

**Best practices in coastal zone planning :  
lessons and applications**

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Inner Coast Natural Resource Center BC**

Ways to involve local people, fishermen and other industries in  
the coastal planning process : lessons from a case study of the  
community of Cap-Pelé, NB

by

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## Ways to involve local people : lessons from Cap-Pelé

- **Context**
- The Cap-Pelé area consists of two rural coastal communities (total population: 5000)
  - The town of Cap-Pelé
  - Beaubassin Rural Community
- **Fishing industry:**
  - Fishery: 90 inshore lobster boat (43 to 45 feet) with 270 jobs (season)
  - Processing plants 32 (4 lobsters plants and 28 smoke fish plants) creating 1400 seasonal jobs in the area.
- For the past 10 years, the tourism industry is becoming increasingly important.
- 1. **Initially**, the community project on intergenerational approach and educational approach focused on elders, youth and teachers in the local school community.
- Faculty members and Master students associated with the Master in environmental studies program provided information on
  - the role of streams
  - the habitat of fish
  - Stream ecosystems (estuaries, fauna and flora)

## **Ways to involve local people : lessons from Cap-Pelé**

- Different activities were also done in the communities by the different classes of student from grades 4 to 8 in particular :
  - Agricultural field visits with elders to observe changes,
  - Exploration Cap-Pelé center
  - Planting of indigenous trees along the stream to create shade
  - Beach clean up
  - Learn about stream connexion from the forest to the sea
  - Create narratives about the impact of industrialisation and urbanisation on ecosystems and the way to restore streams.
- With the support of the town council and with the help of commercial fishermen, citizens of the community, the youth with the participation of elders decided to clean a local stream which passed through the community.
- And explore with youth and elders the social linkages and networks created by environmental action.

## **Ways to involve local people : lessons from Cap-Pelé**

### **2. Other involvements from the community :**

- Contact was initiated by researchers and elders to involve the local industries (fish and agriculture) and tourism organization.
- The interest of these groups was more on the quality of the water for processing plant use and for beaches.

### **3. Help from governmental agencies to the project :**

- Federal and provincial government helped through : Action21, Environmental Trust Fund, Wildlife Trust Fund, SSHRC (for the multimedia educative web site).
- Also civil servant from DFO Habitat came on the field to assist technically the habitat restoration.

## **Ways to involve local people : lessons from Cap-Pelé**

### **4. Some results of environmental actions**

- After four years on action in the year 2000, we checked how these actions of restoration on biological environment and on the life in community help to reinforce social cohesion (Chouinard and alii.)
- The results of questionnaire for 24 adults and 56 students who participate to environment actions and environmental multimedia project.
- All (youth and adults) consider that environmental actions :
  - help the community
  - enhance the status of the elders
- The project
  - mobilized 11 classes of children and teachers
  - mobilized 2 town councillors
  - mobilized 7 commercial fishermen
  - mobilized more than 20 citizens

## **Ways to involve local people : lessons from Cap-Pelé**

### **4. Some results of environmental actions...**

- Impact of environmental actions on social links
- Approximately 15 groups (including) classes were mobilized.
- Creation of intergenerational links
- Reinforce interpersonal links

### **5. Negative impacts :**

- Some industrialists don't trust the people involved.

### **6. Utilization of Internet and visit of the educational site**

- 27.7% use Email (principally youth to exchange between them)
- Adults visit more the site and very few youth (except at school)

## **Ways to involve local people : lessons from Cap-Pelé**

### **Conclusion :**

- Positive impacts of actions on awareness
- Help to foster the sense of belonging to the community
- Help to establish link between youth
- Help to establish intergenerational linkages
- Help to reinforce the social linkages
- The educational site was not much used by the participants of the survey but it had just been in operation for six months in 2000.
- This type of project empower the citizens for the quality of life in rural communities
- Web site : **[www.umoncton.ca/littoral-vie](http://www.umoncton.ca/littoral-vie)**



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How coastal planning can facilitate economic development ?  
Lessons from the Caraquet Bay Case Study

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# How coastal planning can facilitate economic development ?

