

Workshop to Review Science Considerations in the Development of Conservation Objectives for the Placentia Bay-Grand Banks Large Ocean Management Area

The Gazebo, Clovelly Golf Club
Stavanger Drive, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
May 1-2, 2007

Meeting Chairperson: Dr. Ben Davis, Manager, Environmental Sciences Division,
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TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

Under Canada's Oceans Action Plan (OAP), Integrated Management Plans will be developed in five Large Ocean Management Areas (LOMAs). These Integrated Management Plans will include a number of Ecosystem Objectives (EOs) against which ecosystem status and management success can be measured. Ecosystem Objectives are defined based on a combination of "Desirable State" Objectives and Conservation Objectives. "Desirable State" Objectives are based on Social, Cultural and Economic Considerations (the human component) of the ecosystem. Conservation Objectives are science-based and are related to the status of the non-human components of the ecosystem. They are intended to protect parts of the ecosystem from serious or irreversible harm. They are traceable to sound science processes and are defensible on objective grounds.

Under OAP, Conservation Objectives are based on the following four sources: Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs), Ecologically Significant Species and Community Properties (ESSCPs), Depleted and Rare Species and Degraded Areas. These four lists are merged into a single set of conservation priorities for the LOMA based on a number of criteria. Conservation Objectives are to be established for each of these priorities.

Objectives

DFO Science will provide an overview of EBSAs, ESSCPs, Depleted and Rare Species and Degraded Areas for the Placentia Bay-Grand Banks (PBGB) LOMA, as well as the merged list of the above four components, which are expressed as conservation priorities. The objective of this meeting is to consider and agree on scientifically-based Conservation Objectives that have already been drafted for each of the conservation priorities for the LOMA. This objective will be met by following the guidelines laid out in the "Guidance Document on Identifying Conservation Priorities and Phrasing Conservation Objectives for Large Ocean Management Areas", which was developed at a January 2007 National Workshop.

Products

The products coming out of this meeting will include a CSAS Proceedings Report and Science Advisory Report.

Participation

Participation will be solicited regionally from the following:

- DFO Science, Oceans and Habitat, Fisheries Management, Policy & Economics, Newfoundland and Labrador Region
- Other Federal Departments and Agencies
- Provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Fish Food and Allied Workers Union
- Academia
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Industry Representatives