



**Information Document for Steering Committee Meeting #39**

**December 1 2011**

## Table of Content

Table of Content .....	2
Executive Director's Report.....	3
Annual Work-plan .....	5
Synopsis of Volunteer Group Activities .....	6
Internal Reports.....	9

## Executive Director's Report

### Funding proposals

#### **Applied to:**

Yves Rocher Foundation	<i>Prix Terre de Femme, Submitted September 30<sup>th</sup> 2011, asked for \$5000 Euro, Project: CAMP</i>
Status of Women Canada	<i>Femmes vivant dans les collectivités rurales et éloignées et dans les petits centres urbain.- Theme #2 Economic Security. Submitted: November 4, 2011. Requested \$212,120 for 36 months Project: with IdM and Chéticamp – develop and put in place a community plan that will limit the negative impacts and increase benefits to women's economic security caused by hydrocarbon exploitation in the Gulf region.</i>
New Horizon – “When I was young”	<i>Submitted October 14. Requested: \$24,500 for twelve months. Project: Engaging seniors is storytelling and sharing knowledge on local changes with regards to environment and increasing their involvement in local volunteer groups – linked with five CCC-CURA communities in New Brunswick.</i>
Aviva community funds – “Small Towns, Big Dreams: We are the Future”	<i>Submitted for \$50,000-\$100,000 for video documentary of sustainability leaders in Eastern Canada. Final round of voting end November 30<sup>th</sup>.</i>
Rural Secretariat – Community Development Fund	<i>Submitted September 30<sup>th</sup> for \$86,356 for 15 months. Project: NorSt-EMP and Information access, sharing and contacts for Kent County NB.</i>
Taylor & Francis Group, The Coastal Society	<i>\$5000 to help cover cost of CCC-CURA AGM in Quebec. – Denied.</i>
Donner Foundation	<i>Applied for Award on education.. Did not make it to second round, but still in the running for 1000\$ prize. Will confirm status in December.</i>
North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action	<i>Applied for work with CEMEP and CCC-CURA around climate change adaptation and collaborative. Submitted online August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Heard</i>

	<i>news committee still reviewing applications. Will follow-up in December.</i>
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**Funding sources currently in the process of applying**

RBC Blue Water Fund – Leadership Grant, National Grant (\$100,000-\$500,000) over 3 years	<i>Will be looking to apply for 2012 deadline – Leadership Grant due in March 2012. FDWG is helping with determining how we can apply and how we can link CAMP, the NorSt-EMP and maybe agriculture into this proposal. John Legault and Tanya Dykens will be providing oversight on the application.</i>
Gordon Foundation	<i>For CAMP, looking at how we can develop a relationship with them.</i>
Packard Foundation	<i>Looking at how we can develop a relationship with them.</i>

Networking

- Great Lakes St.Lawrence Symphony, Sept.22.2011, Montreal, Qc
- Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee, October 5-6, 2011, Halifax, NS

Coalition-SGSL meetings

- Weekly meetings with staff
- Management Committee meetings,
- Meeting with Science Research Habitat WG,
- Meeting with Coastal Erosion WG Chair
- Meetings with Communication and Education Working Group
- Meetings with the Fund Development Advisory Group
- Meeting with the Technical Advisory Group
- Meeting with the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Group
- Bi-weekly meetings with CCC-CURA Co-direction
- Meeting with Stephanie Hopper, Marc Ouellette, Simon Courtenay and Marie-Hélène Thériault at DFO

### Activities

- Finances – bookkeeping, reconciliations, financial analyses, management of cash flow, etc.
- Organised and facilitated Volunteer Group Meetings with Chairs and Thérèse
- Worked on lots of funding proposals and project ideas with partners
- Worked on Projects: CAMP, CEMEP, CCC-CURA,
- Worked on Coalition-SGSL priorities (Fundraising and Communications)
- Wrote, edited and distributed The SGSLCS Messenger Newsletter
- Organised the first webinar for the Steering Committee
- Emails to members and publicity for our AVIVA contest
- Updated several Coalition-SGSL website pages
- Completed Bi-Annual report in English and French

### Upcoming Important Deadlines

- Dec. Issue of Messenger to develop and distribute
- Scholarship Advertisement to send-out before the Holidays

### Important News:

- None at this time.

