



EASTPORT

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

MANAGEMENT PLAN

EASTPORT ★





COVER PHOTOS:
FRONT - ANNETTE POWER
INSIDE - ELIZABETH BENNETT

FOREWORD

The designation of the Eastport Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) on October 11, 2005 represented the successful culmination of several years work by many people - some working for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, some from the seven communities of the Eastport Peninsula, and some from the wider community, including other government departments and various agencies concerned with conservation and stewardship. The evaluation and development of the MPAs was a collaborative process in which all stakeholders, and particularly those who served as steering committee members, worked together to build a foundation of knowledge, understanding, trust and agreement.



ANNETTE POWER

Although it was a much anticipated and very special occasion, the designation of the Eastport MPAs was just the beginning. Now that our conservation areas are protected under law, the steering committee is beginning the next phase of collaboration, working to ensure that the MPAs continue to deliver benefits to the marine ecosystem and the fishery that depends on it. The steering committee also wants to develop strategies to include the wider community in the benefits stemming from the success of the Eastport MPAs. Much important work remains to be done in the area of public education and awareness, using the MPAs as an inspiration for future stewardship initiatives on the Eastport Peninsula and beyond.

The Eastport Marine Protected Areas Management Plan is intended to guide and inform management decisions for the Eastport MPAs over the next several years. It includes input from the stakeholder groups, as well as scientific data and background information; as a “living” document it can be amended or enlarged as needed. The steering committee is satisfied that the aims and objectives of the Eastport Marine Protected Areas will be well-served by this document, and fully endorses it.

Wade Turner

Co-Chair, Eastport MPAs Steering Committee

Local Fisher

(Original signed by W. Turner)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	IV
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF MANAGEMENT PLAN	2
1.2 FORMAT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN	3
2.0 BACKGROUND	3
2.1 THE EASTPORT PENINSULA	3
2.2 ORIGIN OF THE MPAs	4
2.3 EVALUATION OF AREAS OF INTEREST	5
2.4 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR ESTABLISHING MPAs	5
2.5 THE MANAGEMENT BOUNDARIES	7
2.6 REGULATORY INTENT	7
2.7 DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGULATIONS	7
2.8 DESIGNATION	9
3.0 MANAGEMENT APPROACH	10
3.1 MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK	10
3.2 REGULATORY MANAGEMENT	11
3.3 OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT	11
3.4 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES	11
4.0 GOVERNANCE	14
4.1 THE EASTPORT MPAs STEERING COMMITTEE	14
4.2 STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENTS	14
5.0 ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE	15
6.0 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION	16
7.0 MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOLLOW-UP	16
8.0 REFERENCES	17

TABLE OF CONTENTS *CONT'D*

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1: List of Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations Consulted Regarding the Proposed Regulatory Intent of the Eastport MPAs	8
TABLE 2: Eastport MPAs Regulatory Conservations Objectives and Management Actions with Associated Short and Long Term Goals	12
TABLE 3: Eastport MPAs Non-Regulatory Conservation Objectives and Management Actions with Associated Short and Long Term Goals	13

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Round Island and Duck Islands	4
Figure 2: Management Framework	10

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix I Application for Approval for Scientific or Educational Activities within Newfoundland and Labrador Marine Protected Areas	19
Appendix II The Eastport Marine Protected Areas Regulations	27



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1997, the Eastport Peninsula Lobster Protection Committee (EPLPC) and Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Branch, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) collaborated to establish the Eastport Peninsula Lobster Management Area (EPLMA). Fishery conservation practices were implemented within the EPLMA including the closure of two areas of prime lobster habitat (around Round Island and Duck Islands). The two closed areas were nominated for consideration as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under the *Oceans Act* in 1999. After a lengthy review process, the Eastport MPAs were designated under the *Oceans Act* October 11, 2005.



JAN MARIE GILL

A steering committee was formed in 2002 to evaluate the site's merit as a potential MPA, provide advice to DFO, and help facilitate MPA development. The steering committee is comprised of local stakeholders representing lobster harvesters, municipalities, harbour authority, tourism associations, provincial government, and the federal government. The steering committee will continue to have an important advisory role in the management of the MPAs.



JAN MARIE GILL

The purpose of this document is to describe the Eastport MPAs, their goals and objectives, how the goals and objectives are to be reached, and how the success of the MPAs will be measured. This document is based on assessment reports (e.g. biophysical and socioeconomic overviews) and on comments from stakeholders, the public, and government agencies. This management plan provides details on the boundaries of the MPAs, activity restrictions and exemptions, and other regulations that will help achieve conservation and protection goals. Finally, this document describes guidelines for the utilization, management and monitoring of the MPAs and discusses stakeholder commitments to accomplish the objectives of the MPAs.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The oceans are an integral part of Canada's culture and national identity. Canada's oceans are also an economic pillar through the wide variety of goods, services, and opportunities they provide. With one of the world's largest continental shelves, longest coastlines, coupled with ecological richness and biodiversity not found anywhere else, Canada's oceans can also be considered unique in a global context.

The Government of Canada has committed to oceans management in a manner that encompasses an ecosystem-based approach. Part of this approach is demonstrated by the development of *Canada's Oceans Strategy*, which is led and facilitated by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and is based upon the principles of sustainable development, integrated management, and the precautionary approach.

Development of *Canada's Oceans Strategy* compliments Canada's *Oceans Act*, which outlines three key initiatives for conserving and protecting Canada's oceans. Included is the Integrated Management Program which is supported by the Marine Environmental Quality Program and the Marine Protected Areas Program. The latter is the focus of this management plan.

Canada's Oceans Action Plan (OAP) was announced in May 2005. The OAP enables government-wide action to develop Canada's ocean resources for the benefit of coastal communities, while protecting fragile marine ecosystems. Designation of the Eastport MPAs was an important deliverable under the OAP Phase I.

This is a living three year plan. This means that DFO may adapt management actions on a continuous basis should amendments be appropriate. The advice of the steering committee and results of the scientific and monitoring programs will be taken into consideration and an adaptive management approach adopted with respect to any necessary changes. Readers are encouraged to provide feedback on any aspect of the plan and can do so using the following contact information:

Oceans Programs
Oceans and Habitat Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
P.O. Box 5667
St. John's, NL
A1C 5X1
MPANL@dfo-mpo.gc.ca



1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Eastport MPAs Management Plan

The purpose of this document is to describe the Eastport MPAs, their goals and objectives, how the goals and objectives are to be reached, and how the success of the MPAs will be measured. The vision statement developed by the Eastport MPAs Steering Committee reflects the overall goal of the plan:

“To increase stakeholder involvement in the development, management, monitoring, evaluation and surveillance of local fishery resources and supporting habitats so as to develop sustainable economic activities associated with the MPAs.”

Eastport Marine Protected Areas Steering Committee

Conservation objectives have been developed by DFO in collaboration with the steering committee. A conservation objective is a statement, expressed in broad terms, which describes an aspiration for the ecological feature(s) of the MPA (i.e., Eastport lobster, key habitat type, etc). These can be broken down into regulatory and non-regulatory conservation objectives.

Regulatory conservation objectives refer to those for which the MPA was created and subsequently supported through the development of site specific regulations. In Eastport, the impetus for the development of a MPA was the protection and sustainable fishery of the local American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) population. The MPA affords protection to the Eastport lobster population and the habitats on which it relies. The regulatory conservation objectives for Eastport are:

- ❖ to maintain a viable population of American lobster through the conservation, protection, and sustainable use of resources and habitats; and
- ❖ to ensure the conservation and protection of threatened or endangered species.

