

St. Anns Bank
Marine Protected Area
Kjikmuey Tepkisa'tasik Wjit Mimajuaqn



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

**TELI-PUNQEK
AKNUTMAQN**

2024



Wesku'tasikl

Elapa'simk

Teli-anko'tasik

Nujo'tmumk aqq tel-nikana'lsimk

Wesku'tasijik waisisk

Panuijkatekemk aqq jiko'tekemk

Toqi-lukwutimk aqq mawkwamk

Iloqaptasikl: welapesimkl

Jikaptasik aqq melkuktmumkl
wije'wmumkl

Apoqnmasuti aqq wiaqpultimk



Kana'taey Apaqtukewey Teltek Apaqtukewe'k Keleyujik Etekl

1. SGáan Kinghlas-Bowie Seamount
2. Hecate Nikanijuwik/Eleke'wit
Charlotte Telta'q Glasse'l
Kesispapatikemkewe'l Samqwane'l
3. Tang.gwan-hačxwiqak-Tsigis
4. Tarium Nirytutait

5. Anguniaqvía Niqiqyuam
6. Tuvaijuittuq
7. Gilbertey Sip
8. Kjipenuk
9. Laurentian Eltaqtek

10. Banc-des-Américains
11. St. Anns Bank
12. Basin Unji
13. Ta'n pittaqek
14. Musquash Sapijuwik

Cover photo: Plumose anemones (*Metridium senile*) St. Anns Bank MPA-iktuk. Nuji-wasoqotesteket: Peter Lawton aqq Kirk Phelan (DFO).

Contents

- >>> At-a-glance
- >>> Conservation objectives
- >>> Management and governance
- >>> Feature creatures
- >>> Research and monitoring
- >>> Collaborations and partnerships
- >>> In the spotlight: benefits
- >>> Surveillance and enforcement
- >>> Outreach and engagement



Canada's Oceans Act Marine Protected Areas

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. SĠáan Kínghlas-Bowie Seamount | 5. Anguniaqvia Niqiqyuam | 10. Banc-des-Américains |
| 2. Hecate Strait/Queen Charlotte Sound Glass Sponge Reefs | 6. Tuvaijuittuq | 11. St. Anns Bank |
| 3. Tang.əwan – Һačxwiqak – Tsigis | 7. Gilbert Bay | 12. Basin Head |
| 4. Tarium Nirytait | 8. Eastport | 13. The Gully |
| | 9. Laurentian Channel | 14. Musquash Estuary |

Cover photo: Plumose anemones (*Metridium senile*) in the St. Anns Bank MPA. Photo credit: Peter Lawton and Kirk Phelan (DFO).

Elapa'simk

Te'suknik wesku'tasik

2017

Ta'n telki'k

4,364 km²

Apoqnmasuti eliaq kjikmuey teli-anko'tasik

0.08%

Ta'n etek

Wla MPA etek wjipenuk Unama'ki, No'pa Sko'sia
(NS) Scotian Shelf Bioregion-iktuk; Kta'n.

Nujo'tmi'tij

2024-ek, Ekwitamtikewey aqq Kta'nl Kanata
(DFO) nujotomi'tip St. Anns Bank MPA, katu,
Kaplno'lk Kanata maw-lukwutijik L'nu'k No'pa
Sko'sia wjit tel-nikana'lsimk.

