
To the Co-Chairs of the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards

July 31, 2019

Subject: Terms of Reference of the National Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards

In March 22, 2018, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans unilaterally announced that an Eastern Shore Area of Interest (AOI) encompassing approximately 2,00 square kilometers along the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia was established for Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation. On May 18, 2018, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Regional Director, Ecosystem Management, Maritimes Region announced an update on Site Establishment processes, Information Gathering and Assessment, Site Design and Consultation and Engagement. The letter indicated that the Eastern Shore Islands AOI resulted from *"a science driven process that included extensive consultations with First Nations / groups, provinces, and other government agencies, stakeholders, and the local community."*

During April 2018, DFO announced the formation of the national Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Areas Standards, with written submissions due by July 31, 2019.

The first observation is the March 22 and May 18 DFO announcements coincidentally occurred either just prior or during the Lobster Fishing Area 32 season which runs annually from mid- April to mid-June and encompasses the largest commercial fishery in the area.

The second observation is to our knowledge no one throughout the proposed Eastern Shore designated AOI were either consulted or aware of DFO's initiative to unilaterally designate 2,000 sq. kms of their coastline as a prelude for a Marine Protected Area designation until the public announcement was made.

As a result, the communities along the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia coastline comprising about 6,000 people including hundreds of fishermen in dozens of rural coastal communities had little to no information or time to formally organize a response for input to the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards.

Recently a group of like-minded local Eastern Shore Nova Scotian citizens have formally registered a committee termed the *"Association of Eastern Shore Communities Protecting Environmental and Historical Access"*. The first of several community town hall consultations on whether to accept a DFO unilateral imposed AOI as a prelude to an imposed MPA is scheduled to convene on August 23, 2018 Tangier Fire Hall, Halifax, County

In view of no known consultation by DFO with the people and the coastal communities affected by the unilateral imposition of an AOI as a prelude to a MPA, combined with the fact that these announcements occurred during a period when those most affected notably the commercial fishermen were at sea fishing for their lively-hoods, our association is requesting the panel to consider the following;

1. That the Panel extend the period for written submissions from July 31 to August 31, 2018.
2. That the Panel include another MPA designated category termed "*Community Managed Marine Protected Areas*", where-as a community based legal entity be incorporated and the Board of Directors be designated the legal mandate to determine the terms and conditions of a MPA with the support and advice from DFO, including other government agencies and NGOs. This could be undertaken via the application of a DFO Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between both parties, subject to periodic review

For your consideration.

Signed



Christopher L. Jones

Director, Association of Eastern Shore Communities Protecting Environmental and Historic Access

Ted Vaughn, President

David Butler, Vice President

Tammy Mills, Secretary

To the Co-Chairs of the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Areas Standards

July 31, 2018

Re: **Addendum to the July 30, 2018, brief from the *Association of Eastern Shore Communities Protecting Environment and Historical Access.***

Context:

During the past several months the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) made two unilateral announcements pertaining to an Eastern Shore Nova Scotia Area of Interest (AOI). The first was on March 22, 2018, when DFO announced that an AOI encompassing 2,000 sq. kms of Eastern Shore Nova Scotia coastline was established for a Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation.

The second announcement was on May 18, 2018, when DFO released a three-page information and decision paper which included initiating a process of designating the MPA including the formation of an Advisory Committee to counsel DFO on information gathering and site design etc.

It remains our contention that in the absence of any known broad-based community consultative process involving all the affected communities within the now designated AOI area that the process of DFO unilaterally announcing a designated AOI then calling for consultations to apply an MPA within the context of a selected Advisory Committee process is completely flawed.

The consultative process needs to be reversed by first having public consultations on a proposed AOI, then should the affected communities support the rationale for an AOI the next step of public MPA community consultations should only then commence.


It is worth noting that these coastal communities affected by the imposition of an AOI and a possible MPA have existed for hundreds of years by successfully guarding and sustaining their coastal resources.

Recommendation:

The *Association of Eastern Shore Communities Protecting Environment and Historical Access* would request the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards include an additional standard in its recommendations as follows;

That a broad-based public community consultative process be implemented as a precondition to determine whether affected coastal communities support a proposed AOI being designated for their area. This process would serve as a principle requisite to any commencement of a similar public consultation process for an MPA for that area.

Sincerely,



Christopher Jones

Director, Association of Eastern Shore Communities protecting Environment and Historical Access

T. DeWolfe

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