The development of regulatory related management actions further supports conservation objectives by identifying the activities which will be undertaken by DFO to reach conservation goals and ascertain the effectiveness of the MPA.

While not directly related to the conservation and protection of the American lobster and its habitats, non-regulatory conservation objectives do support general marine conservation and the overarching goals of the steering committee. The non-regulatory conservation objectives are:

- ❖ to ensure participation of interested and affected stakeholders and the overall management of the resource;
- ❖ to increase stewardship and public awareness of lobster, the ecosystem of the Eastport MPAs and marine conservation measures;
- ❖ to promote scientific research to increase levels of understanding regarding the Eastport MPA ecosystem and to help achieve the conservation objectives; and
- ❖ to ensure potential economic benefits resulting from conservation of the resource are centred in the local communities of the Eastport Peninsula; and to maintain and enhance the quality of the Eastport ecosystem.

The steering committee has functioned well and has provided an excellent forum for issue identification, discussion and resolution. It is through this venue that, in collaboration with DFO, the non-regulatory objectives can best be served by the fostering of relationships with other interested parties or organizations.

As with regulatory conservation objectives, these would have associated management actions.

1.2 Format of the Management Plan

This management plan outlines the framework for the management of the Eastport MPAs to assist its stakeholders in achieving the site's conservation objectives. The plan is broken down into distinct sections with an introduction followed by a section on the background of the MPAs. Ensuing sections provide guidance on site management and can be described as the "living" part of the document. The term "living" illustrates the expectation that this part of the management plan will evolve and change over time to suit the needs of the MPAs and its stakeholders. This part includes the specific conservation objectives set for the Eastport MPAs by DFO in collaboration with the steering committee. It also provides guidance on governance, as well as management and stewardship actions such as site monitoring, enforcement, public education and evaluation, all of which will be critical to the success of the Eastport MPAs.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Eastport Peninsula

The Eastport Peninsula is located in Bonavista Bay. The rugged coastline is interrupted by a number of headlands, coves, and beaches. Marine species found in the waters surrounding the Eastport Peninsula are likely to inhabit or pass through the Eastport MPAs. Capelin, jellyfish, and herring may form the greatest proportion of the estimated biomass within the Eastport Peninsula area during the summer, followed by shrimp (*Pandalus*), Arctic cod and rock cod (Lawson 1998). Seals and whales may account for relatively little biomass. Marine plants such as eelgrass, Irish moss, and various species of kelp and rockweed, are common in the Eastport Peninsula area. Crab, squid, lobster, sea urchins and whelk are common invertebrates in the area and are harvested commercially at certain times and locations. Other marine invertebrates include scallop, blue mussels, horse mussels, anemone, sea cucumber, sea stars, polychaetes and jellyfish. Scallop and mussels are harvested recreationally.

The Eastport Peninsula, surrounded by numerous islands, is a relatively small piece of land jutting out from the mouth of central Bonavista Bay. Scattered throughout the peninsula are seven core communities - the towns of Salvage, Eastport, Happy Adventure, Sandy Cove, Burnside, St. Chad's and Sandringham. St. Brendan's, located on Cotel Island, is accessed by ferry from Burnside. The collective population for all seven communities on the Peninsula is 1595 (1996). In recent years, out migration has become a major concern for most of the communities in this area.

The Eastport Peninsula has relied heavily on fishing for generations. Although fishing activity has declined in recent years, it is still vitally important to the Eastport Peninsula. Of particular importance



JENNIFER JAMES,



since the early twentieth century is the lobster fishery. Tourism and recreation is also an important industry on the Eastport Peninsula. The peninsula is adjacent to Terra Nova National Park (TNNP) which often draws many visitors to the area. The area offers a great deal of tourism and recreational opportunities such as white sand beaches, camping, sea kayaking, boat tours, whale watching and hiking trails.

2.2 Origin of the MPAs

During the early 1990s, lobster harvesters in the Eastport area recognized a serious decline in lobster stocks. The accelerating decline was attributed to increased lobster fishing pressures resulting from groundfish closures. In its 1995 lobster conservation framework, the Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (FRCC) recommended that harvesters take measures to increase egg production, reduce exploitation rates, improve stock structure, and minimize waste. The FRCC also recommended that local stakeholders and management officials work together to develop a program best suited to their particular region. In response to the FRCC report, local harvesters formed the Eastport Peninsula Lobster Protection Committee (EPLPC) in 1995. The aim of the EPLPC was to implement an overall lobster conservation strategy for the Eastport Peninsula. EPLPC members provided the information and data required for the management of the resource and implemented measures to address conservation and sustainability.

Based on the initial success of various measures implemented for this initiative (such as self-policing and monitoring to reduce illegal fishing, and v-notching to protect egg-bearing females), the EPLPC developed a Joint Project Agreement with DFO (Fisheries Management Branch) in 1997. This agreement established the 400-km² conservation-based Eastport Peninsula Lobster Management Area (EPLMA) and closed two prime lobster spawning and rearing habitats within the EPLMA to lobster harvesting using the *Fisheries Act*. The two closed areas, Round Island and Duck Islands, encompass an area of 2.1 km² (Figure 1). These waters were later closed under the *Fisheries Act* to all commercial and recreational fishing activity, prohibiting the harvest of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), lumpfish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*), sea urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*), and flounder (*Pleuronectes americanus*), among others.

In 1999, the EPLPC approached DFO on establishing an MPA under the *Oceans Act* in the Eastport area. In October 2000, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans identified the Eastport closed areas (Round Island and Duck Islands) as Areas of Interest (AOIs).

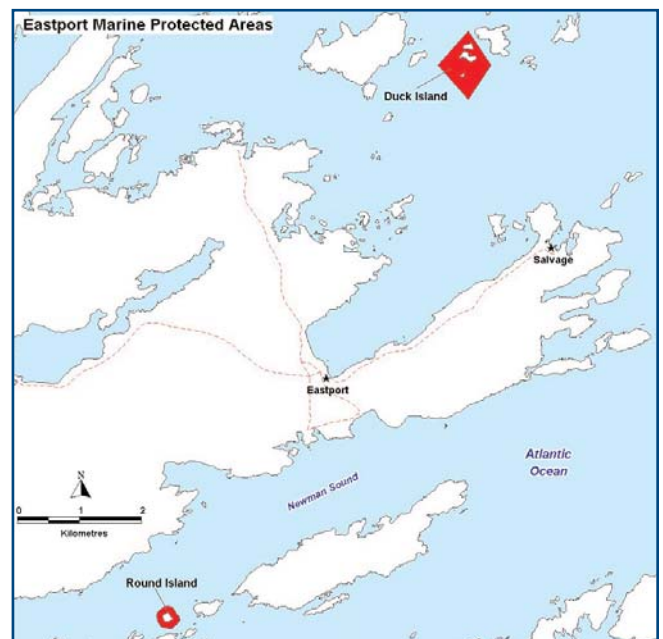


Figure 1: Round Island and Duck Islands

2.3 Evaluation of Areas of Interest

In 2002, a list of stakeholder groups interested in participating in the MPA initiative was developed. Meetings were held in Eastport, Gander, and St. John's. These meetings and consultations provided an overview of the *Oceans Act* and the MPA Program, the history of the initiative, objectives of the proposed MPA, and plans for the future. Stakeholders were then invited to participate in the formation of a steering committee that would guide the ongoing evaluation of the proposed site as a potential MPA. The first steering committee meeting was held in March 2002. This committee was co-chaired by DFO and the EPLPC, and met approximately 3-4 times per year. The steering committee has remained intact upon designation of the MPAs and now functions as an advisory body for management of the MPAs.

