

## **The Strategic Environmental Assessment Process**

Although the SEA addresses a range of ocean renewable technologies (wind, wave and tidal), the main focus is on a number of different tidal in-stream technologies under development.

The main steps of a SEA are:

### *Development of a Stakeholder Roundtable*

The Roundtable advises the TAG on implementation of the SEA process, review research and consultation findings, discuss key issues and questions, and provided input to the final SEA Report. Members are drawn from a wide range of community, resource use, industry, and environmental sectors.

### *Preparation of a Background Report*

The TAG commissions the preparation of a SEA Background Report that pulls together existing information about ocean renewable technologies and potential development scenarios, and about the bio-physical and socio-economic environment of a specific area. The report identifies potential interactions between development scenarios, the marine and coastal ecosystem, and resource uses and users, and particularly the fisheries.

### *SEA Newsletters*

The TAG keeps stakeholders and other interested individuals and organizations informed about the SEA process through a newsletter.

### *Community Forums*

Forums are held in communities in and around the area being assessed. The purpose is to share information about technologies and possible development scenarios and to gather issues and concerns to address through the SEA.

### *Public Review of the Background Report*

The Background Report is made available to the public and written submissions are invited.

### *Preparation of the SEA Report*

Directed by the TAG, and with advice from the Stakeholder Roundtable, the Process Lead prepares the final SEA Report that is submitted to the Nova Scotia Department of Energy.

### *Community Forums - Round 2*

Forums are held in various locations to seek feedback on the recommendations of the SEA.

### *Preparation of a Community Response Report*

The TAG prepared a Community Response Report that consisted of feedback received from SEA participants who attend the second round of Community Forums and those who provide written submissions in response to the final SEA Report.