

UPDATE AND STATUS OF COINATLANTIC: A NETWORK OF PEOPLE, INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN SUPPORT OF INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN MANAGEMENT

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There are many challenges related to information management in support of integrated coastal and ocean management (ICOM) including the ability of users to find, access and integrate information from all of the various information sources. At the core of this challenge, ICOM requires information on land, freshwater and saltwater ecosystems, that is most often managed by a number of independent agencies. Experience has shown that no one agency or group can, or should, manage all of the relevant information, thus the Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee (ACZISC) is implementing the Coastal and Ocean Information Network – Atlantic (COINAtlantic) to apply modern technologies to facilitate the exchange of information among the various information providers and users.

The need for human interest, trust and participation in information sharing is key to providing managers with access to information required for management decisions. The ACZISC has been working for over 17 years in Atlantic Canada to facilitate the collaborative efforts of federal and provincial departments/agencies, community organizations, NGOs, the private sector and academia to manage their information in ways that promote its sharing and application.

In the past year, COINAtlantic has been building on the efforts of the ACZISC to establish a network of people and technology to allow coastal managers to search, find, access and integrate the incredible amount of information available online. This paper will demonstrate the necessary balance between personnel and technology in a modern day Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). It will show how the ACZISC has proven to be a useful incubator for the development of an effective network. The present state of the network, including the on-line geomatic search utility, will be presented.

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Biographical

Mr. Paul Boudreau presently works in the Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee (ACZISC) Secretariat at Dalhousie University as the project manager for the Coastal and Ocean Information Network Atlantic (COINAtlantic: <http://COINAtlantic.ca>).

Mr. Boudreau has worked on a number of issues throughout his career with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, including: research on habitat and population production in freshwater, estuarine, and marine ecosystems; environmental impact assessment; and mapping of marine benthic habitats.

He has held numerous committee positions including membership on:

-  ICES Working Group on Marine Habitat Mapping; and,
-  The U.S. National Academy of Science Committee on National Needs for Coastal Mapping and Charting.

He has worked for three years at the global change project office (Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone - LOICZ) in The Netherlands looking at the flux of materials from land, through the coastal zone into the coastal oceans.

Much of his work has involved building stronger links between science and management.