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the

# Western Shorefast

A joint newsletter of the Bonne Bay Marine Station and the  
Community-University Research for Recovery Alliance



## CURRA-linked Namibian researcher studying small pelagic fisheries

Barbara Paterson (at right in the above photo), a visiting postdoctoral fellow at MUN and Conservation Corps intern Katie Rundquist (left), are conducting a study on the social ecology of small pelagic fisheries on the west coast of Newfoundland. Focusing particularly on the area around Bonne Bay, Barbara and Katie are spending several weeks this fall looking at the inshore and offshore fisheries for capelin, herring and mackerel.

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## Culture, Place & Identity at the Heart of Regional Development

An initiative of the North Atlantic Forum (NAF), the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF), the Small Islands Cultural Research Initiative (SICRI) and Memorial University

“When it comes to development, who we are affects where we're headed.” This is the motto of the North Atlantic Forum's upcoming conference in October. Held in historic St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, this international conference will explore how the strong cultural identity of remote rural communities, islands and coastal regions can contribute to the development of sustainable communities and local economies. *Culture, Place and Identity at the Heart of Regional Development* will be an opportunity for the cultural, development, business and academic communities to come together to share experiences and insights. Continued on page 2

## Save the Date!

### NAF Conference

October 13-15, 2011

St. John's, NL

See article on pages  
1/2 for more  
details.

### Network 11

October 20-22, 2011

Norris Point, NL

Community radio  
networking event broadcast  
and webcast by VOBB



## Namibian Researcher

Continued from front page

The goals of their research are:

1. to explore how fishing actions within the current management framework affect herring, mackerel and capelin stocks in this area.
2. to learn more about the relationship between the different fleet sectors
3. to find out how the different sectors utilise the resource and how this affects fish harvesters and communities in the region from Port au Choix to the Bay of Islands.

Barbara and Katie will be conducting interviews with harvesters, union representatives, DFO managers and scientists to learn about these fisheries. They will be asking questions about the biology and ecology of the fish, the way they are harvested now and in the past, how recent management of the fishery has affected harvesting and any thoughts or concerns people have regarding the status and management of these fisheries.

With funding from the Robin Rigby Trust, this study is a collaborative project between the CURRA and Namibia and conducted under the supervision of Professor Barbara Neis and with guidance from CURRA researchers and community partners.

Barbara lives in Namibia, a country in southern Africa whose western border is the Atlantic Ocean. It shares land borders with Angola and Zambia to the north, Botswana to the east and South Africa to the south and east. The small pelagic fishery for sardines collapsed in the 1970s and has never recovered. Instead harvesters are now concentrating on juvenile mackerel as well as fishing in neighboring Angola. Barbara hopes to learn from the Newfoundland experience and to take some valuable lessons home to Namibia about designing research for recovery.



## NAF Conference

Continued from page 1

From sustaining culture through tourism, to restructuring economies without destroying culture and harnessing culture as a tool for community building, the conference will examine global trends in tourism, technology and demographics, and will feature global best practices in cultural tourism, cultural industries and regional development. For more information visit: <http://www.naf2011.com/>



## Lobstermen make a good living in Digby, Nova Scotia

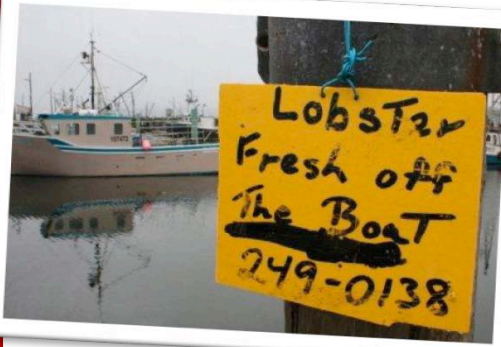
In June, some of the researchers and participants from the CURRA here in Newfoundland attended a conference in Halifax. The Coastal CURA, a five-year project that is building knowledge and capacity across the Maritimes to support community involvement in managing our coasts and oceans, hosted the conference. The Coastal CURA is a partnership of First Nations communities, fishery-related organizations and university participants, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). One of the pre-conference events that we attended was billed as a field trip in community management a focus on the lobster and clam industry, but it was really a wonderful day in Digby with two lobster fishermen and a clam-digger. It was a painless and enjoyable learning experience.

Wanda Van Tassel of Fundy Adventures <http://www.fundyadventures.com/> was our leader. She facilitates eco-tours such as clam harvesting for visitors to the area. One of her goals is to emphasize the importance of community-based fisheries management and sustainably harvested seafood. Another point that Wanda emphasizes through her eco-adventures is the importance of knowing where food is produced, how it is produced and who the producers are. She hires local clam and lobster harvesters to work alongside tour participants so that they can gain first hand knowledge of these issues.

