

IN THIS ISSUE

So-MaD Conference
Sobey Fund Scholarship
CoastBase
MAP 25th Anniversary

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Sustainable Ocean Management and Development Conference (SO-MaD): Championing the Goals of RIO + 20: Universities and Students as Future Leaders

The **SO-MaD conference**, held on March 30 & 31 was a huge success with over 120 participants attending over the two days. The conference was organized by members of the **Marine Affairs Program**, **WWF Atlantic Region**, **Master of Marine Management** class of 2012 and the **Sobey Fund for Oceans** Advisory Committee. The aim of the conference was to provide an opportunity to critically assess how well previous commitments, goals and targets related to coasts, ocean and island states have been met by the international community. Students and recent graduates at the graduate and undergraduate level were invited to present their research orally or as posters.

The conference was launched on March 30 with the announcement of the first two recipients of the graduate scholarships from the **Sobey Fund for Oceans**. The scholarships (worth \$10,000 each) were awarded to Ms. Jenna Stoner and Mr. Gregory Britten. Ms. Stoner will study the Master of Marine Management degree, focusing on analyzing the sustainability of fish feeds. Mr. Britten will undertake the Master of Science program in the Department of Biology to study trends in global productivity of fish stocks and the environmental and biological drivers. *(Continued on Page 2)*

Sobey Fund for Oceans Graduate Scholarship Recipients

Jenna Stoner:

"I foresee the MMM program as a key platform for me to intertwine multi-disciplined, course-based learning with interactive, hands-on experiences. My field of interest lies in seafood sustainability and I plan to focus my studies on finfish aquaculture feeds."



Greg Britten:

"My goal is to develop a strong quantitative analysis of the trends in both Atlantic and global fish stocks so we can better understand the ecology and management of a modern and sustainable commercial fishery. My research is excitingly made possible through Dalhousie University's new RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Database, which is the largest database of global fish stock abundance ever assembled."



Introducing CoastBase: A new tool for finding and sharing information about coastal management in Atlantic Canada

www.coastbase.ca

CoastBase is a database of information on priority coastal issues in Atlantic Canada. It is intended to help facilitate



greater networking and collaboration on coastal research initiatives, to promote informed decision-making, and to make information about coastal issues more accessible to policy-makers, coastal managers, stakeholders, and the public. This innovative tool allows users to find or add information about coastal management in Atlantic Canada using the Search and Wiki Submit tools. CoastBase was developed by the Coastal Research Network Secretariat at Dalhousie University with support from the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Environment Canada.

(SO-MaD Conference continued)

The keynote speaker, **Ms. Marina Teresa Mesquita Pessôa**, Minister Plenipotentiary in the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, spoke on the upcoming **Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil June 2012). She highlighted overfishing as the number one challenge to the health of marine ecosystems. The importance of implementing commitments made under Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 was stressed, particularly with respect to environmental impact assessments to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems.

The presentation was followed by comments from media representatives **Rob North** (CBC Radio) and **Todd Battis** (CTV National News). Discussion focused on the accountability of countries to commitments made at Rio in 1992 and the implementation of commitments with the aim to protect the marine environment.

The conference continued on March 31 with oral and poster presentations and the awarding of the student prizes.

There were four undergraduate posters, 14 graduate posters and nine graduate presentations.

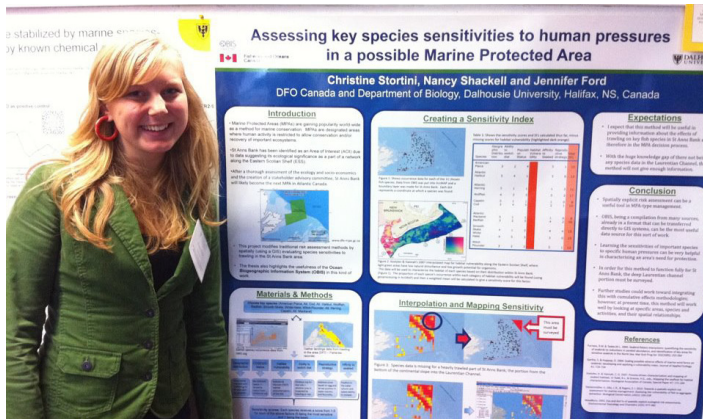
Undergraduate Posters

The winners were:

1st Place: Christine Stortini Assessing key species sensitivities to a significant human pressure in a possible marine protected area

1st runner up: Gregory Britten Understanding the population-level consequences of exploitation for valuable and sustainable fisheries into the future

2nd runner up: Dan Mombourquette A political ecology assessment of how the small versus large-scale fisheries discourse has evolved in Atlantic Canada



Christine Stortini with her winning poster.
At right: Sarah Shiels with Ian McAllister, Economics



Brendal Davis receiving her award from Jon Grant, Oceanography

Graduate Posters

The winners were:

1st Place: Brendal Davis The International plan of action for sharks: How does Canada's national plan measure up?

1st Runner up: Aurelie Cosandey-Godin Working together in mitigating bycatch of vulnerable species: the Canadian pelagic longline fishery

2nd Runner up: Patricia Hinch Factors to consider in evaluating the management and conservation effectiveness of a whale sanctuary to protect and conserve the North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*)

Oral Presentations

The winners were:

1st place: Sarah Shiels Why two old ferries went to India: A critical review of the Canadian ship recycling legal regime

1st runner up: Jacinthe Amyot Towards sustainable use and development of sandy beaches using Environmental Function Analysis as a planning tool

2nd runner up: Hilary Moors Using science to inform management: acoustic monitoring of the Gully marine protected area



MAP and WWF Atlantic Region would like to express sincere appreciation to **Sarah Ratcliffe** and **Liz Wilson**, SO-MaD conference co-chairs, who successfully organized and managed the seven committees and numerous volunteers that put on the conference. We also would like to acknowledge and thank the sponsors, **AMEC** and **NEXUS Coastal Resource Management** for their contribution.

