

**State of Nova Scotia's Coast
Consultation for Strategy Development
Open House Summary
Bridgewater - May 4th, 2010**

Introduction and Overview

The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture held an Open House in Bridgewater on May 4th, 2010 to present the State of the Coast Report and receive public comments. This was the first in a series of 8 events across the province. Local residents attended the session to review information, talk with department staff, receive printed materials and complete a brief survey to share their views on the State of the Coast and development of the Coastal Strategy.

The organizing structure for the open house and for the State of the Coast Report is identification and description of issues under six headings:

- Coastal Development
- Working Waterfronts
- Public Coastal Access
- Sea Level Rise and Storm Events
- Coastal Water Quality
- Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats

A total of 56 surveys were received. This is a narrative summary of those responses. Also included is an overview of issue-specific comments left on butcher paper at each issue table, referred to as "table notes". A transcription of the written responses to survey questions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 is provided, as well as the original table notes.

All of the survey forms were transcribed and quantitative results tabulated for each of the individual open houses. Results from the 8 open houses have been consolidated into a single report, however these and other specific session results are reported individually to support regional analysis and understanding.

The main messages from the Bridgewater open house were:

- increased protection for water quality and coastal habitats
- better enforcement of existing regulations
- leadership by governments, and intergovernmental collaboration
- take strong measures to protect public access
- ongoing and effective public and stakeholder engagement
- eliminate straight sewer pipes and "grandfather" clauses
- keep development away from coasts and low lands

Survey Results

1. What is your connection to the coast?

Forty four respondents noted that they live on or near the coast, 48 mentioned recreation, and 19 indicated that their employment involved the coast in some way. Individuals mentioned: research scientist, political and organizational affiliations, healthy lifestyle and mental health/sense of well-being, and eating food from shallow waters.

2. Prioritize six coastal issues and assess condition of the various aspects of the Nova Scotia Coast. (Note that a number of surveys were not completed correctly for this question.)

Following is the order of priority and average score on a scale of 1- 6 (1 = highest priority, 6 = lowest priority) for the six issues, and condition of the coast (with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent):

Issue	Priority	Condition
1. Sensitive Ecosystems & Habitats	2.2	2.5
2. Coastal Development	3.0	1.7
3. Public Coastal Access	3.3	2.2
4. Coastal Water Quality	3.4	2.8
5. Sea Level Rise & Storm Events	4.0	2.0
6. Working Waterfronts	5.0	2.2

Note that for 14 respondents Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats was considered to be the highest priority, followed by Coastal Development with 12.

3. Based on your understanding of these issues, what would your vision for the coast be in 2020?

Frequently cited elements of a vision included: increased protection better enforcement; healthy environment; excellent water quality; development that is limited and includes strict set backs. Collaboration among governments, NGOs, sectors and communities was noted. Strong and clear leadership from government. Right of access to shore line is guaranteed.

4. In your area, who needs to be involved in addressing these issues?

A range of interested and affected stakeholders should be involved in ongoing discussions, including: everyone, public and citizens, residents, all governments with special mention of Municipal, community groups with special mention of the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (BCAF), industry and business. Others noted included: academics, lawyers, real estate agents, insurance companies, planners, the Ecology Action Centre and the Friends of Crescent Beach.

5. What are some of the things that can be done to improve how we manage these issues?

Various levels of government must work together collaboratively if coastal management is to be effective. The need to eliminate straight pipe septic disposal and the “grandfathering” of systems was noted. More strict regulations and better enforcement were noted, as they were in the vision. Several respondents pointed out the need for continued and effective stakeholder and public engagement. The open house format was considered to be effective. Public education was cited as necessary and useful.

6. Additional Comments?

Some respondents felt that there should have been earlier notification regarding the meeting. Coastal contractors should be certified and real estate agents educated; government should earmark funds for purchase of shore line; consultation should include a multi-stakeholder component, and take efforts to build a constituency; the report and process should have included aquaculture; maintain viewscapes; keep the process simple.

7. How did you become aware of the State of Nova Scotia’s Coast Report?

This open house	14	Media	20
E-mail	27	Web site	7
Received a report	6	Received a letter	2
Other:			

8. Which of the following versions of the State of Nova Scotia’s Coast report are/will be most useful to you?

Summary 23; Fact Sheet 21; Full Technical Report 20.

9. How will use use the State of Nova Scotia’s Coast Report?

The report was considered to be valuable and important. Respondents cited the following uses for the report: reading it for personal education, and knowledge; using it to help inform and raise awareness of others; informing work; evaluation own actions; keeping it as a reference and for study; and, using it to inform advocacy.

Table Note Summary

It is imperative that we have planning that includes zoning, perhaps an enhanced Municipal Planning Act. What ever is done must be fully integrated. Development limitations must include set backs and perhaps minimum elevation (height above sea level) requirements. Enforcement must be made a priority. A moratorium should be considered on development until better regulations and zoning are in place. Green technology should be used for coastal development.

We need a comprehensive plan to address sea level rise and storm events. We must protect and maintain existing infrastructure, such as breakwaters, while building new infrastructure such as roads in a more sensible manner and on higher ground. This goes for new building construction too. At the same time we should be reducing our carbon footprint and trying to slow the pace of climate change.

Public access must be guaranteed and increased. Coastal lands should be public when ever possible. Old water lots should be phased out, and new approaches like houseboat communities should be considered. The coast can be made more friendly to recreational boating by increasing the number of boat launches and fuel docks. There should be a provincial “statement of interest” drafted.

Coastal ecosystems must be respected and protected, many of our regulations are seen as too weak, and not well enforced. Septic systems must be monitored for ecosystem protection as well as water quality. Grandfather clauses, aquaculture and clear cutting of forests all have an impact on our coastal water and ecosystems. Beach garbage, including old lobster pots, should be eliminated. Water quality must be good enough to allow harvesting of local oysters and mussels.

Government of Canada should be putting money into working waterfronts. Small working harbours are often especially vulnerable. Ways to provide financial incentives, perhaps through tax breaks, should be explored to improve working waterfronts and perhaps make them more friendly to recreational boaters as well as commercial fleets.

