

# COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER #30, JUNE 2009

This newsletter, which is issued quarterly, is distributed by e-mail to members of the Coastal Zone Canada Association (CZCA), providing news about the Association, its activities and its members, as well as information of potential interest to members. Please feel free to circulate it among your own networks. Also visit the Association's Web site at: <http://www.czca-azcc.org>.

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### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Grant Gardner)**

The past year has been a time of change and of challenge. The ramifications of the economic downturn are still being felt, and have no doubt impacted many of you directly or indirectly. At the same time, concerns about environment and sustainability are becoming more critical, and there is a growing recognition of the need for informed action on the part of all levels of government to mediate the impacts of climate change, and prepare for those impacts we can not now avoid.

The Coastal Zone Canada Association is well-positioned to take a leadership role in that process. Climate change impacts and environmental sustainability issues have been key elements of our conferences and conference statements, and that will continue in 2010, when our conference will be held in PEI, the province that will feel the effects of climate change, as expressed in rising sea levels, more than any other. CZCA will continue to work to improve awareness and understanding of all issues affecting coastal zones, and to help develop effective and well-founded coastal zone management strategies in all regions of Canada.

Our commitment to those goals will not flag, but the next few months will see some reorganization that may temporarily impact our ability to respond quickly to issues. After many years of professional and competent service to CZCA, our part-time secretary, Rosalee Wambolt, has chosen to retire. Rosalee was running the CZCA Secretariat when the first electronic edition of this newsletter came out, in 2002, and has been the node through which all important communications flowed. She has patiently reminded us of our duties, arranged our teleconferences, attended to correspondence, and responded to our needs with efficiency. She has been a pleasure to work with, and the Association is enormously grateful for the service she has given us for so many years.

At the moment, the Board is looking at how best to replace Rosalee. That may not involve hiring a replacement, but seeking a collaborative arrangement with another organization to share space and personnel. Whatever solution we agree on, our goal will be to ensure that the level of service to our Board and to our members is not compromised.

By the next newsletter, I should be able to update you on that process. In the interim, I hope that all of you will take advantage of the summer to find time for yourselves and your families, recharge your batteries, and reflect on the important role that our organization must play with respect to Canadian coastal and ocean management.

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## **A SNAPSHOT OF MARINE CONSERVATION EFFORTS AT CPAWS**

**Sabine Jessen, CZCA Director and Veronica Lo**

What do seabirds, sponge reefs, horse mussel reefs, and protected areas have in common? Besides being important components of managing our imperilled oceans, they are the focus of marine conservation efforts by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

Starting in British Columbia, at the top of our agenda is ensuring the long-term protection of BC's globally unique glass sponge reefs, as Marine Protected Areas under Canada's Oceans Act. Aside from the fact that these vast 9000-year-old, eight-storey high reef complexes are a dazzling marine relic of the Jurassic era that can only be found – alive – in BC, they provide important habitat for a variety of organisms, including juvenile rockfish.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has implemented groundfish trawl closures around the sponge reefs in Hecate Strait, but this interim protection must move to permanent protection as MPAs, and hopefully in the future as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Other smaller reef complexes discovered in the Southern Strait of Georgia remain dangerously exposed to bottom-trawling and other human impacts, and are currently not protected in any way. CPAWS-BC is working closely with DFO to create a Coral and Sponge Conservation Strategy that will speak to conservation needs not only for the sponges, but also for the myriad of cold-water coral species in BC waters.

On the east coast, CPAWS Nova Scotia is working to protect the unique horse mussel reefs in the Bay of Fundy. Seafloor images show multiple rows of mussel reefs that are up to 4m high, 40m wide and 1km long...that's higher than the ceiling in the average room and larger in area than an average city block! The Bay of Fundy is the only place on earth where reefs of this size formed by horse mussels have been found. However they remain threatened by trawling and dredging and urgently need protection – hopefully through an MPA under the Oceans Act.

Across Canada, CPAWS chapters are working to secure national marine conservation areas (NMCAs). Working with Parks Canada and coastal communities we anticipate new NMCAs in Gwaii Haanas and the Southern Strait of Georgia (BC), as well as les Iles-de-la-Madeleine (QC), and Lancaster Sound (Nunavut). In addition to these sites, which are currently underway, we are encouraging Parks Canada to consider new NMCAs in Newfoundland on the southwest coast, the Bay of Fundy – Digby Neck, the Great Lakes and Hudson's Bay.

