

The Coastal Society

TCS Bulletin
Volume 25 (2) 2003

Who owns the Seaweed?

By John Duff

For centuries individuals have moved along the shore and shallow waters of present-day Maine to harvest a variety of seaweeds for a wide range of uses. Seaweed is used as fertilizer and cattle fodder as well as in food products and cosmetics.

For centuries there has been little, if any, conflict over who has the right to harvest and use this versatile resource. As seaweed becomes an increasingly valuable commercial product however, the question over ownership or access to seaweed in Maine is becoming more than a theoretical issue.

Faced with increased harvesting activities, Maine enacted a seaweed permitting system in 1999.¹ While the state called for commercial harvesters to acquire permits and report their harvesting levels, the legislature expressly exempted certain harvesters from the permitting requirement. And while the law authorized the state Department of Marine Resources to enact harvesting regulations, it did not directly address who owns seaweed in Maine.

Doesn't the state own seaweed?

Since seaweed grows in the sea doesn't that make it a public resource managed by the state? The location of a resource in subtidal areas answers the ownership question in most states, but not Maine. As many coast watchers know, Maine and Massachusetts differ from other states in that coastal property owners often own land down to the low tide line (in the other states, the private property interest ends at the high tide line).

Then doesn't a Maine coastal property owner own the seaweed in the intertidal zone?

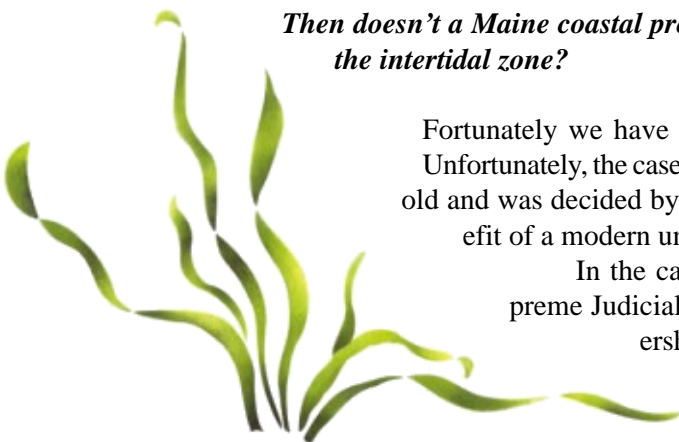
Fortunately we have a case that answers the question. Unfortunately, the case is over one hundred and forty years old and was decided by a court that did not have the benefit of a modern understanding of phycology.

In the case of *Hill v. Lord*, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court addressed a seaweed ownership issue and ruled in favor of the private property owner.² In so

Seaweed, cont'd. on page 2

INSIDE:

Message From the President.....	2
From the Editor's Desk.....	3
Bright Ideas.....	4
Testing the Waters.....	5
TCS Survey Results.....	6
Bulletin Board.....	9
News From the Board.....	10
UW Chapter Update.....	10
TCS Board of Directors.....	11



Message From the President

As the school year ends . . .

Since the late Springtime signals the end of the year (Academic Year that is) to so many TCS members whose lives are tied to the calendars of universities and colleges, I thought it might be appropriate to merely wish everyone a happy, healthy and productive Summer. Since we are all bound together by our connection to the coasts, I hope that everyone will have a chance to enjoy the natural beauty and wonder of our coastal communities.

John Duff

Seaweed, from page 1

doing, the court likened seaweed harvesting to timber cutting or domesticated crop harvesting. The court declared that seaweed, like timber and food crops, belonged to the owner of the soil that produced it.

Today, however, any respectable phycologist will tell you that seaweed gains its life force from the sea and sun rather than from the soil. Commercially valuable seaweed may look like a garden variety plant but it operates differently. Rather than a root system, seaweeds employ a holdfast system which allows them to stabilize themselves on the seafloor. But the life force of the resource is obtained through direct absorption via the water column. And any respectable beach lawyer will tell you that while the intertidal lands in some states may be privately owned, that ownership does not apply to the water column itself. But then again the hold fast system constitutes a vital (if not nutrient feeding) function.

So who owns the seaweed in Maine?