Survey on the State of Nova Scotia's Coast **Written answers to survey questions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9**

Bridgewater

3. Based on your understanding of these issues, what would your vision for the coast be in 2020?

- 1) Value it; 2) Protect it; 3) Avoid building , development or interfering with it (1);
- 2 is blank;
- Coastal land brought into public ownership (crown, municipalities, etc) for recreational access & ecological conservation, while respecting traditional uses (fishing, aquaculture, wharf construction, etc) (3);
- Coastline will be longer because of natural erosion. Hopefully there will be fewer new homes built along this eroding coastline (4);
- [Comments re: Question #2:] Development should be only done with community involvement and with an appreciation for the unique and fragile environment we live in (along the coast). The waters along the coast have been over-fished in my opinion and therefore I am not concerned about fishermen and whether or not they are able to make a living. The water quality, and the preservation of the coastal land and wildlife is more important. I feel that there is currently suitable public access along the coast in the area which I live (beaches & parks) so again this is less of an issue for me. I do not know enough about sea level & storm events to comment; [Comments re: Question #3:] If there are funds set aside for the province or federal government to buy land along the coast, islands that are too small to be developed or property that is currently home for wildlife, then I am in favor of these properties being purchased only if there is a commitment to preserve them (5);
- Public access guaranteed on all shoreline; No development directly on the shoreline (except wharves, etc); Heavy fines for shoreline damage – eg. Frog Island
- Conformed governance structure involving all three levels of government, NGOs, communities, etc. resulting in sustainable development and coastal practices (7);
- 2020: Retention of current “rights of way” that communities use regardless of whether or not they are presently “legal” rights of way; Plenty of public access; Healthy, diverse ecosystems; All new development set back. New development is not allowed to “crib/boulder”. If that is what is needed then the development should not be granted; Beaches allowed to “move” naturally; No longer able to “upgrade” small cottage outdated septic systems on small lots in order to rebuild large homes (8);
- 1) Consider the wetlands, coastline, islands, water and underwater as an ecological unit and protect them all; 2) Create a Marine Park in Mahone Bay and St. Margarets Bay. No more development and no more fishing licenses. Let the existing licenses expire naturally; 3) Rigorous enforcement and strengthening of regulations concerning wetland and shoreline development (9);

- A clean and healthy coastline that remains accessible to the public, while fragile ecosystems are protected (10);

- The most pressing issue is irresponsible coastal development. My vision for 2020 would be municipalities working with the province to identify “no build” zones. As well, establish larger “set backs” for house construction. 20 meters is not enough; Next issue is public access. Many beaches which had traditional access no longer are available to the public. It would be great if by 2020 access is restored; Many coastal roads are in danger from storms. We need “solutions” before 2020 (11);

- Understanding that we exploit what we covet and defend and care for what we love so that land use zoning, regulations, etc. focus on sustainability bolstered by environmental studies in junior & senior school. Public peer pressure encouraged by feedback and comparative benchmarks (12);

- A coast that is widely accessible, with development (housing, etc) set back a significant distance allowing for ecosystems to adapt naturally to any changes in sea-level and storms. With vibrant communities encompassing traditional activities like fishing and tourism-oriented low-impact recreation! With controls on discharges (agriculture/household) and proper treatment to assure water quality (13);

- Better education re: these topic areas. Better educated citizens (including me) on coastal issues. Policies that protect and promote public access to coastal areas (eg. Scandinavian laws). Models re: sea level rise. Public info, clearly explained. Ditto for water quality sampling (14);

- Healthy! Safe for all critters (15);

- Broadly, the aim must be sustainable development. This applies to ecosystems, tourism, quality of life, as well as employment (16);

- In place by provincial government a solid document, or act, which has been well researched that when enforced will lead to excellent coastal H₂O, well-managed working waterfronts. The health of coastal ecosystems and habitats will be protected and improvised. The results of sea level rise and storms will have been thought through and efforts made to manage the consequences as far as reasonable. Public access to our beautiful, wild, inspiring coastal areas is mandatory in most, if not all areas (17);

- Untreated sewage both from urban areas (Halifax) and lack of septic systems in older homes along the LaHave for example, make for significant discrepancies between the coastal water quality at various points along the coast. Ecosystems and habitats and water quality cannot be considered separately (18);

- Well defined areas of marine protection, for example, 1) the importance of the Ingram River on marine protection; 2) the highly significant salt marsh behind Schooner Cove Marina?, which has been subjected to illegal infill. Their significance should be quantified (19);

- Clean legislated limits on new construction – minimum height above sea level; Enforcement of Fisheries Act, Fisheries & Coastal Resources Act on aquaculture, public input validated on all industrial development (20);

- 21 & 22 are blank;

- Development limited, access ensured, greater public understanding of the issues, strong provincial support for municipal land use and subdivision controls and land acquisition (23);
- [illustrations] Clean discharge of wastes into waterways; COs emissions have plummeted (as to slow the pace of climate change and sea level rise); Lots of people out enjoying the natural beauty of our coastlines – they are places people want to be (and have access); Small businesses and individuals can have a good livelihood; Wildlife is healthy and thriving because human impact on ecosystems has been minimized (24);
- Every time I see a house built on a beach, or see people enact “erosion control” bouldering across their waterfront properties, or chop wetlands to pieces (the government is guilty of this – the endless amount of destruction for road construction and ‘ditch’ management). ATVs driving everywhere, anywhere. Every time I see these things I wonder seriously, who, if anyone, is in charge? (25);
- To have specific areas of responsibility given to each level of government and determine or further define the responsibilities of local community groups and organizations as well. Simply there will be no overlap of roles or responsibilities. The Coastal Action Plan must be revisited every five year! (26);
- I believe we all have a right to access beaches & surrounding coastal areas; I also understand many people have property right up to and including the coastline (which I don’t thoroughly understand). We need to recognize that there “is no shoreline” anymore in terms of building, etc. and leave a lot alone (27);
- Public access guaranteed. Foreign (ie: non Canadian) ownership limited. Non-resident (eg: 2 months/year or less) ownership restricted. Right-of-way, which has been unchallenged for 20+ years protected by law. Property, which has been in family for one generation protected against usurious increase in taxes (28);
- Working waterfronts – comment ??? to serve Canadian and foreign ocean-going pleasure vessels with tax incentives – look at what Rhode Island has accomplished!; No building of residences, only boathouses, on coastal lowlands, not only wetlands, lowlands prone to flooding and erosion; No more sewage pipes into the sea from residences; Culverts, etc. to ensure sea water passes and flushes through coastal causeways; New roads on high ground to replace coastal roads that are prone to washout; Accept that we will never be able to hold back the sea with a few rows of boulders (29);
- Given the poor public management of our coasts I don’t believe that ‘vision’ describes what I foresee as the future for our coasts. ‘Nightmare’ would be more appropriate – fouled beaches, dead fish and birds, houses built in low lying areas and then abandoned as sea levels rise (30);
- People would not be allowed to build too close to the coast; Some kind of watch dog for septic systems; No clean cutting; More access to the water; I hope people will become more aware of the problems and get involved (31);
- Balanced: saving global ecosystems & habitats as well as working waterfronts, fish in the sea to provide work, etc. and recreation and sensitive thoughtful development along the coast if any (32);