A significant amount of federal, provincial and academic research commenced in the Eastport area as a result of issues that were raised by the FRCC and the EPLPC. In addition, in November 2001, a biophysical overview of Eastport, Bonavista Bay was completed. In this overview, LGL (2001) compiled information on physical, environmental, human use, and biological aspects of the Eastport Peninsula Lobster Management Area. A socio-economic overview of the Eastport Peninsula was completed by Hewlin (2002) which reviewed the regional and historical context of the Eastport Peninsula, human use and development of the area, and management issues. The scientific research, along with the biophysical and socioeconomic overviews, were included in the evaluation of the Eastport AOs.

2.4 Legislative Authority for Establishing Marine Protected Areas

The *Oceans Act* came into force on January 31, 1997. Part II of the Act authorized the development of Canada's Ocean Strategy (COS). The COS is based on the principles of sustainable development, integrated management and the precautionary approach and is designed to improve the management of our oceans for the benefit of current and future generations of all Canadians.

Section 35 of the *Oceans Act* as stated below, gives clear authority to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to designate marine protected areas. *Oceans Act* MPAs are established to protect and conserve important fish and marine mammal habitats, endangered marine species, unique features and areas of high biological productivity or biodiversity.

35. 1) *A marine protected area is an area of the sea that forms part of the internal waters of Canada, the territorial sea of Canada or the exclusive economic zone of Canada and has been designated under this section for special protection for one or more of the following reasons, including the conservation and protection of:*
- (a) Commercial and non-commercial fishery resources, including marine mammals, and their habitats;*
 - (b) Endangered or threatened marine species and their habitats;*
 - (c) Unique habitats;*
 - (d) Marine areas of high biodiversity or biological productivity; and*
 - (e) Any other marine resource or habitat as is necessary to fulfill the mandate of the Minister.*



At least one of the reasons for MPA establishment had to be met in order for the Eastport areas of interest to move through to the MPA designation process. The proposed Eastport MPAs met the criteria set out in paragraphs 35(1)(a), (b), (d) and (e) of the *Oceans Act*.

Conservation and protection of commercial and non-commercial fishery resources, including marine mammals, and their habitats.



ANNETTE POWER

American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) is a commercially harvested species throughout the Eastport Peninsula. The shallow coastal areas surrounding Round Island and Duck Islands provide important lobster rearing and adult habitat.

The MPAs perpetuate conservation and protection measures for not only lobster, but other commercial and non-commercial species previously harvested within the MPAs including lumpfish, sea urchins, flounder, cod, and scallops, as well as their supporting habitats.

Conservation and protection of endangered or threatened marine species and their habitats.

The MPAs are closed to all commercial and recreational fishing activity, meaning that endangered or threatened marine species that live in the area, and their habitats, are also protected. Two species of wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus* and *A. minor*) are listed as threatened under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). Fishing prohibitions around Round Island and Duck Islands prevent the by-catch of wolffish, which has occurred during traditional fishing activity in the past.

Conservation and protection of marine areas of high biodiversity or biological productivity.

Research has documented high levels of lobster productivity associated with conservation measures implemented in and around the MPAs (Jerry Ennis, DFO, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, P.O.Box 5667, St. John's, NL, A1C 5X1, pers. comm.). The level of lobster harvester support for conservation has increased as a result of visible increases in catch and productivity. The vast array of marine species traditionally harvested in the Eastport area also indicates a highly productive ecosystem.

Conservation and protection of any other marine resource or habitat as is necessary to fulfill the mandate of the Minister.

On July 12, 2002, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced *Canada's Oceans Strategy*. The Strategy is designed to improve the management of our oceans for the benefit of current and future generations of all Canadians. One of the key activities of the strategy is to establish a national network of marine protected areas. The establishment of MPAs in Eastport has complemented a system of marine protected areas across the country. The success of habitat protection and conservation measures in the Eastport area has been well documented and serves as a model for conservation in other areas.

2.5 The Management Boundaries

There are two small Eastport MPAs, one surrounding Round Island and the other surrounding Duck Islands.

The Eastport - Duck Islands Marine Protected Area (Appendix II) consists of waters in Lobster Fishing Area 5 whose outer limit is a series of rhumb lines commencing at a point 48°45'06" N, 53°41'18" W, then to a point 48°44'30" N, 53°40'42" W, then to a point 48°43'54" N, 53°41'18" W, then to a point 48°44'30" N, 53°42'06" W and then to the point of commencement and whose inner limit is the low-water line of the islands within the outer limit.

The Eastport - Round Island Marine Protected Area (Appendix II) consists of waters in Lobster Fishing Area 5 whose outer limit is a line every point of which is at a distance of 198.12 m (650 feet) from the nearest point of the low-water line of Round Island and whose inner limit is the low-water line of the island.

2.6 Regulatory Intent

In order to conserve and protect the habitat and marine resources of the Eastport MPAs, specific activities will be prohibited.

The regulations contain a general prohibition against the disturbance, damage, destruction, or removal of any living organism or any part of its habitat within the MPAs. In addition, the regulations prohibit activities including the depositing, discharging, or dumping of substances within the MPAs that result in the disturbance, damage, destruction, or removal of any living organism or any part of its habitat within the MPAs. All activities that do not violate the prohibitions, i.e. that do not disturb, damage, destroy or remove living marine organisms or their habitats, will be permitted in the MPAs.

Further, the regulations will permit certain activities such as scientific and educational activities, although they may cause some disturbance. These activities may be approved by DFO to occur within the MPAs if they do not compromise the conservation objectives. Moreover, certain activities such as monitoring are required to support the management and protection of the MPAs, while other activities are required for specific overriding purposes, such as public safety and security. Within the regulations, activities are managed through:

- (1) submission of activity plans for scientific and educational activities to DFO for approval; and,
- (2) specific exceptions to the general prohibitions according to specified conditions.

2.7 Development of the Regulations

The Eastport MPAs Regulations were developed based on input from the steering committee and consultations with local and regional stakeholders and governmental and non-governmental organizations since 1995 (see Table 1). A Regulatory Intent Summary document was prepared prior to publication of the regulations for the purpose of consulting with several governmental and non-governmental agencies.



Table 1: List of Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations Consulted Regarding the Proposed Regulatory Intent of the Eastport MPAs.

<p>Federal Departments (Government of Canada)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Canada • Parks Canada • Transport Canada • Natural Resources Canada • Fisheries and Oceans Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries Management Branch Canadian Coast Guard Science Branch Policy and Economics Branch
<p>Provincial Departments (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries and Aquaculture • Intergovernmental Affairs • Natural Resources • Environment and Conservation • Transportation and Works • Tourism, Culture, and Recreation • Innovation, Trade and Rural Development
<p>Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Wildlife Fund • Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society • Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust

The most prevalent concern raised at consultations with environmental non-governmental organizations was with regard to the adequacy of the size of the MPAs. In response, it was noted that the boundaries surrounding the Round Island and Duck Islands MPAs encompass the productive lobster habitat in those vicinities. These MPAs will complement ongoing conservation measures within the 400 km² EPLMA, established through the Joint Project Agreement with Fisheries Management Branch, thereby addressing lobster conservation around the Eastport Peninsula.

