted addition of nine species under Species at Risk Act just a few weeks ago.

Greatest danger to future is apathy. Great to see a room full of people committed to creating an ecological sustainable future.

Thanked for commitment.

On a personal note, when it comes to ecosystems, you have a friend in me. Call, send email, anytime.

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Alison Woodley - CPAWS National Director for Parks Program

Protected Areas in Canada and around the world - opportunities for NFLD & Labrador

First came to NFLD 10-12 years ago to sit on working group that was developing management plan for snowmobiling in Gros Morne. Struck by how respectful the dialogue was. Challenges aside, always a warm welcome. Had a mini adventure every time. Close encounter with moose. Whales in Bonne Bay. There are always memorable moments. Fell in love with Gros Morne its beauty and its people.

Worked on Mealy's leading up to 2010 announcement. Exchange with Parks Canada.

Always excited to come here.

What's happening with protected areas around the world and in Newfoundland?

Why we need protected areas? Protected areas are seen universally around world as key tool for conserving nature. Virtually all 200+ countries around the world have them. They're recognized as the cornerstone of sustainable development. Embedded in the global thinking around development.

Why? It's quite simple. The main threat facing the natural world, habitat loss is the biggest of them all. In Canada that's also true. Protected areas protect habitat. Many animals need large intact areas to survive. That's why networks of protected areas are key. Facing climate change they're even more important. Recommends new book: *Protecting the Wild - Parks and Wilderness, The Foundation for Conservation*, (Edited by George Wuerthner, Eileen Crist, and Tom Butler, published by Island Press.)

Strong evidence that protected areas do work. And that they are necessary.

Global Living Planet Index. 52% decline of species between 1970 and 2010.

Why does it matter if we lose a few species along the way? Evidence that lose ecosystem function and services that support us all. Caribous and spiders help sustain us in the future.

Benefits of protected areas: provide clean water, clean air, pollination, carbon storage, disaster risk reduction, spiritual and cultural values.

There's more evidence developing on the enormous benefits of protected areas. They're the foundation of tourism industries around the world.

NL's Wilderness & Ecological Reserves Act recognizes the benefits of protected areas.

Parks provide jobs and other economic benefits in Canada: 64,000 jobs, \$4.6 billion contribution to GDP \$2.9 billion in labour income, 44% return on investment to government in tax revenues, 6:1 return on investment - not that well known. They are an investment in the economy. Incentive to expand the park system here.

Global status of protected areas - World Parks Congress meets every 10 years. Just happened this past November.

Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) UN Convention (<https://www.cbd.int/convention/>)

Three goals

1. conservation of biological diversity
2. sustainable use of its components
3. fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilization of generic resources

2010 CBD new 10 year strategic plan adopted 2011-2020

Protected areas are a part of meeting these targets. Canada was in the room when it was signed and endorsed. Should be framework government is committed to implementing, has broad range of targets in it: Protected Areas is Target 11. Best ideas of what world brought together to stem loss of biodiversity.

Target 11 - protected areas

By 2020 at least 17% of terrestrial and in land waters areas and 10 per cent of coast and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity. They need to be effectively and equitably managed. Also need to be well designed and well managed to work, needs to be embedded in the target.

Observations from World Parks Congress. Nov. 2014. Held once a decade. Sets the agenda for the coming decade. It's a big deal. 6000 delegates. Heads of state making announcements. Huge energy and optimism. There's a lot happening around the world in protected areas. Strong integration of the arts, culture and science. It's really broadened to reach range of sectors. Strong focus on benefits of protected areas. Young people at the congress. Indigenous leadership was front and centre, including from Canada, Innu of Labrador (Val Courtois) want to protect their land and see protected area as way to do that. Strong marine focus.

Reaching Conservation Goals: How is the world doing?

Protected Planet Report released at event. World 15.4% protected on land .The world is taking these targets seriously. With five years to go, target is within reach. Marine is more challenging. Starting way back from where on land. 3.4% of ocean area protected. 8.4% of national jurisdictions and only .2% of high seas protected Much to do, but progress being made.

What about quality measures?

Highly patchy and incomplete, only 2 of 37 pelagic provinces meeting the 10% target.