- Water quality and coastal ecosystems and habitats need to be improved. The basic concern is life in the ocean which is failing rapidly. My vision for 2020 is strong government leadership to turn around the current decline in health. No drilling on Georges Bank (33);
- 1) Have a overall limit to development along coastline up to and including no mining and no fish farming; 2) Have overall quality of water (monitored and enforced) laws to ensure protection of all animal & humans; 3) More support of working waterfronts in small communities (34);
- These concerns all seem to conflict with each other, with the result that each issue loses ground. To even imagine a consensual plan from many groups is difficult (35);
- Protection of critical habitat & areas of high ecological productivity; Limitation of development within estuaries & coastal wetlands; Protection of sustainable access to coastal lands; Evaluation and regulation of aquaculture industry to protect against degradation of ecosystems and protection of sensitive species (36);
- A health coast, on which human activities are regulated in a consistent way in order to maximize the coast's capacity to protect human health & safety, and to contribute to the Nova Scotia economy (37);
- Sewage outfalls into coastal environments will be altered/prohibited; Set-backs from water/sensitive habitats will be mandatory (or developers charged substantial financial penalties); All citizens will have reasonable access to the coast (need mapping to identify areas which could be acquired); Coastal habitats protected, species diversity rising (38);
- Nova Scotia will have an ecosystem-based, science-based integrated coastal management plan. There will be a dedicated government department to manage coastal issues. There will be legislation (Coastal Act, regulations) that all parts of Nova Scotia and its people can be guided fairly and equally. Municipal government especially will have planning divisions with adequate training and resources to apply bylaws equally to all interests in coastal activity. All departments of government will put any actions through the Coastal Management Department. There will be minimum land use standards. A continuing advisory board of NGO, industry, development and others (not government) will be ongoing and available to government department dedicated to coastal issues and assume transparency (39);
- A vetted plan where local communities play a vital part in defining protection and development standards in concert with government must be transparent, sustainable and public. Decisions to develop based on a no net loss of biodiversity and cannot introduce exotic species that compromise natural ecosystems (40);
- Low impact on natural environment; Strong regulations that protect and regulate coastline activities; Thriving local coastal industries based in low-impact, sustainable industries & economies, eg: ecotourism, sustainable harvesting & fishery, good quality developments; People living on the coast who have a vested interest in protecting it, lower incidence of "absentee landowners"; Integrated provincial, federal and municipal regulations, policy, and planning that protect coastlines, with clear jurisdiction and responsibility (41);
- Lower assessments on land where there is erosion; No building permits issues to lands on or near water; Government aid in depending eroding lands (42);

- More human oriented understanding of marine forces (weather, currents, fish ecology, etc.) to adequately grasp the issues current and to do something about them and not just talk about it or pretend that something is being done (43);
- Good coastal access. Coastal footpaths maintained across both public & private land. Limiting development on dune and coastal flats (44);
- Restrict rampant developments (cottage/second home), protect coastline from subdivisions/paving. Many (if not all) development nowadays are backed by out-of-province investors. Tax out-of-province developers and second home owners more to subsidize permanent Nova Scotians. Take extra revenue from out of province taxes and purchase/protect coastlines (45);
- 1) A moratorium on coastal development for housing; 2) More land/coast set aside to preserve habitat; 3) Maintenance of high standards for public access via parks, recreation areas (46);
- I would like to see a set boundary of how close homes could be built on the coast. I would be able to see our coast not large cleared areas with huge homes blocking the views we love. And there would be limits for rock walls near wharves (private). More protected habitats managed by our government (47);
- 100% of Nova Scotia would have planning and development by-laws in place for all coastal areas. Where coastal ecosystems and habitats are at risk – no or little public access. No driving on any of the beaches. Large fines in place and enforced if bylaws, etc. abused. No grand fattening?? of use (48);
- We will run out of oil tomorrow. Do we also want to run out of fish at the same time? That is our choice today. It would be reckless, short-sighted and tragic to drill off shore anywhere, but particularly in good fishing areas like George’s Bank. Witness the current crisis in the Gulf (US). Also, government needs to encourage line fishing vs. net dragging. Good for preservation of ecosystems and local economy. Tourism: encourage kayaking, canoeing – ecotourism (49);
- Condo-typed land-use instead of individual oceanfront homes. Silviculture buffers like on the highways (50);
- Determine a no build set back. This land becomes public non-motorized access. Barbados has a plan like this with a 30m setback. Keep U.S.? happy with access to the ocean. Keep the tourists coming by creating a unique feature. Get sewage out of our waters (51);
- A lively and dynamic ecosystem that is within limits of sustainability. Water quality and natural species should be foremost. The fisheries act should be enforced equally upon all (52);
- Stronger and clearer regulations (consistent throughout the province) that permit/encourage “appropriate” use and access of the coastal areas. “Sensitive development” that includes environmental protection and support of local community. Use (not abuse) of coastal resources to be based on long term thinking, not just “promise” of temporary jobs – at long term expense of the community (53);
- No development in sensitive areas; Remove the straight sewage pipes into the ocean, as a minimum where a dwelling changes ownership an approved septic system must be installed or show proof that the system is up to standard (54);

- Accessibility with the public while conserving/maintaining the coastal ecosystems. Development in a manner that is in balance with above, and done in such a manner that it will account for future severe weather events and sea level rise. Also a coordinator of services offered by all three levels of government for coastal issues (55);

- Vision for 2020 – Access for all – not privately developed by a few wealthy land owners (56).

4. In your area, who needs to be involved in addressing these issues?

- Local fishermen, local coastal people and communities. Municipal and Provincial leaders. *This type of Open House is good but is a token in that you have a select group/vs community coastal folk and fishermen who need to express/share their views – the feedback today will also be a huge job to summarize and analyze so one can hardly be hopeful that you will be ready in the near future to action it. Thus again one becomes sadly cynical vs hopeful (1);

- The people (2);

- Residents, recreation persons, various levels of government, industry representatives (3);

- Municipal government/individuals who are interested and want to help. Everyone needs to understand that climate change is happening (4);

- Everyone (residents, schools, government, environmental experts, etc) (5);

- 6 is blank;

- Fishers, developers, NGOs, residents, communities; All three levels of government, elected officials, designates or representatives of departments and agencies; Science, environmentalists, biologists, ichthyologists, marine geologists, etc.; Planners; Legal resources (7);

- Provincial government must shape policies that are straight across the board. Individual municipalities should not be left to make their own rules, except if they make them more stringent. No real estate owners (8);