The association in Clam Harvesting Area 2 (CHA2-- Digby and Annapolis Counties where

the clamming adventure takes place) have developed a management plan that ensures conservation and enhancement through rotational digging, selective digging to guarantee size limits are being adhered to and a winter closure. It is as a result of these arrangements that the soft shell clam industry is sustainable.

In the morning we drove to Digby and breakfasted on fresh strawberries, picked the day before. We eventually boarded the *Fundy Viper II*, sporting an 875 horsepower diesel Cat and skippered by community leader Chris Hudson and his crew Michael Johnston. We steamed into Digby Harbour and there Chris and Michael hauled some lobster pots and explained how they fish lobster in Nova Scotia. There were quite a few differences between their fishery and ours here in Newfoundland. Traps are entirely made of metal and are set in fleets from five to twenty pots and hauled by mechanical haulers. The season is a two-part season, lasting 8-10 months a year and the allowable size is smaller than ours. Chris told us stories of his life as a fisherman and how he works to keep the fishery alive and well today. He has volunteered his time with many different associations and groups to help support the fishery in any way he can. He is currently the president of the Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishers Association, a member of the Lobster Council of Canada and of several other fishing organizations. Chris is also a board member/fishing member of the community-supported fishery "Off the Hook", selling out of Halifax.



I struck up a conversation with crewman Michael Johnston, aged thirty-one and in his tenth year as a fisherman. Michael has been fishing since shortly after he left high school. He initially thought he would like to work as a heavy-equipment operator, so he and his buddy Matt trained for that occupation. Matt continued with it and that's how he still makes his living, but Michael wanted to be on the water. Fortunately, there was an opportunity with Chris just around that time and Michael signed on to try his hand at lobster fishing and long lining.

He hasn't had one single regret about that decision. During the past ten years with Chris he has earned enough to buy a house, get married and start a family not far away from the harbour. He makes from \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year on a crewman's percentage. The *Fundy Viper* is never away from homeport for more than a day or two, so he gets to spend quality time with his young son. Michael takes pride in his occupation. He is starting to think of one day buying his own enterprise so he certainly has no plans to give up fishing anytime soon. "It's a good life and a good living," Michael said.

I asked him if the work was difficult or dangerous. He told me he didn't think it was any harder or more dangerous than many land-based occupations. "It's not a picnic in the park, but the days are not too long and

there's lots of technology to make the work easier. And, you are out on the water in the fresh air, instead of underground in the mines or trapped in an office in a suit. You can think your own thoughts and you don't have to give speeches."

When it comes to safety, the skipper's attitude is very important. Chris is very safety-conscious and takes no unnecessary risks. "I would go through a hurricane with him, that's for sure."

Michael believes there is a future in the fishery for him, particularly if participants in the industry practice sustainable methods. He believes that conservation and marketing initiatives such as v-notching, traceability programs such as [THIS FISH](#), and community supported fisheries such as [OFF THE HOOK](#) will help ensure the sustainability of his livelihood for a good many years to come.



L-R: Dr. Bob Hooper, Kristen Lowitt, Anita Best in Halifax. Photo by Mandy Ryan



## Fishery-Tourism Research

Kristen Lowitt has completed her fieldwork for the fisheries-tourism project, with trips to Bonne Bay in April, May and June. She is continuing to work with the project partners from the fisheries and tourism sectors to finalise the results of this project and put forward some recommendations for fisheries-tourism development.

As part of this project, Kristen also sent out a survey about seafood consumption to local households in the area. She was very pleased to get 307 surveys back, a 27% response rate, and wants to thank local people for taking the time to complete the survey. Kristen is in the final stages of analyzing the survey data.

We anticipate that the full report, with the results from the internship and the seafood survey, should be available on our website at the end of September. [[www.curra.ca](http://www.curra.ca)]

## Heritage Network

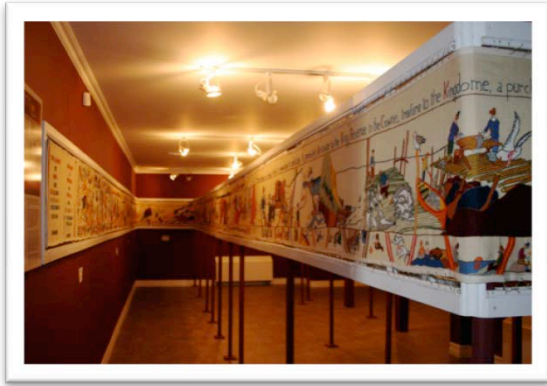
Most operators are starting to gear down after the summer tourism season but not the Great Northern Peninsula Heritage Network. They'll continue to work throughout the winter and steadily for the next 2 years as Phase 2 of the Heritage Cluster pilot project kicks into high gear.