Right now private property owners faced with the question (including federal owners of coastal property in the state) will tell you that they own the seaweed attached to their intertidal property. Seaweed harvesters, however, claim that their activities are better characterized as fishing or shellfishing – activities that are protected under the state’s Public Trust Doctrine. They point out that in a host of state and federal statutory schemes, seaweed harvesting is characterized as fishing for resource regulation and tax purposes. The harvesters hope that an enlightened state government (legislature and courts), armed and educated with a twenty-first century understanding of seaweed biology, might side with the “fishing” analogy when it comes to the public-private ownership question. Nonetheless, the Department of Marine Resources seems to skate along a thin but currently viable line that enables them to tell private property owners that even they need a permit to harvest seaweed, while suggesting to non-land-owning harvesters that they would be wise to seek permission from coastal property owners on whose tidelands the valuable seaweed exists.

Why hasn’t anyone just taken the matter to court?

There have been no recent cases regarding the ownership of seaweed in Maine. Property owners continue to claim the seaweed is theirs, occasionally suggesting that a harvester move along, while harvesters continue to extract seaweed from the tidelands, state permits in hand. For the time being it seems that neither side is willing to risk a legal dispute that might prompt the courts to settle the matter once and for all. 🐟

¹ 12 MRSA Sec. 6803.

² *Hill v. Lord*, 48 Me. 83, 96 (1861).



From the Editor's Desk...

Welcome to another issue of TCS BULLETIN. In the last issue, we announced that Volume 25 would contain a running theme of articles related to the relationship between marine and coastal technology and law. Isaac Wilhelm reported on the challenges that offshore windfarms pose for proponents and opponents alike (see *Offshore Windfarm Sparks Debate*, p. 1, Volume 25(1) 2002). In this issue, the BULLETIN continues to highlight technology issues and the influence that scientific developments have on ocean and coastal resource management. Rita Heimes tells the story of an inventor who heeded the call of the courts and regulatory agencies when they sought a technological remedy to right whale fishing gear entanglements (page 4). The Seaweed article (page 1) also raises issues related to the understanding of scientific principles in matters related to property rights.

We will continue the technology theme through issues 3 and 4 of Volume 25 (with the encouragement of readers and the generous support of the **Technology Law Center** and the **Marine Law Institute** at the University of Maine Law School). We encourage readers to submit articles or highlight references to sources of information related to the coastal technology-policy connection.

As always, we have news related to TCS operations as well as information on conferences, jobs, grants, and fellowships. The News from the Board (page 10) highlights the fact that TCS members will have an opportunity to participate in the organization's Annual Members Meeting that will take place this July in Baltimore. As we have come to expect, the TCS UW Chapter Update (page 10) points out the important role that an energized chapter affiliate can take. And one of that chapter's members, Ben Starkhouse, provides us with a glimpse into the role of NGO's in protecting transboundary resources (page 5).

A summary of the results of a recent TCS survey (pages 6 & 7) is provided to keep you up to date on our efforts to plan the next TCS biennial meeting. In the next issue of TCS Bulletin you'll begin to see some of the details that evolve from that effort.

John Duff

Corrections / Editorial Policy

TCS BULLETIN publishes articles which may represent varying perspectives on coastal issues. The views expressed in TCS BULLETIN are those of the authors and may not represent the policy of TCS or the BULLETIN. TCS BULLETIN welcomes comments as well as information about errors that warrant correction. Contact: jduff@usm.maine.edu and indicate "comment/correction: Vol. __, Issue __" in the subject line.

Wanted: Articles, Notices, BRIGHT IDEAS

As The Coastal Society reflects upon 25 years of service to coastal communities, we would like to hear from those of you who have been involved with the organization over the years.

In the coming months and issues, TCS BULLETIN will publish articles about the work of the organization and its membership (because in truth, the organization is its membership).

If you have an article that illustrates the role that TCS members have played in coastal governance, please send it along. We are also interested in articles about contemporary coastal matters. Information about upcoming conferences as well as education and training opportunity notices are always welcome. Finally, TCS BULLETIN would like to highlight innovative approaches to coastal and ocean resource stewardship. If you are involved in, or know about, a truly "bright idea" that promises to improve coastal resource management efforts, let us know.