In discussing and developing recommendations for designation and management of the Eastport - Round Island and Eastport - Duck Islands MPAs, all members of the steering committee and their constituents clearly understood that, upon designation, the area would be managed and regulated by prohibitions and other management actions. It was also accepted that the regulations would not prevent the removal of marine organisms for scientific or educational purposes as part of an ongoing research program to assess and monitor the long-term health of the Eastport marine ecosystem and the local lobster stocks.

The regulations (see Appendix II) were pre-published in the *Canada Gazette Part I* for public review on June 18, 2005, giving the public 30 days to comment. No public feedback was received and on October 11, 2005, Treasury Board approved the Eastport MPAs Regulations at which time they were published in the *Canada Gazette Part II*.

2.8 Designation

Following a technical, detailed assessment, it was concluded that an *Oceans Act* MPA was the most suitable management tool for Eastport. With the support of the steering committee, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada recommended in March 2003 to proceed with the regulatory process required to designate and manage Round Island and Duck Islands as MPAs under the *Oceans Act*.

Through consultations with the steering committee and other stakeholders, the Regulatory Intent of the Eastport MPAs, along with a Communications Plan and Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement, was drafted and presented to the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice in turn drafted *Oceans Act* Regulations specifically for the Eastport MPAs. This lengthy process involved regular contact between the Department of Justice and DFO to ensure the MPA Regulations accurately represented the original intent of the steering committee. Bi-lateral and public consultations were conducted to ensure all stakeholders were comfortable with the regulatory intent of the proposed MPAs.

On October 11, 2005, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced the designation of the Eastport MPAs, along with the Gilbert Bay MPA (Labrador) and the Basin Head MPA (Prince Edward Island). These MPAs were designated as part of the first phase of the Government of Canada's broader Oceans Action Plan, which was announced in May 2005.



JENNIFER JAMES



3.0 MANAGEMENT APPROACH

3.1 Management Framework

A management framework can be considered an operational tool to guide stakeholders in managing the various activities permitted within the MPA. The management framework also provides guidance on management actions that will likely be necessary to ensure the objectives of the Eastport MPAs are being met. The management framework for the Eastport MPAs includes:

- ❖ the regulations that apply within the MPAs;
- ❖ a description of permitted activities within the boundaries;
- ❖ confirmation of the management objectives;
- ❖ monitoring of the status of conservation objectives of the MPAs;
- ❖ monitoring regulatory compliance; and
- ❖ a description of the governance structure.

As an operational tool, the management framework is not intended to be prescriptive, rather, it attempts to assist all stakeholders in establishing standards on how the site should or should not be used in order to meet the MPA objectives. Figure 2 describes, in broad terms, the suggested management framework for the Eastport MPA.

The collective expertise, knowledge and mandates of DFO, other federal and provincial government departments and agencies, and the steering committee will provide the basis for a governance structure responsible for management of the MPAs. In so doing, they should agree and set priorities and actions, as well as set specific targets or values in order to measure management progress of the MPA toward its objectives.

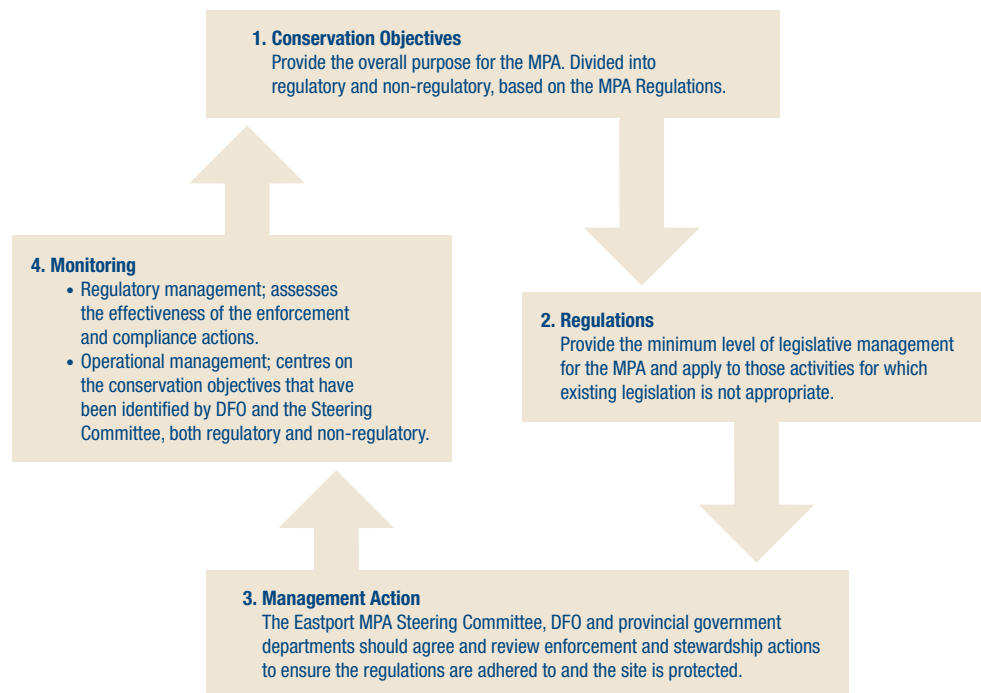


Figure 2: Management Framework

3.2 Regulatory Management

Regulatory management involves enforcement of and monitoring compliance with the MPA regulations. This includes monitoring how the regulations are enforced and whether the public is complying with the regulations.

There is an expectation by local residents that enforcement within the MPA will be effective in order to ensure compliance with MPA Regulations. Fishery officers in the area will serve as the primary enforcement body and will be complemented by other law enforcement personnel (or enforcement officers so designated by the Minister according to Section 39 of the *Oceans Act*) and community watch groups to ensure that the proposed management actions and Regulations for the area are respected. Section 5.0 addresses the operational responsibilities of DFO to meet regulatory requirements.

Regulatory management is linked to operational management through the MPA Regulations. The impetus for the designation of the MPA was the conservation and protection of the lobster population and the habitats on which it relies. The regulations were subsequently developed to support this conservation objective. It is the regulations that will be enforced and monitored for compliance.

3.3 Operational Management

Operational management centres on the conservation objectives that have been identified by DFO and the steering committee, both regulatory and non-regulatory (refer to Tables 2 and 3). As already stated, the Eastport MPAs' key conservation objective is to help achieve a sustainable lobster population. Scientific monitoring programs will be implemented for the MPAs to assess the effectiveness of management actions to achieve the conservation objectives. An adaptive management approach will be taken whereby modifications will be made if and when necessary.

In the past, DFO Science Branch researchers, and Memorial University researchers and students have taken the lead on conducting scientific research in the area for the purpose of measuring the effectiveness of the closed areas. In addition, in 2004 and 2005, lobster harvesters were trained by DFO staff to carry out data collection, such as lobster movement and population structure data, at-sea sampling data, and logbooks.

DFO intends to continue to monitor the lobster population in the Eastport MPAs. It is anticipated that similar types of data collection will be carried out by local lobster harvesters for the next several years, at which time the ongoing level of monitoring requirements will be reassessed.

3.4 Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives of the Eastport MPAs are developed to help achieve a sustainable lobster population in the Eastport area and to protect areas used for lobster spawning, rearing and feeding. The Eastport MPAs have two regulatory conservation objectives for which DFO is obligated to monitor for effectiveness. Though DFO is not obligated to manage or monitor the non-regulatory objectives, it is recognized that they are important add-ons in the management



of these MPAs. Table 2 outlines the regulatory related conservation objectives. It identifies the related legislation, management action, responsible leads, and associated short and long term goals. Table 3 outlines the non-regulatory conservation objectives and also identifies the related legislation, management action, responsible leads, and associated short and long term goals.