- Everyone: volunteer groups, all levels of government, everyone is affected (9);

- Municipalities, Department of Transportation, Fisheries & Oceans, Natural Resources, NGOs (eg. EAC), community groups, community organizations, Environment (10);

- MODL, local land trusts such as the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy, government agencies – DNR, MoE, DoT, etc. To provide a coordinated approach to finding solutions (11);

- Churches need to refocus on ‘the creation’; Municipal council has to provide leadership; Citizens need to speak up. Our silence is no defense to the morality of our lifestyle (12);

- Local municipality (permits for development in sensitive coastal areas uncoordinated with provincial departments); Local municipality to mandate septic systems and bar straight-line

discharge with coastal and river water; Federal government to develop and support local wharves and infrastructure; Provincial government to provide leadership (13);

- Municipal government as advocate; Local community groups will get involved as people become better educated if they feel they are being listened to, or just go ahead and demand information and action (14);

- Everyone! (15);

- The province needs to develop an integrated approach – an oceans portfolio – with the mandate to develop recommended policies. They would report to government, but overcome the fragmentation of multiple jurisdictions (16);

- Town of Bridgewater, Municipality of Lunenburg, hopefully a/some representatives from provincial government from a department dedicated to these issues (17);

- 18 is blank;

- Levels of HRM, Provincial and Federal coordinated and in communication with each other. What is clearly missing is the serious consideration of the experienced input from coastal residence and fishers (19);

- Fishermen, community voices, NGOs (20);

- 21 is blank;

- Provincial & Municipal government (22);

- BACAF, Municipal councils, insurance agencies (23);

- Everyone must be invited to participate and must participate. These public consultations are not easily accessible (physically or intellectually) to most Nova Scotians. This event has drawn a very narrow demographic. How can these important conversations include more people? The “transition towns” approach is one worth considering as a way to welcome and engage everyone (24);

- Local planners, government representatives need to be much more educated about wetlands, coastal areas, habitat loss, erosion, etc., etc. Real estate agencies [side note cut off by photocopier] and agents must be educated and share their knowledge of what they are selling - especially if it's fragile or rare – to buyers.; Forestry companies; Shipping/boating/people dumping waste into water; We need more provincial control over development on coast (river, ocean, etc). At the municipal level there is too much private pressure on government representatives (25);

- The list is long – everyone from municipalities, businesses, tourism, heritage culture, coastal coalitions and stakeholders, boards/chambers, provincial and federal government; Everything must be on the table – even the issues that are better kept “buried” (26);

- Everyone in the neighbourhood, Friends of Crescent Beach (27);

- Residents (28);

- Everyone at the grassroots level and ecological associations in Nova Scotia (29);
- Governments have been aware of the problems described in the coastal strategy for at least forty years yet they are still squabbling over jurisdiction and evading responsibility for enforcing the few regulations that do exist. Obviously governments have to be involved but governments need watchdogs. Groups such as EAC should be given resources to monitor government performance (30);
- Government and private citizens and organizations (31);
- Public, neighbours, businesses, bureaucrats, municipalities, provincial government (federal government – if it helps) (32);
- Nova Scotia legislation regarding water quality should be enforced. Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation needs more support for its good work. Municipal and provincial legislation to control coastal development should be strengthened. In Rose Bay and Kingsburg we see the failures of the current systems (33);
- The province and Federal governments – Municipalities are often left to enforce and pay for what the province and federal government decide. The municipalities only have property taxes for major funding and 75% goes back to the province. The municipality is willing to work on problems but have no money (34);
- The municipal government, first, through careful planning to protect the land around the coast, and working with all levels of government, but allowing, somehow – big somehow – for the concerns of the small community members. In our area, right now, there is huge concern about how aquaculture clashes with our existing lobster fishery and about how little the voices of the local community all heard and acted upon (35);
- Municipal government, NGOs, NSSA, BCAF, ASF (36);
- Everyone who can be persuaded to participate (37);
- Municipalities – need expertise/shared commitment to protect coast/manage development intelligently (no permits at water's edge or adjacent to wetlands); Public – all ages – schools need coastal curriculum – key place to start; Stewardship/monitoring groups – there is great potential to engage the public by involving them in monitoring/sampling programs. Need, of course, to provide standardized training – could assist in data collection province-wide (and cost effective) (38);
- All sectors of society. The municipal government, in particular, needs provincial leadership to support and guide bylaw development. We need a public commitment by oviz?? (39);
- All levels of government, local councils, industry, academics (40);
- Local landowners and residents; Businesses that actively use coastal features and resources; Municipalities – ToB, MoDL, ToL, ToMB, etc; Provincial departments, eg Environment; Federal departments; local ENGOs and community interest groups; Local chambers of commerce and development agencies (41);

- Government, all citizens (42);
- Municipal leaders, bureaucrats and the public in general as well. A greater control (namely a true understanding of both sides of an issue) (43);
- The province and the municipality by bylaws and enforcement of existing regulations (44);
- Provincial/Municipal governments; Permanent Nova Scotia taxpayers but not cottagers; Insurance companies must stop insuring at risk coastal building and must be told by government that there will be no aid to owners of damaged property build along the coastline. "I don't wish to subsidize 6,000 sq ft cottagers' lifestyles". (45);
- 1) Obviously all levels of government in a coordinated approach. Plus a great deal of public education about the immediate need to preserve our coasts. We're all in this together and once it's gone it's gone;
- 2) Insurance companies - homes, roads, driveways are being constructed in fragile ecosystems and on coastal areas that are going to be/already are impacted by climate change/sea level rise (46);
- Government!! I would like to see strong repercussions for those that don't follow the strategies developed (47);
- Local residents and landowners; Department of Environment; Department of Transportation (48);
- All levels of government – pushed by concerned citizens. Government has served Big Money & Greed long enough. We expect a change from NDP. That's why we voted for you (49);
- Realtors (50);
- Building permits at all levels. At the very least whomever's house is sold or changes hands an approved septic system must be installed. Open our minds to new existing technologies here. Don't allow building on property we know is vulnerable to storms and rising waters (51);
- The local community should have the greatest say in the direction of any development considerations (52);
- Municipal governments to develop province-wide guidelines for coastal development, public access and protection of habitat. Corporations and developers should not be given opportunity to play off one municipality against the other – to loosen requirements to win the business. Other levels of government also need to resolve/coordinate their overlapping/conflicting jurisdictions/mandates (53);
- The municipality (54);
- Practically everyone who uses (recreationally/work) the coastal area and all levels of government. This would include: those who reside in coastal areas, contractors, real estate agents, fishers, other coastal industries. Education of those involved is important (55);
- Everyone (56).