## Context

- The population within Caraquet bay watershed amounts to 15000 persons
- Public pressure, following oyster beds contamination affecting public health and safety in Caraquet Bay, forced the Provincial Government to intervene
- Between 1991 and 1993, six different provincial departments worked together under the coordination of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Between 1993 and 1996 special projects to clean the Caraquet Bay were implemented (cottage's sewage, fish processors and peat moss plants). It was coordinated by a (full time contractually appointed) dedicated person.
- During this period, the area of the public oyster beds that were contaminated diminished from 75% to 25% with some help from Provincial Government (Environmental Trust Fund/Dpt. of Environment, Chouinard and Vanderlinden 1997)
- It was considered as a real success.

# How coastal planning can facilitate economic development ?

## 1. Focus on partnership

- The major ingredient of this success was the involvement of different social, political and economic groups. They were 28 stakeholders involved under the watershed umbrella: *Comité de gestion intégrée du bassin versant de la Baie de Caraquet*
  - Municipalities, Fisheries and Oceans, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Environment NB, Environment Canada, aquaculture groups, traditional oyster fishermen, schools, planning commission, peat moss plants, fisheries plants, forestry coop, agriculture group, cottages groups and tourist group, etc.. were part of this umbrella.
- All were concern with the quality of water of the Caraquet Bay for multiple uses with an emphasis on oysters which have been a tradition since 1757. The brand name was “La Caraquette”. This oyster was exported on the Canadian market, essentially in the Montreal area.
- Since 1997, they started to work with the ZIP Group of Chaleur Bay (Qc.) to coordinate their actions and interactions with the federal and the 2 provincial Gvnts.

# How coastal planning can facilitate economic development ?

## 2. Mobilisation target

- Even if oyster and tourism (Caraquet is considered as cultural pole of the Acadian community) were targeted at the focus for mobilization, the *Comité* kept each sector of the Watershed group involved.
- A study directed by the watershed group and financed by the two levels of government was conducted with the cooperation of Université de Moncton in 1999 and 2000 to explore the socio-economic aspect of natural resource based sustainable development.
- Two objectives :
  1. First, to establish and share a common vision on the socio-economic development of the area.
  2. Second, to consider the impact of practices of each socio economic sector on resources and environment and also the impact of these resources on other socio economic sectors beyond administrative, political or management boundaries.
- Also to modify the development paradigm to allow for more sustainable forms of development
  - for the community
  - in the general interest and
  - to find a way to reconcile it with the variety of interests that are expressed by individuals or groups.

## How coastal planning can facilitate economic development ?

### 3. Major recommendations

- The reunification of **ecology and economy**. Mobilization of our time and energy to exploit natural resource to take in account their sustainability (time of reproduction) and viability ( values, quality of life)
- A **decentralised and collaborative approach** to manage resources. This involves an approach that is inclusive of all citizens: those productive and at the same level those which the society consider unproductive like youths and elders. That type of management is horizontal vs vertical and democratic vs hierarchical.
- The **importance of education**. This involves not only citizen awareness but also action. After prioritization, we have to combine scientific expertise and also traditional knowledge. All type of media must be used to popularize scientific knowledge.

# How coastal planning can facilitate economic development ?

## 4. Follow up

- To implement this an environmental communication plan was implemented for 24 months
- This involved not only meeting with the various sectors but also intersectoral meeting in different communities of Caraquet Bay watershed.
- Now in 2003 different studies are going on like
  - i) the restoration of the traditional habitat for traditional oysters and oysters and mussels aquaculture
  - ii) the carrying capacity of the Bay
  - iii) the feasibility of a Marine Protected Area in this Bay

This will help to enhance industry requirements, to deal with conflict of use and to respect the resources, the environment and the quality of life.