The Coastal Current

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

Volume 2, Issue 4 **October 2005**

Special points of interest:

- Final consultation phase for Eastport MPAs successful.
- Regulations in the final stages and a designation announcement is expected shortly.

Eastport MPAs Update October 2005

The final consultation phase for the two Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Round Island and Duck Islands, which involved publication of the Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement and proposed Regulations in the Canada Gazette (http://canadagazette.gc.ca) on June 18, 2005, was received with great success.

Duck Islands

Round Island

The regulations proposing the designation of the Eastport MPAs are now in the final stages of the regulatory process and a designation announcement is expected shortly.

Once this process is complete, the Eastport MPAs will move into the sixth and final step of the National Framework for Establishing and Managing MPAs under the *Oceans Act*. This involves management of the MPAs, finalization of a management plan, research and monitoring, public awareness, and review and evaluation.

Special points of interest:

- Lobster research was conducted in Leading Tickles to determine the relationship between number of eggs and size of lobsters.

Lobster Research *Tickles MPA Summer 2005*

As part of the academic research conducted in the Tickles MPA this past summer, 30 lobsters were collected to determine the relationship between number of eggs and size of lobsters. Each lobster was manually stripped of its eggs, which were then counted on board the boat. Both the lobster and the eggs were then released back into the waters from where they were taken. This procedure did no harm to the lobsters or their eggs. Lobsters in closed areas tend to become larger than those in open areas. Understanding the effects of closed areas on the surrounding lobster populations requires determining the local relationship between lobster size and egg number.

Courtesy of D. Ings

Profiles

Annette Power, Oceans Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Co-Chair of the MPA Steering Committees, has been a driving force behind the projects in Eastport and Leading Tickles from the beginning. Annette, who resides in Paradise with her husband, Kirk Regular (originally from Botwood), will be on maternity leave until Fall 2006. All of us involved with the MPA projects will miss Annette's presence this year and wish her and Kirk all the joys a new baby will bring.

Toby Rowe, Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust, has been a great help with overseeing several projects involved with the Eastport and Tickles Marine Protected Areas. Toby will be on maternity leave until August 2006. Congratulations on your new baby girl!

Academic Research Completed *Tickles MPA Summer 2005*

Special points of interest:

- MUN conducted capelin, lobster, and herring research in the Tickles MPA this past summer.
- Data collected on capelin will aid in management planning.
- Grapefruit were used as drifters in a lobster larval drift study.
- Herring spawning was not detected locally.

This past summer Memorial University (MUN), in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), conducted capelin, lobster, and herring research in Leading Tickles and Glover's Harbour.

The research team, which included four students and a Research Assistant, interviewed local fishermen who identified 41 capelin spawning sites. Of these sites, ten beaches were monitored and three were visited on a daily basis for over a month. The first signs of capelin spawn were noticed on June 30, 2005. It was also noted that spawning continued later into the summer on the beach at East Bear Cove than at other beaches. The research team took core samples and measured spawning bed size in order to estimate the total number of eggs at beach and demersal (deep water) sites. This information will help scientists determine spawning habitat associations, provide baseline data for further environmental analyses, and aid DFO and the MPA Steering Committee in management planning.

As part of a lobster larval drift study, a neuston net (fine mesh sampling net that is towed behind a boat) was used to determine when lobster larvae were present in the Tickles area. Once lobsters began releasing eggs, three drifter experiments were conducted to determine the drift patterns of the larvae. This involved releasing several hundred grapefruit as drifters in the two closed areas, Mouse Island and Glover's Harbour.

Grapefruit are ideal because they are both environmentally friendly and subject to surface currents similar to lobster larvae. During the first drifter experiment at Mouse Island, the grapefruit looped around Burnt Island and travelled back to Mouse Island. Grapefruit from the second study at Mouse Island travelled out the harbour. Grapefruit released in Glover's Harbour stayed within that area.

Finally, 12 herring spawning sites were identified through interviews with retired local fishers during the 2005 survey. Unfortunately, herring spawn was not detected locally this summer. Nonetheless, the research team was able to map habitat types at each of the herring spawning sites, which consisted of mud/gravel substrates and various species of kelp and seaweed.

For more information visit our websites:

www.tmpa.ca

www.eastportmpa.com

Drifter Study Program *Eastport MPAs Summer 2004*

Some floaters from last year's Drifter Study Program are still floating in the waters off Eastport. The telephone number found inside the bottle is no longer in service and all prizes have been awarded. If you find a floater, you can report it by contacting the MPA Community Coordinator, Jan Gill at 677-2153 or at gilljmc@msn.com.

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