5. What are some things that can be done to improve how we manage these issues?

- Wake up to the reality of how significant our coasts are to Nova Scotia – educate people re: protection (eg. against erosion) and enable ‘best practices’ to be enforced. Stop ‘straight drain’ practices. Restrict severe development. Encourage off shore fishing but decrease large fishing monopolies (1);
- 2 is blank;
- Public funds available for acquisition of private lands as they become available (3);
- Get rid of grandfather clauses that protect landowners from “doing the right thing” regarding septic (4);
- 5 is blank;
- Show vision and leadership; Coordinate efforts, example: Department of Transportation needs to coordinate with DNR when widening roads near the coast (6);
- Develop effective tripartite system of governance (7);
- Provincial strategy that has regulations not “recommendations” (8);
- 1) Enforcement of existing laws and stronger penalties; 2) More rigorous rules concerning shoreline development; 3) Buy more land for the public (9);
- Good coordination; Better communication; Increased setbacks from ocean re: development; Restrictions on foreign ownership (10);
- All levels of government should work together: recognize the problems and cooperate in finding solutions. For example: 1) building in dangerous areas (too close to coast flood plains, steep slopes should not be permitted – yet all levels of government say it’s the responsibility of someone else; 2) Right now the province is buying up land that is the cheapest. It should be focusing on areas the public is interested in accessing – beaches, coastal trails, lakes?, etc.; 3) There is a serious problem with older houses that still do not have septic systems. At least ‘grandfather’ these situations so that a septic must be installed when the house sells (11);
- 12 is blank;
- Greater cooperation between local, provincial and federal governments and departments; Greater cooperation between provincial departments (eg. why delist K-class roads which could allow coastal access?); Listen to communities when issues arise that clearly demand action); Clarify the legal aspects of public access vs private property (13);
- Open houses like this are a good step in the right direction; A speakers bureau for speakers to speak on each of the six issues with availability of speakers promoted to community groups, municipal governments, etc. (14);

- Open communication, this is a great event! Keep heading in the right direction and we may just get there (15);
- Integrated assessment of issues. If the province had an oceans round table or equivalent, with some real influence on outcomes, many would/might join in to help (16);
- Have valid/reliable information sources, independent of those with vested interests from which guidelines (laws) will be created, acted on (17);
- Stricter implementation of pollution laws enforcement fines, financial assistance, basically the health of our coasts and oceans are worth it. We depend on it, and it is something we can control (18);
- At the moment we have circa 14 different departments which we must approach. Few have been helpful while some have withheld important documents and others have withheld information on “public” meetings (19);
- Voice of the people given priority; Industry required to meet standards – not standards = no industry (20);
- 21 & 22 are blank;
- Better provincial legislation; Statements of provincial intent (23);
- Creation of a Coastal Act immediately (by 2012); Development of a Coastal Policy – a road map to sustainability; Minimum land use planning standards for zoning; Clarification of who does what within the different levels of government. Lack of this has allowed development to slip through loopholes between the levels of government (24);
- Higher fines for breaking the law – Stricter and more protective laws of how we treat both land and water; Own ability to destroy on an incremental? Level is astonishing to me; Education. Education. Education; Note: Lead by example. Government behaviour and development that sets a high and admirable standard (25);
- Key issues must be broken down into projects, projects must be prioritized and put into action tables, actions must be prioritized and given projected timelines, ie: ongoing – now and foreseeable future, High – 0-2 years, Med – 2-5 years, Low – 5-10 years, so we can see results (26);
- Education from primary upwards and more advertising of issues and how people can help (27);
- 28 is blank;
- Start dealing with the problems that the grassroots have known about for years and for which they have obtained no response – even to letters to the Premier of the province! See also notes on prior page (29);
- See #4. 1) Ensure that municipalities have sensible planning strategies; 2) Don’t hamper implementation of those strategies with conflicting provincial legislation and incompetent field staff such as is now the case (30);

- Zoning, monitoring water quality, citizen involvement (31);
- Raise awareness; Take fear of potential being a “problem”; Take responsibility, have one responsible “body”/department; More public appearance (wake-up people) (32);
- 1) We need leadership. This would lead to better coordination of efforts to change things; 2) We need financial support for solving these problems; 3) We need politicians who care about these issues and are able to affect changes (33);
- Have an overall policy decided on by all concerned (especially those who have to foot the bill, i.e. local government) (34);
- In our community it seems that there are too many levels of government agencies, who don’t communicate with each other, leaving us frustrated. How can we be assured that we are partners in deciding the fate of our coastal communities (35);
- Establish and protect buffer zones within both watersheds and coastal areas; Limit development within critical habitat, i.e. estuary and coastal wetlands; Require aquaculture to be land based (36);
- 1) Do the work needed to obtain consensus on one to three (no more) clearly identified major problems and their causes. Solutions to emerge from analysis; 2) Develop and introduce province-wide land use standards for a coastal zone; 3) Explode myths such as that protecting the coast conflicts with economic development (37);
- Municipal Planning Act needs to be awarded – if municipalities have sole authority for planning, it will be impossible to introduce standards province-wide (38);
- See #3. An overarching management system to integrate the multiple levels of government (municipal, provincial, federal) and provide a “go to” body on all coastal issues. Nova Scotia should especially set fundamental principles that protect the resources that define all sectors of coastal sustainability. This needs to be transparent and to all public and private interests. The Beaches Act should be opened and updated; a provincial statement of interest could support municipal governments in their efforts. Key words: ecosystem based integrated planning, big picture decision making (39);
- Have provincial government better coordinate its priorities based on local needs – think smaller instead of just discussing on big business. Must use precautionary approach – prevent introduction of invasives (40);
- Create a strong interdepartmental/intergovernmental governance Act and working groups with clear mandate and responsibilities; Actively consult deeply with coastal communities (work to involve a broad range of stakeholders); Empower coastal communities to participate in management processes, decisions, enforcement, monitoring (41);
- Stricter laws; No building near wetlands; No building near shoreline (42);
- Town hall like formats; A wider grasp of the things like Mahone Bay Coastal Action Committee; A look at all special places in the province and a fair view of them in the media so people have trust in something being done for the positive (43);

