



Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability  
Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Saint-Laurent

## Influencing Public Policy- Recognizing the links to change

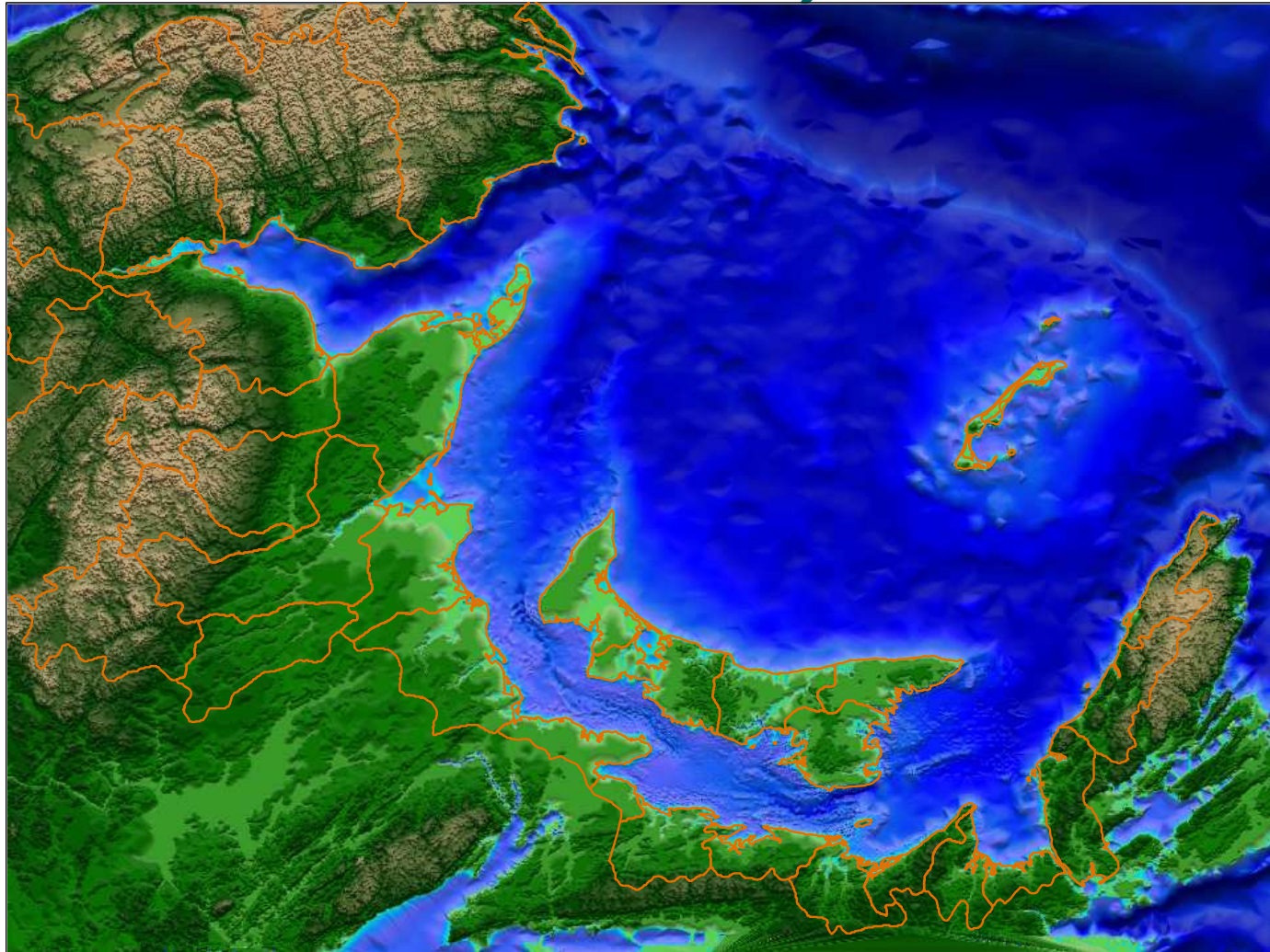


Harris Centre, Memorial University  
17/10/2008

[www.Coalition-SGSL.ca](http://www.Coalition-SGSL.ca)

## A brief introduction to the Coalition

# Territory / Territoire



## People Power



## Coalition's 4 NEW priorities 2008-2013




1- Facilitate and coordinate Gulf-wide sustainability projects by engaging individual group members




2- Build an internet-based geospatial regional sustainability atlas that supports base mapping, coordinated data collection, sharing of information and informed decision-making



3- In a coordinating role, assist partner organizations with building capacity to affect sustainable change in the ecosystem and the communities in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence



4- As an Educator and Facilitator, create a collaborative environment that brings together communities, business, government & experts to move the sustainability agenda forward



## One of our knowledge mobilization projects – The Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP)

- involves 23 ENGOs in 3 provinces
- Each ENGO – an important contributor to the social economy!
- Engages volunteers; community stewardship
- Sampling includes: fish biodiversity, nitrates, water quality, invasive species, vegetation
- 5x per summer season



## One of our knowledge mobilization projects – The Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP)

- Scientific protocols & analysis:  
DFO, UNB, St.F.X, Canadian Rivers  
Institute
- Data entered on-line: Smart  
Watersheds & Coastal Communities  
portal
- Funding: DFO, Environment  
Canada, Private foundations,  
Corporate sponsors
- \$1,000 Honorariums to ENGOs



## How do CAMP's academic partners help us influence government policy?

- Accredited scientific protocols
- Development of an estuary health index
- Monitoring data used by ENGOs to partner with municipalities, provincial reps and other key stakeholders to develop ecosystem conservation & protection programs
- ENGOs and Coalition can push for changes in government policies armed with accurate data: monitoring trends; estuary health index



## The Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) Lessons Learned

- Define community tool upfront; shape program as such
- ENGO interest is proportional to usefulness of data
- Volunteer recruitment strategy
- ENGOs, Policy makers, decision makers should be engaged with developing sampling protocols and index at onset
- **Increased communications efforts to raise public profile**



## How does Université de Moncton mobilize knowledge to assist the social economy groups, ie. the Coalition?

- by engaging the Coalition in the Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network (access to knowledge), two-way feedback loop
- providing opportunities for partnerships, combining forces
- Linking research opportunities to ‘real’ community needs
- Access to experts, students, tools and resources