The full program of the conference along with the presentation abstracts are available at:

http://marineaffairsprogram.dal.ca/News%20and%20Events/SO-MaD_Conference/index.php

The MAP website will be updated regularly with news from the conference.

MAP 25th Anniversary: Building on Our Reputation, Striding Toward Our Future

After very busy fall and winter terms at MAP, we are pleased to report on the successful **MAP 25th Anniversary Celebration** that took place on October 14 & 15, 2011.

Over 70 alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of MAP attended the celebration, with attendees from as far away as Nigeria, Cuba and the US. The members of the Local Organizing Committee (Becky Field, Lucia Fanning, Glen Herbert, Rodrigo Menafrá, Christel LeBlanc, Cameron Deacoff, Pat Hinch, Will Russell and Shawn MacDonald) worked together for eight months to organize and prepare the events that took place over the weekend.

The Celebration began on October 14 with a welcome lunch at the University Club. President Tom Traves, Vice President Research Martha Crago, Dean of the Faculty of Management,



Peggy Cunningham and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Robert Summerby-Murray attended.

The celebration continued at the Schulich School of Law, the first location of MAP on the Dalhousie campus. Former MAP Directors (Aldo Chircop, Bruce Hatcher and Robert Fournier) spoke on their experience as leaders of MAP through the years. Four MMM alumni, Jose Abelardo Planas Fajardo, (1996), Daniela Diz (2005), Tana Worcester (2001) and David Griffiths (2005) (pictured below), reflected on the



theme of **“Building on Our Reputation”** and shared how they chose MAP for their graduate education and how they use the knowledge gained in their careers. A cruise of the Halifax Harbour on the Haligonian 3 closed out the day. Despite the foggy and damp weather, all enjoyed the casual atmosphere, and the chance to get reacquainted and meet alumni from other MMM classes.



Left to right: Alumni Christine Penny (2000), with Lorenzo, a true MAP product, Stephen Leslie (1996), Kevin Squires (2004), Rodrigo Menafrá (2000), & Jodie Glasier (2000) on the harbour cruise.

On October 16th, the celebration continued, focusing on **“Striding Toward Our Future”**. The day consisted of presentations and discussions on several topics including a professional designation for marine managers, MAP’s contribution to Rio + 20, emerging issues in marine management, and finally, what are the next steps in striding toward our future.

Professional Designation of Marine Managers

Pat Hinch, MMM 2010 researched and gave a presentation on professional designations in marine management. The subsequent lively discussion moderated by Mike Butler, Executive Director of the International Ocean Institute, indicated there was positive enthusiasm for moving this initiative forward.

In response to Ms Hinch’s presentation, it was agreed that the creation of a marine management professional association should be investigated further. Bruce Hatcher, former MAP Director, suggested hosting a conference where professionals and academics from various leading marine-related institutions would be invited to discuss the establishment of an association, with the leadership provided initially by Dalhousie University.

Rio + 20

Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development conference will be held in June 2012. Daniela Diz (2005), WWF Atlantic, gave a brief presentation on Rio+20 and the aim of the conference. The discussion that followed, moderated by Sean Weseloh McKeane (2004), resulted in several suggestions for contributions. MAP, in conjunction with the Sobey Fund for Oceans, will meet with MMM students to discuss how the fund can be used to contribute toward Rio + 20 (see SO-MaD conference information).

Glen Herbert (1994) led a discussion on Emerging Issues that resulted in a lively discussion. A key topic addressed was how the role of the marine manager has evolved over the past 25 years. The group discussed what an honest broker marine manager “looks like”. Participants agreed that marine managers are eclectic people who enable the discussion of issues and sharing of ideas, while being an integral part of the dialogue and open to different views. As managers of people (versus the marine environment per se), they are able to lead and, at the same time, engage and support stakeholders involved in the issue at hand. Marine managers play an important role in highlighting salient points that help move the agenda forward.

Bruce Hatcher summarized the weekend by highlighting the transformations that have taken place in marine management, namely that the coordination and integration of decision-making is increasingly being undertaken in an objective way, and the difference that MAP has made in the careers of alumni.



Lobster dinner at the Waterfront Warehouse

The day concluded with pre-dinner drinks at the Garrison Brewery. The Closing Dinner took place at The Waterfront Warehouse with a lovely lobster dinner.

Thank-you to all the sponsors (Clearwater Fine Foods, Murphy’s on the Water, Port of Halifax, Lloyd’s Register, Metcalf & Company and Dalhousie University), whose generous donations made this event possible, as well as to all those who attended the event, for taking time away from work and family to celebrate the accomplishments of MAP!



Front row (L to R): Jacinthe Amyot, Maria Delesalle, Katie Hastings, Emma McLaren, Michele Megannety and Katie Wagner. Back row (L to R): Brendal Davis, Alanna Gauthier, Jan Reuchlin, Will Russell, Jennifer Steele

Graduation

On Sunday, October 16, the members of the MMM class of 2011 walked across the stage at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium to receive their diplomas, adding 12 new MMM alumni to the 342 graduates in 50 countries across the globe. The 25th Anniversary Celebration was a successful event, bringing together the growing network of MAP alumni along with MAP faculty, staff, and friends.