Effective management?

Only 24% of protected areas in world can be considered effectively managed with staff, management plans, monitoring.

How much do people want protected?

Zoological Society of London - asked people of world what they wanted protected. Public opinion survey of how much thought should be protected in world. 40-70% is what people thought should be protected. We're aiming for 17% for terrestrial and inland waters. People thought for Oceans 40-70%. It's kind of astonishing really, considering where policy is. "People understanding way more is a balanced approach. They value nature and want to protect it. They want to protect much more than political targets." People assume much more is protected than is actually protected. Assumed around 30%. People feel they're important for protection of wildlife and habitat. People are there. They get it. *Alison would like to do a survey like this in Canada*

Congress Highlights

- * Aichi targets - a step forward but not enough
- * quantity and quality matters
- * public is way ahead of targets - wants half protected
- * science-based targets needed
- * beyond Aichi: 30-50% of likely needed
- * Indigenous communities showing leadership
- * Lots of Canadians there. Real opportunity to build on what happened there and get going on protected areas here in a much bigger way

Policy Framework for Protected Areas in Canada

Feb. 2015 - Canada finally released biodiversity goals and targets to guide further action on the conservation and sustainable use of living resources in Canada. Collaboratively developed. Target 1: by 2020, 17 land and 10 water will be protected. Language same as Aichi targets. Formally embedded as Canadian policy by all provinces, territories and federal government. Somewhere to start to really push.

Protected percentage by jurisdiction.

LAND

10.33% Canada
NFLD: 4.57% (second last)

OCEANS

1.3% Oceans in Canada
33.2 Australia
30.4 United States
1.6 China
We have a very long way to go on the ocean front.

Big challenge in Canada is size of protected areas. Vast majority are tiny. We know they need to be much bigger to work. Speaks to need to connect them and increase the size to create core big protected areas across the country. We are lagging in Canada, but lots of hope here. Best opportunity in world to move forward. 90% of waterway publicly owned. The numbers say one thing, but lots of inspiring work going on across the country we can learn from.

Use as models to advance things here in NFLD and Labrador:

Northwest Territories

Past 15 years - NWT Protected Areas Strategy. Community-based, science supported, open and transparent. Partnerships with aboriginal, feds, territory, NGOs, industry. Linked to broad landscape and land use planning. Quite an inspiring approach to protecting areas.

Nova Scotia has leaped forward in recent years. Government in August 2013 released protected areas plan to expand protected areas from 9 to 13%, ultimately 14% once implemented. The province built out from foundation of existing system. Really good example of how to move forward

Quebec's Plan Nord.

Commitment to exclude all industrial activities from 50% of northern Quebec. Commitment to protect by 2020 network of connected areas: 20% by 2020

Ontario's Far North

Committed to protecting half of province north of 51 parallel, home to woodland caribou, polar bears
Protecting stored carbon was important driver

NWT: The Dehcho First Nations proposed to protect half their territory through land use plan.

Canada's Opportunity

- Large intact ecosystems remain in much of Canada
- 90% public land and all water public.
- Public supportive of conservation
- Strong science capacity to inform decision making
- Relative wealth
- Leadership from First Nations who want to protect their land.
- Benefits are enormous. Social, cultural

Opportunities in NL

1. Release and implement the NASP. Really good foundation to build better protected areas network here. WERAC is a good first step
2. Completing ongoing projects. Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. Eagle River, Laurentian Chenille
3. Gros Morne buffer zone. Way to better integrate protected areas into landscape. South Coast Fjords - public wants it
4. Build on foundation. Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement. Marine protected areas planning through DFO processes that are starting in some parts of country

The world is moving on protected areas. Chance to move with it. They work. They work best if done right. Quantity and quality matter. International frameworks and national and targets for progress. Think beyond Aichi.

How do get away from silos of marine and terrestrial? Good example is Haida Gwaii - top of mountain to bottom of sea.

Where is the disconnect - what people want and think is protected? Parks are higher than hockey on lists of symbols of national identity

People are motivated by hope not fear, love not loss.