The BC coast is home to a variety of seabirds and CPAWS-BC is encouraging federal protection of the Scott Islands, which is visited by millions of seabirds annually on their migration routes. The Scott Islands and a narrow band of surrounding waters have been designated as Ecological Reserves by the British Columbia government. A national marine wildlife area, however, would ensure that the surrounding habitat and resources upon which seabirds and marine mammals depend are fully protected. CPAWS-BC is actively engaged in public education and awareness of this important area to gather public support and encourage progress on Canada's first marine wildlife area.

What would marine conservation be in BC without a little bit of intrigue and a whole lot of politics? The Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA) was declared by the federal government as one of five Large Ocean Management Areas across Canada designated for integrated management under the Oceans Act. The boundaries of this 88,000 square km area contains a multitude of islands, deep fjords, and shallow banks and bays that provide habitats for an incredible diversity of species, including the sponge glass reefs mentioned above. With the integrated management process now underway, the conservation community is advocating for an ecosystem-based, adaptive management approach. To this end, CPAWS-BC and WWF Canada are currently leading research on current and forecasted climate change impacts on PNCIMA, in association with Sierra Club BC, the Living Oceans Society, and the David Suzuki Foundation.

No talk of climate change and oceans would be complete without mentioning the shocking impacts that are being felt in Canada's Arctic. As the sea ice melts at rates that astound scientists around the world, the people and communities in the Arctic are seeing the dramatic impacts on marine mammals upon which they depend for food and livelihoods. The federal government urgently needs a climate change adaptation strategy to deal with Canada's oceans and coasts that will address the management measures needed to ensure more resilient ocean ecosystems. According to experts around the world, a good start would be MPA networks on each of Canada's ocean coasts, and in the Great Lakes.

A product of our collaborative efforts with WWF Canada is the Marine Mysteries website (<http://www.marinemysteries.ca/>), where the public can learn fascinating things about our watery world (*for pictures of the amazing glass sponge reefs mentioned above, visit the Marine Mysteries link!*). We also encourage visitors to the site to check out our new Oceans Book Club, featuring the latest books about our oceans.

The global economy has certainly impacted our campaigns, and many of our friends and colleagues in the marine conservation world. But pushing forward our conservation efforts are no less a priority. In the face of economic uncertainty and ever-increasing pressures on our oceans, working together collaboratively will be the key to achieving healthy ocean ecosystems. We thank the Coastal Zone Canada Association for the opportunity to highlight what's happening in the CPAWS world, and look forward to joining forces with CZCA and other organizations in achieving our common goals.

## **THE CRUISE INDUSTRY ON THE BC COAST (Alison Gill, CZCA Director)**

The British Columbia Tourism Educators Conference was held from May 5-9th aboard the Golden Princess cruise ship. This was a repositioning cruise from Vancouver to Ketchikan, Alaska and then returning to Seattle. The theme of the conference focused on coastal tourism and the cruise sector. Dr. Alison Gill, representing Simon Fraser University and the Ocean Management Research Network, moderated a session on "B.C. Coastal Tourism Development: Gold Mine or Wishful Thinking". This offered an opportunity to engage with senior representatives of the cruise sector, as well as coastal tourism operators, coastal community and environmental experts, First Nations and government representatives to consider the challenges that coastal tourism, especially the cruise sector, face.

Over 70% of Canada's cruise passengers travel along the B.C. coast to Alaska. There are now facilities for large cruise ships to dock not only in Vancouver but also in Victoria, Nanaimo, Campbell River and Prince Rupert. The new Wei Wai Kum Cruise Ship terminal that opened in 2007 in Campbell River is owned and operated by the Campbell River Indian Band and is the first of its kind – themed around showcasing First Nations culture. Port Metro Vancouver is the home port for Vancouver –Alaska cruises and handles approximately 900,000 passengers on 250 sailings each summer. However, recently they are facing increased competition from Seattle where terminal facilities have been expanded.

Considering a high proportion of passengers to Alaska are from the US, Seattle has a comparative price advantage in terms of cheaper air fares and no border/customs delays. The loss of Carnival Cruise Lines to Seattle will mean an \$18 million annual loss to Vancouver. Next year Holland America will also reduce their Vancouver departures, but the industry anticipates that the downturn will not be permanent. While Vancouver has lost some ships this year to Seattle, the other B.C. ports have gained as all non-US registered ships can not go directly between two US ports without stopping.

