

# Healthy and impacted kelp forests and Eelgrass beds

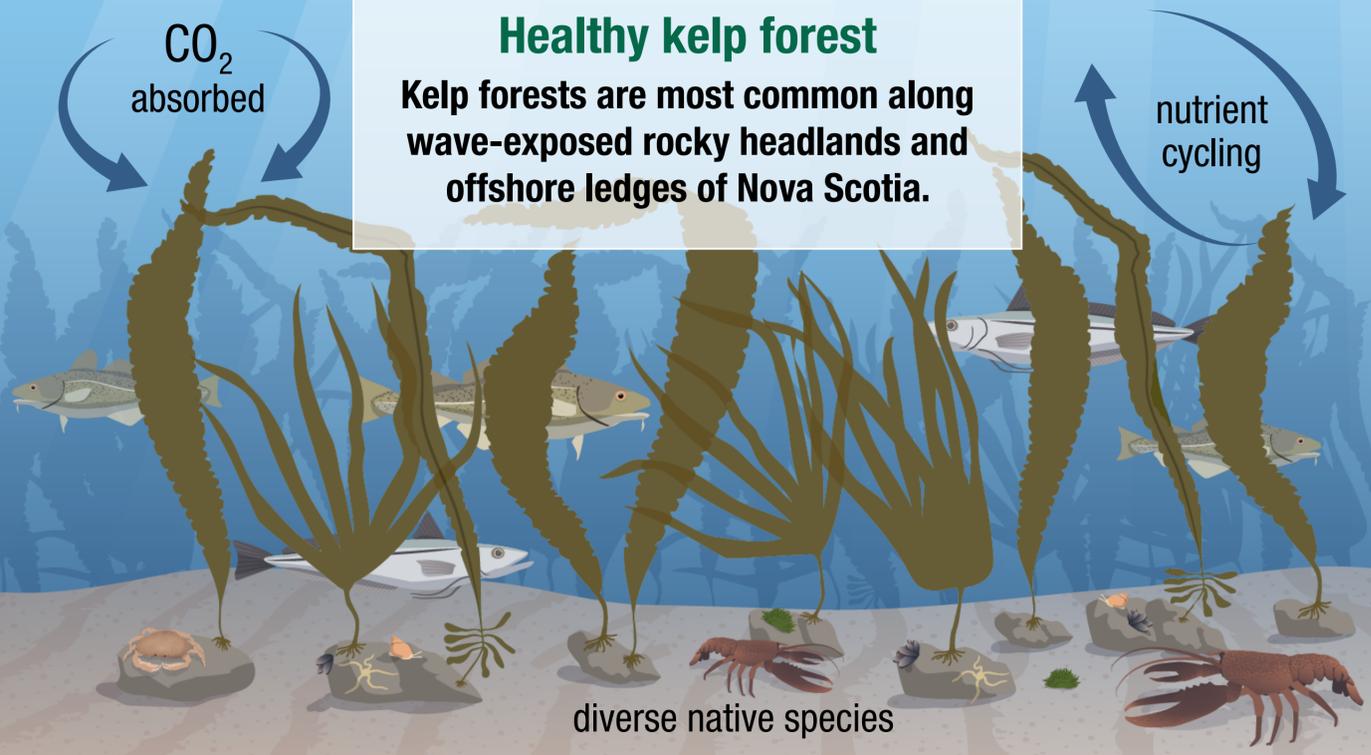
When kelp forests and Eelgrass beds are stressed, their structure changes, and they can no longer provide benefits to other species.



## Healthy kelp forest

Kelp forests are most common along wave-exposed rocky headlands and offshore ledges of Nova Scotia.

nutrient cycling



clear water



## Healthy Eelgrass beds

Most surveyed beds on the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelves were stable or increasing.

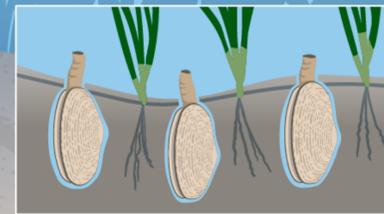
direct sunlight

lower nitrogen

strong currents

cold water

nursery habitat



## Impacted kelp forest

Kelp has declined significantly over the last 60 years on the Scotian Shelf.