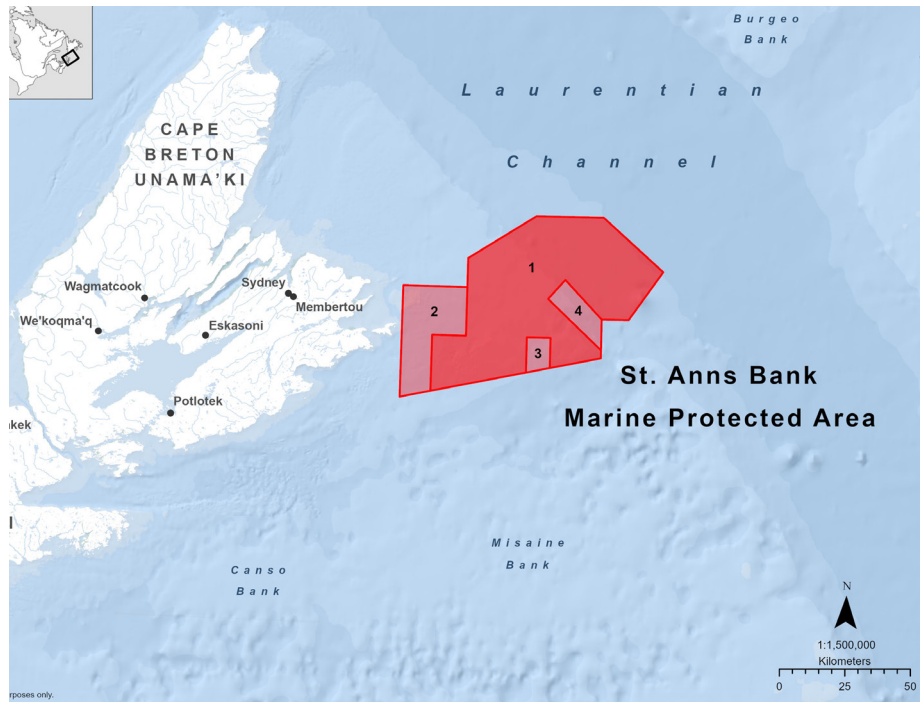
Keknuite'tasik

St. Anns Bank etek Unama'ki, newte' lluliknek
te'sikl L'nu-maqmikal Mi'kma'ki, mna'q
iknmuetasinuk kiswa netui'skasinuk wmitkiwew
Mi'kmaq.

Tepkissaqisikl

Etekl newkl nujo'tmumkl tepkissaqisikl.

- Tepkissaqisik ne'wt – tepjiko'tasik
tepkissaqisik ta'n tett tekle'jk skwijinu'k tel-
lukwuti'tij.
- Tepkissaqisikl ta'pu, si'st aqq ne'w –
nujo'tmumkl tepkissaqisik ta'n awije'jk
lukwaqn asite'tasik.



Nku'kaqn Wjit St. Anns Bank Kjikmuey Tepkisa'tasik Wjit Mimajuaqn

At-a-glance

Date of designation

2017

Size

4,364 km²

Contribution towards the marine conservation targets

0.08%

Location

This MPA is located east of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia (NS) in the Scotian Shelf Bioregion; Atlantic Ocean.

Managed by

In 2024, St. Anns Bank MPA was managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), however the Government of Canada is working towards a co-governance arrangement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