How talk about this makes a difference

People act when they love a place, love nature

Douglas Ballam - Vice-president, Nature NL

Growth and decline of protected areas in Newfoundland and Labrador

While the minister spoke of many positive things, and Alison gave hopeful and uplifting presentation of momentum across the world. My presentation is going to be different. Why are we only at 4.57% when the national average is 10.33%? How did we come to that state? NL is now second last in the country in terms of percentage of land protected. New Brunswick has moved ahead of us. We're now only ahead of PEI.

Happily blunt in my assessment of things that may be wrong and what we need to do to change them. Went through presentation to try and reduce antagonistic comments. Will let numbers and history speak for themselves. Goal not to disparage anyone or any political party. Sees it as a collective society's responsibility. As a society we have let this happen.

Three "eras" of protected areas establishment in recent history in NL.

Expansion: 1949-1995

Contraction: 1995 - 2003 - we lost protected areas

Stagnation: 2003-2014

Although we're currently in stagnation, there are glimmers of hope

Types of PAs

PAs are like insurance - different roles and kinds. Not all are equal. Spectrum. Eg. One wouldn't want a crown land reserve to be protecting an endangered species.

Largest protected area in province is Torngats. Others include Wilderness and ecological reserves, provincial parks, provincial parks.

The protection of biodiversity in Provincial parks should not be discounted. Did you know it's illegal to even pick a berry in a provincial park? Not that I haven't picked many in provincial parks :)

Newfoundland and Labrador has been a leader in conservation in the past.

1859 - legislation to protect nesting birds and eggs on Funk Island - 13 years before Yellowstone National Park.

Period in 1880s - provincial government was passing legislation related to seabirds every year and updating it. Established to protect a resource.

Far more extraordinary legislative attention than what we're seeing today.

Funk Island Ecological Reserve- closest thing on earth to going to the moon. So alien.

Expansion 1949-1991

Between 1954 and the late 1980s, 79 provincial parks established. One of the best provincial/state systems in North America. NL Parks were large. Giants. Averaged 700 hectares (seven sq. kms) vs. 120 hectares in NS. Protected large portions of the landscape and small, special areas like beaches.

Calls Joey Smallwood the greenest premier we've had. He insisted they be clean, untouched places for people to go. No waterslides. Examples: Holyrood Pond -one of most fascinating bodies of water on this island, Mummichog Park on west coast, Marine Drive Park, and Stag Lake Park (just south of Corner Brook - 12 sq kms).

Interpretation Programs. Had one of the best park interpretation programs in the country.

Offered at all major camping parks. In 70s and early 80s, many publications made by parks were the standard for natural history interpretation. They were really the only material that spoke to people about nature and gave them the tools to recognize species.

“Parks as Nature’s Classroom” program was particularly successful. Would take school kids to spend day in the park.

Over five years engaged more than 140,000 people

Wildlife Reserves under the Wildlife Act also grew in numbers. Good legislation but relatively weak protection. It’s a management tool, meant to manage wildlife populations. Central Newfoundland Wildlife Reserve deregulated in late 1970s. In middle of province used to be Central Newfoundland Wildlife Reserve. Eliminated with stroke of a pen without any public consultation.

Bureaucrats, professors, concerned citizens formed “Wildlands Committee”. Determined never to lose another large protected area. Designed Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act 1980. Lauded as one of strongest in North America.

1984 protected four seabird colonies and Avalon Wilderness Reserve protected in one swoop. Protected 7 out of 10 Atlantic puffins in North America. After that, steady pace of establishment, one reserve a year.

1980s world realized needed to up the pace of creating reserves. Calls for tripling the amount of protected areas by the year 2000. In Canada this intent was promoted through the Endangered Spaces Campaign (WWF), 1989-2000 .

1991 - Turning of the Tide

To say we were in economic straights would be an understatement. Clyde Wells was premier. He saw privatization as way to get out of economic hole. Frenchman’s Cove Provincial Park - look at privatizing part of it to create a golf course. There was little reaction which ultimately encouraged government to conduct a mass privatization of parks.

1992-1995

With success of golf course, government ordered parks to form Task Force on Parks and Reserves Top secret committee. A public document was never released. Secret purpose was to identify parks for closure and business opportunities. No discussion with staff, public.

1995 - beginning of the Conservation Dark Age. 28 parks were deregulated which means they are no longer provincial parks.