Phase 1 is complete and consisted of the consultant's assessment of the sites, recommendations for improvement and the development of Individual Action Plans for each site.

Phase 2 has seen the hire of Heritage Development Specialist Regina Rumbolt to work with each site and to help implement the Individual Action Plans. Regina has been busy visiting the sites, developing a training plan with the Museum Association of NL, the Association of NL Archives and others as identified, creating a communications strategy and planning the fall Cluster meeting that is scheduled to take place on October 27.

"It's going to be a busy few years but the end result will be a cluster of heritage sites that have a quality product with an enhanced visitor experience. Everyone will be working collectively towards making the Northern Peninsula a 'must see' destination that exceeds visitor's expectations," says Regina.

Phase 3 will begin in 2013 and a review will be undertaken to evaluate the project and report on outcomes. For more information or for partnership opportunities, please contact Regina Rumbolt by calling 243-2829 or e-mailing [heritage@redochre.org](mailto:heritage@redochre.org).



## French Shore Historical Society

On July 26, 2011 the French Shore Historical Society (FSHS) officially opened a Centre for Textile Art in Conche, on the eastern side of the Northern Peninsula. The purpose of the Centre is to encourage the art of handmade textile crafts and to promote the art and history of textile-based traditions, especially of the Northern Peninsula. The Centre will focus on the history of textile development in northern Newfoundland by acquiring, preserving and making accessible a research collection of textiles and relevant documents. It will sponsor exhibitions, conferences, symposia, oral history projects, publications, fellowships and grant-funded initiatives.

Since its founding in 2000, the French Shore Historical Society has showcased textile work by craftspeople in the region, including exhibitions of hooked rugs, knitting, embroidery, and textile objects in its permanent exhibit. It has sponsored several workshops on textile art and in 2009 added the unique French Shore Tapestry, embroidered by women from Conche, as a major part of its exhibit.

In 2010, as a foundation for developing the centre, a research project was undertaken by the FSHS in partnership with the Port au Choix – St. Anthony Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat. The purpose of the research was to document the traditional craft skills on the Great Northern Peninsula, with particular attention to crafts using or creating textiles.

An inventory of the research done by Memorial University student Lisa Wilson can be accessed by visiting the MUN Digital Archives Initiatives.

The FSHS is a non-profit organization founded to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the communities of Conche, Croque, Grand Oies/St. Julien's and Main Brook on the Northeast coast of Newfoundland. It has successfully managed many projects that have created great economic benefits, employment opportunities, and enhanced the tourism potential on the Great Northern Peninsula.

The opening featured a Basket Weaving workshop with Helga Gillard. Funding was provided by the International Grenfell Association, through fundraising efforts of the French Shore Historical Society.

## Visual Artist Starts Fieldwork

Pam Hall, a nationally celebrated visual artist, has just begun her field research in the region covered by the CURRA. She was in the Bonne Bay Marine Station recently on her way down the coast to St. Anthony, Plum Point, Port au Choix, Roddickton and Conche, with ports in between. Pam will be working on her Encyclopedia of Local Knowledge project and hopes to collaborate with 40-50 individuals living in the region to compile a compendium of local knowledge about the fishery, about where things and creatures are in the landscape, and about how they are used, prepared and preserved. It will also include knowledge about hand work and harvesting practices, relationships and ancestry, settlement patterns and knitting patterns, boat building and gardening, pickling and preserving, and where things come from and travel to. Essentially, it will contain all the local knowledge folks on the Northern Peninsula are willing to share! For more information on Pam's project, see the article in the Fall 2010 issue of *The Western Shorefast* newsletter [[http://www.curra.ca/documents/CURRA\\_Newsletter-Fall\\_2010.pdf](http://www.curra.ca/documents/CURRA_Newsletter-Fall_2010.pdf)].

# Bonne Bay Marine Station Update- Allison Eaton

## Public Education

Another successful season came to a close this Labour Day weekend. Visitors are always fascinated by the creatures found in the waters of Bonne Bay. After they are wowed by the view of the Tablelands, realize the importance of plankton, shudder at the feeding abilities of the sea raven, marvel at the presence of soft corals and anemones in our waters and cautiously approach



Victoria Neville- Tidal Pool Walk

the wolffish tank, they are sucked into the vortex we call the touch tank and have difficulty dragging both themselves and their children out the door.