- 44 is blank;
- Increase fines for developers damage to ecosystems; Restrict development in coastal areas vulnerable to wave damage and storm surges; Don't raise taxes along coastlines for permanent residents – some of whom have lived there for 200 years! (45);
- Develop a coordinated approach between the levels of government and listen to the expertise of scientists and ecologists; Stop insurance companies from insuring homes built on coastal flood plains, too close to the high water mark, etc. (46);
- 47 is blank;
- Basic bylaws that apply province wide, not on a municipal basis; Politics be kept out of decision making; Enforcement of bylaws; Allow restricted access to public in highly sensitive areas (48);
- Study treatment of coastal areas in other countries; Stop reckless coastal development. If there is hurricane destruction, government (ie tax payers) will be sued, will pay.; Enthusiastic development of alternate energy (solar, wind, tidal) will reduce pressure to drill offshore and other abominations (49);
- Incentives for cleaner development; Education about costs vs long term benefit (50);
- 51 is blank;
- Allow the communities to decide what is best in their area – Government and its bureaucracy? Is there to service the people, not the reverse (52);
- 53 is blank;
- Make sure that public access to our coastline is maintained (54);
- How about building permits for wharf and shoreline developments? Fees for developments are set by CNR and from what I understand are standardized (one fee, no matter how costly the work). Make them linked to the cost of the work (eg. a \$150,000 wharf permit would be considerably more than one for registering a mooring) These fees could be used to administer a coastal policy (55);
- The provincial government should start to have land banks (56).

6. Additional Comments?

- Ensure no drilling around the Georges Bank (1);
- 2 is blank;
- Important that existing residents, land owners and traditional users be considered and respected when developing policies for everyone (3);

- I am lucky I have access to our coast but I am fully aware that our land is precious and probably will not survive another generation (4);

- See Item #3: If there are funds set aside for the province or federal government to buy land along the coast, islands that are too small to be developed or property that is currently home for wildlife then I am in favour of these properties being purchased only if there is a commitment to preserve them (5);

- Access to high water mark is useless where there is a seawall (6);

- Revise your consultative process. Multi-stakeholder approach required. Build constituency. Drive agenda towards Coastal Act by 2012 (7);

- 8 & 9 are blank;

- I would like to see a formal public review process for the draft document. Good to have this open house, but more is needed. Use the Voluntary Planning process that has been used for other documents. This affects all of Nova Scotia – it's important! This wasn't publicized well enough (10);

- 11 & 12 are blank;

- Our coastline is a treasure that absolutely needs to be valued. What other province has Atlantic, Fundy, and Gulf of St. Lawrence shores with such varied ecosystems? The potential for tourism is huge. Look at other countries for examples of good developments and disasters (public footpath around the whole UK coast when realized will ensure access for all). Our coast is for all Nova Scotians not just the wealthy with private estates (13);

- Good job (14);

- Why did it take so long to notify the public of this event (15);

- I work on coastal ecosystems and advanced monitoring. The new technologies are beyond the means of provinces at this time but these are possible solutions. But Nova Scotia coastal protection/monitoring is fragmented (16);

- It would be democratic to have a public review of formative documents before implementation; Let's create a Department in provincial government dedicated to the health, access, monitoring of Nova Scotia coastline – it's ecosystems and habitat (17);

- 18 is blank;

- 1) Simplify the process; 2) Identify who is accountable; 3) Provide clear information and overviews of all plans and make them available (19);

- Exempting aquaculture from the State of the Coast consultations is a good example of industry controlling government (20);

- 21, 22 & 23 are blank;

- The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (and others?) does not have any land use bylaws. This is unacceptable and has led to coastal developments that are unsafe for humans and ecosystems; We must walk the talk. I am so disappointed in my government to see bottled water and bananas and Styrofoam cups at this event!!! When will we start making the connections between these daily decisions and the sustainability of our ecosystems (including coastlines). And what about the impact of all the paper and plastic banners that were used for this? (24);

- I watch houses pop up along the LaHave River cutting visibility and viewsapes. I see erosion control across so many coastal properties, I know the great percentage of our coast is owned by people who don't live here (aren't Canadian)...there is a huge need on all fronts for Nova Scotia to recognize the importance of coastal protection. I haven't even mentioned Piping Plover and other endangered species habitat or public access to beaches and waterways in perpetuity. We need immediate substantial buffers from waterways and [photocopy cut off] erosion. Thank you for this! (25);

- We must start thinking about removing grandfather clauses (26);

- We need to remember our brothers and sisters – the wild of the world, and leave habitats for them and not just strips and islands (27);

- 28 is blank;

- Government should recognize that there will always be bitching and complaining if we solve the obvious problems. So what? Government (provincial level) has to recognize that they have to be prepared to take “the heat in the kitchen” or step aside and let others do the job. Someone will always complain about necessary actions (like forcing septic systems or preventing housing construction on floodplains) (29);

- I heard the chair of the strategy group on Info Morning earlier today. He stated that we have to change human behaviour if we are to successfully improve the coast. The first behaviour that we must change is that of the officials in DoE who encourage development in the coastal zone. Then lets give them the resources they need to enforce the laws (30);

- 31 is blank;

- Keep up the good work! (32);

- These meetings should allow public discussion of these issues instead of dividing people by asking them to respond privately. I understand that our voices will not be heard publicly – only summaries (33);

- 34 is blank;

- Rising sea levels, diminishing access by new homeowners to coastal beachfronts creating more pressure on these fragile ecosystems in the push to build – on the beach – land use reforms, possibly inadequate as we lose more beachfront to storms and climate change. The re are difficult things to even attempt to solve (35);

- Notification of public advisory was insufficient; Not enough time given to allow proper education before consultation; Final draft should have a public review before implementation (36);

- I have seen grassroots public opinion change radically in the past decade and believe public opinion is far ahead of government in recognizing the need to protect our coast and trust it is in our interest individually and collectively to do so (37);
- Need to focus on public education – general populace needs to know (and believe) that coastal management is vital to our collective future (health, well-being, safety). CBC Morning did a great job last year – perhaps series could be expanded; PON could look at experience from the Netherlands re: coping with changing sea levels. What policies/strategies are in place? What engineering techniques do they use – could they help here? (38);
- There was no notice to the public in advance of this critical process. An open house does not constitute “public consultation”. Since this is a poor excuse for a true consultation, at the very least, a public review of the draft strategy is absolutely essential. Of all the strategic efforts in the last thirty years Coastal Planning and Management is the most broad and wide ranging affecting all sectors of the population. Slow down, be thorough, be transparent, form partnerships and use the tools to make this good work (39);
- 40 is blank;
- We need a comprehensive Coastal Act by 2012, and a Coastal Policy to provide direction for sustainable use of coastlines; In our municipal ICSP, many residents called for the sustainable management of our natural resources (eg. coasts) and the protection of essential community infrastructure (41);
- Emphasize to those assessing properties for taxes that erosion is “stealing” land; People can be in danger during storms. Comfort stations a must in communities located along shorelines; Power providers must keep machinery, poles and lines in excellent condition to avoid failures (42);
- The small person and his/her interests must be kept in mind and not always the big companies/corporations so the concerns of all people are held in high regard (43);
- 44 is blank;
- Congratulations to present government for finally starting to tackle this important issue; Must have a provincial development policy and not leave it to municipalities with not enough resources (45);
- Less emphasis on the economy, more emphasis on ecology (46);
- 47 is blank;
- 1) At these gatherings, biodegradable cups should be used!; 2) Question 2 is poorly worded so if I say ‘1’ for some of these what does it mean? (48);
- Please study policies in such countries as Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany (the mature, progressive societies) for solutions, and by all means study but do not ape the US (49);
- Like beaches without vendors unless useful (ie: kayak rentals) (50);
- 51 is blank;

