



Happy New Year
2006!



Special points of interest:

- The Eastport MPAs received formal designation on October 11th, 2005.
- A dinner and celebration event was held on Nov 9th, 2005 to celebrate the official designation and to present Certificates of Recognition.
- Several governmental, non-governmental and community representatives attended.
- Stakeholders were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the MPA process.



Special points of interest:

- Correction to Lobster Research Article printed in the October 2005 issue of the Coastal Current.

The Coastal Current

A Quarterly Newsletter Keeping You Current on Marine Protected Area Issues in Your Communities

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Eastport Marine Protected Area Designation

On October 11th, 2005, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Geoff Regan, announced the designation of three new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Eastern Canada—Eastport (Newfoundland), Gilbert Bay (Labrador), and Basin Head (Prince Edward Island).

To celebrate this announcement on November 9th, 2005, the Eastport MPAs Steering Committee, in cooperation with the Oceans Division, DFO, held a celebration event at the Royal Canadian Legion in Eastport. This event was attended by several governmental and non-governmental organizations including the Eastport MPAs Steering Committee, municipal and provincial representatives, Memorial University, DFO, Newfoundland & Labrador Legacy Nature Trust, and the FFAW. Several other special guests also attended including Scott Simms, federal MP for the area. The event was emceed by Mr. George Feltham, former Co-Chair of the Steering Committee, and Chair of the Eastport Peninsula Lobster Protection Committee (EPLPC).

The evening started with a short meet-n-greet, followed by dinner. Several special guests gave speeches and Certificates of Recognition were presented by Allan Rowsell, (Area Director of Eastern & Southern Area, DFO) on behalf of

Wayne Follett, Newfoundland and Labrador's Regional Director General, DFO. Scott Simms congratulated both the EPLPC and the MPAs Steering Committee on the excellent job they had done to move this project forward. He recognized that this was one of the first initiatives whereby stakeholders worked side by side with government to achieve a common goal. Mr. Simms also commented that the Eastport MPAs should be used as a model example for similar future initiatives.

The event as a whole was a success. Organizers of the event would like to thank everyone who attended and extend a special thanks to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 41 who provided the delicious meal and bar services for the evening.



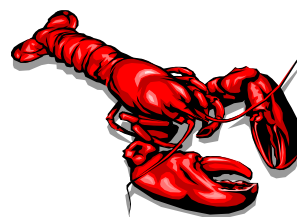
Certificate of Recognition recipients

Lobster Research Article Correction

We have received some feedback regarding an article written in the last issue of the Coastal Current (October 2005). The article entitled *Lobster Research* explained how lobsters had been manually stripped of their eggs for counting as part of a research project to determine the relationship between number of eggs and lobster size. The article stated that: "This procedure did no harm to the lobsters or their eggs". This statement is not entirely true. While the procedure did not harm the egg bearing females, the stripped eggs were no longer viable. Lobster eggs develop into larvae on the abdomen of the female lobster

prior to being released and if they are removed from the lobster they will not develop and grow into adult lobsters. It should be noted that trained scientists obtained a special permit to conduct this research and it was a very important step toward determining how closed areas influence local lobster populations.

We would like to thank those people who brought this to our attention and apologize for this oversight.



Leading Tickles Thermographs

Did you know that there are currently 11 thermographs deployed in the waters surrounding Leading Tickles and Glovers Harbour? These small temperature loggers were placed 30 feet deep on the bottom by divers last summer. They automatically take a temperature reading every 2 hours for one full year.



While the divers were deploying the loggers, they also took some beautiful underwater pictures. The divers will return to the Leading Tickles area next summer to retrieve the loggers and deploy new ones to record the water temperatures for another year.

Photos: Trumpet stalked jellyfish (top left); Tunicate/sea squirt (bottom left); thermograph attached to cement block with buoy marker(right).



Special points of interest:

- Temperature loggers have been deployed in the waters surrounding Leading Tickles.
- Eastport MPAs SIMS CD has been completed and mailed out.
- New MPA coordinator, Vicky Hammond, to start early February 2006.
- See profiles on individuals from Leading Tickles and Eastport who have been involved with their respective MPAs.

Eastport MPAs SIMS CD

The Eastport MPAs SIMS (Seabed Imaging & Mapping Systems) CD has finally been completed. This CD contains a variety of information about the habitat and marine life in the waters surrounding Round Island and Duck Islands including text, video, still images, and a variety of maps accessible through a web browser. The CD provides information on bathymetry, biology, sub-

strate and currents. It also provides socio-economic data on both Eastport MPAs. CDs were mailed out to interested stakeholders mid-December along with instructions for use. If you requested a copy of the Eastport MPAs SIMS CD and have not yet received one, please contact Nadine Wells at wellsn@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or 772-8015.

New Joint MPA Community Coordinator Hired

In early January 2006, the Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust held interviews to hire a new joint coordinator for the Eastport and Tickles MPAs. The successful candidate was Vicky Hammond from Happy Adventure, NL. Vicky brings a lot of relative experience to this position including employment as a fisheries observer, a writer,

and she also worked with the Marine Environmental Quality Program at DFO for a short period of time. She is an excellent communicator who is resourceful, capable and self-motivated and she "thoroughly enjoys a day out on the water". Vicky is very excited to take on the duties of the coordinator and will begin work in early February 2006.

Profiles



Ariel Parsons is a lobster harvester who resides in Leading Tickles with his son and wife Florence. Ariel and Florence fish together for a living and have participated in at-sea sampling as part of the lobster project. This past summer Ariel helped DFO scientists conduct field work by taking them out in his boat to carry out research on lobster, capelin and herring populations. Ariel's detailed knowledge of the area was a tremendous help with locating fish spawning sites and good lobster fishing grounds.



Wade Turner is a lobster harvester who resides in Happy Adventure with his wife Valerie and two children, Clinton and Cayla. Besides fishing, Wade also acts as the representative for the Harbour Authority of Happy Adventure, volunteers with the local Fire Department and is Secretary for the Eastport Area Fishermen's Union. He is an original Eastport Peninsula Lobster Protection Committee member, and most recently has taken over as Co-Chair for Eastport MPAs Steering Committee. Over the years, he has been a key member of the Committee and has contributed quite significantly to the success of the MPA initiative. In between fishing and all of his volunteer activities he enjoys getting away from it all by going hunting.

For more information,
check the web:
www.tmpa.ca
www.eastportmpa.com