Chantal has the idea of creating a policy task group that will chose a provincial or federal policy of interest and organise itself to produce an analysis of this policy from a sustainability perspective and in comparison to other provinces or regions with input from the various sectors of the Coalition-SGSL's territory. The objective would be to produce once a year a short and summarised report that provides an expert multi-sector opinion about a policy and its place in helping the region accomplish the Coalition-SGSL's vision.

## Annual Work-plan

### Synopsis:

We are focusing on communicating and funding this year. We are also focusing on linking more of our projects together and bring together agents from these various efforts towards common objectives.

See PDF: Workplan\_September 1, 2011 and Workplan\_Legend

## Synopsis of Volunteer Group Activities

December 2011

Coalition- SGSL	Advisory Groups		Working Groups			
	Fund Development	Technical Advisory	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	Science, Research & Habitat	Communications & Education	Coastal Erosion
<b><u>Status:</u></b>	Active	Had first meeting  There is no chair - a new purpose and direction has yet to be set	Had first meeting  Active members are being sought. Purpose and direction is being set.	Active  Meetings every 3 months	Active  Meetings every 3 months	Active  Meetings every 3 months
<b><u>Current projects</u></b>	Fundraising Procedure developing, Implement fundraising policy. Developing Funding Strategy.	None	None	CAMP; Sustainability Indicators; CCC-CURA; SECOA; Northumberland Strait – Effects Monitoring Partnership (NorSt- EMP)	Updating Website information ; Membership Call- around; Implementing communication policy, The SGLCS Messenger	Coastal Erosion Monitoring and Education Program (CEMEP)
<b><u>Potential projects</u></b>	Organise an annual Local Marketing and Fundraising Event	None	Link with CCC-CURA and existing project and program more.	Improving and linking current projects for more efficient use of knowledge and tools in the Gulf region.	Increase social media presence; Member relations improve	Link more climate change adaptation (management strategies) with existing program, link with CCC- CURA and other groups
<b><u>Next meeting</u></b>	<b>February 13, 2012 – 2:00pm</b>	<b>January 11, 2012 – 2:00pm</b>	<b>January 20, 2012 - 10:00am</b>	<b>Friday – 10:00am February 3rd, 2012</b>	<b>February , 2012 – 2:00pm</b>	<b>Monday – 10:30am February 27, 2012-</b>

## **Volunteer Group Activities Details**

### *FUND DEVELOPMENT*

One of the big challenges for the Coalition-SGSL is matching funds. Two of our most recent applications the requested funding had to be reduced because we did not have enough matching funds for the whole amount. This is with the use of Environment Canada standards for in-kind contribution. We really need to find a way of accumulating funds, and to receive funds that are not attached to specific project deliverables and do not need to be spent within one fiscal year. We need to get back to the role of the group which is to go beyond the creation of project proposals, to looking for foundation support from philanthropic charities that support our work and vision.

Ray will focus his time on developing a strategy for funding and how we need a higher level strategy. He will consider the marketing and private public image aspects; the need to include the consideration of the procedural process that needs to follow the Fundraising Policy that was put in place; to include also the answers to questions like ‘What day to day operations can we find funding for’ (Messenger, Communications, Group Meetings), and to look into a place for sponsorship package for many of our operational activities. The strategy needs to make the business case for the clients (what are the benefits to advertising with us) – small to medium enterprises and low-foot print groups could be more interested; could include special offers to business members of our organisation. One key aspect to keep in mind for clients and members is that the funding strategy has to have in it consideration for the communication policy and strategy as developed previously. However, new key questions must be answered such as: What are the tangibles for the money they give? How are we contributing to change? Are we really accomplishing our mission and vision?