Table 2: Eastport MPAs Regulatory Conservation Objectives and Management Actions with Associated Short and Long Term Goals.

Management Action	Lead Responsible	Related Legislation
<p>Regulatory Conservation Objective: To maintain a viable population of lobster through the conservation, protection, and sustainable use of resources and habitats.</p>	<p>Short Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To initiate larval drift and settlement studies of juvenile lobsters. Larval drift studies will be conducted through neuston tows. The deployment and collection of settlement trays will be conducted to study newly settled lobster. To monitor the average size of lobster inside and outside closed areas to develop a size fecundity relationship specifically for the MPA comparative to outside the MPA. <p>Long Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larval drift studies and settlement studies should continue to take into account any future environmental factors that could influence the distribution and settlement of juvenile lobster. By using data collected, determine if there is a significant increase in average size of lobster inside the MPAs. Use a size fecundity relationship in conjunction with the size frequency graphs (proportion females berried), to determine "an estimate" of egg production inside MPA. 	<p>DFO</p> <p><i>Eastport Marine Protected Areas Regulations</i></p>
<p>Regulatory Conservation Objective: To ensure the conservation and protection of threatened or endangered species</p>	<p>Short Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of public awareness packages to local fisherman with respect to wolffish. Initiate observations of by-catch of wolffish outside the boundaries of the MPAs with particular interest paid to lobster fishing activities in close proximity to the MPA boundaries. <p>Long Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine a population estimate of wolffish inside and outside closed areas. 	<p>DFO</p> <p><i>Eastport Marine Protected Areas Regulations</i></p> <p><i>Species At Risk Act</i></p>



ELIZABETH BENNETT

Table 3: Eastport MPAs Non-Regulatory Conservation Objectives and Management Actions with Associated Short and Long Term Goals

	Management Action	Lead Responsible	Related Legislation
<p>Non-Regulatory Conservation Objective: To ensure participation of interested and affected stakeholders in the overall management of the resource.</p>	<p>Short Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of steering committee meetings to ensure stakeholder support and involvement. Annual Science Briefing Meeting. Annual Regional MPA Science Workshop. Annual Public Meeting. <p>Long Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the possibility of conducting a feasibility study for a Lobster Science Interpretation Center/Science Station. 	Steering Committee would be primary lead with support from DFO	NA
<p>Non-Regulatory Conservation Objective: To increase stewardship and public awareness of American lobster, the ecosystem of the Eastport MPAs, and marine conservation measures.</p>	<p>Short Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop, produce, and distribute future issues of the Coastal Current. Maintain Eastport MPAs website. <p>Long Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase public awareness through publication of brochures, involvement in community events, promote education participation in festivals such as Eastport Day/Sea Fest. To support a feasibility study for a Lobster Science Interpretation Center/Science Station. 	Steering Committee with support from DFO	NA
<p>Non-Regulatory Conservation Objective: To promote scientific research to increase levels of understanding regarding the Eastport MPA ecosystem and to help achieve the conservation objectives</p>	<p>Short Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust to meet needs for at sea sampling data collection, tagging data collection, and a community coordinator in 2006. Development of the collaborative agreement with Memorial University in 2007 to provide scientific support for MPA related research. Development of Activity Plans and Approvals as outlined in Section 5.0 in the MPA Regulations. <p>Long Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewal of collaborative agreement with MUN on an annual basis. 	DFO	NA
<p>Non-Regulatory Conservation Objective: To ensure potential economic benefits offered by conservation of the resource are centered in the local communities of the Eastport Peninsula.</p>	<p>Short Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limitation of commercial lobster fishing rights to traditional users within the EPLMA will continue in the future to help ensure possible economic benefits related to the lobster fishery stay within the area. To increase tourism in the area through increased public awareness materials such as signage, brochures, participation in public events, etc. To increase economic benefits through expenditures associated with research activities in the area. This is closely related to increasing the promotion of scientific research in the area. <p>Long Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To investigate further possible economic benefits associated with the MPA such as a Lobster Science Interpretation Centre/Science Station. To investigate the benefits of eco-labeling. 	Steering Committee	NA
<p>Non-Regulatory Conservation Objective: To maintain and enhance the quality of the Eastport ecosystem</p>	<p>Short Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate invitation to local fish plant owners to attend Best Management Practices Workshop. Initiate a public awareness program with respect to marine debris. Monitor fish plants for improper offal dumping and effluent disposal. <p>Long Term Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate alternate use for fish offal to reduce or eliminate offal dumping at sea. Implement best management practices to reduce the impact of fish plant effluent on marine environmental quality. 	DFO, Environment Canada	<p><i>Eastport Marine Protected Areas Regulations</i></p> <p><i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act</i></p> <p><i>Fish Processing Operations Liquid Effluent Guidelines (1975)</i></p>

4.0 GOVERNANCE

The MPAs will be managed by DFO under the advisement of the steering committee which is co-chaired by a member of the EPLPC and a representative from DFO. It includes a voting membership, an ex-officio membership and a mailing list.

4.1 *The Eastport MPAs Steering Committee*

Local fishers, represented by the EPLPC, undertook extensive consultations (over 25 meetings) prior to and since establishing the Joint Project Agreement in 1997. The designation of Round Island and Duck Islands as MPAs is seen by local residents as a natural progression to further build upon their conservation efforts. The MPA consultative process, ongoing since the AOI announcement in 2000, has developed new trust-based relationships, and the regulatory designation of the MPAs has maintained stakeholder confidence.

To facilitate the consultative process, the Eastport MPAs Steering Committee, or simply the steering committee, was established in 2002. The committee consists of representatives from the fishing industry, municipal governments, tourism industry, DFO, the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Kittiwake Economic Development Corporation, and Parks Canada.



The role of this committee is to:

- (a) represent key constituents or stakeholders;
- (b) provide advice to DFO and the province regarding the ongoing management of the MPAs; and
- (c) ensure community involvement in the ongoing management of the Eastport - Round Island and Eastport - Duck Islands MPAs.

The committee has provided an excellent forum for issue identification, discussion and resolution. The resulting commitment to stewardship and cooperation in the protection of these areas as MPAs laid the groundwork for the regulations. The steering committee has held many meetings since March 2002 and participated in one public information session.

4.2 *Stakeholder Commitments*

Since the designation of the Eastport MPAs, the steering committee has agreed to carry on as a volunteer group and anticipates holding 2-3 meetings per year. These meetings are meant to keep all stakeholders updated and to deal with any issues that may arise relating to the MPAs. They will continue to be involved with the management of the Eastport MPAs as an advisory body, by aiding with data collection, public awareness programs, and any other project or activity that will help the Eastport MPAs reach their conservation objectives.

5.0 ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

The Eastport MPAs Steering Committee has identified enforcement concerns with respect to poaching and the harvesting of undersized and egg-bearing lobster by local cabin owners and users of Terra Nova National Park. In order to achieve their management and protection objectives for the Eastport MPAs, surveillance of the area will be necessary. In addition, compliance of the MPA Regulations has to be enforced.



As with any additional legislation or enforcement measures, there will be some increased pressure on DFO Conservation and Protection personnel and resources to enforce the MPA Regulations. Fishery officers in the area will serve as the primary enforcement body and will be complemented by other law enforcement personnel (or enforcement officers so designated by the Minister according to Section 39 of the *Oceans Act*) and community watch groups to ensure that the proposed management actions and regulations for the area are respected. Enforcement of the regulations and subsequent offenses will be dealt with under Sections 37 and 38 of the *Oceans Act*. Violations of the MPA Regulations carry penalties under the *Oceans Act* up to a maximum of \$100,000 on summary convictions, to \$500,000 for indictable offences. There is an expectation by local residents that heightened enforcement within the MPAs will be effective in order to ensure compliance with the MPA regulations.

