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1568 Argyle Street, Suite 31  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Canada B3J 2B3  
(902) 429-2202

Habitat Conservation Fund  
Wildlife Division  
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources  
136 Exhibition Street  
Kentville, Nova Scotia  
B4N 4E5

RE: Progress Report for *Coastlines* Natural History Column

The Marine Issues Committee of the Ecology Action Centre has been running the *Coastlines* natural history column in weekly newspapers around Nova Scotia since February 2002. This illustrated column focuses on coastal wildlife and habitat in Nova Scotia. The objectives of the column are threefold: 1) to develop a greater appreciation and understanding of coastal wildlife and habitat conservation in Nova Scotia; 2) to foster greater involvement in wildlife habitat conservation among the people who have the most impact on the coastal and marine environments, principally landowners and resource users; and 3) to provide an opportunity for students and amateur naturalists from across the province to gain experience in writing about science for a general audience.

In *Coastlines'* first two years, we succeeded in producing weekly articles on coastal animals, plants, habitats and processes that were distributed to community newspapers around Nova Scotia. Habitat related articles included those written on the topics of salt marshes, tide pools, tidal barriers, estuaries, coastal plain flora, barrier beach systems (barachois) and impacts of coastal flooding.

Over the last two years, we have gradually increased the distribution of *Coastlines* from 6 to 12 weekly newspapers around the province and now reach over 55,000 readers weekly. We hope to increase the distribution of our column to more newspapers in the following months.

We have approached various organizations, including the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Nova Scotia Federation of Naturalists, to invite their members to write articles for the column. In the past year, we were lucky to have an intern, Debby George, from the Environmental Studies program at Saint Mary's University work with us and contribute articles. We even had a Grade 7 student contribute an article to the column (attached). In the coming year, we will continue to encourage participation from other organizations with a particular focus on providing young people with an opportunity to write for the column.

The *Coastlines* column has been well received and we are pleased with the progress we have made since February 2002. We plan to continue to coordinate and produce the weekly column for at least



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another year. We look forward to the opportunity to continue educating Nova Scotians about coastal wildlife and habitats.

Contributions by all partners for **2003-2004\***

Contributor	Cash Contribution (\$)		In-kind Contribution (\$)	
	Confirmed	Anticipated	Confirmed	Anticipated
Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund	4675			
Henry P. Kendall Foundation	4000			
Members and Associates (including the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History)			4000	
Other funders		1825		

\* For **2004-2005**, we anticipate funding (\$4000) from the Henry P. Kendall Foundation and in-kind funding from our members and associates to keep *Coastlines* running. The Foundation and our members and associates have provided support over the past two years and we anticipate that they will continue to do so for *Coastlines*' third year.