Remember, sound governance of our ocean and coastal resources wasn't just the concept behind the formation of The Coastal Society, it is a principle of historic importance.

*He has plundered our Seas,
he has ravaged our coasts...
he has destroyed the lives of our people.*

Declaration of Independence, 1776

Submissions can be made to: jduff@usm.maine.edu or coastalsoc@aol.com.

The TCS BULLETIN is published by The Coastal Society to provide information about coastal issues and events. The Coastal Society is an organization of private sector, academic, and government professionals and students dedicated to actively addressing emerging coastal issues by fostering dialogue, forging partnerships, and promoting communication and education.

Contributions to the BULLETIN are encouraged. Inquiries about the BULLETIN or the Society should be addressed to:

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Bright Ideas

Mainer's invention designed to help whales and fishing industry

By Rita Heimes

One of the identifiable causes of death and injury to the endangered Northern Right whale is entanglement with commercial fishing gear. Whales sometimes catch the vertical ropes leading from lobster pots to buoys or the horizontal lines tying gillnets together. Once caught, the whales often cannot disentangle themselves. They may become seriously injured or die while also destroying the fishing gear.

In 1996, a federal court in Massachusetts found the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries had illegally assisted the "taking" of the whales, in violation of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, by issuing licenses and permits authorizing lobster pot and gillnet fishing. The court ordered the officials to convene a working group to discuss "modifications of fixed-fishing gear and other measures to minimize harm to the Northern Right whales."¹

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) thereafter issued a final interim rule proposing to close off to fishing the critical Northern Right whale habitat and seeking modification of fishing practices. A report accompanying the rule called for a ban on gillnet fishing and lobster pot fishing until modified fishing equipment could be developed.²

Enter Eric Dedoes, a Maine lobster gear salesman and inventor. Dedoes owns and runs Plante's Lobster Escape Vents, which makes and sells cleats, trap vents, buoy sticks, and related items for the lobster fishing industry.

In 1996, while at a Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association trade show, he heard about the need for whale-safe gear in Cape Cod Bay and the concern among lobstermen that without it their fishery might be shut down.

Dedoes knew immediately that he could make something to solve the problem. He had heard of attempts to avoid the use of lines altogether by attaching pop-up buoys on lobster traps that would release when triggered by remote radio and rise to the surface. Dedoes knew this idea would fail not only for technical reasons, but also because, he says, "taking vertical lines from a lobsterman is like tak-

What was needed, Dedoes realized, was break-away gear at the buoy that would snap the line, free the whale, and leave the trap in place.

ing a truck from a truck driver. It's his business, his livelihood."

Attempts to create breakaway gear at the trap level were also ineffective because they left the traps at the bottom of the sea with their valuable catch – not a solution the lobster industry would adopt.

What was needed, Dedoes realized, was break-away gear at the buoy that would snap the line, free the whale, and leave the trap in place. With the help of a \$20,000 grant from NMFS, Dedoes created a mold for a buoy swivel with a weak spot that would give way under pressure. Just how much pressure was the subject of de-

bate. A break point at too little pressure and rough weather could tear away the line from the buoy, lobstermen feared. Too much pressure and the line wouldn't break to free an entangled whale.

NMFS finally passed a regulation mandating a break-away pressure point of 600 pounds. Knowing many lobstermen would think that pressure too weak, Dedoes enlisted University of Maine professor John Riley to develop pull test equipment that Dedoes now takes on the road to trade shows. Whenever potential customers insist that a 600-pound break point is insufficient to withstand weather conditions, Dedoes simply lets them use the pull machine to test the strength of the rope and the buoy. Inevitably, they are surprised at how strong the breakaway swivel really is.

"You never tell a lobsterman what to do, or what to buy," says Dedoes. Instead, "if you've got something new you have to give it to him, and let him use it." That low-key style has served Dedoes well in his business, especially when he's trying to sell a new technology mandated by federal law. It also helps that he's a Maine native and perfectly at home on the water.