Nevertheless, local fishers have already developed community-based, non-regulatory measures to promote compliance, including self-policing. High community support for the MPAs suggests that a community watch initiative, e.g. Stewards of Eastport, will complement the surveillance activities of the area. The surveillance activities will follow the outlined conservation objectives and will have a particular emphasis on American lobster and its habitat.



6.0 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Public awareness and education are key components to the management of the Eastport MPAs and are vital to their continued success. Stewardship initiatives are listed as one of the conservation objectives (Table 3).

Many initiatives, stewardships, and programs have been implemented to contribute to the conservation of the marine ecosystem. Continued public awareness and education will help to further instill an attitude of appreciation, pride, and good practice from people living, working, and visiting the area. Already, such materials as brochures, videos, and a website have been developed to promote education and the importance of the Eastport MPAs.

Public awareness will also help generate increased compliance in the MPAs. If there is an increased knowledge of the ecological and cultural importance of the areas, it is possible to achieve a higher degree of compliance with current regulations which, in turn, will contribute to the effectiveness of the MPA.

Public awareness can also generate interest by other groups and serve as an example of how many different stakeholders can work together to help conserve the environment while still supporting sustainable development. It can lead to other groups taking an interest and investigating the need for an MPA in their own areas, thereby raising awareness in other communities. It can also generate economic spin-offs such as increased markets for products and eco-labeling.

Educating people about the social, economic, and environmental benefits of the MPAs will further instill a sense of pride in the residents of the Eastport Peninsula and will generate a greater consciousness of the benefits of working together to accomplish a common goal.

7.0 MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOLLOW-UP

As discussed, success of the management actions to meet the MPA conservation objectives will be achieved through scientific and compliance monitoring.

The Eastport Marine Protected Areas Management Plan will be reviewed after three years. However, DFO may adapt management actions on a continuous basis should amendments be appropriate. The advice of the steering committee and results of scientific and compliance monitoring will be taken into consideration and an adaptive management approach adopted with respect to any necessary changes. This plan is a living document and the principle of adaptive management will be applied where required.

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Appendix I

Application for Approval for Scientific or Educational Activities within
Newfoundland and Labrador Marine Protected Areas



ACTIVITY PLAN

Application for Approval for Scientific or Educational Activities within Newfoundland and Labrador Marine Protected Areas

Date Submitted:

Box 1: Identification of Marine Protected Area

Box 2: Contact Information

Principal Contact

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Chief Scientists

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Research Vessel

Name: _____

Number of crew: _____

Captain or Pilot's name: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Name of organization proposing the activity: _____

Funding Agency: _____

Box 3: Purpose of Activity

Box 4: Description of Activity

E.g. types of data to be collected, sampling protocols or other techniques to be used to collect data, types of equipment to be used, methods for mooring or anchoring of equipment (if applicable), type and identity of vessels to be used, and every substance, if any, that is to be deposited, discharged or dumped with the area.

Box 5: Activity Justification

Box 6: Period and Duration within the MPA

Box 7: Location of Activities within the MPA (attach map)

Box 8: List of licences, permits, authorization or consents

Box 9: Assessment of Environmental Impacts

Activities under Assessment:

Pathways for Interactions:

Scope of Potential Impacts on Environment:

Potential for Impacts of Environment on Activity:

Cumulative Effects:

Box 10: Mitigation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Box 11: Conclusions

Box 12: References

Box 13: Appendix

Draft Guidelines for Preparing and Submitting Activity Plan Applications for Scientific or Educational Activities in Newfoundland and Labrador Marine Protected Areas

1. INTRODUCTION

With the designation of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) under the *Ocean Act*, there are associated regulations. These regulations generally outline the geographic area of the MPA, the associated management zones (if any), prohibited activities and exceptions with provisions for the approval of scientific and educational activities within the MPA.

It is recognized that scientific or educational activities have the potential to disturb, damage or destroy or remove living organisms or its habitat from a MPA. Therefore any person that proposes to carry out a scientific or educational activity in a MPA must submit an Activity Plan outlining specific information requirements. Activity Plans must be submitted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) 60 days prior to the day the proposed activity is to commence. The DFO must approve the plan if the proposed activity is not likely to damage or destroy the habitat of a living marine organism in the MPA within 30 days of receiving the Plan.

These guidelines describe the information requirements of the Activity Plan application and approval process.

2. APPLICATION CONTENT

Box 1: Identification of the MPA

The name of the MPA in which scientific or educational activity is being proposed is provided.

Box 2: Contact Information

Provide the name, job title and contact information for the principal contact and chief scientist(s). The curriculum vitae of any research scientists or personnel performing the activity should be provided in an appendix. The identification of the vessel(s) (ships or aircrafts), the name and contact information of the captain(s) or pilot(s), and the number of crew/berths per vessel should also be provided. The name of the organization proposing the activity and the funding agency must also be identified. The funding proposal can be provide as an appendix.

Box 3: Purpose of Activity

Provide a brief description of the objective of the activity, the methods to be used and why this activity should occur within the MPA boundaries.

Box 4: Identification of the MPA

For the description of the activity, provide a detailed explanation of the objectives and hypotheses to be tested. Also provide a description of the types of data to be collected, sampling protocols and



methodologies and equipment to be used. If equipment is to be deployed, the method of mooring or anchoring of equipment (if applicable), the duration and position (latitude and longitude and position in the water column) within the MPA should be specified. Diagrams and pictures of the equipment should be provided.

The types and identity of the vessels to carry out the work must be provided.

The types of animals/organisms and habitats to be studied must be identified. If specimens are to be collected, the number of specimens, the location and sampling protocols and equipment must be described. The purpose of this collection must be explained and associated/following experimentation described.

If any substance is to be deposited, discharged or dumped within the area it must be described in detail.

Box 5: Activity Justification

Describe why and how this activity could be beneficial to the management or monitoring of the conservation of the MPA. Provide the rationale for the activity being conducted in the MPA. If the project has been done in the past, describe how the information collected benefited science and the management of the MPA. If appropriate, also explain how the proposed activity may facilitate other investigations within the MPA.

Box 6: Period and Duration within the MPA

Provide the exact dates the vessel(s) will be in the MPA and the duration of the activity to be conducted.

Box 7: Location of Activity within the MPA (attach map)

Provide the exact latitude and longitude and zone (if applicable) where the activity will be occurring. Provide a map showing the location of the proposed activity.

Describe in general terms the biophysical oceanographic condition of the proposed location, including but not limited to; water depth, substrate type(s), predominant currents, tidal patterns, predominant wind direction/fetch, etc. If known, the likely macro flora and fauna assemblages should be described.

State the name and number of port of calls that the vessel(s) will be using.

Box 8: List of licences, permits, authorizations or consents

Provide a list of the licences, permits, authorizations or consents that were obtained to conduct or apply to the activity that this application is requesting approval for. If there were any other research or monitoring activities done under these licences, permits, authorizations or consents please provide details.

Box 9: Assessment of Environmental Impacts

Activities under Assessment

List the activities to be assessed for potential environmental impacts.

Pathways for Interactions

List the potential pathways in which damage or destruction of the environment (habitat or the organisms) could occur during, or as a result of, the activity in the MPA.