BBMS is very sad to say good-bye to its wonderful Marine Education Interpreters who are always described in the comment cards as both knowledgeable and entertaining. Several have been with us for many years and now that they are finished their degrees and

moving on they must leave BBMS behind. BBMS thanks them for their passion and hard work. Ashley, Mary, Sandy and Victoria have left big shoes to fill. If you are interested in becoming a Marine Education Interpreter please send your resume to Allison Eaton ([allison.eaton@mun.ca](mailto:allison.eaton@mun.ca)). Resumes will be accepted until March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 for the upcoming tourist season.



WISE Student Paige Wiseman



Allison Eaton

The Bonne Bay Marine Station will remain open until Thanksgiving weekend from Wednesday to Sunday, 9:00am-5:00pm. We will be accepting group bookings of 10 or more throughout the fall.

## Bonne Bay Marine Station Update- Continued

### Field Courses and Research

BBMS wrapped up this Spring/Summer semester with another fantastic group of students. Field course highlights included trips to Southern Labrador, welcoming new professors, surveying for Green Crab and tagging along with a Porbeagle shark in Bonne Bay. For more information on field courses check out our website [www.bonnebay.mun.ca](http://www.bonnebay.mun.ca) or contact Allison Eaton to reserve your spot next year.



BBMS was happy to host CURRA researchers Kristen Lowitt and Vanessa Hurley this summer. Memorial University researcher Dr. Suzanne Dufour (left) made several visits throughout the summer. For more information on Dr. Dufour please check out her website at <http://www.mun.ca/biology/dufour/index.php>

Masters student Nicky Babichuck also stayed for a stint to conduct some research on conners for Dr. Helene Volkoff. <http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~hvolkoff/>



Student garden in front of Bonne Bay Marine Station



Watercolour by M. Volkoff from Dr. Volkoff's website

Keep posting your pictures on **Facebook!** Now you can follow us on Twitter @ **#bbmarinestation**



## Northern Shrimp

Northern shrimp are found in the Northwest Atlantic from Davis Strait south to the Gulf of Maine. They live in areas where the ocean floor is soft and muddy with bottom temperatures ranging from about -1.5 to 6°C. These conditions occur throughout the region within a depth range of approximately 150-600m, providing a vast area of suitable habitat. This species is the primary cold-water shrimp resource in the north Atlantic.

Northern shrimp are protandric hermaphrodites, that is, they first mature as males, function as males from one to several years and then change sex to spend the rest of their lives as females. They are believed to live for more than eight years in some areas. Populations in the northern part of the range exhibit slower rates of growth and maturation, but increased longevity results in larger maximum size. During the day shrimp spend much of the time resting and feeding on or near the ocean floor. At night a substantial proportion migrates vertically in the water column, feeding on a variety of zooplankton.

On June 15 the Department of Fisheries and Oceans released their 2011 management decision for Northern Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFA) 2 to 6. The northern shrimp fishery has taken yet another quota hit and as predicted, Northern Peninsula and Southern Labrador harvesters are some of the hardest hit, especially the inshore fleet. While SFA regions 2 through 5 maintain their quota levels, Area 6 has been hit with a loss of more than 9000 tonnes (1 tonne=1000 kilograms) compared to last year. The only bright note is the news that the St. Anthony Basin Resources Inc. (SABRI) quota of 3000 tonnes, first established as part of the northern shrimp management plan back in 1997, remains the same.

In Notre Dame Bay and Labrador, things are looking much more dire. Based on the Last In First Out (LIFO) policy, the Fogo Island

cooperative and Innu fishermen have lost their quotas entirely. A DFO spokesperson states that the LIFO policy was "established to protect the long-term interests and economic viability of the resource. The policy was agreed upon by stakeholders in the northern shrimp fishery and is included in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for this fishery. This fishery has seen substantial growth over the last 14 years [and] during that time, a number of new entrants have joined the fishery. Those new entrants entered the fishery knowing that if stocks declined, the LIFO allocation policy would apply. With the total allowable catch adjustments in shrimp fishing Area 6, implementation of the [LIFO] policy will result in two special allocation holders (Innu and Fogo Island Coop) being removed from the fishery."