Born in Portland, Dedoes has been on boats since he "was able to stand." He owned his first boat when he was twelve, and has worked in some capacity with the fishing industry for most of his life. Inventing regulation-compliant gear comes naturally to Dedoes, who likes to solve problems while he's driving his truck around New England selling gear. Not long after he invented the breakaway swivel for lobster pot fishing, he created a unique gillnet float that is designed to break under pressure from whales that catch gillnet lines in the baleen as they

dive. The line breaking from the float lacks knots, so that it can slide harmlessly out of the way. The breakaway gillnet float won Dedoes honors and a \$10,000 prize from the Canadian Whale Institute.

Prizes, grants and whale-saving are nice, but Dedoes isn't in it just for glory or conservation. Making gear for the lobster industry is "what I do," he says. "If there's something I can provide them, I will do it, even if it's for a low profit because it will get me a customer. If I can provide them with everything they need, they won't have to call anyone else."

Modesty and business interests aside, Dedoes' inventions have responded to a need recognized by a court case and enforced by NMFS. His technologies may simultaneously preserve both a treasured endangered species and the use of lines in fishing. 🐟

Rita Heimes is the Director of the Technology Law Center at the University of Maine Law School, she can be contacted at rheimes@usm.maine.edu

¹ *Strahan v. Coxe*, 127 F.3d 115 (1st Cir. 1997).

² *Id.* at 159.

[Editor's Note: In March, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a Proposed Rule calling for gear modification in certain Atlantic Lobster fishery areas. See *Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations* 68 Fed Reg 10195 (March 4, 2003).]

Testing the Waters

[Editor's note: *Testing the Waters* is part of an effort by TCS to provide students with an opportunity, in the form of publication space, to present their ideas, perspectives and observations. In this issue of TCS BULLETIN, Ben Starkhouse looks at concerns in the Salish Sea region and examines the efforts of NGOs to address those concerns.]

An International Non-Governmental Organization for the Salish Sea

By Ben Starkhouse

The transboundary waterway shared by the State of Washington and the Province of British Columbia is sometimes referred to as the Salish Sea after the Salish Native Americans that once thrived in the region's rich environment. A pristine and balanced natural ecosystem centered on bountiful

harvests of numerous marine species and expansive tracts of undisturbed forests sustained the Native Americans for many generations. Only in the past fifty years or so has the balance and health of this once stable ecosystem begun to show signs of degradation.

Environmental Challenges in the Region

The prominent environmental issue impacting the Salish Sea region is the ever-increasing population. In the 1990s the population grew by 18.65% and is expected to increase another 2 million by 2020 bringing the total population close to 9 million. This increase in population directly relates to habitat loss, ecosystem degradation and soil erosion as new homes, businesses, industries and agriculture move into or near coastal areas, estuaries and watersheds. The growing population also contributes to an increase in pollution. More people living in the area adds to the amount

of sewage, chemicals and fertilizers entering the marine environments of Washington and British Columbia.

Species at Risk

Many marine species in the region have declined due to various forms of environmental degradation. Filter-feeders such as mussels, clams and oysters act as effective indicators of the water quality immediately surrounding them. Increases in shellfish closures indicate a rise in pollutants entering coastal zones. Salmon and rockfish suffer from habitat degradation and over-fishing and many have been listed as endangered or threatened. The long life span and position atop the food web makes marine mammal populations relevant indicators of the overall health of an ecosystem. As top predators, killer whales and harbor seals bioaccumulate toxins that their prey may have encountered in their life time. High levels of PCB's found in

Salish Sea, cont'd. on page 8

Survey results pave the way for TCS 19 in Newport!

It's just a year away, but the planning has already begun for The Coastal Society's 19th Biennial Conference (TCS19). We hope that you'll be able to join us in beautiful Newport, Rhode Island, May 23-26, 2004. To make the conference as member-interest-oriented as possible, the TCS19 Planning Committee began the planning process by listening. We wanted to know *what interests you!*

Thanks to all of you who submitted your *TCS19 Topic of Interest Surveys*. Over one hundred TCS members from the U.S. and abroad answered our query about "what matters" and what TCS19 should be covering.

Based on the number of respondents and the ranking attributed to the topics we asked about, the issues of highest concern were those related to: coastal land use; coastal water quality; and, coastal and ocean education (with a host of others that merit attention as well). Survey respondents also provided a wealth of information on issues of particular concern within topic areas. As the survey response summary information (below) indicates, TCS members want to learn more about new approaches to "old" issues. TCSers also want to discuss a number of new or emerging coastal issues.

