
MAY 2019 | YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATE CANADA'S LARGEST FULLY MARINE PROTECTED AREA: LAURENTIAN CHANNEL



April 25, 2019, the Government of Canada announced Canada's largest fully protected Marine Protected Area (MPA) to date, the Laurentian Channel!

CPAWS-NL commends the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador for coming together to protect this ecologically rich area!

Laurentian Channel was announced in 2010 as an Area of Interest, and since then CPAWS have been working hard towards its designation with strong protection standards including prohibition against oil and gas activities.

THANK YOU Canadians from across the country who stood with us in arguing for real protection for this area. 70,000 of you said NO to oil and gas... and you were heard.

We all celebrate this ocean victory,
we couldn't have done it without you!

YOUTH SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are very excited to be able to offer summer positions to youth (ages 15-30). Keep an eye out on our website and Facebook page for opportunities!



To learn more about this incredible ecosystem and the marine life whose habitat is now fully protected in the new MPA, visit the CPAWS-NL's Laurentian Channel story map:
<https://bit.ly/2IUPAQg>

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR FEATURE ANIMAL: SEA PENS



Sea Pens are highly diverse in colours and size. They are colonial corals, meaning each “individual” sea pen (resembling a quill) is actually a colony made up on thousands of polyps (small anemone like animals) that work uniquely together for the survival of the whole colony.

The Laurentian Channel has the highest concentration and diversity of sea pens off Canada’s east coast. One of the main threats to coral species are activities that involve contact with the sea floor such as bottom contact fisheries, which could result in displacement of individuals. As a sessile (non-moving) animal, a fully protected MPA is imperative to their survival!

Minimum Standards set for Marine Protected Areas... but what does that mean?



Photo: Nick Hawkins

For over 25 years, CPAWS has been calling on the federal government to ensure that when MPAs are established they protect ocean wildlife and the habitats they depend on from the most harmful human activities, so that ‘protection’ actually means something.

CPAWS-NL is very pleased with the announcements that Canada will follow suit of international standards and apply minimum standards to all future MPAs. There will be NO oil and gas, dumping, bottom trawling, or mining allowed in federal MPAs. These highly diverse, unique, and significant areas will get the protection they need to ensure long-term protection and health. This is a huge step forward for marine conservation in Canada!

DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS?

We are always looking for inspiring stories, photos and ideas to help us engage Canadians in nature conservation. Do you have any great stories about your experiences in nature? Pitch your ideas and content to us at nlcoordinator@cpaws.org!



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