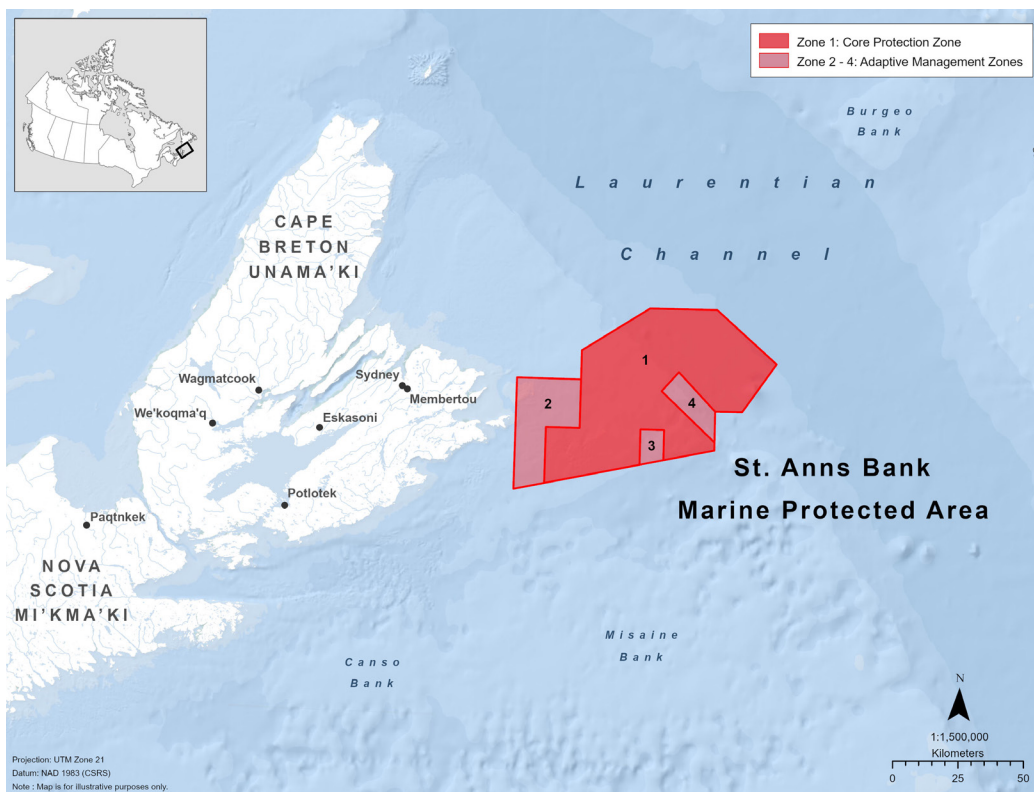
Acknowledgement

St. Anns Bank is located in Unama'ki, one of the seven districts of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Zones

There are 4 management zones.

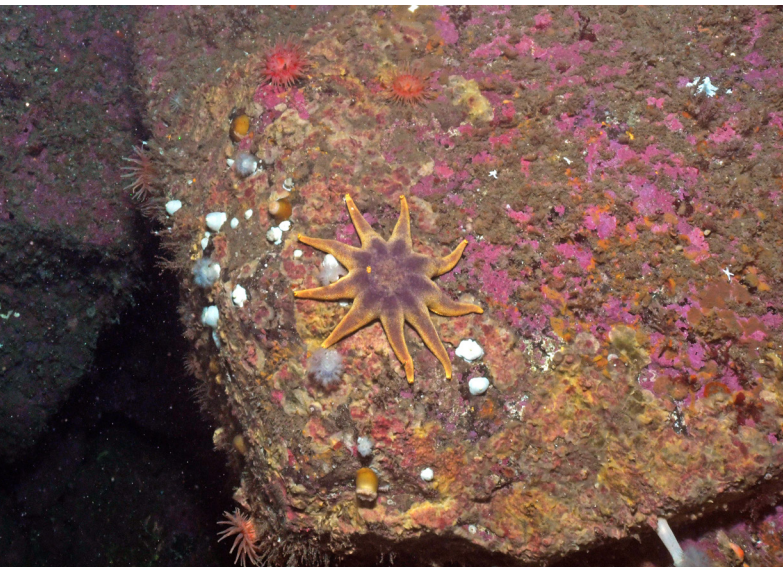
- Zone 1 - The core protection zone where human activities are minimal
- Zone 2, 3 and 4 - Adaptive management zones where low-impact activities may be permitted



Map of St. Anns Bank Marine Protected Area.

Teli-anko'tasik

- Anko'tasikl aqq kelaptasikl ta'n te'sikl etekl elqanatekewey, lamamkutuk aqq kjikmuk etl-qatmumkl etekl kelaptasikl apaqtukewe'l, we'kaw wije'tultikl physical, chemical, geological aqq biological telitasikl.
- Anko'tasikl aqq kelaptasikl kjikmue'l ta'n tel-milamu'k te'sik mimajuaqn etek Kjikmuey Tepkisa'tasik Wjit Mimajuaqn.
- Anko'tasikl aqq kelaptasik te'sik etlikwek aqq telpukuik pemawsimkewey klaman kisa'taq wtlukwaqnuew wksitqamuey etek Kjikmuey Tepkisa'tasik Wjit Mimajuaqn.



