



Winter's finally here!

# The Coastal Current

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

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## MPA Signage Goes Up in Eastport



A highway sign on Route 310 gives visitors a heads-up—the Eastport Peninsula MPAs are a model of environmental stewardship.

Marine Protected Area signage is going up around the Eastport Peninsula and lookin' good!

Local people have seen the promotional highway sign since last fall. Hopefully, it will prompt interest from visitors next summer—and we'll be ready for their questions with information brochures placed with local businesses. We want to spread the news about our conservation work!

The advisory signs are new. They will be placed at wharves and boat launches to inform boaters about the location and special status of the MPAs.



Advisory signs like the one on the public wharf in Happy Adventure will soon be seen in Salvage and Burnside



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## Come One, Come All! Public Meeting in Leading Tickle's

The MPA Steering Committee will host a public meeting at **Leading Tickle's Town Hall at 7 pm on February 8th**. Kate Jones, the coordinator of the Memorial University team who worked in the Tickle's last year will present a slide show on the results of last summer's research projects.

After the slide show, Kate and DFO Biologist Roanne Collins will be available to answer questions about the research done in the Tickle's over the past several years. The Steering Committee is also interested in hearing feedback from the community, including suggestions for future work.

This meeting will be a great opportunity for fisherpersons to discuss how science affects their enterprises, for students considering a career in science or resource management, and for anyone who was wondering last summer "Now, what are they up to?" Come along and find out!

## Eco-Labeling—a New Marketing Strategy

Lately a new buzz-word has been heard at fishery-related meetings and on the Fisheries Broadcast—"eco-labeling". Exactly what is eco-labeling—and could it have anything to do with the price of fish?

Eco-labeling assures consumers that the product they are buying has been carefully checked out and proven to be environmentally-friendly. In the case of seafood, it means not only that the

product comes from clean waters, but that the fishery is well-managed and sustainable.

The Marine Stewardship Council, a global organization with offices in the UK, USA and Australia, awards its logo to fisheries that have passed a strict certification process. In Europe, where their blue fish logo is already well-known, MSC certification gives products a strong competitive advantage



MSC certification isn't a process that fish harvesters or the MPA Steering Committees could do, but seafood from our communities would be relatively easy to certify because much of the documentation has already been done. Seafood producers with an eye to the future might want to visit [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org).

## We're on the Web!



[www.tmpa.ca](http://www.tmpa.ca)



[www.eastportmpa.com](http://www.eastportmpa.com)

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## Setting a Course—The Designation Process

Since 2001, the proposed Tickles Marine Protected Area has been mapped, sounded and sampled, analyzed, discussed and evaluated. Several small areas have been closed for study and monitoring. MUN research teams and various DFO personnel have been coming and going for years. Many local people have also contributed their time and knowledge to the research effort.

Now it's time to put it all together. Over the next several months, a series of meetings and consultations will take place to decide the future of the Tickles MPA initiative.

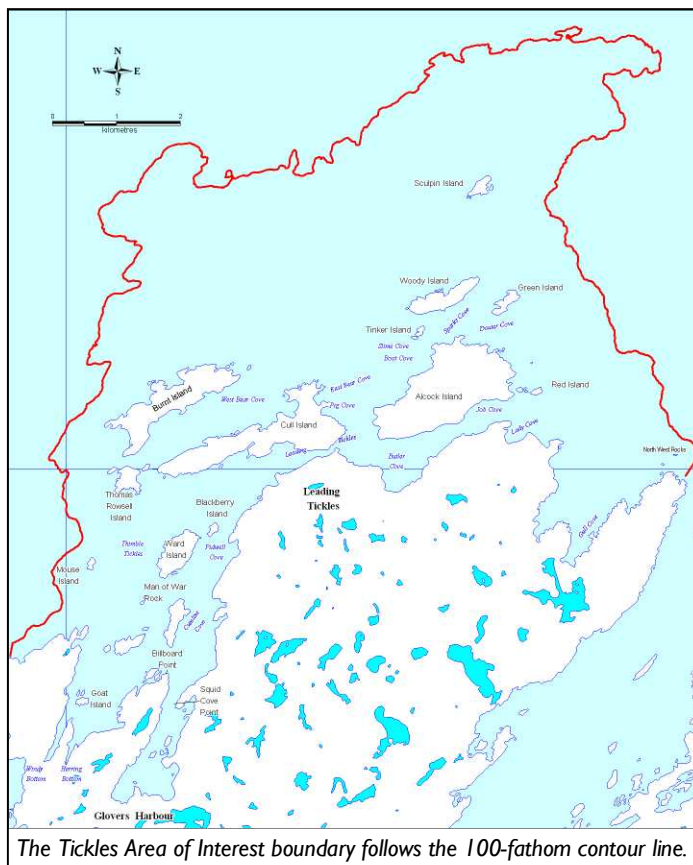
### Regulatory Intent

The first step will be a special Regulatory Intent Workshop, scheduled for March 7th and 8th. The Steering Committee will discuss and decide on the conservation goals of the proposed Tickles MPA and the management actions that would best achieve those goals. There are a lot of options to discuss.

DFO's MPA Program staff will use the decisions from the Regulatory Intent Workshop to write a document that clearly describes in layman's terms the true intentions of the Steering Committee.

### Consultations

When the Steering Committee and DFO are satisfied with the Regulatory Intent Document, it will become the subject of an intensive consultation process. This will begin at DFO with officials in Fisheries Management, Science, Policy & Economics and Coast Guard. Then consultations will be held with other federal government departments, the provincial government and interested non-governmental organizations.



The Tickles Area of Interest boundary follows the 100-fathom contour line.

Public meetings will be held in Leading Ticks and surrounding areas to answer questions and record people's comments. As the consultations progress, revisions or amendments to the Regulatory Intent Document will be made as necessary.

### Drafting Regulations

When the consultation process is complete, the Regulatory Intent Document will be sent to the Department of Justice. It will be used to draft regulations that describe the boundaries of the new MPA and specify exactly which activities may and may not take place within the MPA.

Staff at DFO will stay in close communication with the Department of Justice to be sure that the draft regulations reflect the actual intentions of the

Steering Committee. Taking the time and trouble to get the wording exactly right at this stage paves the way for better public understanding and acceptance down the road.

### Designation

When the draft regulations are written, they will be published in the Canada Gazette I for 30 days. This is the public's final opportunity to comment. Any major concerns have to be addressed before the proposed MPA legislation is brought to Parliament to be made law and published in the Canada Gazette II.

After the MPA is formally designated by the Minister of Fisheries, the Steering Committee will continue to guide and oversee its management.