Using Environmental Grey Literature to Engage Public Participation in Decision Making: Government Transparency in Coastal Policy Development

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“Your ‘Our Coast’ literature is sound. Distribute, distribute, etc. Talk to and engage the community, NGOs. Come visit us, talk with us — we’d be pleased to help with key local/provincial strategies.”

(A16, Open House, Antigonish, Nova Scotia May 2010)
“The community needs to have the final say in any development. I strongly recommend that these sessions come directly to the coastal communities so that the fishermen have a chance to ask questions and state their MANY concerns.”
The State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report provides an overview of the condition of our coast and information on priority coastal issues. We must look at ways to protect the coast where we live, work, and play. It is vital to who we are and a way of life that is valued by Nova Scotians.

Sterling Belliveau, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
“This report is a snapshot of the current state of the province's coast, including its history. Using feedback from Nova Scotians, as well as information in the report, a coastal strategy will be developed for release in 2010.”

Justin Huston, Chair of the Provincial Oceans Network
Coastal Management in Nova Scotia

The Government of Nova Scotia has made coastal management a priority with the release of its State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report. This Report provides baseline information on our coastal areas and resources, which we will use to develop a Coastal Strategy. The Strategy will outline how we will take action to address the coastal issues that matter most to Nova Scotians.


The State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report

Learn more about Nova Scotia's coast and the issues that the Coastal Strategy will address.

Priority Coastal Issues

The government is focusing its coastal management efforts on six issues:

- Coastal Development
- Working Waterfronts
- Public Coastal Access
- Sea-level Rise and Storm Events
- Coastal Water Quality
- Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems

Further Information

Learn more about the Government of Nova Scotia's approach to coastal management here.
Six Priority Coastal Issues

Public Coastal Access
Six Priority Coastal Issues

Working Waterfronts
Six Priority Coastal Issues

Coastal Water Quality

Coastal Development
Six Priority Coastal Issues

(4)

Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems & Habitats
Public Launch — Media Accounts

Water rising as shellfish, slump, coast study finds

By The Canadian Press
and DAVENEE JEFFREY
Staff Reporter

A new report on Nova Scotia’s coastline says a quantity of shellfish caught off the province dropped by more than half from 2003 to 2006.

The report, titled the State of Nova Scotia’s Coast, said the province will suffer physically and economically if coastal problems are not addressed.

The report says that Nova Scotia’s coastline is suffering from eroding beaches, coastal flooding, and erosion of coastal habitats.

The report recommends that the province implement a coastal management plan to address these issues.

The report also recommends that the province invest in research and development to better understand and manage coastal resources.

The report concludes that the province must take action to protect its coastline and prevent further degradation.

The State of Nova Scotia’s Coast

By John Diefenbaker

A new report by the Nova Scotia government provides an overview of the condition of Nova Scotia’s coastal environments.

The report looks at the condition of the province’s coastal environments, including fishing grounds, beaches, and coastal habitats.

The report says that Nova Scotia’s coastal environments are in good condition, but that there are some areas that need improvement.

The report recommends that the province implement a coastal management plan to address these issues.

The report also recommends that the province invest in research and development to better understand and manage coastal resources.

The report concludes that the province must take action to protect its coastline and prevent further degradation.
Consultation Process

A variety of mechanisms were used to receive input from the public and stakeholders:

- online and written submissions
- regional open houses
- municipal workshops
- a telephone survey
- a multi-stakeholder workshop
- sector-based meetings
Public Responses and Submissions from NGOs and Advocacy Groups

Submission from Ecology Action Centre
Context
(cultural, political, economic, etc.)

Information
(Grey Literature)

Communication

Requests / Needs

Measurement

Policy & Decision Making

Barriers
# Stakeholder Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Non-Governmental Organizations</th>
<th>Academic Institutions</th>
<th>Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Agencies (National &amp; Provincial)</td>
<td>Community Organizations</td>
<td>Universities and Research Institutes</td>
<td>Energy (oil &amp; gas, coal, renewable energy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Development Agencies</td>
<td>Coastal Protection Groups</td>
<td>Libraries (University, Public)</td>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental Organizations</td>
<td>Wildlife Conservation Groups</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Professional Associations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources of Data for the Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surveys</th>
<th>Evidence of Alerting Systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Houses (Direct observations &amp; questionnaire)</td>
<td>Web Link Searches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>Citation Searches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-stakeholder Workshop - Questionnaire</td>
<td>Evidence of Availability in Libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-stakeholder Interviews</td>
<td>News Media Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Surveys</td>
<td>Web Site Access to the <em>Report</em> Documents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sites of Public Consultations Throughout the Province of Nova Scotia
Attendance at Open Houses