### *TECHNICAL ADVISORY*

The group supported the following two priorities for the group for the coming year:

1. Find ways to put more data in the regional Sustainability Atlas of the Coalition-SGSL.
2. Update our website in order to link it to other data systems and thus be more useful for our members.

The limited presence of members in this group triggered a discussion concerning the group's existence. It was mentioned that the group may exist in an ad hoc fashion meeting for particular problems to solve. As an advisory or working group that meets regularly and provides direction to the Steering Committee, probably not. By next year we'll see if this change should be made, or if the group should simply be dropped and recreated just as a task group when the need arises.

### *TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE*

The TEK members present developed a statement for that is to be revised by the group as a whole and then presented to the Steering Committee for approval. Once approved the statement should be made public on our website and if requested more broadly. The group will also focus on integrating in upcoming projects traditional knowledge.

### *SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND HABITAT*

At the last meeting, the group had a special guest speaker, Mr Guillaume Fortin, a professor at the Université de Moncton in geography. His work focuses on climate change studies particularly in the Gaspésie region. Guillaume was invited to present his project on the sedimentation levels in the Cocagne River. The objective of this project is to identify and quantify sedimentation and erosion problems in the Cocagne River. They are concentrating on this river for now but it is known that sedimentation and erosion problem also occur in other watersheds. This pilot study was developed to be easily transferrable and applicable to other nearby watershed. This project has one year remaining with one and half already completed. The project consists of quantifying the sedimentation and erosion problem in the river by evaluating the erosion potential through map base information (GIS-information); estimating the magnitude of the problem through the perception of residents and users of the river (interviews and focus group) by using individual interviews and an outline map; and quantifying the amount of sediment in the Cocagne River using modified sedi-back (equipment used for quantifying sediments in rivers). The next step is to try to determine a correlation between the erosion and what people identified as being at risk of creating erosions. After this project is over, they will try to test their methodology in another river to make sure it is easily replicable by watershed groups.

### *Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP)*

The summer activities are finished. The rest of the year's activities consist of finding a means of coordinating Canadian Aquatic Benthic Invertebrates Network (CABIN) with several CAMP group members in coming years. This is in compliance with our Environment Canada funding. We are working closely with them, Marie-Hélène Thériault, several CAMP groups and a Université de Moncton, Campus de Shippagan, Bachelor of Integrated Coastal Zone Management student. As well we have a volunteer Danielle Harris who has agreed to develop an in-class presentation (or learning experience) to educate students on the importance of healthy estuaries and of monitoring them, and recruit them as possible volunteers for CAMP.

### *Northumberland Strait Environmental Monitoring Partnership (NorSt-EMP)*

Northumberland Strait Environment Monitoring Partnership (NorST-EMP) research proposal were received on September 15th. The proposals were reviewed by 7 members of the NorST-EMP partnership and will also be reviewed by a panel from the CWN which

will be considering the scientific aspect of the proposals. The NorST-EMP partnership has also been talking with the Canadian Capture Fisheries Network to organize together a workshop to review terrestrial effects (land-use) on coastal fisheries (i.e. not only inside the Northumberland Strait but also fisheries conducted inside estuaries and bays such as the herring fishery). This workshop is scheduled for February or March 2012. In December or January we hope to bring the successful researchers to meet with the partnership to discuss the project proposal that were accepted to go ahead with their research starting April 2012. The Coalition-SGSL is waiting for the response from the Rural Secretariat to commence work with NorSt-EMP and the Kent Distrivt partners on the pilot project for developing an approach to attract local government to be involved in the NortSt-EMP.

#### *Coastal Communities Challenges-Community University Research Alliances (CCC-CURA)*

The CCC-CURA annual meeting is in Québec City November 23-24, 2011. The 10 communities of the project are the Local Districts of Grande-Digue, Dundas and Cocagne in southeast New Brunswick, the Towns of Shippagan and Saint Marie Saint Raphaël in the Acadian Peninsula, Morell and Stratford in Prince Edward Island, and Bonaventure, Maria and Sainte-Flavie in Québec.

