



Change is in the wind!

The Coastal Current

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

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Meetings Ahead !

This winter should be a busy time for both The Tickle Area of Interest and the Eastport MPAs. Now that harvesters are mostly done fishing for the year, the season for meetings will soon be here.

Steering Committee meeting plans are in the works for both communities. In Eastport there is a Draft Management Plan to discuss, management priorities to decide and another year's science work to review.

In The Tickle, it's time to start a discussion about the "regulatory package" which

will describe and define the new Tickle Marine Protected Area.

Also, Kate Jones has been busy processing the information her Memorial University team collected in Leading Tickle this summer. She will be visiting



Leading Tickle this fall to present the results of the year's work.

In both communities, there will be reports from the coordinator on this year's sampling programs and other MPA initiatives. We'll also draw some prize winners from the hat for voluntary log keepers and tag returns.

If anyone wants to suggest items for discussion at these meetings, please contact a local Steering Committee member or the Community Coordinator, Vicky Hammond, at 709-677-2486.

Comings and Goings

In September, Toby Rowe, the Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust, came back to work after her maternity leave with little daughter Rowan. Tammy Baldwin, Toby's temporary replacement, has moved on. Tammy did a great job, along with Stephanie Hackett, who moved to Alberta to take up a new job in August.

In the Oceans Programs Section at DFO, people are also changing places. Annette Power has returned from maternity leave with her baby, Anna. Annette was the MPA Program Biologist responsible for setting up the Areas of Interest for both communities and managing the development process until last fall when the Eastport MPAs were designated.

Annette is coming back in a new job as Section Head for Oceans Programs, which includes the MPA Program, the Marine Environmental Quality Program and Knowledge Management. It's good news that the new section head knows the MPAs so well.

Nadine Wells, Geoff Coughlan and Helen Griffiths have all taken a turn at running the MPA office at DFO this past year, working with other DFO officials and government agencies to develop the MPAs. They also did a lot of behind-the-scenes work to get the sampling programs happening, worked with Memorial University on the research project in the Tickle and put together a draft management plan for the Eastport MPAs.

Helen, who's been acting in the MPA Biologist position for the past five and a half months, is moving back to the Habitat Management Program early in November. Annette hopes to see the MPA position filled by a permanent person sometime in the next two or three months.

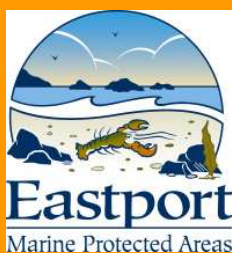


Anna and her colleague Rowan out for a stroll.

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Fall Tagging Programs in Eastport and Leading Ticks

The 2006 Fall Tagging Programs in Eastport and Leading Ticks wrapped up in early October. The weather held, so crews were able to get out regularly and a good effort was put in by all hands.

The program started in mid-September with visits from DFO Lobster Biologist Roanne Collins. In Eastport, Roanne spent an evening discussing this year's commercial season with harvesters and sharing new information about lobster tagging. Recent work shows that tagging on the right-hand side of the tail muscle is safer for the lobsters.

The Eastport crews are quite experienced in this work, but in Leading Ticks, everyone was doing it for the first time. Roanne went out in the boats with both crews to teach them the proper methods for measuring, tagging and data recording. Each crew worked out their own system for sharing the duties. They were surprised at the numbers of "new" (untagged) lobsters they caught each day, right up to the final day of sampling.

DFO and the MUN research team want to send a big "Thank You!" to Jackie and Ralph for bringing in three temperature logs that were set out earlier this summer.

Although the numbers have not been "crunched" yet, all four crews were happy to report good catch rates. The information they collected will be added to the database of information from previous years. It will help to monitor the lobster population inside the closed areas and compare it to outside, to track the movement of lobsters, and to monitor lobster growth over time.



George (Jackie) Noseworthy measures while sister-in-law Leona tags and records in the Mouse Island / Ward Island area.



Amanda Marsh opens up the calipers to measure a big lobster in Glover's Harbour while her dad Ralph Marsh lines up a few more.



Rick Elliott and daughter Nicole, tagging around Round Island in Newman Sound, found small lobsters thriving both inside and outside the MPA.



Gordon Janes tagged lobsters around Duck Island MPA with son Joe hauling and wife Pat measuring and recording the data on a waterproof slate.

