

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:

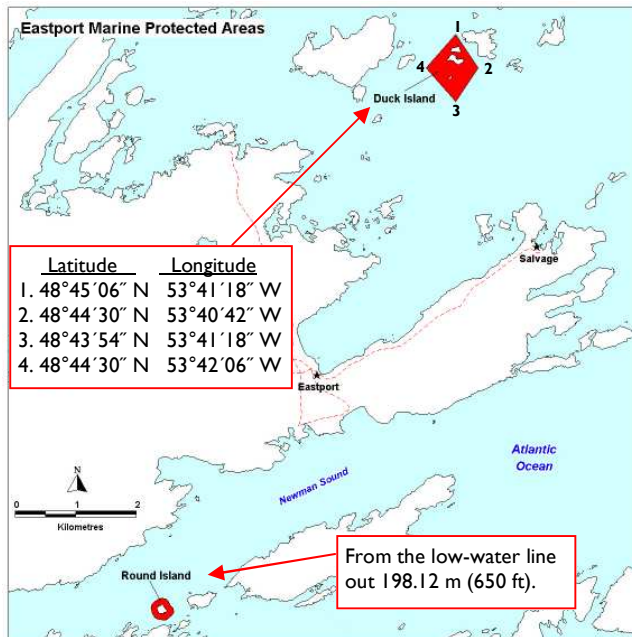
"In a marine protected area, no person shall
 (a) *disturb, damage or destroy, or remove from the marine protected area, any living marine organism or any part of its habitat; or*
 (b) *carry out any activity — including depositing, discharging or dumping any substance, or causing any substance to be 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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