#### COASTAL EROSION

##### *Coastal Erosion Monitoring and Education Program (CEMEP)*

This program is struggling to meet its deliverables and find its path in answering the needs of communities while simultaneously answering those of government. Especially, as erosion impacts are moving faster than the groups work, it is hard not to become outdated in what we create. However, the group itself is moving forward, though attendance has been down. The website is receiving some attention with more information and resources available.

## Internal Reports

### **Report on attendance at events/ Rapport sur la participation d'événements**

Event Name/Nom de l'événement : *Réunion Symphonie Grands Lacs Saint-Laurent*

Date: 22 septembre 2011

Location/Endroit : Boisphère, Montréal

Participant(e): Chantal Gagnon

Objectifs:

- x Networking/Réseautage
- Training/Entrainement
- x Collecte information/ Collecte d'information
- x Disseminate information/distribuer de l'information

## Summary/Résumé

For the Coalition-SGSL, the purpose for attending this meeting was to find out what this initiative was about, what would be expected from us, and what were the possibilities of networking into the Great Lakes area.

The Great Lakes St.Lawrence Symphony is a creation of Raymond Jost from the International Secretariat for Water (more info on this group here : <http://www.sie-isw.org/en/the-isw/mission-know-how>). In short, the idea is to bring international and national attention to the great watershed that is the Great Lakes St.Lawrence. To do so, the ISW aims to bring attention and awareness of the watershed across the provincial borders through its people. It believes many positive changes can happen for the health of this watershed through the actions of local residents and governments in a network of interested groups and individuals.

As a first step it is seeking to build from existing activities of local groups and networks. Through these, it wishes to spread the word of the initiative, encourage local expression of the importance of this watershed, and build a few uniting blocks through a mosaic or shared vision of the future (year 2035) of this watershed. These steps can be summarised as :

- 1 – Drawing attention to itself through the VidÉEAU contest – which will also provide entry for the winner to the international water video contest.
- 2 – Finding a few key witnesses from various points in the watershed that will be interested in expressing their vision for the watershed and its importance to their lives locally and on a global scale. These witnesses must be comfortable speaking in public and in front of the media, and be willing to travel to Québec (preferably) in June 2012 for the first event.
- 3 – Express in Marseille, France, at the International Water forum some of the preliminary results of the vision quest.

4 – Hold in June in Quebec City an event that will bring national and international attention to the Great Lakes St.Lawrence watershed.

5 – From there continue reaching out to more individuals in the region and further the networking efforts of the group. Other events, such as the one planned for June, will occur every two to three years as best suits the initiative.

Their long-term objective is to put in place a process. How exactly and what this process will look like is still undetermined and will be influenced by the people on board. Still, it would seem that their objective with the building of a process is to unite local residents, governments and groups that live in the watershed to be supportive to each other (like a network) in the hopes that this will influence how we manage our activities across the whole watershed to have in the end a healthy and sustainable Great Lakes St.Lawrence watershed.

My opinion is that most of Canada's population and decision-makers live along this watershed, but are closer to the great lakes than the gulf. As such, being involved in this initiative could give us more visibility and help bring more awareness in central Canada of the importance of having a healthy Gulf of Saint-Lawrence. Further, it would facilitate the existing efforts by other groups such as the Ocean Management Research Network to link the great lakes coast with the ocean, or that of members who want to bring national attention to local sustainability issues of importance.

It is also an initiative that gives us an opportunity to reach-out to our members and get them involved (even utilise it for their own fund raising) in something that is applicable locally (organise an activity with local students to express their vision of the Great Lakes St.Lawrence watershed) but fits within a greater objective. It could increase our membership as well.