Scope of Potential Impacts on Environment

Assess and discuss the environmental consequences to performing this activity in the MPA. State if the activity could be done outside the boundaries of the MPA and still meet the objectives. Provide the potential impacts this activity may have on all aspects of the environment (species, habitat, etc.). If there is removal of species, describe the potential impacts of the removal on the population as well as other species and their population. Species under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) must be addressed. Determine the potential impact* the activity will have on all aspects of the marine environment.

Potential for Impacts of Environment on Activity

State if the type of environment (oceanographic or geographic) could have on the activity and the gear used. Determine the potential impact* the environment may have on the activity.

Cumulative Effects

State if there are any cumulative effects either with past or current activities happening within the MPA. Determine the potential impact* on the MPA.

Box 10: Mitigation, Monitoring and Evaluation

State the proposed mitigation measures that will be used to address the impacts describe above.

State the kinds of monitoring and evaluation that will be used to determine if the mitigation efforts are minimizing the impacts and to ensure that there are no unexpected impacts.

Box 11: Conclusions

Summarize the overall impacts of the proposed activity and determine the potential impact* on the MPA.

Box 12: References

State any references that were used in the activity plan application.

* The potential impacts are to be described as negligible, low, medium, high, or unacceptable. These descriptors are to be defined in terms of the duration, spatial scale, magnitude, sensitivity of species, and magnitude (individual, community or population levels).



Box 13: Appendix

Append location map and any supplementary material

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Zones

Exceptions to the general prohibitions outlined in the MPA regulations must be considered in the above. Specifically, any zonation of the MPA must be considered and described in the information provided and assessment of environmental effects.

Cumulative Impacts

No activities will be approved for the MPA if the cumulative impacts to the area resulting from past and current activities cause disturbance, damage, destruction, or removal.

Submission of Application

Two copies of the application (Activity Plan) must be submitted 60 days before the activity to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Oceans Division.

Approval Process

A response will be sent to the applicant within 30 days of receiving the application. It will be evaluated according to the criteria set forth in the MPA regulations. The applicant will be contacted if there is incomplete information or if the reviewer needs clarification on the activity or application. The application will be reviewed by Oceans Division and they may seek expert advice on certain aspects of the application.

Reporting Requirements

Under the *Oceans Act* section 35(3)(b)(iii), the proponent is to provide a report describing the research. The report should summarize the purpose of the research, the method used as well as the results collect. It should content the chief scientist(s) name, the dates when the work was performed, the location (latitude and longitude), name and number of specimens collect, location of any deployed material and the result for the monitoring evaluation of mitigation measures. Also state, if any, the unexpected impacts to the MPA. The report is to be submitted to the Oceans Division with 2 months of the completion of the research.

Contact Information

For further information on the Guidelines for submitting applications for research and monitoring approval in the MPA or the MPA regulation, write to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Oceans Division:

Head, Oceans Programs Section

Oceans Division, Oceans and Habitat Management Branch
P.O. Box 5667
St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
MPANL@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Appendix II

The Eastport Marine Protected Areas Regulations



Eastport Marine Protected Areas Regulations

INTERPRETATION

1. (1) In these Regulations, “waters” means, in addition to the waters, the bed and subsoil below the waters to a depth of two metres.
- (2) In these Regulations, all geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) are expressed in the North America Datum 1983 (NAD 83) geodetic reference system.
- (3) In Schedule 1, the lines connecting the points are rhumb lines.

APPLICATION

2. These Regulations apply to the marine protected areas designated in section 3.

DESIGNATION

3. The following areas of the sea in Bonavista Bay are designated as marine protected areas:
 - (a) those waters within an area of the sea - depicted in Schedule 1 and to be known as the Eastport - Duck Island Marine Protected Area - whose outer limit is a series of rhumb lines commencing at a point 48°45'06" N, 53°41'18" W, then to a point 48°44'30" N, 53°40'42" W, then to a point 48°43'54" N, 53°41'18" W, then to a point 48°44'30" N, 53°42'06" W and then to the point of commencement and whose inner limit is the low-water line of the islands within the outer limit; and
 - (b) those waters within an area of the sea - depicted in Schedule 2 and to be known as the Eastport - Round Island Marine Protected Area - whose outer limit is a line every point of which is at a distance of 198.12 m (650 feet) from the nearest point of the low-water line of Round Island and whose inner limit is the low-water line of the island.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

4. (1) 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.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), a person may carry out any activity excepted under section 5 or any scientific or educational activity for which a plan is approved under section 7.

EXCEPTIONS

5. The following activities may be carried out in a marine protected area:
 - (a) fishing that is carried out in accordance with the Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations; and
 - (b) any activity that is carried out for the purpose of public safety, national security or law enforcement or in response to an emergency.

ACTIVITY PLAN

6. Every person who proposes to carry out a scientific or an educational activity in a marine protected area shall submit to the Minister for approval, not less than 60 days before the day on which the activity is proposed to begin, a plan that contains the following information and documents:
- (a) the name, address and telephone number, and if applicable, the facsimile number and electronic mail address, of a person who can be contacted in respect of the plan;
 - (b) a detailed description of the proposed activity that sets out
 - (i) the purpose of the proposed activity,
 - (ii) the period or periods during which the proposed activity is to be carried out,
 - (iii) a map on which the location of the proposed activity is identified,
 - (iv) the types of data that are to be collected, if any, and the sampling protocols or other techniques to be used to collect the data,
 - (v) the types of equipment, if any, that are to be used during the proposed activity, including those for gathering data, and if any of the equipment is to be anchored or moored in the marine protected area, the methods by which the anchoring or mooring is to be conducted,
 - (vi) the type and identity of every vessel, within the meaning of section 2 of the Canada Shipping Act, that is to be used to carry out the proposed activity, and
 - (vii) every substance, if any, that is to be deposited, discharged or dumped within the marine protected area during the proposed activity;
 - (c) an assessment of the environmental effects that are likely to occur within the marine protected area as a result of the proposed activity; and
 - (d) a list of every licence, permit, authorization or consent obtained or applied for in respect of the proposed activity.
7. (1) Subject to subsection (2) the Minister shall, within 30 days after the day on which a plan that is submitted in accordance with section 6 is received, approve the plan if the proposed activity is not likely to damage or destroy the habitat of a living marine organism in the marine protected area and
- (a) in the case a scientific activity, the proposed activity is to be carried out for the purpose of monitoring the effectiveness of conservation measures implemented in, or for the management of, the marine protected area; and
 - (b) in the case of an educational activity, the proposed activity is to be carried out for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the marine protected area or providing information in respect of the conservation measures implemented in that area.
- (2) The Minister shall not approve a plan if the cumulative environmental effects of the proposed activity in combination with any other past and current activities carried out within the marine protected area are likely to damage or destroy the habitat of living marine organisms in that area.



REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS

8. Every person involved in an accident that is likely to result in any disturbance, damage, destruction or removal prohibited under subsection 4(1) shall, within two hours after its occurrence, report the accident to the Canadian Coast Guard.