As the TCS19 Planning Committee moves ahead, we'll keep you posted on the themes that will be developed from your input. In an upcoming issue of **TCS BULLETIN** you'll see members' interests reflected in the conference preliminary announcement and Call for Abstracts. Thanks again for taking the time to let us know what's important to you.

John A. Duff

P.S. Congratulations to TCS member Rosemary Fowles for winning the Survey Drawing's one year membership renewal.

TCS 19 Survey Results:

ISSUE \ RANK (1=highest)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Non-ranked
Fisheries	2	6	11	15	9	6	2	7	2	11
Coastal Access	2	7	12	9	8	7	4	4	5	13
Ocean Based Energy	1	2	5	3	3	3	10	8	17	19
Ports and Harbors	5	2	4	3	8	9	8	11	6	15
Coastal Land Use	33	14	7	7	2	1	3	2	0	2
Aquaculture	4	2	2	3	5	8	8	9	14	16
Coastal Water Quality	10	16	9	6	5	9	2	0	4	10
Endangered Species	8	5	5	7	10	4	4	5	7	16
Coastal+Ocean Education	5	11	15	6	4	4	6	2	6	12

Other 'write-in' topics :

	Ranked
Wetland policy issues	3,6
Coastal hazards (hurricane, tsunami, El Nino, sea level rise affect on water quality)	2,3,3,4,4
Climate change and adaptation to sea-level rise	3
MPA's (and fisheries management)	1,1,1,8
Docks and piers (big issue in SC, GA, FL, West Coast, ME)	2
International developments	3
Sub-tidal habitats (research, management)	1,1
US Commission on Ocean Policy results (related to coasts)	1
Ocean Dumping (cruise ships, impact on coasts)	7,9
Partnerships in resource protection (state, federal, private)	1,4
Environmental security	5
Integration of science into policy	1
Brownfields, superfund	7
Coastal ecosystem health indicators	Not ranked
Ecotourism education	Not ranked
Community-based coastal management	1,1,2
Policy	1
Invasive species, non-native aquatic invasive species and ballast water	3,2
International cooperation issues	3,4
Estuaries (water quality; role of monitoring; non-point source pollution)	Not ranked
Permitting (state oversight of federal permits to lessen ecological effects)	Not ranked
Coastal engineering (engineered coasts)	1,1
Coastal erosion (causes and cures; landslide mapping)	1,1,5
Coastal processes	1
Underwater junkyard v. artificial reefs	4
GIS tools for ocean resource management (and technology)	1, not ranked
Ocean Zoning	4
Desalination for high-pop. municipal water source (environmental impact)	4
Homeland security	3
Coastal grant making foundations and opportunities	Not ranked
Regional case study (Gulf of Maine and Long Island Sound)	Not ranked
Process-oriented topics cutting across themes, such as: collaboration involving public decision-making, planning, watershed management, administering effective programs (performance management), citizen service (volunteer monitoring, incorporating volunteers into implementation efforts)	2

the tissues of dead killer whales are clear evidence of an unhealthy marine ecosystem.

Non-Governmental Organizations in the Salish Sea Region

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) possess a number of qualities that distinguish them from governmental agencies and industry organizations working on similar issues. NGO strengths include their ability to communicate and work with individuals, communities, businesses and all levels of government. Without strict, longstanding, inflexible and regulatory hindrances, NGOs are able to experiment with innovative approaches to problem solving and often attract motivated staff that want to work on issues they deeply care about. Hurdles to NGO progress include their dependency on fundraising, limited staff resources, access to information and competition with other NGOs.

Two NGOs operating in the Salish Sea region include People for Puget Sound and Georgia Strait Alliance. Both NGOs do an excellent job working with existing governmental programs that promote habitat and species conservation and restoration along with pollution control programs. Both organizations also collaborate with community groups and get individual citizens involved with what's happening in their region. The problem is that both NGOs operate primarily on their respective side of the international border. There is some transborder cooperation on specific issues but a lack of funding and staff resources slows the progress.