What must we do to be involved?:

- Spread the theme questions and integrate them in existing activities in order to help develop a Vision statement for the Great Lakes St.Lawrence Symphony.
- Find witnesses that are willing to be seen and heard nationally and internationally on the important issues of our region and can use their voice to support our sustainability efforts with those in the great lakes.
- Contribute as we can (in-kind or cash) to the symphony (in the building of the process – meetings, carrying these activities, etc).
- Networking - help the symphony network and find new partners.

## Report on attendance at events/ Rapport sur la participation d'événements

Event Name/Nom de l'événement : *Meeting with DFO*

Date: November 2, 2011 1 :30pm

Location/Endroit : Moncton, NB

Participant(e): Chantal Gagnon

Objectifs:

- Networking/Réseautage
- Training/Entrainement
- Collecte information/ Collecte d'information
- Disseminate information/distribuer de l'information

### Summary/Résumé

Following advice from Steering Committee members and Fund Development Group members, I booked an appointment with with Stephanie Hopper at Department of Fisheries and Oceans and prepared a small three pager on the relationship with the Coalition-SGSL and its three main activities funded by DFO (CAMP, Scholarship, Stakeholder Engagement). The objective was to find-out what we should be expecting given upcoming government changes. It was also to express our interest to see the Standing Offer between DFO and the Coalition-SGSL renewed. It currently expires at the end of March 2012. The meeting was held in Moncton, NB at the Gulf Fisheries Center. Marc Ouellet was present in the place of Roland Cormier. Marie-Hélène Thériault and Simon Courtenay were also present as they are CAMP's main representatives within DFO.

The meeting went well. The good news was the Stephanie sees the merit of our contribution to their mandate and is interested in keeping the relationship alive. The darker news is that DFO like all other federal government department is going through a downsizing of its operations and their activities will need to be more closely tied to their mandates. Stewardship is not one of these focuses from

what can be gathered from information so far. Science done in an effective cost-efficient manner would seem to be more of a focus. Under this light, it is clear that CAMP will be sructinised and may need to be redesigned. It is uncertain what stakeholder engagement will occur in the future though this will remain in their mandate. It is therefore a likely avenu for future work. The Scholarship is uncertain, however Stephanie felt more comfortable about this one. There is no interest in ending CAMP, however it cannot be confirmed that this will not happen. It may be that CAMP may need to go into hibernation while the program gets reviewed and redesigned. It may also be that CAMP will continue while this occurs thereby continuing the data collection and providing an unbroken baseline of estuarine habitat and biodiversity data.

I will follow-up with Stephanie in December to try and get a standing offer in place even if no funding is attached to it. This would facilitate being able to implement activities within our three spheres of interest. That is it doesn't commit DFO to providing funds, but it does give them a tool to make it possible.

COPY of Document brief sent to Stephanie prior to this meeting.

October 31, 2011

Object: Review of Coalition-SGSL relationship with DFO Gulf

To: Stephanie Hopper, DFO, Marie-Hélène Thériault, DFO, Simon Courtenay, DFO, Roland Cormier, DFO.

Prepared by: Chantal Gagnon, Coalition-SGSL Executive Director

History: Since its very foundation, the Coalition-SGSL has been an ally to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). From 1999 until May 2011, DFO has had a seat within the Steering Committee of the organisation, representing a federal perspective to setting its direction. Through the years several volunteer members of the organisation have been involved in various activities of the organisation helping DFO further the impacts of its intergrated ocean and coastal management mandate. In 2006, to simplify the red tape involved in the relationship between DFO and the Coalition-SGSL, and to improve the efficiency with which activities are delivered, both parties embarked on developing a Standing Agreement which took effect in 2008. This agreement ends in April 2012 and covers the transfer of funds to the Coalition-SGSL for the delivery of activities or products in three main sectors: Community Aquatic Monitoring Program, Sustainability Scholarship Fund, and Stakeholder Engagement.

Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP): CAMP is without a doubt a great example of cross-sector collaboration and of federal government efforts to implement integrated management. Since 2007, the Coalition-SGSL has worked alongside DFO to coordinate the program. CAMP went from being carried-out in nine estuaries within the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence to 35 estuaries in the space of five years. This represents a 388% increase in the number of estuaries being sampled for aquatic estuarine community assemblages, water quality and submerged vegetation. The number of watershed groups volunteering in CAMP has also increased from 4 groups to 29 groups, with six in Nova Scotia, 13 in New Brunswick, 10 in Prince Edward Island.

CAMP results have been impressive. Thanks to this collaboration DFO Gulf has amassed an unprecedented amount of data for southern Gulf of St. Lawrence estuaries that can actually provide a regional picture of the health of the region. Indeed, the 2010 science review conducted by DFO indicated that CAMP could very well be used as a primary science tool in the eventual development of the State of the Northumberland Strait. The current analysis of CAMP data by DFO scientist will produce a comprehensive color coded report that will inform government decisions and the delivery of DFO's mandate. The science review has confirmed the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program does have the ability to determine scientifically defensible thresholds on a variety of parameters that can assist in decision-making (oxygen, phosphate, nitrate, fish assemblages, etc). CAMP does indeed provide DFO and local decision-makers with the ability to know the absence and presence of species in a manner that permits the assessment of environmental health. Further, CAMP is an ecosystem based approach to determining the health of our estuaries and informs the pathway of influence between land-uses and the health of the Northumberland Strait. The collaborative work of DFO and the Coalition-SGSL on carrying-out CAMP not only provides data for developing a State of the Northumberland Strait assessment but also puts into action DFO's mandate for ecosystem-management by monitoring for environmental health consistently across a wide region.

CAMP has also gained national and international attention with every year bringing new interest from scientist, government bodies, and international organisations interested in citizen science and collaborative solutions to environmental issues. Indeed, there is much interest in the protocol developed to do CAMP to be used in other regions as a best management practice. With proper financial, government and local support expansion of CAMP into other coastal regions is possible.

DFO's in-kind and financial contribution, \$70,000 and \$25,000 respectively, helps the Coalition-SGSL carry-out CAMP. CAMP does require DFO to function, but for it to be successful it requires outside partners. The Coalition-SGSL is able raise support for carrying-out CAMP with annual in-kind contributions totaling an estimated \$130,000 and annual financial contributions totalling an estimated \$70,000. It has operated the last several years mostly with a total value of \$195,000 annually, DFO's total contribution representing roughly 35% (in-kind) and 13% (cash). For CAMP to really be successful we would need an annual in-kind and cash budget of \$225,000. To this this end, every year the Coalition-SGSL makes extra efforts, though it is not always successful, to find funding sources to provide the watershed groups with some funds to help them carry-out CAMP and maintain volunteers (cost of gas, some equipment, some refreshments and administration). It is important to note that the data that DFO uses to determine the environmental health of 35 estuaries would be impossible to gather without the commitment of the 29 volunteer groups that contribute over 460 hours of volunteer time over the course of three months. They do so because they believe in this collaboration and that the data they work hard to gather will be used by DFO and other government bodies to improve their environment and

thereby their quality of life in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. CAMP provides an excellent return on investment for DFO and is a program that should be considered for expansion.

Sustainability Scholarship: The Sustainability Scholarship provides funding to university students that are carrying-out sustainability related research in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. Since 2005, the Scholarship has been awarded to 12 students, 8 women and 4 men. The winning students are from a wide range of universities and programs including Université de Montréal, Dalhousie University, University of New Brunswick, Université du Québec à Rimouski, St. Francis-Xavier University, Université Laval, University of Prince Edward Island, Université de Moncton- Campus de Moncton, and the Atlantic Veterinary College at UPEI. Winning students have been from both francophone and anglophone communities and have done research in several locations, namely in the Magdalene Islands, in national parks in New Brunswick and PEI, throughout the Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the coastal zone of the Baie des Chaleurs, in rivers and estuaries of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and in Prince Edward Island. In all students have done research on the role of mushrooms in dune systems, piping plover predation, invasive aquatic species, fish assemblages, fish prey-predator analysis, mussel and oyster aquaculture, primary education and the link with identifying environmental problems, and the total economic value of natural capital.