- Strict enforcement of the Fisheries Act would be the first step – no exceptions (52);
- 53 & 54 are blank;
- Another two items that might be part of a “go forward” plan would be: 1) Certify coastal contractors so they are aware of the environments they work in and the special care needed. 2) Educate real estate agents so they are not selling properties that are inappropriate for large scale development (55);
- 56 is blank.

9. How will you use the State of Nova Scotia’s Report?

- Read it and become yet more frustrated by the number of people in the Department who must surely be aware of the issues/needs and who could and should be developing a plan and a vision for the future – which could then be presented to we the public and fine tuned then put into action! (1);
- 2 is blank;
- Use relevant information to help direct efforts of Mahone Islands Conservative Association (3);
- Inform others in our Association (4);
- 5 & 6 are blank;
- Good facts though startlingly incomplete. How about aquaculture, offshore drilling, tidal turbines, etc. (7);
- 8 is blank;
- To know when violations occur (9);
- Read it, make comments, share it with others (10);
- Continue to ‘push’ for changes through the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy and MoDL (11);
- 12 is blank;
- To study and add additional comments and to compare with the final strategy and hopefully tangible improvements in future (13);
- Educate myself, my colleagues, residents in my municipal district (14);
- To engage discussion in my peers, clients, family and friends (15);
- Reference (16);

- If it is a good, useful report, I will do my part to support it (17);
- 18 is blank;
- As a basis for contributing further input (19);
- To draw conclusions about the likelihood of government taking definitive action (20);
- 21 & 22 are blank;
- To educate councils and public; To support action by council and community groups (23);
- 24 is blank;
- I'll read it. I'll respond to it. I'll wish there were less time spent on 'Reports' and get policy and law in place now! (25);
- To basically follow and see where our government and representatives take the report and consultation and hopefully become actively involved in the process (26);
- Educate myself and hopefully some of my neighbours (27);
- 28 is blank;
- To become fully informed; To express views, again, at the Provincial level – although in the past it has been clear that no one was listening! (29);
- Monitor government reaction, advocate for change (30);
- 31 is blank;
- Help raising awareness and direct people back to it should they feel we do not have a problem (32);
- As a reference (33);
- 1) To be informed; 2) To ask the right questions; 3) To advocate for positive action (34);
- Hopefully aquaculture and the concerns of fishermen will be included in the Nova Scotia Coast Report. Please, do not exclude the local small fishing village and the fishermen who work there (35);
- I am not sure if the Nova Scotia's Coast Report will be of use to me. I only received notification of its existence for two days. Until I have an opportunity to read it, I cannot form an opinion (36);
- As background material for ongoing work (37);
- Share with interested community members (38);
- As only one working document for the big commitment to see this work reach a positive outcome for Nova Scotians. I'm in year 2 and will keep at it! (39);

- Push for better protection and sustainable development (40);
- I'll use it for information in my own work (I do policy work for a municipal government) (41);
- Pass it along! (42);
- If it knits into what is currently believed that needs to be done (ie: all current stakeholder concerns) (43);
- 44 & 45 are blank;
- Inform myself, friends, neighbours (46);
- 47 is blank;
- It will help in my job as a real estate agent (48);
- To educate myself. To push for change, to support good solutions (49);
- Real estate listing and sales (50);
- 51 is blank;
- As a guide to how the government is dealing with the issues (52);
- 53 is blank;
- To stay informed (54);
- Within the context of my contract with the public through my work and membership of our local conservation group (55);
- 56 is blank.

Bridgewater Open House - Table Notes

(number in parenthesis represent check marks that indicate agreement)

Coastal Development

- consider provincial land use planning the prescribes designated settlement areas vs. protected/no-development areas. Force municipalities to conform through Municipal Planning Strategies. See Ontario/BC models for examples.
- force municipalities to stop issuing house building and septic permits on coastal lowlands that will flood. South shore examples of building in lowlands - Mason's Beach and Sand Dollar Beach. Big liabilities are building for lawsuits to come when these people are wiped out.
- re: above "force": need to change or amend Municipal Planning Act to enable joint (PON/Municipal) decision-making about planning/permitting in coastal zones. Bring UNSM into discussion/decision-making.
- Height above sea level - a simple province-wide limit, below which nothing will be built.
- need a long term plan based on zoning that sees development w/o necessarily seeing more buildings, i.e. museums without walls
- government must purchase coastline every chance it has
- coastal development should not happen unless it is based on green technologies and can sustain itself for at least a period of time - say 5 yrs.
- town and cities should not be held hostage to heritage societies and by laws if the idea is a sustainable one.
- must be integrated on all levels so same work is not done by many.
- development with suitable setbacks (totally agree!!) (yes!)
- review/rethink/revise regulations re: building any structures (homes, walkways, bridges, etc.) along the coastal area, in consideration of inevitable destruction of sensitive coastal land.
- MORATORIUM on further coastal development until:
 1. we have firm legislation guaranteeing ecologically sustainable development - development that always makes the ecosystem better!
 2. legislation to ensure the return of the ecological integrity of all areas
 3. plans (enforced) to ensure that transition of all areas to the new reality of global climate change, sea-level rise and economic transformation with peak oil. (I agree! when doesn't the environment come first?)
- no more seawalls
- study state of Mass. as a great example of good laws - 40 years old.

Working Waterfronts

- make sure NS gets some federal government dollars for wharves
- protect the very vulnerable small working harbours which are threatened by the economy - lobster fishermen and low market prices - and the threat of other industries i.e. aquaculture and the potential damage to this fragile lobster fishery.
- I agree we need to support the local industry.