Offered as “business opportunities.” Leased in 50 yr leased to individuals to operate. Some people had lease for 10 sq km 26,000 acres for virtually nothing. Parks deemed to be “only small camping loops.” No regard for large parts that are wilderness. Little public reaction

All while Endangered Spaces Campaign running and every other province creating new parks and protected areas. What does NFLD do? Get rid of protected areas.

At this time, every state/province released a plan. Task Force promised to re-invest savings into reserves program. Instead largely used to meet Department of Tourism expenditure reduction target.

1997 - another 28 parks privatized. Decision was aided by submission from Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador. Thought it was great idea. Reduces competition among operators and provides others with opportunity. Staff rebelled and leaked information. Portions of 10 privatized parks retained under Parks Act. Still no movement on PA strategy.

Still didn't stop golf course advocates to take another park, Windmill Bight, for a golf course. Publicly finally had enough. ENGOs successfully opposed the proposal.

Meanwhile national trends were the opposite. 1990s New National Parks Act. National Marine Conservation Act, Parks Canada Agency Act.

2003-2014: Stagnation

Pace of reserve establishment slows, then stops. Between 2003 & 2014 only one reserve fully established Sandy Cove, home of the last natural habitat for Long's Braya - 15 hectares. About size of Confederation Building Parking Lot. Only home for species in the world.

Lawn Bay announced today would be another. That's two since 2003. Rate used to be one a year. And that wasn't enough.

If that's the best we can do, it's a small measure of the attention we as a society have paid to protected areas.

Early 2000s, WERAC sidelined. 2005-mid 2014 no new appointments. There have been now. Reinstated last year. Recently had first meeting. But do you praise yourself for following the speed limit? Re-establishing WERAC doesn't equal commitment to conservation. It's just doing what you should have been doing. Act states WERAC will report to Lt. Gov. in Council (cabinet not minister) That strength in power has been lost recently.

2003-2014 major protected areas that haven't been moved on.

Little Grand Lake provisional ecological reserve est. 2002. Home to the endangered pine martin. We're only half way there. Should take 12-18 months. We're now 13 years in and seen no movement.

Proposed Eagle River Waterway Park 2010. No news since.

South Coast National Marine Conservation Area - Parks Canada talking with local residents. Excited about marine park. Wanted to do a feasibility study. Provincial government denied the request Landscape there is dramatic. Unlike anything else we have in the province. Makes Gros Morne pale. Might be the first time in Canadian history the government has refused to do a feasibility study for a national marine conservation area. 2013.

ENGO Funding Avoided

Only province in Canada without a fund dedicated to ENGOs. "We have no fund and we like it that way," says someone from Dept. of Conservation. Result is groups have failed:

2009 - Legacy Nature Trust (was to be a land bank)

2010 - OceanNet (saved by MI)

Others on the edge.

No environmental foundations in NL. Means it's very difficult to even maintain basic staff and office space. That impairs ability to assist government.

In Newfoundland there are people in this province committed to eliminating protected areas. MiningNL is one of them. They want to get rid of the Wilderness and Environmental Reserve Act as publically stated in their submission to the Minerals Strategy consultations.

2013 Catastrophic budget.

Complete elimination of 60 year old interpretation program. Biologists, conservation officers laid off.

Percentage of protected areas in NFLD and Labrador is unchanged since 2005 while national average grows. Nova Scotia doing great. NFLD meanwhile would be among top 10 places to mine in the world.

Now?

1. Important outcome from today - RESOLUTIONS
2. What do you think should be done?
3. Province hasn't released a protected areas plan. Nothing happening on it. So make our environment/protected areas one of your election issues. Ask them when they land on your doorstep.

Jeri Graham and Erika Pittman - Parks and Natural Areas Division

Provincial Protected Areas Program Update

Establishing reserves can be a long process. Requires a lot of community engagement. Have been trying to improve public engagement process.