DFO has contributed yearly \$5000, with an in-kind contribution of \$1000, for the scholarship, with the Coalition-SGSL raising in the past equal amounts from other government departments such as Environment Canada. The Coalition-SGSL in-kind contribution to the Scholarship is roughly \$2000 annually in personnel and volunteer time, and in advertisement and administration of the scholarship. For the past four years, DFO has been the only source of funding for the scholarship.

Stakeholder Engagement: The Stakeholder Engagement clause of the standing agreement has provided for amazing flexibility in the Coalition-SGSL helping DFO quickly execute activities that gather added science for its existing programs and for new ideas, as well as assisting in concretely implementing its mandate for integrated management. Indeed, since the signing of the standing agreement we have helped DFO update its Traditional Knowledge Fisheries Map for the Northumberland Strait ( in a very short timeline and with clear satisfaction from both DFO and the knowledge holders). We also permitted the department to test values mapping methodologies to answer their need to find reproducible ways of including local values in decision-making. The benefits of this collaboration has been to permit the department to test and study existing and new approaches for making-decisions within the department in a manner that is affordable and efficient while simultaneously carrying-out its mandate to deliver on its objective of using integrated management. The methods and approaches used by the Coalition-SGSL always provide for these to be replicated in other regions, across various cultures and involving various branches of science. All projects that we have done with DFO reflect this reality and shows that it is affordable for the government to do so, and that it can stand by the results achieved from this collaboration.

Indeed, our work with DFO these last few years has shown that it is very likely that the best practice for government to achieve its objectives requires collaborators from outside the government. We are able to ensure the studies done are comparable with those currently used for decision-making within the department. We are able to reach experts in multiple provinces and in multiple sectors. We are able to mobilise our resources in

a manner that is flexible to the needs of our members and partners. We are competitive to the private sector in accessing expertise. We also have the ability to reach-out to large numbers of individuals and groups within the Gulf region and beyond.

The future: The standing agreement has made it possible for us in helping DFO execute last minute projects in a manner that still provided expected results. This format could continue and be used to inspire the Quebec branch of DFO to also enter in a similar format with us for its portion of the Gulf of St.Lawrence. This could increase the advancement of similar knowledge and science available to DFO in that jurisdiction. The Coalition-SGSL's experience and existing contacts could also help develop programs like CAMP in the Quebec portion of the Gulf, thereby facilitating in the long-term the establishment of the necessary networks and science to determine the environmental health of the Baie des Chaleurs and of the whole Gulf of St.Lawrence.

In the future, the Coalition-SGSL's collaboration with DFO could be of great use in engaging the public to provide input in the Marine Protected Areas implementation process. Our collaboration could assist with facilitating the process. Further, the Coalition-SGSL's collaboration with DFO has proved helpful in informing the integrated management efforts of the region such as GOSLIM and RCCOM. Though not directly involved in these bodies, we have an active role from the outside in helping bring new solutions to the table, like the Northumberland Strait Environmental Monitoring Partnership thanks to our knowledge and networks in the region. We are also a venue for the public to learn about these great government coordinated efforts for collaboration that responds to the public needs.

The Coalition-SGSL's reputation has been growing as it gains experience. We are now involved in cross-regional efforts not only with CAMP, which helps us keep constant good relations with watershed groups, but also by being involved as co-directors of the Coastal Communities Challenges – Community University Research Alliance (22 researchers, 8 universities, 9 non-government organisations), as a member of the review group for Coastal Zone Canada 2012, as a partner in the Great Lakes St.Lawrence Symphony (from Lake Superior to the Gulf of St.Lawrence – developing a vision of sustainability for the great lakes st.lawrence watershed), and so on. The Department of Fisheries and Ocean has been an important part of making the Coalition-SGSL and we look forward to continuing this beneficial collaboration.