International Cooperation Between the Governments of U.S. and Canada

The past decade has seen the governments of Canada and the United States spend countless hours fostering international cooperation on the management of the Salish Sea. The 1992 signing of the Environmental Cooperation Agreement committed the governments of B.C. and Washington to work together on transboundary environmental problems. Since the signing, numerous governmental agencies, including the WA State Department of Ecology, U.S. EPA, British Columbia Ministry of the Environment, Land and Parks, Environment Canada and Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada, have worked to create a dialogue that supports international collaboration.

So why create an international NGO?

It seems these governmental and non-governmental organizations are initiating positive change for the Salish Sea ecosystem. The fact is, the international governmental cooperation is creating a niche that would allow an international NGO to develop and prosper while contributing in the collaborative management of the Salish Sea. Often NGOs play a complementary role to issues that governmental organizations are working on and this situation could be another example.

Second, although the existing regional NGOs do great work in their respective regions, an NGO created to work specifically on transboundary environmental issues may be more effective than organizations created to work on issues on just one side of the border. Embedding values and goals into the creation of an international NGO that coincide with the vision of conserving and restoring a transboundary ecosystem is likely to produce a positive outcome.

Finally, an international NGO, while working within existing regional management structures, could facilitate stakeholder communication and cooperation on international environmental issues. An international NGO could create a framework that promotes stakeholder participation from both sides of the border. Within this framework decisions on the best management strategies could be decided by utilizing the knowledge and experience of local communities, scientists, businesses, fishermen and both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Puget Sound Georgia Basin international waterway is a unique ecosystem with rich biodiversity. Governmental agencies, NGOs, community groups, businesses, Tribes, First Nations, scientists and environmental foundations are collectively coming to realize the importance of a management strategy that addresses environmental issues without regard for political boundaries. This evolution of thinking has created a situation in which an international NGO could positively contribute to the future health of the Salish Sea ecosystem. 🌊

Ben Starkhouse is a senior at the University of Washington in the UW Program on the Environment. He also serves as the Treasurer for the TCSUW Chapter affiliate. Mr. Starkhouse spoke on this issue at the Georgia Basin Puget Sound Research Conference on April 1st, 2003 held in Vancouver, BC, Canada. He can be reached at bas8@u.washington.edu.

Bulletin Board

**Society of Wetland Scientists' 24th Annual Meeting:
Wetland Stewardship: Changing Landscapes and
Interdisciplinary Challenges**
June 8-13, 2003
New Orleans, Louisiana
<http://www.sws.org/neworleans/welcome.htm>

**International Coastal Management:
Tools for Successful Regional Partnerships and
Initiatives**
June 13-14, 2003
Athens, Georgia
<http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/SGLC/conference.htm>

**Coastal Zone 03:
Coastal Zone Management Through Time**
July 13-17, 2003
Baltimore, Maryland
Conference contact - Gale.PEEK@noaa.gov or
(843) 740-1231. Technical program info. -
Jan.Kucklick@noaa.gov or (843) 740-1279.
<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz2003>

American Fisheries Society 133rd Annual Meeting
August 10-14, 2003
Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
Contact: Betsy Fritz, (301) 897-8616 x212 or email:
bfritz@fisheries.org
www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/AFS_congres/accueil.htm

**Soil and Water Conservation Society,
58th Annual Conference:
The Columbia River - Conserving a Legacy of Life**
July 26-30, 2003
Spokane, Washington
<http://www.swcs.org>

Coastal Structures Conference
August 26-29, 2003
Portland, Oregon
Conference to advance innovation in coastal structures
and beach preservation.
<http://www.asce.org/conferences/coastal2003>

**People and the Sea II
Conflicts, Threats and Opportunities**
September 4-6, 2003
Amsterdam
www.marecentre.nl/people_and_the_sea_2/index.html

**17th Biennial Conference of the Estuarine Research
Federation: Estuaries on the Edge - Convergence of
Ocean, Land, and Culture**
September 14-18, 2003
Seattle, Washington
Contact: Helen Schneider, (254) 776-3550 or
helens@sgmeet.com
<http://erf.org/>