COMING INTO FORCE

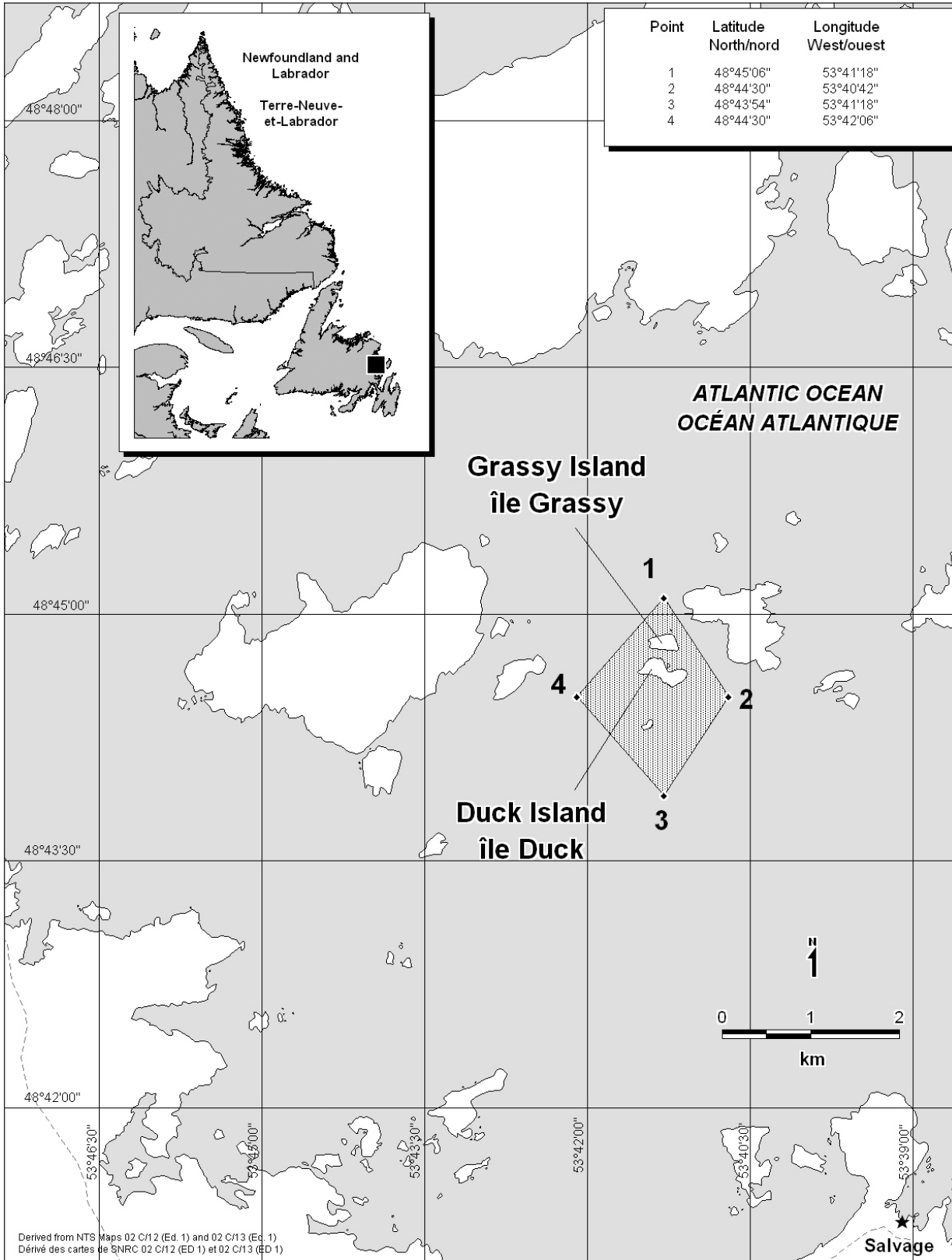
9. These Regulations come into force on the day on which they are registered.



SCHEDULE 1

(Subsection 1(3) and paragraph 3(a))

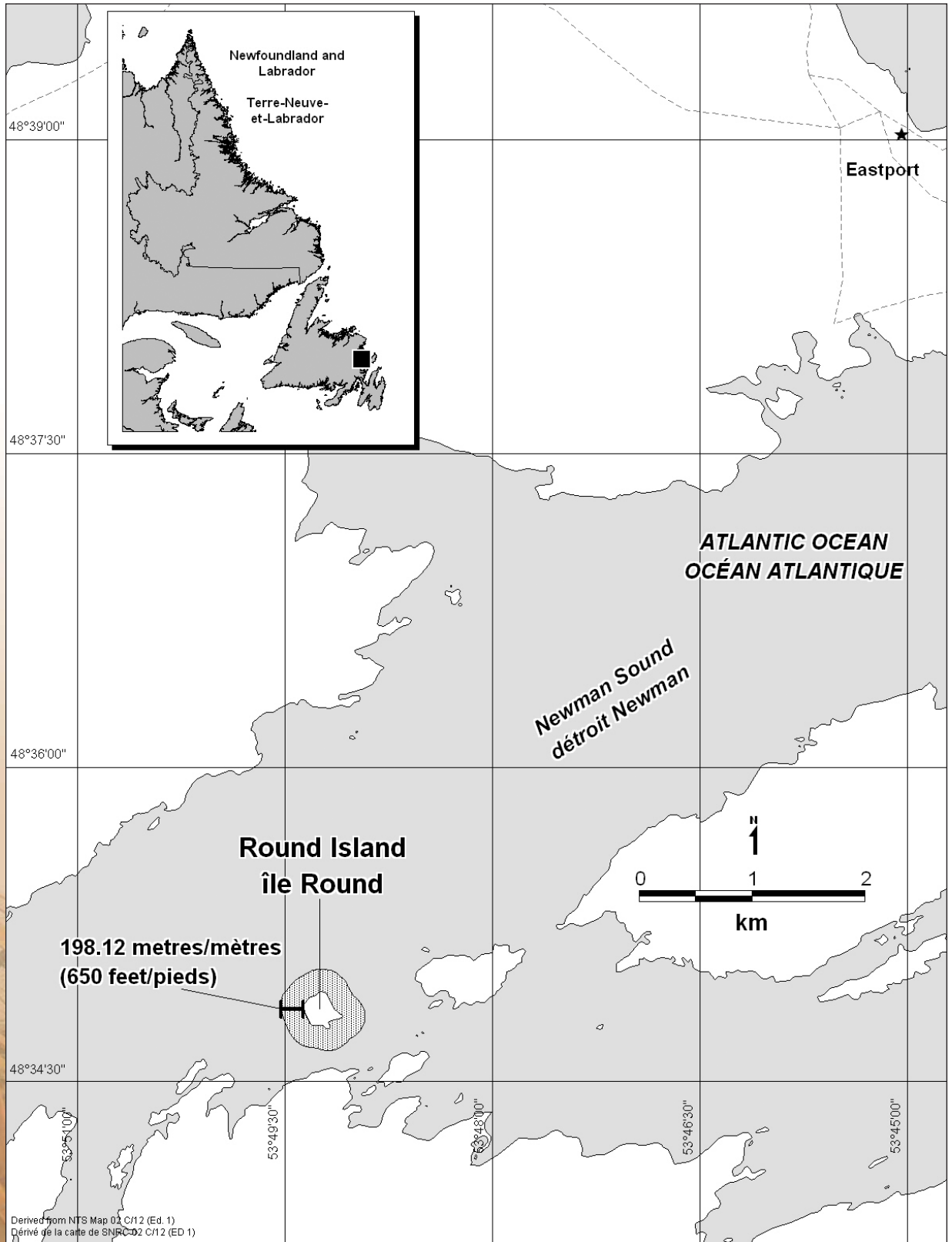
EASTPORT - DUCK ISLAND MARINE PROTECTED AREA



SCHEDULE 2

(Paragraph 3(b))

EASTPORT - ROUND ISLAND MARINE PROTECTED AREA





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