

Summer's here!

The Coastal Current

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

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Points of interest:

MUN researchers have started this year's work in the Tickle's Area of Interest

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DFO responds to concerns about MPA regulations

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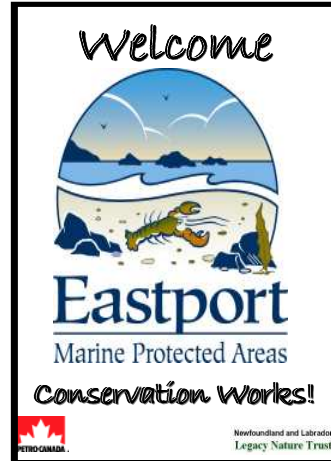
Petro-Canada Funds MPA signage

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Petro-Canada Funds Signage for Eastport MPAs

Petro-Canada has donated \$10,000 to Eastport Marine Protected Areas to establish MPA signage around the peninsula. The Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust developed the signage proposal and worked with Petro-Canada to plan a presentation event for the Valuing Nature Conference being held in Corner Brook on July 5.

A sign on Route 310 will greet visitors coming onto the Eastport Peninsula. Advisory signs at boat launches and on the islands will alert boaters to the special status of the protected areas. Design work for interpretive signage is also underway.



Proposed signage for Route 310

The interpretive signs will explain the history, purpose and ecology of the Eastport Marine

Protected Areas for tourists and visitors.

Petro-Canada will also fund an informational brochure directed to the boating public. The brochure will show the locations of the MPAs, and give some background information with a synopsis of the MPA regulations. Informative table placemats for local restaurants are also in development.

"This new partnership with Petro-Canada is exciting," said Stephanie Hackett of the Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust. "It is very encouraging to see companies such as Petro-Canada giving back to the community."

MUN Research Teams in the Tickle's and Glover's Harbour

Memorial University (MUN) is busy again this summer doing research in the proposed Tickle's Marine Protected Area. Last year, Danny Ings and his field crew collected data on lobster size frequency and reproduction, capelin and herring spawning, and patterns in ocean currents. This summer, Kate Jones is heading up the project for MUN and continuing many of the studies from last year.



Research 2005

LNT photo

One team will be measuring lobsters inside the closed areas around Mouse Island and inside Glover's Harbor. All lobsters measured will be released alive and eggs will not be taken. This data will be added to the data collected by the local fishers doing at-sea sampling. This information will be used to assess differences in both the size and the quantity of lobsters inside and outside of closed areas.

Researchers will also monitor capelin and herring spawning activity and measure egg production as they did last year.

A third component of this summer's work is a drifter study using grapefruit to help

determine the pattern of ocean currents in Glover's Harbor. Grapefruit drifter data from this summer and last summer can be used to help map out lobster larval drift patterns in the local area.

The overall purpose of these studies is to provide baseline data to help determine the effectiveness of the MPA.

This research was made possible through support from DFO and the Harris Centre. Please feel free to contact Kate Jones at 483-2123 or kate.jones@mun.ca with any questions or comments about MUN research activities in Leading Tickle's and Glover's Harbour this summer.

We're on the web!



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Tickles MPA Regulations Under Discussion

The article about Eastport's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) regulations in the last issue of the Coastal Current has people in Leading Tickles and Glover's Harbour wondering about the types of regulations that may be implemented once their Area of Interest (AOI) is designated as an MPA.

In an interview with Vicky Hammond, MPA co-ordinator for Leading Tickles and Eastport, Helen Griffiths, acting MPA Oceans biologist with DFO, explained that measures are only put in place following consultation with communities involved.

"Each MPA is tailored to address local conservation issues and is developed with extensive stakeholder and public involvement" says Helen. "The Tickles MPA Steering Committee, which includes representatives from all levels of government, the town of Leading Tickles, fisherpersons, and other stakeholders, will lead that process.

The Tickles AOI and the Eastport MPA are different, and therefore the measures in place for each would be specific to the area. "The situation in Eastport is unique in that the two small areas that comprise the Eastport MPAs are isolated," said Helen. "The lobster harvesters in the Eastport area initiated the MPA process and volunteered to forgo their fishing privileges to create



Leading Tickles

nursery areas. The Eastport MPA regulations were designed for this purpose and the public, including the Eastport MPA Steering Committee, were fully involved.

In Leading Tickles, the steering committee identified conservation objectives for the Tickles MPA, focusing on lobster and pelagic species. As a result, Mouse Island and Glover's Harbour were temporarily closed to lobster fisheries in an attempt to enhance that fishery. Science will assess whether these closures have been effective. Similarly, Church Cove, Windy Bottom and West Bear Cove were closed to the capelin fishery this season to do research on capelin habitat. All these conservation measures came from the steering committee and were discussed with other stakeholders prior to DFO taking action.

Feedback from stakeholders is very important. If any closure in the Area of Interest is causing difficulty for harvesters or other local residents, DFO would like to know about it.

This fall, in-depth discussions with the Tickles Steering Committee and other stakeholders in the community will be held to clarify the species and habitats of concern in the area and the appropriate conservation measures. MPA regulations will be based on these conservation measures. The public will have opportunity to review the Tickles MPA regulatory package before it starts the process to become law, and there will be ample opportunity for all community members to ask questions, make comments and give suggestions before regulations are put in place

"Marine Protected Areas are community-led initiatives specifically designed to achieve local conservation objectives," says Helen. "We are committed to facilitating this process and making it work for the community."

Anyone with concerns or questions about the MPA development process can contact one of the Steering Committee members, the MPA Community Coordinator, or the MPA Biologist at DFO. Contact information is given below.

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Glover's Harbour