

Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee (EMAC)

Progress Report #3

NOTE: The objective of this EMAC Progress Report is to provide an update on the activities of EMAC. The meeting summary is based on the Internal Discussions of EMAC which are confidential to the Committee and FORCE. The Terms of Reference and EMAC Members list are available on the FORCE Website at: www.fundyforce.ca.

The 3rd Meeting of EMAC was held on the afternoon of Friday, February 19, 2010 at the Minas Basin Development Center, Hantsport, NS. The following participated at the meeting:

Attendees:

- Anna Redden – co-chair
- Andrew Hebda
- Mark Taylor
- Michael Brylinsky
- Ken Meade
- Robert Miller
- Melissa Nevin, KMK (NS Mi'kmaq Observer)
- Michael Stokesbury
- Graham Daborn (Interim co-chair)

- Ted Currie, DFO (Observer)
- Joe Kozak (Secretariat)

Meeting Summary

- Anna Redden welcomed the Committee. She announced that Keith Thompson had resigned from EMAC because of other time commitments. The Committee was asked if they had any suggestions for a replacement member with a background in physical oceanography.
- The Committee discussed the profiles of the three candidates for the new EMAC co-chair (to replace Don Gordon). It was agreed that Gordon Beanlands be invited to be EMAC co-chair. Dr. Beanlands is retired from Dalhousie University and has expertise associated with the environmental assessment process. His name will be put forward to the FORCE Board of Directors for approval.
- The recommended revisions to the Terms of Reference (ToR) were reviewed and discussed, but not finalized. The Committee members were requested to provide any additional comments over the next couple of weeks. The revised ToR will be submitted to the FORCE Board for review and comment.
- An update on the studies completed in the Summer and Fall of 2009 was provided to the Committee. It included reports on Seabed Survey Videos, physical oceanography, seabirds and mammals, and lobster catch studies. Because of the large amount of information contained in these reports, it was agreed that a “ftp site” be set-up to allow EMAC members to review the reports online.

- The main objective of the 3rd meeting was a review of the EEMP Comments Matrix, which summarized all the comments and recommendations received from EMAC members to date. The comments were discussed and questions were raised regarding some information gaps. Much of the discussion focused on fish movement and behavior in the Passage, and the technological challenges in assessing potential impacts on fish in high current, mega-tidal environments like that of the Minas Passage. It was agreed that the Committee members be allowed more time to review the Comments Matrix and recent environmental reports posted to the “ftp site”, to enable a more in-depth discussion on the EEMP at the next EMAC meeting.
- It was also requested by the Committee that the authors of the various environmental study reports be invited to the next EMAC meeting to allow Committee members to talk directly with the study leads. These discussions would help inform the EMAC Recommendations for 2010.

Next Meeting

- The next EMAC Meeting will be held on the afternoon of Friday, March 19, 2010 at the Minas Basin Development Centre in Hantsport, NS.