

**PRESS RELEASE**

**December 10, 2009**

**For Immediate Release:**

**Coastal groups applaud release of State of the Coast report**

(Halifax) Members of the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia are pleased the public will finally see a status report on the health of Nova Scotia's coasts. Two years in the making and finally released Wednesday, the province's "State of the Coast" report is the first step in a formal process to develop and implement a Sustainable Coastal Development Strategy by the end of 2010. The report provides background information and was designed to form the basis for an informed multilateral discussion of coastal management options for the province.

The Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia, a broad-based group of organizations alarmed by serious environmental and socio-economic threats to the province's coasts from climate change, poor planning, and flawed governance, sent a congratulatory message to Nova Scotia's Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Sterling Belliveau signaling their support for the province's initiative but underlining again the urgency to get a coastal policy in place.

"A coastal policy for Nova Scotia is long overdue," said Ishbel Monroe of the Coastal Communities Network. "We're playing catch-up with other jurisdictions, like Maine and New Brunswick. Our coastal communities have a vital role to play to help bring it to fruition quickly."

"Nova Scotians are eager for leadership and action," said Jennifer Graham, Coastal Coordinator at the Ecology Action Centre. "With every storm surge, with every controversial development project, the need for a clear policy becomes more and more apparent. We need policies and regulations now to protect sensitive areas and open the door to the revitalization of our coastal communities."

In its letter to Minister Belliveau, the Coalition urges the government to speed its progress on coastal issues and expressed its eagerness to play an active role in forging the new policy. "This may just be a background paper," said Graham, "but it's a step in the right direction. We look forward at long last to reading it, studying it and helping drive this process forward."

**For more information**

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## **Signatory Groups**

ACAP-Cape Breton  
Avon Peninsula Watershed Protection Association  
Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation  
Bras d'Or Stewardship Association  
Clean Annapolis River Project  
Clean Nova Scotia  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NS Chapter  
Coastal Access Committee  
Coastal Communities Network  
Ecology Action Centre  
East Coast Environmental Law Association  
Friends of Crescent Beach, Green Bay and Area Society  
Friends of MacNabs Island Society  
Friends of Nature  
Friends of Port Mouton Bay  
Friends of the Pugwash Estuary  
Gulf Aquarium Marine Station  
Halifax Field Naturalists  
Heavy Current Fisher's Association  
Nature Nova Scotia  
Kingsburg Beach Action Committee  
Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy  
Northwest Arm Coalition  
Nova Scotia Nature Trust  
Nova Scotia Salmon Association  
Nova Scotia Sea School  
Partnership for the Sustainable Development of Digby Neck & Islands Society  
Port Joli Basin Conservation Society  
Sackville Rivers Association  
Sierra Club of Canada, Atlantic Chapter  
South Shore Naturalists  
St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association  
Surfing Association of Nova Scotia