58 Protected areas in province 6, 653 km sq. (3% federal protected areas)

- 32 provincial parks
- 20 wilderness and ecological reserves
- 3 wildlife reserves
- 1 wildlife park

Federal: 8

- 3 national parks
- 2 national historic sites
- 3 migratory bird sanctuaries

NL's protected areas strategy. Three objectives. Adopted in 1995

1. Wilderness areas
2. Representative areas
3. special areas (biodiversity hotspots)

39 Natural Regions recently refined for Labrador with Nature Conservancy

25 Natural Regions on the island

Current Analysis:

Wilderness areas (large protected areas that cross natural region boundaries): 50% complete

Representative Areas (areas that protect examples of each natural areas): 28% complete

WERAC

Last appointments were in April 2014. Council members make recommendations based on science Advise government on creation of new reserves and management of existing ones, as well as termination of reserves. Individuals can make applications to council to have an area protected

Labrador Blueprint Project - Nature Conservancy of Canada + provincial government. Big undertaking to research, document and map diversity of Labrador - species, ecosystems and landscapes. From conservation planning perspective, province was data poor on that front. Couldn't do planning or modelling. Three-year project. NLNatureAtlas.ca - amazing database is the result. Now forms the basis

of the province's conservation planning. While things have been quiet, that's what's been happening behind the scenes.

Question: Why is NFLD so different than the rest of the country and behind?

Doug: One reason is that the environmental non-government organizations presence in NFLD is a recent phenomenon. No WWF or CPAWS office for many years. Last 10-15 years have seen this changed. Call our governments, assist governments and they start to create a constituency and raise the level of conservation literacy. We're playing catch up in that regard.

The other reason is because of sealing. I believe the anti-sealing campaign, the way NFLDers were painted at that time and the impact that had on our society and culture in terms of how we perceived green groups, that had a very strong effect. We have a hangover from that. I'm bitter from a lot of groups that phrased the seal conflict in that way. I'm sure they don't realize it be their actions still have an effect on conservation efforts to this day.

Mining - IOC was the largest single taxpayer in province at one time. Hand in hand with government because they didn't want to piss off their biggest group of taxpayers.

Need to have a coalition of environmental groups involved in conservation. We need to lobby for a legacy endowment. Oil money. \$50 million out of the billions is nothing. That's where we should be focusing our efforts. A coalition to look at oil money.

Challenge environmental groups in NFLD must work against seal hunt hangover. Some say it's almost a scapegoat for doing nothing.

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AFTERNOON SESSION - PANELS

PANEL – Terrestrial Protected Areas

Susan Squires – Manager, Pippy Park.

- Endangered Species Act for 10 years and no one here is asking about it. Would like to see a wider education on tools we have in the province for protection.
- Amazed by how little public input weighs in conversation conversations. How do we help people come forward and contribute and show we have a united front on protected areas, a large number of people who want to see protected areas created.

Geoff Gallant - Deputy Mayor of Torbay and president of Stewardship Association of Municipalities (SAM)– A network of towns across the province that have signed onto stewardship programs.)

- Designate areas for protection within municipal boundaries. When incorporated into your town plan it gives them teeth. That's important.
- What makes us special in NFLD and Labrador? What do we have here that no one else in the world does? That's NFLD and Labrador itself. It's the only part of the planet we have a bit of control over. Think we've been so close to it for so long we take it for granted.
- Think solution is creating protected areas within town to create a real stewardship ethic. Protect areas locally, people take ownership of it. If change starts small locally, that bubbles up to other layers of government.
- No one's going to out-beautiful Newfoundland.
- Torbay and Portugal Cove have struck environment committees at municipal level.

Aaron O'Brien – PhD. Cand., University of Ottawa, Wilderness Steward – CPAWS-NL

- Issue he wants to raise is rules and regulations that govern protected areas. Concerned him since started going to Avalon Wilderness Reserve.
- The provincial government needs to put more resources towards the enforcement of those regulations.
- It appears to be too easy for people to disregard the rules that govern those reserves.
- Stewardship programs, like the CPAWS Protected Areas Stewardship Program, are a good way to engage the public in stewardship and foster a sense of public responsibility for and ownership of protected areas. Thus, we should find ways to attract more volunteer stewards and make stewardship programs more effective.
- However, such programs cannot make up for the provincial government's lack of funding for the enforcement of the regulations that govern protected areas. Stewardship programs are a good complement to the provincial government's efforts, but they are not an adequate replacement for such efforts.
- Road development adjacent to protected areas and in areas where protected areas might be established in the future should be discouraged. Such roads facilitate abuse of protected areas as well as violations of the rules that govern them.