The environmental impacts of the cruise industry have attracted much concern from the media, but in recent years the industry has responded with many technological improvements, particularly concerning on-board sewage and waste water treatment. Virtually all ships on the Alaska route have now invested in tertiary sewage treatment. Sea water scrubbers are also used to neutralize acidic emissions and eliminate 50-80% of sulphur dioxide emissions. All ships have senior-level environmental officers and an elaborate environmental auditing process. Other recent initiatives include using land-based power supplies when docked. This now happens in Juneau, Alaska where there has been a strong demand for this by an environmental lobby group. Vancouver will also soon offer this service.

While the cruise sector has been significantly affected by the recent economic crisis, new ships are under construction and marketing efforts are expected to see the industry regain its market position. For some coastal communities the cruise sector is a very important source of revenue and employment.

## **COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION 2008-2010**

Considering Coastal Zone Canada's large Board of Directors and an Association membership that changes quite a bit following each conference, a new regular feature will be included in each Newsletter. The newsletter editor will be inviting CZCA Officers, Directors and association members to contribute short 'personal profiles'. One to two individuals will be featured in each newsletter, including brief biographical details and a description of their role in coastal and ocean management - through their professional and/or their external affiliations. After all, the more we know about each other, the easier it will be for us to work together.

### **Rosaline Canessa**

Rosaline Canessa earned a BSc degree in Marine Biology from McGill University. Quickly realizing that she gets seasick, Rosaline switched to the calmer waters of coastal management when she pursued a MSc in Marine Resource Development and Protection at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. It was at Heriot-Watt where she caught the coastal management bug while developing an integrated coastal management plan for the Isle of Skye, exactly 20 years ago. She then took a position as a Marine Scientist at the Institute of Offshore Engineering, first in Edinburgh and then in the Orkney Islands. Rosaline worked on a variety of projects including developing an integrated coastal plan for Scapa Flow in the Orkneys and environmental sensitivity atlases for nearshore hydrocarbon development.

Plans and atlases naturally led Rosaline to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and to the University of Victoria to complete a PhD on coastal spatial decision support systems for collaborative coastal planning.

Not convinced that academia was for her, Rosaline returned to consulting with a position at AXYS Environmental Consulting in Sidney, B.C. Her work continued to focus on integrated coastal planning, marine protected areas and spatial analysis. She conducted socio-economic overviews for several proposed federal marine protected areas, developed an environmental assessment framework for provincial coastal plans, and undertook coastal planning in the Caribbean. Rosaline was on the organizing committee for Coastal Zone Canada '98 and became Vice-president of the CZC BC Association.

Six years on, academia beckoned and Rosaline returned to the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria where she has been a faculty member since 2003. She is Director of the Coastal and Oceans Resource Analysis Lab. She researches and teaches in the fields of integrated coastal management, marine protected areas, collaborative GIS and geovisualisation.

## SHORT NEWS ITEMS

### **(A) The Role of the Canadian Government in the Oceans Sector**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada have released a document titled: "The Role of the Canadian Government in the Oceans Sector". The document provides Canadians with easy access to information about the various roles the federal government plays within Canada's oceans sector. The report describes the activities of DFO and the other 29 federal government departments, agencies and other organizations that are involved in the oceans sector through policies, programs, services, regulation and/or procurement responsibilities. The document describes how these government departments, agencies and other organizations interact within five overarching themes - Sovereignty and Marine Security; Economic Development, Trade and Overseas Aid; Health and Environment; Transportation; and Real Property and Supply Services. To download this document, please visit:

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/publications/index-eng.htm>.

### **(B) CoastalWiki**

A wikipedia is a searchable website that allows visitors to easily access, edit and change available articles. Coastal and Marine Wiki is an Internet encyclopaedia of 1,202 information pages (and growing) for and by coastal professionals providing up-to-date Coastal and Marine information. It is the product of collaborative writing by authors who can add new articles or improve and update existing articles. To search, edit or contribute articles, visit: <http://www.coastalwiki.org/>.

