

## Who will benefit?

- Communities
- Businesses
- Investors
- Taxpayers
- Municipalities
- Industry
- Aboriginal People

... in short, all Nova Scotians!

We need your engagement in this dialogue. We need to encourage our provincial government as they take a leadership role in managing our coast.

Above all ...

## We need to get our Act together!

*"All Nova Scotians have a role to play in managing the province's coast."*

- NS Government, *"What we Heard 2010: Nova Scotia's Coastal Consultation"*

For further information, please contact:

## Nova Scotia needs a Coastal Act.

### Our relationship with the coast defines us

- for employment
- for recreation
- for a healthy environment

We are tied to the coast in everything we do. It is our most important, and possibly our most endangered resource. What are we doing to protect it?

We all pay the price for bad development, and we all benefit when we do things right. How can we make the best choices when locating new coastal industries? How can we work with the coast's natural processes?

Our coast is changing fast, faster than our means of managing it. Let's look at the facts.

- Sea-level will rise at least 1 meter over the next 100 years.

- The number and severity of storms and storm surges is rising dramatically - above average for 9 of the last 11 years.
- Pressures on coastal habitat too have been enormous; over 80% of our Fundy salt marshes have disappeared.
- The costs are astronomical – 27% of Halifax homes had insurance claims after 2003's Hurricane Juan, and in 2007 after Noel, one aquaculture outfit alone claimed over \$1m, their entire stock of farmed salmon lost.

These stories are now the norm - negative trends which are both unsustainable and unacceptable. We must act now before it's too late.

## Canada's ocean playground?

### Our license is overdue



Visit <http://ccns.chebucto.org/>

Follow us on  'Act for our Coast Now'

# Who's in charge? Nobody.



Developer, environmentalist, politician, community rep, or fisherman, no matter who you are the jurisdictional tangle can be mind-boggling.

In government, there is no single champion for the coast. At the provincial level alone over 14 government departments and agencies are responsible, and that's before the municipalities or the federal government kick in.



What's shocking is, it's all legal! Our laws are outdated, inconsistent, and where they exist, often there are gaps between jurisdictions, between licensing and enforcement, and between sound management and our current ability to steward the coast, our most valuable resource.

"The current management system is inefficient, ineffective, ambiguous and overly complicated ... The province should have a comprehensive coastal policy with supporting legislation"

- NS Government, "What We Heard 2010: Nova Scotia's Coastal Consultation"

# What would a Nova Scotia Coastal Act include?

**The Act** would define coastal principles on which we all agree, for example:

- The health of our coastal ecosystems is of fundamental importance to our environment, our economy, and our way of life
- We must be able to make transparent, consistent, and timely coastal decisions that reflect Nova Scotians' coastal consensus.
- We must have the tools to both avoid conflict and solve differences effectively when they arise.
- Communities and individuals must play a substantive role in designing our coastal future.

**The Act** would clearly define who's responsible – the coastal buck stops there.

**The Act** would enable effective coastal management for planning and land use - setbacks, best practices, what you can and cannot do.

**The Act** would establish coastal advisory boards to coordinate the execution of existing law, and would include:

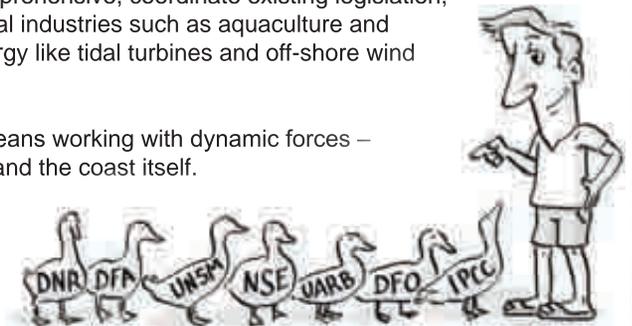
- Communities
- Aboriginal people
- All three levels of government
- Other stakeholders

**The Act** would set targets and create mechanisms to protect coastal lands and guarantee appropriate public access.

Our coasts are constantly changing. **The Act** would ensure ongoing research, monitoring, and education.

**The Act** would be comprehensive, coordinate existing legislation, and include new coastal industries such as aquaculture and marine renewable energy like tidal turbines and off-shore wind generation.

Managing the coast means working with dynamic forces – people, the economy, and the coast itself.



**We need to get our Act together...!**

**Nova Scotia needs a Coastal Act... now!**