Ian Goudie - Forest Ecologist - working as scientist with CPAWS.

- Drawing on presentation by Zita Cobb and the Shorefast Foundation, says to preserve nature it has to integrate with culture. Otherwise will always end up as a situation of we and them. The two are heavily linked.
- Says decline in protected areas is linked to rise of oil industry. Killing rural Newfoundland, which is seeing culture die as well.
- As a province NFLD lacks widespread land use planning. People don't have a way to get involved. Wants to push idea of stewardship at local level as relates to formation of protected areas

Luise Hermanutz - Memorial University, Professor of Biology. Member of WERAC.

- Teaches conservation biology at MUN. People are reaching out for good news. We have to stop with doom and gloom. People don't respond well to that, her students certainly don't. We all live in a place that's dear to us.
- Sits on Portugal Cove environmental committee. Thinks that local effort is key.
- We can't stay in our ivory towers. If we're going to be effective in protected areas, need to engage the public. And give them hope. Stewardship can help get people excited about their area.
- Also need to engage Labrador and aboriginal groups. She works with Nunatsiavut government.
- Suggested perhaps the answer is to approach Zita Cobb re. money...

Comments

Geoff Gallant: SAM has 35 municipalities signed on. Largely untapped potential to make change. Have majority of province's population signed on with these 35. People are proud to show off their wetlands. It's not as fringe as people might think. People do care a lot.

Fred Windsor from Sierra Club Canada: Suggested having booth at Federation of Municipalities meeting on conservation. Give out information....

SAM endowment fund for nature has been established. Taking the interest off that and putting it into environmental scholarships for students.

Alison: Maybe building protected areas network way to approach is by integrating the tourism industry to roll in the culture component. Combining the two is what makes Gros Morne magical for her.

Question: How do we get local involvement and stewardship to extend beyond municipality to work towards a broader protected areas network?

Louise H.: need to figure out where are the areas that are most under threat and go after those. Province needs to release those.

Comment: Engage hunters, fishers to get involved with protected areas.

PANEL – Marine Protected Areas

Bill Montevecchi – Memorial University, Professor of Psychology, Biology and Ocean Sciences, Member of WERAC.

- Devastated longest and renewable resource: COD. It's why NFLD is here. It's been 25 years. When would there have been a better time to have a protected area on the Grand Bank? On the south coast? And what do we have? Nothing. The question is why. There is an inertia there. Have to challenge ourselves and fisherman.
- Manolis: If we were in British Columbia we wouldn't be in that situation. That oil would be gone.
- Why are we in this situation? Environment is a junior portfolio in NFLD. Low profile. And minister of natural resources gets final say on all protected areas.
- Offshore Petroleum Board - why does industry have this control. Government has given way it's authority to mining, to oil, to corporate fisheries.
- We have to claim back our birthright.
- Important that Lawn Bay is now a protected area. It's on the west side of Placentia Bay, while St. Mary's is on the eastern side. That's important given that Placentia Bay is the most industrialized bay in our province and heavy with oil tankers. So much potential danger there.

Rodolphe Devillers - Memorial University, Professor of Geography. Conservation Planning

- For a province that is surrounded by the ocean and dependent on it, people have a strange relationship with it. Normally, people are attached to places, yet here, looking at Conception Bay, is blue and wet. No one sees beyond that.
- Getting people in contact with ocean harder than taking a walk in the woods.
- Estimates we need 30-40% of oceans protected and deemed NO TAKE. In Canada we're about 1%. And no take is even less than that.
- How many MPAs in Newfoundland? Two. One in Labrador. Second is Eastport near Terra Nova. 0.0024% of waters in Newfoundland and Labrador are protected. The fact is we're behind. I'm embarrassed when I go to international conferences from Canada. And Newfoundland is well behind the rest of Canada.
- We don't have the same connection with the ocean. No real political will to change it because of industry.
- Why is it normal in MPAs to allow fracking, fishing. Wouldn't allow that in terrestrial protected areas.
- How many species are protected? How many are preserved. That's how we measure success.
- NGOs in Newfoundland have been slower to catch up. Not as vocal as they are in BC. Don't always work well together. And oceans aren't on funders' radar.
- Industry has a large role in what's going on.
- Canada has great science and scientists (DFO)....

