

Southern and Eastern Avalon (SEA) Marine Conservation Planning Initiative Summary

WHY HERE, WHY NOW?

The Government of Canada has made a commitment to protect 30% of land and ocean by 2030. Using this, the coastal and marine areas of Southern and Eastern Avalon is being considered for a potential marine protected or conserved area due to its ecological, cultural, and economic significance.

This project's planning team adopted an adaptive management approach, called the Conservation Standards Framework. This approach is a globally recognized, five-step process that offers a systematic and transparent blueprint to enable participatory conservation planning. Using adaptive management means we can return and adjust any step, at any time.

The intent is to have as minimal an impact as possible on livelihoods while having the greatest impact in terms of benefits to the ecosystem by setting effective conservation strategies.



WHO IS INVOLVED?



The planning team consists of Federal, Provincial, Indigenous Governments, non-profit organizations, and other interested parties. To ensure that participation includes local knowledge and perspectives, CWS and CPAWS-NL are hosting community sessions throughout the study area. If you are interested in more information, please feel free to contact us.



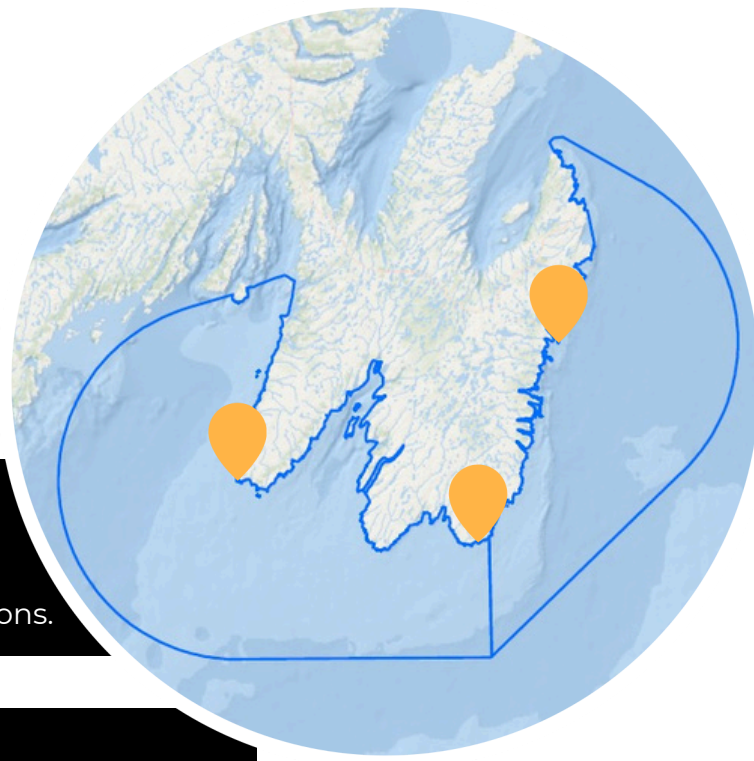
Website

<https://cpawsnl.org/se-avalon-conservation>

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

This initiative is currently in Step 1 (Assess), which includes a purpose and scope, biodiversity targets identified, and developing indicators to best understand their health and threats.

The scope is referred to as a study area which is being considered for multiple conservation strategies and is not an entire area of interest for a proposed marine National Wildlife Area.



Southern and Eastern Avalon Conservation Planning Initiative Study Area highlighting key reference points (left to right): Cape St. Mary's, Mistaken Point, and Witless Bay Ecological Reserves

THE PURPOSE

To further conserve and celebrate coastal and marine biodiversity, and foster the long-term well-being of communities and livelihoods for the next seven generations.

WHAT DO WE CARE ABOUT?

Five biodiversity targets have been identified to develop conservation strategies. These targets contain the coastal and marine species and habitats that represent the ecological, social, and economic values within the area.

Pelagic and Diadromous Fish



Eelgrass

Benthic Ecosystems



Whales and Sea Turtles



Marine Migratory Birds



CURRENT TARGET HEALTH

Important characteristics for each biodiversity target were defined and measured using relevant indicators to determine their current health. These are continuously being refined through planning team workshops and expert advice.

CRITICAL THREATS

The planning team, with help from local engagement, has brainstormed several pressures acting on each biodiversity target. Pressure assessments were completed and are being revisited in workshops to reflect updated information.

NEXT STEPS

Continue Step 1 (Assess) to refine target health and critical threats for each biodiversity target during, and outside of, future workshops. Also, continue incorporating community knowledge and perspectives through engagement sessions.

GET INVOLVED!

Help us shape what conservation can look like in Southern and Eastern Avalon. Contact us to learn more about how you can be part of the planning team!