### **(C) "Roundtable of Ocean Industry Association Leaders" - Sustainable Ocean Summit in Belfast**

International associations representing a wide variety of ocean industries will meet together in the first "Roundtable of Ocean Industry Association Leaders", which is being held as part of the Sustainable Ocean Summit in Belfast (June 16-17). Confirmed Roundtable participants include directors and senior managers of: Oil and Gas Producers Association (OGP), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA), International Association of Dredging Contractors (IADC), International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC), International Energy Agency: Ocean Energy Systems (IEA:OES), with additional association participants anticipated. The Sustainable Ocean Summit conference will open with the "Roundtable of Ocean Industry Association Leaders", a forum for the diverse international ocean business community. This roundtable will identify cross-cutting issues, define needs and opportunities for cross-sectoral leadership, and highlight priorities for collaboration. For more information, please visit: <http://www.oceancouncil.org>.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND DEADLINES

June 1 - 2, 2009: "CSCE 2009 Triennial Conference - Coastal Engineering: Future Challenges and Risks", St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. Information: <http://www.csce.ca/2009/triennial/>

June 14-17, 2009: "6th Canadian River Heritage Conference", Ottawa, Ontario. Information: <http://www.riversconference.ca>.

June 15, 2009: Extended deadline - submission of abstracts to "CoastGIS '09", 9th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management (30 September - 2 October 2009, Santa Catarina, Brazil). Information: <http://www.coastgis.com.br/index.php>.

June 16-17, 2009: Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS), Belfast, Ireland. Information: See the Sustainable Ocean Summit link at <http://www.oceancouncil.org>.

June 16-18, 2009 : « Energy Ocean 2009 », Rockport, Maine. Information: <http://www.energyocean.com/2009/index.php>

July 15, 2009 : Deadline - Call for proposals: Frontlines Forum. Accepting proposals for community-level projects focusing on local experiences with climate change impacts and adaptation. Information: <http://www.climatefrontlines.org/en-GB/node/191>.

July 19-21, 2009: Coastal Zone 09 "Revolutionary Times: Catching the Wave of Change", Boston, Massachusetts. Information: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/index.html>

September 20-23, 2009: "27th Meeting of the International Association of Sedimentologists", Alghero, Island of Sardinia, Italy. Information: <http://www.ias2009.com/>

September 23-24, 2009: ACZISC Meeting #58, St. John's, NL. Information: <http://aczisc.dal.ca/>

September 30 - October 2, 2009: "9th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management", Santa Catarina, Brazil. Information: <http://www.coastgis.com.br/index.php>

October 4-9, 2009: "Gulf of Maine Symposium - Advancing Ecosystem Research for the Future of the Gulf", St. Andrews, New Brunswick. Information: <http://www.rargom.org/Symposium2009>

October 14-16, 2009: American Shore & Beach Preservation Society – "National Coastal Conference: Integrating Coastal Science and Policy", St. Pete Beach, Florida. Information: <http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conferences.htm>

October 20-22, 2009: Ocean Innovation 2009: "Greener Ships - Bluer Waters Efficiency, Emissions, Coatings and Waste". Vitoria, British Columbia. Information: <http://www.oceaninnovation.ca/>

October 21-24, 2009 : OMRN National Conference 2009 – "Canada's Oceans: Research, Management & the Human Dimension", Ottawa, Ontario. Information: <http://www.omrn-rrgo.ca/conf2009/conference2009.html>

November 1-5, 2009: "20th Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation", Portland, Oregon. Information: <http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2009/>

November 10-14, 2009: "9th International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment", Sochi, Russia. Information: <http://www.medcoast.org.tr/>

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*Translation services provided by Ms. Chantal Jordaan, Memorial University of Newfoundland. Thanks are also expressed to Maxine Westhead, Kelly Cantelo, Grant Gardner, and Larry Hildebrand for final review of the newsletter.*

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*Questions and comments pertaining to the Coastal Zone Canada Association should be addressed to the CZCA Secretariat at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 4A2 ([coastalz@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:coastalz@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca))*

# COASTAL ZONE CANADA ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

I am proud to support the CZCA in its efforts and activities to advance Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management (ICOM) in Canada and the world, to shape 'Canada's Oceans Agenda, and to demonstrate to the Government of Canada and the governments of the Provinces and Territories the level of interest and commitment to ICOM from coast-to-coast-to-coast-to-coast.

Please renew my membership in the CZCA for (check one of the following):

Two Years (2008-2010): \$40

One Year (2008-2009): \$20

Please enclose a cheque or money order for the appropriate amount, payable to the "CZCA". (Please note that a receipt will be issued by e-mail)

## COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CLEARLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your membership renewal along with your cheque or money order to:

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