- waterfronts should enhance local communities not focus on outside corporate development. Protect St. Margaret's Bay and bring back our working fishery which as been destroyed (mostly) by overdevelopment.
- we need to rework these to be pleasure-board friendly
 - no moorings, no fuel docks, few marinas, poor shore access from pleasure boats
- we need to change our tax regime (HST, import duties, etc.) to promote ocean-going pleasure boating by Canadians and to make ourselves attractive for repair/refit by others. Look at what Rhode Island has accomplished - no taxes on boats, services for boats, parts, etc.
- we need to have a municipal tax moratorium on waterfront support businesses and boat builders- otherwise they are not surviving.
- most Canadians keep their ocean going vessels in other countries where there are few or no taxes!
- giving these people a tax break costs zero as we are currently sending all of the business elsewhere.
- impacts of development of water front within estuaries
- zoning is a must! Working waterfronts like Lunenburg and Yarmouth must be able to support both industry (marine) and tourism.
- important to support established industries vital to rural and urban economies while respecting all other users, habitats, etc.
- bring fin fish farming on shore - contained. Otherwise we are fouling our coastal nest.
- our coastal commercial base is getting smaller, which leads to good jobs leaving the communities. How can this be reversed yet still maintaining environmental integrity.

Public Coastal Access

- maximize -- our coasts belong to all Nova Scotians
- use K-class roads for access and do not privatize them
- retain public access to all coastline areas - don't privatize anything; **not** public private partnerships!
- we need guaranteed public access to ALL coastline and all waterways. Like done in Costa Rica. People should be able to walk across any land - directly - to access waterways and coastline. Public should be able to walk along coastline even at high tide. No structure should be allowed to restrict this. People should be allowed to stop and picnic and swim anywhere.
- affordable responsible houseboat communities (less ice once global warming)
- purchase of private lands for public access and conservation is important to continue
- expropriate refuse ICL!
- extinguish pre-confederation waterway lots
- enhance/create access to coast legislation
- prohibit development directly on the shoreline - require buffers and set backs
- develop a "responsible user" program to make the public understand their responsibility in using the shoreline. Create a culture of both accessibility and caring for the coast and respecting property as well - with public access comes responsibility.
- draft a provincial "statement of interest" in coastal access
- NS without access to the shoreline is like Holland without windmills
- difficult except for designated public beaches with parking lots

- boat launches - difficult for trailered boats on south shore
- almost no fuel docks on the south shore. there fore almost all vessel fuelling is unsafe and environmentally unacceptable due to spillage risk.
- coastal access difficult due to private property, working waterfronts restrict access
- some towns - even if there was opportunity for improvement, can be difficult due to what will be “dredged up” - some things are better left covered up!

Sea Level Rise and Storm Events

- ensure existence of important pieces of infrastructure, such as breakwaters no longer wanted by the federal government. They protect roads, properties and shoreline. The province needs to accept responsibility for them.
- eliminate our addiction to carbon
- recognize coastal roads will disappear and put in new infrastructure on high ground with service roads for access between the washouts - we will not stop the sea!
- need a plan for action for coastal communities
- use of current technologies to develop tools/systems to break down the power of tides/waves. All through Lunenburg County roads are underwater during storm surge. Technology does exist to limit destruction by waves.
- keep future development away from coasts and let natural ecosystems adapt to storms and sea level rise naturally
- long term plan an essential element complete with socio-economic study to involve communities in development of their resources. Must stop selling out to big business.
- need a comprehensive plan - designed by local communities. If sea-level rise is say only 10 meters than shouldn't we prohibit all new development below this mark? What if rise is more? What is our plan?

Use the Transition Towns approach.

- We must slow the pace of climate change and sea level rise by significantly reducing our GHG emissions. Everyone must do this. How is our government “walking the talk”? Why are there bananas, styrofoam cups and bottled water at this event?? Eeek!
- Lower assessments on eroding properties - we are losing land.
- check out Bear River Plastics - they have developed a neat floating barrage - it might be an worthwhile alternative to rock walls.

Coastal Water Quality

- introduce new regulations re: “straight drain” septic systems no longer allowed in the LaHave river
- it also involves ocean front properties. The bay by Corkums Island is used for oyster farming, but many of the houses have straight drain pipes directly into the bay.
- no more grandfather clauses!!
- all development must enhance coastal water quality and ecosystems. No more “acceptable adverse impacts.”
- lousy overall - need to stop pumping sewage from dwellings, businesses and boats, especially commercial boats with no holding tanks.
- badly affects shellfish - lots of beds closed.
- stop clear cutting!
- Aquaculture impacts

- nutrient load, sea lice, impacts on salmon and trout
- Provincial departments must start sharing information
 - environment must review with agriculture and must review with Tourism, Heritage and Culture and Economic Development
- coastal waters must be tested more frequently including sediment
- must prioritize areas of concern
- need reasonable thresholds & monitoring stations
 - modify CCME to site specific
- no more wetland encroachment. We have weak laws and **no** enforcement or consequences.
- an intensive education program regarding the impact of “flush and forget”.
- rusting boats - located along the coast, impact water quality.

Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats

- respect and protect, but allow to evolve naturally
 - need stricter penalties for discharging/harmful activities. Wetlands require protection (education needed to communicate value of wetlands. Building/infilling should be prohibited.)
 - Inspection mandated of all septic systems every 5 years. (2)
- Bring all ecosystems back to complete health and maximize productivity. Public shared use will enhance this, ensure this when combined with protective legislation.
- eel grass in major trouble (canary in the coal mine). need full inventory and assessment of stresses
 - need permanent monitoring stations
 - need MPAs / marine parks to protect most threatened habitats
 - what impacts will the bananas, bottled water and styrofoam cups at this event have on our coastal ecosystems? We must start “walking the talk” and making these connections.
 - use existing structures to achieve desired goals, i.e., use the WPA legislation to protect coastal habitat. Just get on with it in terms of the programming.
 - consider wetlands, shoreline, islands and under the water as one unit. Create a marine park for Mahone Bay and St. Margaret’s Bay - the 2 great nurseries of and for the ocean.
 - who is responsible for cleaning up old lobster traps?
 - too many inlets are blocked by causeways with out passage of sea water via culvert or any other means
 - why are we permitting building of houses on coastal low lands that **will** flood and wash out buildings and septic systems, for example at Mason’s Beach and Sand Dollar Beach! (2)
 - Why do we permit raw sewage to go into the sea from 10s of thousands of homes and other buildings to pollute the coastal habitat! Also, most commercial vessel (fishing, etc.) have no holding tanks and pump raw sewage overboard. (1)
 - Clear cutting of forests puts silt into the ecosystem. Why do we permit it? (1)
 - Requirement for protection from development of coastal land to protect natural ecosystems.
 - damage from fin-fish aquaculture will-documented in NSDPA EMP sampling results - yet leases are renewed. (1)
 - get rid of grandfather clauses!! (2)