Sunstar (kakwet) St. Anns Bank MPA-iktuk. Nuji-wasooqotest-eket: P. Lawton aqq K. Phelan.

Nujo'tmumk aqq tel-nikana'lsimk

Nujo'tmumk St. Anns Bank MPA wije'wk [MPA Management Plan](#), toqi-lukwatmi'tip L'nu'k No'pa Sko'sia aqq MPA Advisory Committee-aq. Wla nujo'tmumk kisite'taqn tewa'tasikip 2023-ek, aqq elt wiaqtekl tela'tekemkl wjit nujo'tmumk aqq elt panuijkatimuk aqq jiko'tekemk MPA. Wla kisite'taqn etekl wije'wmumkl wejiaql L'nu-kjijitaqn aqq aklasiewe'l MPA wije'wmi'titl. St. Anns Bank Advisory Committee (SABAC)

ilutmi'tij teli-nujo'tekemk aqq ala'la'tijik naspultijik wenik tleyawultijik:

- L'nue'l mtmo'taqne'l
- kaplno'lk Kanata
- ekwitamtimk aqq pilue'l mtmo'taqne'l
- anko'taqatikl mtmo'tanqne'l
- kina'matnewo'kuomkl
- pilue'l maw-lukwutijik.

SABAC mawita'pni'k Unama'ki Kesikewiku's 3, 2024 aqq elt Microsoft Teams-iktuk. Nesiska'q jel si'st mawita'pni'k. Wiaqtekipnl kinua'taqnn wejiaql SABAC naspultijik aqq DFO naspultijik. Etekipnl lukwaqnn etliaqipnl MPA-iktuk kisi-pemiaq newti-punqek, wiaqtekl jikaptasik aqq melkuktumukl wije'wmumkl lukwaqnn aqq elt pipanuijkaqney lukwaqn kisa'tu'tit kitk DFO aqq Cape Breton University. Ekinua'tekemk wjit maw-lukwutijik kinua'tupmi'k nujo'tmi'tite'wk. Kisi-sku'tasikek wla mawio'mi elmi'knikewey kisite'taqnn aqq koqoey nuta'q lukwasiktn wjit St. Anns Bank MPA, wiaqtek panuijkaqn aqq jiko'tekemk aqq apoqmasuti wjit L'nu'k wiaqa'lsultijik lukwaqn maqmikew-iktuk.

2024-ek, etekipnl nankl kisite'taqnn piskwa'tasikipnl aqq welte'tasikipn St. Anns Bank MPA-iktuk, wesku'tasikipn milamu'kl lukwaqnn. Newte' kisite'taqn wjit wasoqatetasikl ewe'wasiktn wjit waqasultijik waisisk. Lukwaqnn wije'watikl ekwitamtimkewey welte'tasikipn aqq wiaqtekl elqanatekewey jiko'tekemk aqq tel-naso'tuj nme'jk kinua'taqne'l aqq elt jiko'tekemkl aqq eDNA kisi-mawo'tasikl. Ketu' tel-lukwutimkl piskwasatikpn aqq iloqaptmi'tij nujo'tmi'tij MPA, na maw nuta'q wjit 2025 wiaqa'sultinew L'nu'k koqoey lukwatasitew.

Wesku'tasijik Waisisk

Panuijkete'wk we'jitu'titl pikwelkl kekunaluejk wa'wmual St. Anns Bank MPA-iktuk. MPA keknu'e'k wjit wla samqwane'jk. Kekunaluejk pawikutijik aqq pekitawsultijik! Ta'n koqoey etek maltemuaq

Conservation objectives

- Conserve and protect all major benthic, demersal and pelagic habitats within the MPA, along with their associated physical, chemical, geological and biological properties and processes
- Conserve and protect marine areas of high biodiversity at the community, species, population and genetic levels within the MPA
- Conserve and protect biological productivity across all trophic levels so that they are able to fulfill their ecological role in the ecosystems of the MPA



Sunstar (kakwet) in St. Anns Bank MPA. Photo credit: P. Lawton and K. Phelan.

