

FEBRUARY 2020 | YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL MARINE AREAS INTERACTIVE MAP



Photo Credit: Peter Thomas

CPAWS-NL is currently working on the creation of a new Interactive Special Marine Areas (SMA) Map.

This map follows the release of our SMA Guide first and second editions in 2016 and 2018. Although still in its early phases, like the SMA Guide, this map will aid in increasing public understanding of important areas in the province, as well as any current or potential threats to these areas. It will also assist with education and public awareness-raising efforts concerning coastal and ocean management.

This interactive map, will add a variety of new and up to date information about Newfoundland and Labrador's oceans and coasts. It will serve as an additional resource to communities, organizations and government departments involved in coastal and ocean protection and strategy developments. Map users will have the ability to select items that are of interest to them and to overlay these with other layers to better see the bigger picture regarding their areas of interest and our oceans and coastlines.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO EMMA



Our CPAWS-NL family has gotten a little smaller this month as we said farewell to our Conservation Assistant, Emma Corbett. We would like to thank Emma for all of her hard work and dedication to our organization.

Emma has been a member of our team who has worked and assisted on a variety of projects including Puffin and Petrel Patrol and our new SMA Interactive Map project.

While we will miss Emma very much, we would like to wish her all the best on her future endeavors and new adventures.

TOP 10 SPECIAL MARINE AREAS: ST. GEORGE'S BAY, PORT AU PORT



Photo Credit: Anita Gould (Seaside Lavender)

St. George's Bay contains many eelgrass beds and salt marshes. The Spartina salt marsh on the Port au Port peninsula and Sandy Point provides important habitat for birds and other animals.

It houses rare plant species such as Seabeach Sedge, Saltmarsh Rush, Seaside Lavender, and Saltwater Cordgrass, amphipods, and fish also exist in the area. Shorebirds and songbirds also use the habitat in this area during fall migration and nesting season.

St. George's Bay and Port au Port Bay are Fisheries Conservation Closed Areas, aimed at conservation of Atlantic Salmon, Atlantic Herring spring spawning, and lobster. The bay is seasonally closed to scallop fishing, and a portion is closed to commercial scallop fishing.

FEATURE ORGANISM: SEA PEN



Photo Credit: DFO

This month our feature animal is the Seapen. Seapens are a relative of corals. These organisms are increasingly becoming known for their importance in benthic or bottom marine ecosystems.

Large forests of Sea Pens can be found on the NL Shelves and in the Laurentian Channel. The Laurentian Channel serves as significant Sea Pen habitat.

Sea Pens are slow growing and have limited suitable habitat. This makes them increasingly vulnerable to human impacts. Activities such as: fishing, oil and gas exploration and development, and submarine cable and pipeline installations; can all negatively impact these sensitive organisms.

Seapens provide valuable habitat for a variety of marine species. Above is an image of a Red Fish and a Seapen.



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