According to the figures released by DFO, the inshore fleet will be the hardest hit. This means that hundreds of jobs for harvesters and plant workers along this coast will be at risk. The inshore fleet's quota has dropped 14.62 per cent from the 2010 total of 41,529 tonnes to 35,459 tonnes while the offshore quota has dropped 4.62 per cent from 14,603 tonnes to this year's 13,928 tonnes. The inshore fleet, which currently feeds 11 shrimp plants throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, has averaged 41% of the total northern shrimp quota over the past 11 years, but the recent announcement drops the share to 37%.

For the inshore fleet it means a 40.52 per cent reduction in their total allowable catch in the three short years between 2008 and 2011 while the offshore fleet has lost just 16.16 per cent. While far from the 40 per cent quota cut indicated by figures released prior to the federal election, an announcement which stirred fishermen in area 4R to stay tied-on and refuse to fish, the overall cuts to this region's shrimp harvesting ability could still have devastating effects. **Source: DFO**

## Shrimp Workers Protest

The highway just south of Port Saunders was blocked on May 4 after fish plant workers from the Black Duck Cove plant took their discontent to the road.

At around 4.30pm, more than a dozen workers converged on the highway to halt trucks from moving product off the Northern Peninsula to be processed on other parts of the island. At first all traffic was stopped, including one truck carrying crab landed at Port Saunders. About 30 minutes into the demonstration the RCMP turned up to move protestors off the road, but angry workers remained on the roadside, waving placards and slowing drivers, asking them to sign a petition. The workers were calling for a guarantee that shrimp landed locally will be processed at the Black Duck Cove plant this season, rather than trucked off the Northern Peninsula.

Members of the group by the highway were taking their cue from Anchor Point workers, who last year staged a similar protest. Frustrated that their Barry Group-managed plant was sitting idle as shrimp was trucked off the Northern Peninsula to another plant in Clarenville, those workers drove to Port Saunders and blocked Route 430, preventing a truck packed with shrimp from heading to the other plant.

Last August the Black Duck Cove plant workers said they'd had practically no work because owners were trucking product to other parts of Newfoundland. Shortly after that, Michelle Dredge, union chairperson of Gulf Shrimp Limited and the plant's United Food and Commercial Workers Union executive board fisheries representative, vowed that no shrimp would roll off the Northern Peninsula in 2011.

On May 15, Black Duck Cove shrimp plant workers went to the highway in protest yet again with reports of Gulf shrimp being trucked off the Northern Peninsula. Union representative Michelle Dredge told us that a

truck carrying 140,000 pounds of shrimp, that could have been processed right here on the peninsula, left Port Saunders on May 13. During the week of May 8-14 both shifts of processing employees worked a six-day week, but Michelle Dredge said that the continued transportation of shrimp off the peninsula could put that work in jeopardy.

"If they are allowed to continue to truck raw material off the Northern Peninsula, when is it going to stop?" she said.

Ms. Dredge said they would keep on with their lobbying and protests until fisheries minister Clyde Jackman reverses a 2005 decision that allowed the trucking of unprocessed fish. Mr. Jackman said earlier that he was not considering reversing that decision.

The workers have seen no need to continue this protest into the summer, as plants on the Northern Peninsula have been running full tilt, with shrimp trucked in from as far away as Clarenville, on the province's east coast. Nevertheless, they fear that the situation may worsen in the future, considering recent cuts to shrimp quotas (as mentioned in the previous article). They vow to continue their protests in 2012 if the need arises. They feel they are fighting for their survival and the survival of their communities on the Northern Peninsula.

**Sources: The Northern Pen, May 2011 and conversations with individuals.**

### Network 11

From October 20-22, VOBB Community Radio will be hosting a provincial networking event. Tune in by radio or online at [www.vobb.org](http://www.vobb.org) for discussions concerts and workshops from the conference in Norris Point.



## Review of Old Harry Oil Drilling Project

There will be an independent review of Corridor Resource's plans for exploratory drilling to look for oil and gas in the Old Harry Basin area of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Federal Environment Minister Peter Kent recently turned down a request for an independent review of the project, but the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board has decided to establish its own review, and has hired former New Brunswick ombudsman Bernard Richard to lead it. It will include public consultations in all five provinces bordering the Gulf, including Prince Edward Island. Richard has been given a mandate to hire scientists and experts to review Corridor's plans, Halifax-based Corridor wants to drill a deep-water exploratory well in waters between Newfoundland and Quebec's Magdalen Islands to search for oil and gas.

The petroleum board said recently it had more letters of concern about this project than any other in its 26-year history. They came from Gulf fishers, marine biologists, tourism operators, environmentalists and other concerned citizens.



## The Western Shorefast

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