Watershed Approaches to Environmental Education
September 25-28, 2003
Summerside, Prince Edwards Island, Canada
Combined conference of Canadian Network of Environ-
mental Educators and Communicators (EECOM) and the
Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP)
<http://www.bbema.ca/eecomacap>

2003 Canadian Coastal Conference
October 15-17, 2003
Kingston, Ontario, Canada
Contact: CCCO3@civil.queensu.ca
<http://www.civil.queensu.ca/CCC03>

Sixth Wetlands Workshop: Hydrology
October 27-31, 2003
Atlantic City, New Jersey
<http://www.wetlandworkgroup.org>

**6th International Conference on the Environmental
Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas**
November 18 - 21, 2003
Bangkok, Thailand
<http://www.emecs2003.com/conout.htm>

East Asian Seas Congress
December 8-12, 2003
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Information on the Congress:
<http://way.to/seascongress>
or email: congress@pemsea.org

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TCS 19
The Coastal Society 19th International
Biennial Conference
May 23-26, 2004, Newport, RI
Stay Tuned!
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News from the Board

Catch up with TCS in Baltimore!

TCS Board members hope to see you at the *Coastal Zone '03* meeting this summer in Baltimore, MD. The Coastal Society will be convening its annual membership meeting during the CZ Conference on *Monday morning July 14, from 7:30 – 8:30 AM*. Please join us for a continental breakfast as we discuss our achievements and our plans for the future. Look for the room location announcement when you check in for the conference.



University of Washington Student Chapter Update

Working Worldwide

Spring Quarter welcomed the next generation of leaders for TCSUW. Officers for 2003-4 are:

President - Michael Schmidt, SMA
VP - Kevin Grant, SMA
Treasurer - Ben Starkhouse,
Program on the Environment &
Heather D'Agnes, SMA
Secretary - Stacy Fawell, SMA
National Liaison-Heather Brandon,
SMA
VP Public Relations - Melissa
Andersen, SMA

Notable events for the concluding term of the academic year included a beach restoration event as part of UW's Earth Week celebration at Seattle's Sand Point Magnuson Park on Lake Washington. Also, TCSUW will represent UW at the Seattle Maritime Festival in May in partnership with the Program on the Environment and the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences (COFS). Many thanks to TCS member Linda Maxson for her involvement with this effort. Finally, planning efforts are underway for recruitment of new members in the Fall 2003 through a second year of TCSUW opportunities and events with focus on preparing for TCS-19.

The diversity of student interests and backgrounds is especially apparent in TCSUW membership—strongly represented by our new leaders. Many of these students have not only committed to their classes and research, but to representing TCSUW at conferences, worldwide, through their work. Nearly a dozen TCSUW members, many of whom contributed oral presentations and/or research posters, attended the 2003 Georgia Basin Puget Sound Research Conference held in Vancouver, British Columbia March 31st - April 3rd. The conference brought together over 800 scientists, researchers, professionals, policy makers, and students to forge new relationships for future cooperation on managing the transboundary marine ecosystem of Georgia Basin and Puget Sound. Selected themes included sustainability indicators, stakeholder integration and involvement, marine and air pollution, climate change, environmental education and planning for development. The conference also acted as a platform for TCSUW members to meet and interact with the members of the developing TCS chapter at Western Washington University. For student work from this conference, please reference 'An International Non-Governmental Organiza-

tion for the Salish Sea' by TCSUW Treasurer Ben Starkhouse on page five.

TCSUW Past-President Becky Ellis and President Michael Schmidt both prepared to conduct presentations at a Korea/US Joint-Workshop on Strategies for Sustainable Coastal Development. The workshop, held in Incheon Korea, examined comparisons between the Incheon and Seattle areas. Comparison between Incheon and Seattle area issues center around the 'Pentaport' Development Project. Michael Schmidt will also attend the World Aquaculture 2003 Conference in Salvador, Brazil in May. The conference brings together aquaculture industry and research affiliates from all over the globe. Michael will be presenting a poster titled, "Methodological Considerations for Using True Cost Pricing to Capture the Environmental Costs of Farmed Shrimp Production."

For more information, please visit <http://students.washington.edu/tcsuw>

TCS Board of Directors

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