

RCEN Water, Fisheries & Oceans Caucus – 2007-2008 Work Plan

Caucus Coordinator: Leela Ramachandran

2007-2008 Steering Committee Members:

[J. Denys Bourque](#), Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska, Itée, NB

[Lisa Fox](#), Cochrane Environmental Action Committee, AB

[Susan Howatt](#), Council of Canadians, ON

[Sabine Jessen](#), Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, BC

[Martha Kostuch](#), Friends of the Oldman River, AB

[Bruno Marcocchio](#), Sierra Club of Canada, NS

[Allister Marshall](#), Potlotek Watershed Protection Committee, NS

[Jack Minard](#), Tsolum River Restoration Society, BC

[Isabel Muzichuk](#), Concerned Citizens for a Safe and Healthy Environment, SK

[Olga Schwartzkopf](#), Soil and Water Conservation Society, BC Chapter

Mission Statement: The scope of the Water Caucus is broad and includes issues related to water quality and quantity, oceans and fisheries. The main objectives of the Water Caucus are: to share information; to develop joint strategies; to help each other; and to provide advice to the government.

Activities:

1. Working with DFO on Fish Habitat

- ENGO-DFO National Fish Habitat Coordinating Committee:
 - Meeting in Ottawa February 2007 to develop a joint Workplan for 2007-08 (NFHCC ENGO members: Martha Kostuch, Susanna Fuller, Cliff Wallis, Olga Schwartzkopf).
 - Funding proposal for Workplan activities submitted to DFO March 2007
- Proposed 2007-08 Workplan activities:
 - National ENGO-DFO Workshop on the role of science in Habitat Management, to be held Fall 2007. Workshop Organizing Committee includes Susanna Fuller, Julie Huntington, and John Werring, as well as Nick Winfield and Al Rose from DFO.
 - ENGO analysis and feedback on DFO Habitat Compliance Policy (Spring 2007)
 - Regional DFO-ENGO Workshops on Habitat Compliance (Jan-March 2008)

2. Fisheries Act Renewal

- Caucus members collaborated on efforts to block Bill C-45 in Parliament (Jan-Feb. 2007): held conference calls, prepared talking points, media backgrounder and MP Briefing documents, circulated for ENGO sign-on, lobbied MPs to oppose the Bill.
- Caucus members may participate in developing an ENGO vision for Fisheries Act Renewal if the opportunity arises.

3. Steering Committee Elections

- Post Call for Nominations in April 2007; new members will be appointed for 1-year term (May 2007-May 2008)
- Follow up on 2006 AGM Caucus Meeting: some members indicated interest in Co-Chairing or joining Steering Committee
- New Steering Committee will elect new National Council representative

Water, Fisheries and Oceans Caucus

Draft Caucus Workplan 2007-08 (cont'd)

4. National Water Policy

- Develop draft proposal - Prairie Provinces Water Board/Quebec Water Policy as models? (Leela and Martha)
- Follow up on Glen's list of current initiatives in this area; should also involve Council of Canadians
- Need to identify potential sources of funding - \$100 K to support a collaborative process
- First stage scoping, compiling info on who is doing what in this area; possibly hold stakeholder workshop (second stage) to exchange info and establish a process for developing a policy (third stage)

5. International Polar Year

- Caucus recognizes that 2007 is International Polar Year and supports the Canadian Coalition for Arctic Marine Protection in their efforts to promote a moratorium on trawling in the Arctic
- Caucus will inform RCEN members, distribute information and encourage participation related to the activities of this Coalition (through ENGO sign-ons, action alerts etc).

6. Bulk Water Exports

- Caucus to develop an ENGO position statement on bulk water exports.

7. Annual Caucus Meeting

- To be held at RCEN AGM in Ottawa, November 2007

8. Communications

- Caucus members are invited to join the Google Groups Fisheries Listserve on Habitat Management, Fisheries Act Renewal and Bill C- 45. Members can join by sending an email to [Leela Ramachandran](#), Caucus Coordinator.
- For other Caucus-related issues, Caucus members can forward information to the Caucus Coordinator for distribution to the Water, Fisheries and Oceans Caucus email list.