- Industry: 4%
- Academic Institutions: 3%
- First Nation: 2%
- Government: 12%
- NGO: 32%
- General Public: 48%
Open Houses – Awareness Methods

- Received an Email: 45% (115)
- Received a Report: 13% (33)
- Received a Letter: 7% (18)
- Media: 31% (80)
- Website: 20% (52)
- Open House: 30% (78)
- Other: 23% (52)

% of total responses
Open Houses — Preferred Version

- Summary: 53%
- Fact Sheets: 48%
- Full Technical Report: 37%
- No Preference: 5%
Planned Use of the Report (Open Houses)

- Not sure: 4%
- Work: 7%
- Public Participation in Decision-making: 24%
- Policy development/Planning: 2%
- Monitor government/Lobby for change: 20%
- Education and Awareness building: 43%
Multi-Stakeholder Meeting: Awareness Methods

- Other-awareness: 29%
- Media Coverage: 17%
- Networks (e.g., email lists): 46%
- Received a Notification Letter: 50%
- Received a Printed Report: 13%
- Involved in Its Production: 21%
Multi-Stakeholder Meeting: Preferred Versions

- Full Technical Report: 54%
- Summary (English): 58%
- Fact Sheets (English): 46%
- Fact Sheets (French): 4%
- Summary (French): 8%
Planned Use of the Report (Multi-Stakeholder Meeting)

- Work: 38%
- Education/Awareness building: 25%
- Policy development/Planning: 17%
- Public Participation in Decision-making: 17%
- Monitor government/ Lobby for change: 4%
Province-Wide Telephone Survey

To gain public views about Nova Scotia’s coasts a random sample of 600 residents were surveyed:

- 41 (6.8%) were aware of the Report
- Use of the report and preferred versions views were similar to findings from the open houses and the multi-stakeholder meeting
### Awareness – Interviewer Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder Group</th>
<th>Prior awareness of <em>Report</em></th>
<th>Aware of <em>Report</em> after release</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Institutions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Nation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
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Coastal Management in Nova Scotia

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**The State of Nova Scotia’s Coast Report**

Learn more about Nova Scotia’s coast and the issues that the Coastal Strategy will address.

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**Priority Coastal Issues**

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**what We Heard**

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**2010 Report on Nova Scotia’s Coastal Consultation**

- Take me there
What we Heard: 2010 Report on Nova Scotia’s Coastal Consultation

From May 1st to July 18th, 2010, Nova Scotians were invited to comment on the State of Nova Scotia’s Coast Report and to provide input on their priorities and ideas for the future Coastal Strategy.

The consultation process included a variety of mechanisms for gathering input from the public and stakeholders including:

- online and written submissions
- regional open houses
- municipal workshops
- a phone survey
- a multi-stakeholder workshop
- sector-based meetings

Over the course of these consultations we heard from over 1,200 people, many of whom represented coastal organizations, businesses, and communities.

Feedback has been compiled into an overview report called What We Heard, which is now publicly available. In addition, separate reports from the phone survey, multi-stakeholder workshop, and individual open houses are also available. Reports available here:

- What we Heard: Nova Scotia’s 2010 Coastal Consultation (En Français)
- Phone survey report
- Multi-stakeholder workshop report
- Open house reports:
  - Bridgewater
  - Yarmouth
Key Findings

Several communication methods are needed to reach diverse audiences

 GestureDetector All the methods can be used, more or less simultaneously.
Gesture All some methods may involve direct communication, others indirect, i.e., information was transferred through networks.

Several versions of the report are needed

 GestureDetector Print and digital; print continues to have a role.
Gesture Different types (technical report, summary document, fact sheets)
Key Findings

Each version of the report has specific uses for specific audiences

☐ Education and advocacy are the primary expectations of use

☐ Individuals likely to use the Report are directly related to those with prior awareness and known interest in coastal issues.

“I'm seeing people refer to it fairly often I'd say, of course, I tend to be in the circles of people that are doing that” (A2).
Key Findings (3)

Influence of the report will require additional measurement

.eof

“...I've seen more positive discussions that actually something is finally getting going, getting started…” (G4).

“...true usefulness of it is going to be found after the strategy work has been delivered because really this is ...the starting point for that and you can't really judge how good your starting point is until you kind of get to the end.” (N2)

“...bringing all these departments to look at the report...we felt like we had some relationship there…” (G2).
Acknowledgements

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Images credits: P.G. Wells, S.S. Soomai, NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

More Information: www.eiui.ca