

Newfoundland and Labrador hosted the Coastal Zone Canada Conference '04 from June 25-30. This conference was designed to build and expand understanding of oceans and our ability to manage human activities in the coastal zone. (<http://www.czc04.ca/e/home.html>). One of the highlights of the Conference was the Youth Forum (<http://www.czc04.ca/e/youth.html>). It convened international students and young professionals to discuss and take action on issues regarding coastal areas and our interaction within them. One Ocean, the liaison organization for the fishing and petroleum sectors in the province, sponsored a symposium at the youth forum, "The Grand Banks of Newfoundland: A Reservoir of Values".

One Ocean with financial support from the Linking Science and Local Knowledge Node of the Oceans Management Research Network, sponsored four Spanish students to participate in this event, which coincided with an official visit to the province by a Spanish Fisheries Delegation. The delegation, hosted by the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, included the Spanish Fisheries Minister for Galicia, scientists, policy personnel and vessel experts.

The initiative to convene graduate students from Europe and Canada to discuss the ecosystem of the Newfoundland Grand Banks was conceived as an opportunity to promulgate sustainable ocean governance and collaborative arrangements between Canada and Europe. The focus was to provide a forum for younger academic and professional stakeholders; therefore the symposium highlighted innovative and non-conformist initiatives for discussion.

The Grand Banks Symposium took place on the opening day of the Youth Forum. The morning session was held at the Fluvarium and chaired by Dr. Arthur May, President Emeritus of Memorial University of Newfoundland, and Chairman of the One Ocean Industry Board.

Participants were greeted at the main entrance by two Newfoundland dogs that also accompanied the singing of our national and provincial anthems. Speakers for the Opening Ceremony included Mr. Keith Mercer (Marine Institute), Mr. Bill Forward (Youth Forum Organizing Committee) and the honourable Mr. Tom Osborne, Provincial Minister of Environment. Speakers for the Grand Banks Forum immediately followed the Opening Ceremony including addresses from Maureen Murphy (One Ocean), Honourable Sr. Enrique Lopez Viega (Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Galicia, Spain), Honourable Mr. Trevor Taylor (Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Newfoundland and Labrador), Mr. Leslie O'Reilley (Executive Director, Marine Institute). Sr. José Molares Vila, (Researcher of the Marine Research Centre, Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs), gave a very detailed and informative presentation on *Integrated Coastal Management in Galicia and Response to the Prestige Oil Spill*.

A twenty minute question and answer session followed the presentation with discussion regarding the importance of baseline studies for oil-spill response, the importance of re-establishing the historic relationships between Newfoundland and Labrador and Spain, as well as the identification of fishery priorities needed to be addressed in the future.

After a traditional Newfoundland Friday lunch of Fish 'n Chips at the Marine Institute, Dr. May introduced the afternoon Panel including Mr. Dave Burley (Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board), Dr. Jon Lien (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Mr. Larry Crann (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Coast Guard), Mr. Glenn Blackwood (Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Resources) Mr. José Molaes Vila (Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Galicia, Spain), Dr. Robert Rangeley (World Wildlife Fund Canada), Dr. Richard Haedrich (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Dr. May gave participants a historical overview of the Newfoundland fishing industry and its interaction with Spain, as well as the relatively younger petroleum industry in the province and how these two vital industries have managed to successfully coexist in the same marine environment. Students were then divided into four groups and given a series of Breakout questions,

1. The *Prestige* oil spill off the coast of Galicia, Spain in December 2002, closed fisheries, killed thousands of seabirds, destroyed beaches and is to-date still maintaining clean-up measures. Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, one of the busiest oil transport sites in Canada, has numerous valuable fisheries, several aquaculture sites, and prosperous eco-tourism ventures. Could an oil spill, such as the *Prestige* occur in Newfoundland waters? What emergency measures are in place should a spill occur? What can we learn from the *Prestige* experience?

- Is there a baseline study completed for Newfoundland and Labrador? A baseline document would include information on naturally-occurring hydrocarbon levels, local species composition, etc. Having such a study completed prior to a devastating event, such as an oil spill, would provide a comparison for the post-spill environment, giving a “recovery” reference-point.

2. Since the first fish was taken from the waters around Newfoundland and Labrador, the fishery has changed extensively. Is there a future for the commercial fishery in Newfoundland and Labrador? What form will that future take (i.e., changes in targeted species, industry partnerships, “environmentally-friendly” gear technology, extensive networks of marine protected areas, etc.)? How can the problem of over-capacity be addressed? Or is it a problem at all? Have we loved our resources to death?

3. The issue of foreign overfishing on the Grand Banks has been discussed and argued for decades. In 1995 Canada arrested a Spanish fishing vessel and most

recently the Canadian government has boarded a number of highly publicized Portuguese and Spanish vessels. There are still calls for more action. Is it possible for Canada, through NAFO and the ratification of the United Nations Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to end foreign overfishing on the Grand Banks outside the Exclusive Economic Zone? Will these governance models ensure sustainable fishery practices? What are the other choices?

The Groups reported their results to the Panel and then opened the floor to a question and answer period regarding question, issues, and comments arising from the Breakout session. Consensus was reached on the need for broader response capability research and participants identified the need for a Baseline Survey to be conducted in various areas of the province. Questions 2 and 3 initiated much discussion regarding fishing practices in Newfoundland and Labrador and internationally. Participants agreed that government lead agencies were not properly managing the fishery or fishers and suggested that the only way to reform the fishery was to educate the users regarding their practices and the available alternatives.

The final event for the day was a presentation on the One Ocean organization. Maureen Murphy, (Research Analyst) gave an overview of the liaison model and its interaction with the fishing and petroleum industries in the province. Many participants from outside the Newfoundland region did not know about the organization and thought that the model should be used in all areas where these two industries exist. There were many questions regarding the research initiatives of One Ocean and its relationship with European countries.

One of the major outcomes of the Grand Banks Symposium was the opportunity for Canadian and European students to come together to discuss issues of mutual concern regarding the marine environment. During the Youth Forum these students and young professionals had the opportunity to participate in sightseeing boat tours for whales and seabirds, early morning expeditions to beach sites and nature trails, they shared meals together and formed friendships. These young participants may be the future managers of our ocean environment. A mutual understanding of social, cultural and economic factors surrounding the fishery may facilitate future endeavors and relationship building in the future. Spain has offered to host four Newfoundland students at a comparable session next year....this is a great beginning!