



CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CHAPTER

May 2022 Newsletter





**CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CHAPTER**

Dear Supporter,

Summer is around the corner and we have lots of new and exciting updates and events for you! Scroll down to read this month's newsletter!

World Oceans Day 2022!



Virtual World Oceans Week activities will be held between June 4- 8, 2022. They will feature interactive and educational activities related to our oceans and fisheries in Newfoundland and Labrador and around the world! This year's theme is One Ocean, One Climate, One Future - Together.

To learn more and participate in the activities you can visit www.facebook.com/WODNL



Area Highlight: Southwest Coast Fjords

The southwest coast of Newfoundland, extending from Hermitage Bay to Cape Ray, is characterized by high granite cliffs and deep, glacially-carved fjords. These fjords create many sheltered inlets and habitats for a variety of marine species and this area is home to the largest tides in Newfoundland. Seaweeds in the Bay d'Espoir area exhibit extremely high diversity, especially in the intertidal zone. CPAWS-NL has been advocating for conservation within this area since the chapter's establishment in the province in 2003.

The [recent agreement](#) between Canada and the province to accelerate the creation of new protected areas aims to decrease biodiversity loss and includes a feasibility assessment of a South Coast Fjords national marine conservation area (NMCA) and an adjacent national park in the Burgeo region. A South Coast Fjords NMCA and the potential adjacent national park will create many ecological, economic, and cultural benefits for coastal communities. We welcomed the agreement and new commitments by governments and look forward to what conservation measures are implemented going forward. Read our full statement [here](#).

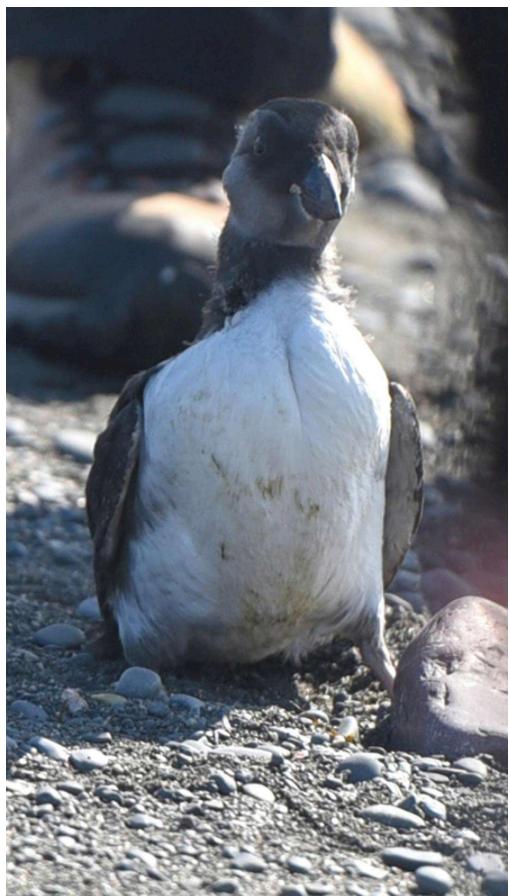
Newfoundland and Labrador is known for its exquisite natural beauty and productive coastal waters, and the South Coast Fjords are a perfect example of such. The area is a haven for species like blue, humpback, fin and killer whales in the winter and leatherback sea turtles in the summer. The establishment of the South Coast Fjords NMCA will preserve endangered species and ecosystems – both of which are important criteria for Canada's network of marine protected areas. The Hermitage Channel is a large, highly-stratified fjord, carrying warm and saline deep-water layer from the Laurentian Channel into Hermitage and Fortune Bays.

Many marine mammals and rare species follow this route to feed in the sheltered bays, including leatherback turtles, harbour porpoises, and humpback, fin, blue, right, and killer whales. Endangered porbeagle sharks are also known to aggregate off Pass Island. The Burgeo Sandbanks contain extensive beaches and marshes which provide habitat for the globally-vulnerable Piping Plover.



To learn more about the Southwest Coast Fjords and our work there, visit cpawsnl.org/southwest-coast-fjords/

Nature Feature: Atlantic Puffin



About 95% of all North America's puffins breed around the Newfoundland and Labrador coasts, and the largest puffin colony in the western Atlantic (225,000 pairs) can be found at the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve.

Most people know a puffin only when it is "dressed up" for the breeding season and would hardly recognize it in its plainer winter look. After the breeding season, the adult puffin sheds the colourful plates on its bill and around the eyes as well as the feathers on its head and neck. Its face becomes dark, especially around and in front of the eye.

Each year females lay one egg, and the parents take turns incubating the egg for 36-45 days. After a few months, the pufflings are ready for their first flight out to sea! They leave their burrows at night and use the moon and stars for navigation. On cloudy nights, they may confuse city lights for the stars and fly towards them, leaving baby puffins stranded and confused on land. Puffin Patrol was started to help these lost and confused pufflings to the safety of the waters!

Puffin Patrol will begin again this August, and registration to volunteer will begin mid-summer! Keep an eye out on our [Facebook Page](#) to learn when registration opens and how to sign up!

Share your thoughts!

Do you have any great stories about experiences in nature, environmental events or other topics that you would like to see published on our blog or newsletter? Have any thoughts or ideas about the new newsletter format? Pitch your ideas to us at [csmimmons@cpaws.org](mailto:csimmons@cpaws.org)!

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or issues that you many have. Send us an [email](#), give us a call at 709-726-5800, or [visit our website](#) to find out how to [volunteer](#) or make a [donation](#). Also, if you're interested in keeping up to date on what's new and exciting at CPAWS-NL follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for regular updates.

All the best,

CPAWS Newfoundland and Labrador Team

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