- Do not talk about fish *stocks*. They are fish *populations*. Don't talk about fish harvesters. They're hunters. You don't harvest moose.

Sigrid Kuehnemund – Scientist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- Works on all things MPA related. She works on establishing, managing and monitoring MPAs and work towards creating networks.
- Her vision for MPAs: Commitment to protect 10% for marine and coastal areas by 2020. Her vision is to see federal and provincial departments work together and actively engage stakeholders with an interest in conservation.
- DFO is just one piece of the puzzle. Other government departments have mandates to establish MPAs, including Parks Canada.
- Eight MPAs in Canada. Five in Atlantic Canada. Two in NFLD: Eastport (2 sq. km) Gilbert Bay Labrador to protect golden cod. (60 sq km)
- Two in the works: St. Anne's Bank - Laurentian Channel - Hoping they will be designated in 2016.
- Laurentian Channel will be larger than all others in Canada under Oceans Act combined. No Take.
- MPAs are really hard work. Consultation with stakeholders. Laurentian Channel started in 2007. They're also very expensive.
- High stakes involved with MPAs. Need to choose right areas to protect and design them so that they're effective in meeting conservation goals.
- DFO process to establish involves considering ecological as well as economical and cultural. Sometimes hard to balance. They involve compromise.
- Different forms - can be small and species focused.
- Fishers don't support MPAs. But fishery goals are not mutually exclusive from conservation goals.
- MPAs are biggest tool for marine protection, but they're not the be all and end all. They're not enough on their own to save oceans.
- Just one of a number of tools. Locally tailored efforts can often work just as well.
- Can't overstate how important it is for NGOs to provide checks and balance and a voice in an MPA establishment process. The power in the NGO voice is through a coalition and hard lobbying to hold government to the commitments its made to protect 10% by 2020.
- We all need to be more active in approach to conservation. The challenge is to work together. Have to involve local communities and fishers in the process. That will help them gain a better understanding of the conservation measures to be put in place and the reason behind them.
- NFLD classic example of ecological collapse and mismanagement.

Evan Edinger - MUN professor and conservation biologist

- There is no balance. It's all industry. The government talks conservation, but it doesn't walk conservation. Conservation scientists have to hold their feet to the fire.
- Need to raise corporate taxes - fisheries, mining, oil, all making money hand over fist from natural, public resource. They need to pay up.
- Glacial pace of progress is frustrating.
- DFO here has done excellent analysis – very data-rich region. For offshore areas, we know where the most important areas are to protect. All of them need to be represented in network of protected areas, not just choosing one or two in each region (1 for Grand Banks, 1 for Labrador ...)

- Wants to see MPAs everywhere. I want to see little “dots of green” – small coastal protected areas- spotted all over the map, like BC and California models of many small coastal protected areas. To do that need to pressure fed and provincial governments, but also municipality.
- Set up coastal protected area to match protected area on land. DFO could use Fisheries Act to shut down activity in it. Important to see MPAs as more than protection for one species. See it as a tool to protect biodiversity.

Comments

Fred Windsor, Sierra Club Canada–

Quoted David Pelley scientist from BC this is one of the most overfished areas in the world. That there’s any fish out there at all is incredible, based on how much of the bottom is trawled each year. Ocean habitat is never mentioned when talking about fishing. We’re in serious denial in our own society and fishing society. We have no protected areas and continue to overfish.

Rodolphe Devillers: Here the ocean is the fridge. Newfoundlanders see ocean as a resource. It’s been a fridge that had no end. Don’t have the same tourism, beach, diving, swimming relationship with the ocean that other parts of the world does: BC, California.

Bill Montevicchi: In Newfoundland, during moratorium and nets came out of the water, populations of diving sea birds went up. Pockets now of fisherman using cod pots. Less by-catch. Supports biodiversity. If was up to inshore fisherman and not the lobby behind the industry, we would probably have a lot more MPAs.