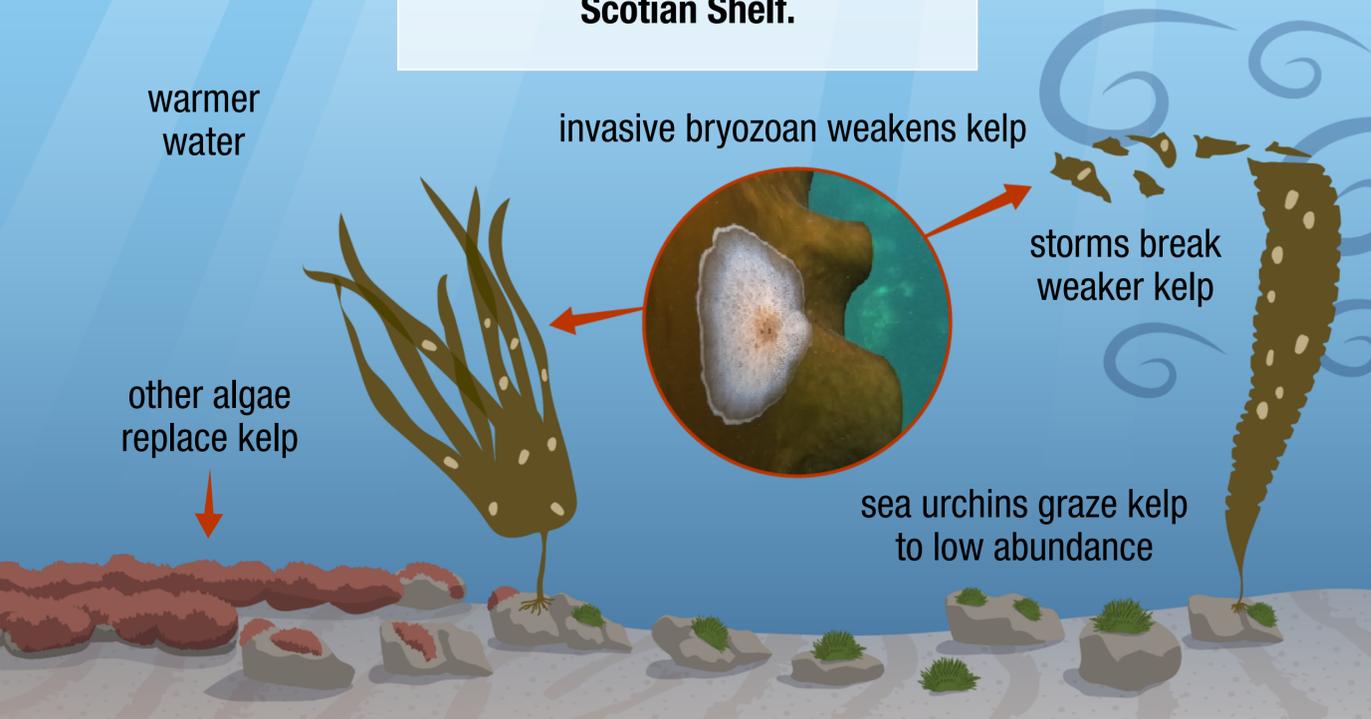
warmer water

invasive bryozoan weakens kelp

storms break weaker kelp

other algae replace kelp

sea urchins graze kelp to low abundance



## Impacted Eelgrass beds

About 30% of surveyed Eelgrass beds are decreasing; mostly in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Scotian Shelf, and Placentia Bay.

algae growth

turbid water

warm water

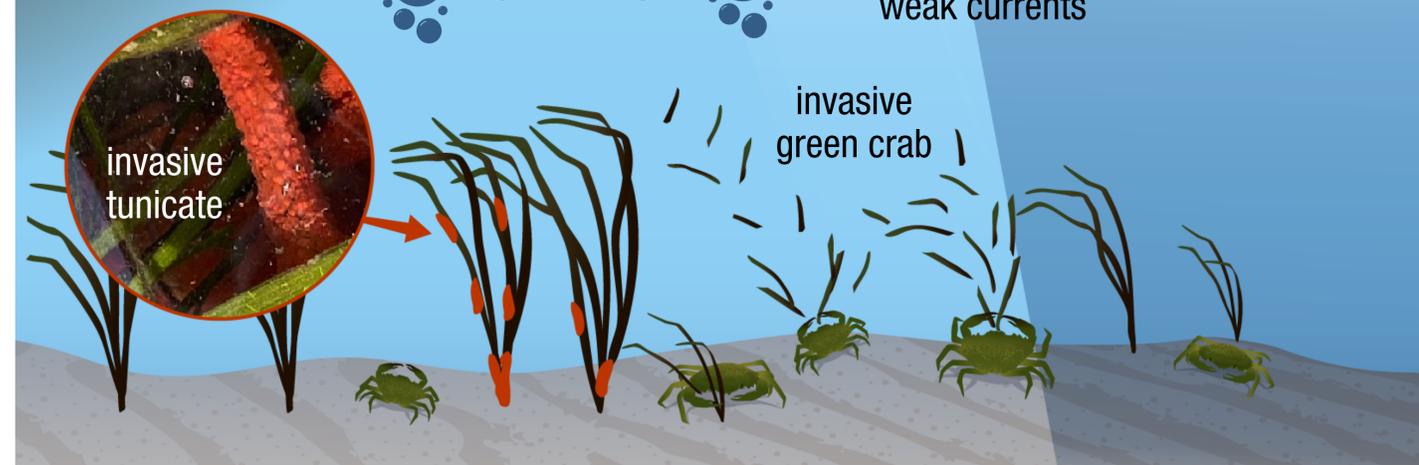
structures in water block sunlight

NO<sub>3</sub> higher nitrogen

weak currents

invasive tunicate

invasive green crab



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