



Happy Easter everyone!



Points of interest:

MUN researchers will be back in the Tickle's this summer

Prize draws for voluntary logbook recording and tag returns

See Science article , this page



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MPA Regulations are now in effect
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The Coastal Current

A Quarterly Newsletter Keeping You Current on Marine Protected Areas Issues in Your Community

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Spring, Summer and Science

Spring is in the air and fish harvesters are gearing up for another season on the water. For harvesters in Leading Tickle's, Glovers Harbour and the Eastport Peninsula, fishing season is also science season.

Science answers questions

Science has been important to the MPA process right from the start. Now the Tickle's Steering Committee is fine-tuning its management planning, research will help them make good decisions. Would closing some spawning areas for capelin and herring help boost egg production? Where do lobster larvae settle and grow? The research team from Memorial University will be at work in the Tickle's area again this summer seeking answers to these questions and others.

Measuring our progress

In both the Eastport and Leading Tickle's MPAs, lobster sampling and tagging programs will be carried out by local harvesters as in previous years.

These monitoring programs contribute to a database of valuable information that shows us—and the rest of the world—that conservation really does benefit fishing communities.

Log books and V-notching

Voluntary log book recording and V-notching activities will also be encouraged again this year. We know for sure that V-notching is a very productive conservation tool. Science results show that those big old mama lobsters are sticking close to home and producing lots of young ones for future years.



V-notched lobsters are taking maternity leave! It's illegal to harvest them, so they live to produce more eggs while the notch mark grows out.

Courtesy J. Janes



Measured, tagged and recorded for posterity!

Courtesy LNT

Volunteers are important

In appreciation for those who take the time to complete log-books, prize draws will be held for each MPA to award a dinner for two (\$50 value). There will also be smaller prize draws in each area for lobster tag returns from commercial catches. To enter, return the tag with your name, catch location, depth and carapace length to: MPA Tags, Box 21, Eastport, A0G1Z0.

Profile



Geoff Coughlan is now DFO's Oceans Biologist for the MPA Program, on temporary assignment until the end of May. Geoff grew up in St. John's and was attracted to work in the environmental field by a love of the outdoors that began during childhood fly-fishing trips with his father. He earned his master's degree in environmental design from the University of Calgary with a thesis on the MPA potential of the tail of the Grand Banks. From September 2003 to November 2004, Geoff assisted Annette Power with planning and management for the MPA projects in Leading Tickle's and Eastport. He is very pleased to be with the MPA Program again and enjoys the opportunities to meet local stakeholders and contribute to the development of the MPAs.

Geoff can be contacted by phoning 709-772-4516 or by email at: CoughlanG@DFO-MPO.GC.CA.

Eastport MPA Regulations Now in Effect

Eastport's Marine Protected Areas (Round Island and Duck Islands) were officially established in Canadian law on October 19, 2005.

This means that protective legislation is now fully in effect and will be enforced by conservation and protection officers. Under the section on prohibited activities, the legislation states:

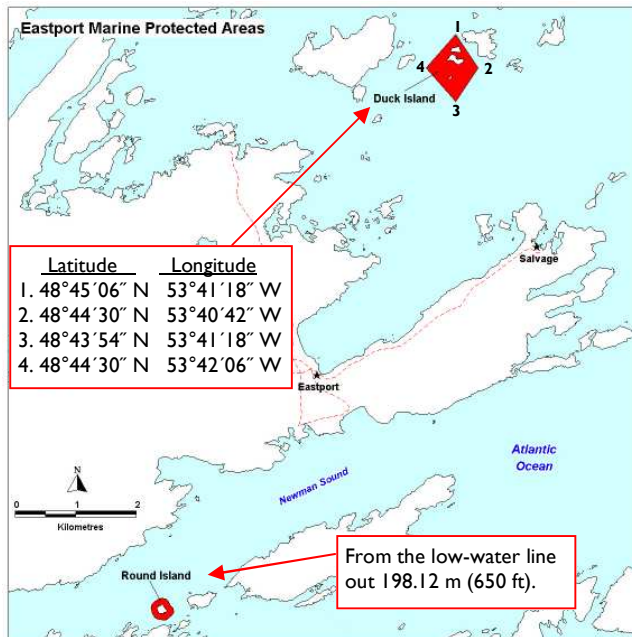
"In a marine protected area, no person shall
 (a) *disturb, damage or destroy, or remove from the marine protected area, any living marine organism or any part of its habitat; or*
 (b) *carry out any activity — including depositing, discharging or dumping any substance, or causing any substance to be deposited, discharged or dumped — that is likely to result in the disturbance, damage, destruction or removal of a living marine organism or any part of its habitat."*

Some exceptions

There are some exceptions. The law allows activities carried out for the purpose of public safety, national defence, national security, law enforcement and emergency response. Scientific or educational activities carried out with ministerial approval are also allowed.

How does this affect us?

While it is legal to land on the islands and have a lunch or a rest, it is illegal to fish for any species, to pick mussels, take seaweed or move underwater rocks. Discarding garbage of any kind is illegal. Simply put,



it is illegal to bail your boat in protected waters—unless you are in danger of sinking.

Visitors need to know!

The protected status of the waters around the Duck Islands and Round Island is known to most local people. However, family, friends and tourists who visit us during the summer months need to be informed about the new regulations.

If you have visitors who plan to enjoy boating in Newman Sound and Eastport Bay, please be sure they know about the Marine Protected Areas. Fines for infractions are stiff—from \$100,000 to \$500,000!!

Good news

We can also share the good news—conservation works! Eastport Peninsula lobster harvesters are experiencing



Courtesy LNT

a stable and rewarding fishery on the fishing grounds around the protected areas.

The decision of the Eastport Peninsula Lobster Protection Committee to implement conservation measures and begin the MPA process is working out well for them—and for future generations. It's a local success story that we can all be proud to share with our visitors this summer.

To see the complete text of Eastport's MPA regulations, go to:
<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partII/2005/20051019/html/sor294-e.html>

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