

An Invitation to a Roundtable Discussion on
“How We Fish Matters in Newfoundland”
20 January 2009, 9.30 to 3 pm
Spencer Hall Boardroom, Memorial University, St. John’s

A new report on *“How We Fish Matters: Addressing the Ecological Impacts of Canadian Fishing Gear”* has recently been released. The report is based on a study aiming to assess habitat and bycatch impacts of 13 fishing gears commonly used in Canada. The study involved extensive literature reviews, consultations with fishers and scientists, and rating and ranking exercises. It was jointly conducted by three environmental organizations (the Living Oceans Society, Vancouver Island, Ecology Action Centre, Halifax and Marine Conservation Biology Institute, Seattle, with contribution from the International Coastal Network, Memorial University).

The purpose of this roundtable is to facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing with interested people about habitat and bycatch impacts of fishing gears used in Newfoundland and Labrador and to discuss the needs to address these issues. The lead author of the report, Susanna Fuller, will make a presentation about the study. The general idea is, however, to provide an opportunity for those familiar with fishing and fisheries in this region to share knowledge and information and to present their perspectives about habitat impacts and bycatch situations relevant to the area.

The tentative agenda is as follows:

9.30 – 10.45

Presentation of the report (Susanna Fuller)

Knowledge sharing/perspectives by participants (formal/informal presentations)

Questions and discussion

10.45 – 11.00

Break

11.00 – 12.15

Roundtable discussion on habitat impacts and how to address them

12.15 – 13.00

Lunch

13.00 – 14.15

Roundtable discussion on bycatch and how to address them

14.15 – 14.30

Break

14.30 – 15.00

Conclusion and final remarks

The roundtable discussion is opened to all at no cost (lunch and parking will be provided). Participation from fishers' organizations and groups using different gear types, federal and provincial government offices involved in fisheries management, and non-government organizations, community groups and scientific communities is highly encouraged.

If you are interested in presenting your perspectives (could be a formal or informal presentation) in the knowledge sharing session, or if you would like more information, please contact Ratana Chuenpagdee, International Coastal Network, at ratana@mun.ca or by phone at 737-3157. Others interested in participating in the roundtable discussion, please register at pamela@mun.ca (737-3164) by Thursday January 15th. Please register early as the maximum number of participants is limited at 30.

The event is co-sponsored by the International Coastal Network and the Community-University Research for Recovery Alliance (CURRA) at Memorial University.



Hard copies of the report will be available at the roundtable discussion and is downloadable at www.ecologyaction.ca.