Management and governance

Management of St. Anns Bank MPA is guided by the [MPA management plan](#), which was developed in partnership with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the MPA Advisory Committee. The management plan was published in 2023, and it includes objectives for management and stewardship as well as research and monitoring of the MPA. The plan also presents guiding principles from both the Mi'kmaq worldview as well as

western MPA guiding principles.

The St. Anns Bank Advisory Committee (SABAC) provides management advice and has representatives from:

- Mi'kmaq and Indigenous organizations
- federal and provincial governments
- fishing and other commercial industries
- conservation organizations
- academic institutions
- local interest groups

SABAC met on December 3rd, 2024 in Unama'ki and the hybrid meeting had 33 participants (some joined virtually). It included updates from SABAC members and from DFO representatives. The meeting showcased activities that took place in the MPA over the past year, including surveillance and enforcement activities as well as science work done by both DFO and external partners like Cape Breton University. An update on the co-governance planning work was shared with the committee. The meeting concluded with future plans and priorities for the St. Anns Bank MPA, which includes research and monitoring partnerships and supporting Mi'kmaq participation in fieldwork.

In 2024, there were 5 activity plans submitted and approved in St. Anns Bank MPA covering a wide variety of activities. One application was for video recording to be used for wildlife documentary. Activities related to fisheries surveys were approved including benthic monitoring and fish tagging as well as passive acoustic monitoring and eDNA sampling. Activity plan applications and review are the most common action associated managing the MPA, so a priority for 2025 is to work towards joint decision making with the Mi'kmaq on activity approvals.



Feature creatures

Scientists have found large numbers of **thorny skate** or **kekunaluej** purses (egg capsules) in a part of St. Anns Bank MPA. The MPA is considered to

aqq ta'n tel-pase'k waqi'muow asute'tmajik
wikultinew Greenland we'kaw pekte'sik kutey
South Carolina, United States-iktuk.



Thorny Skate (kekunaluej) pemi'kwe'k ta'n eyk sea pen (Samqwane'j). Nuji-wasoqotesteket: Marilyn Thorne (DFO).



CTD rosette, ewe'wmi'tij Atlantic Zone Monitoring Program. Nuji-wasoqotesteket: DFO.

Panuijkatekemk aqq jiko'tekemk

2024-ek, keknu'e'kip wjit St. Anns Bank MPA mita tewa'tu'tip amskwesewey iloqptasik tel-jiko'taqati'tij [Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat \(CSAS\) report](#). Wla ekinua'taqn wjit kisi-mawo'tasik kinua'taqn kisa'tasikip iloqptmnew elqanatekewey kisi-mawo'tasik kinua'taqn aqq me' pemi-iloqptasik kisi-mawo'tasik kinua'taqn ta'n tl-ewe'wten wjit mPA ketu' tli-maliaptmi'tij St. Anns Bank. Sa'q etl-mawo'tasik kinua'taqn iloqptasikip wiaqtek [Atlantic Zone Monitoring Program's \(AZMP\)](#) apaqtukewey aqq wksitqamuey kejitekemkewey kisi-mawo'tasik kinua'taqn. Jikeyujik teli-alta'tij waisisk iloqptasikip ewe'wmumk kisi-mawo'tasik kinua'taqn wejiaq jikistaqnawemkewe'l wjit putupk aqq mujpejk aqq kinua'taqnwejiaq Maritimes Region's Sasqe'jitik mawo'tasik. Jikistaqnawemkewe'l ewe'wasikipn iloqptasikn teli-alta'tij nme'jk aqq ta'n tel-milamuksultijik eymu'tijik MPA.

Nespiw tel-jiko'taqatimk, [aknutmaqn tewa'tumkip wejiaq mawkina'matimk me' kejjikawey aqq mu](#)

[pekija'tasinuk pipanuijkaqn aqq tel-jiko'taqatimk](#)

[MPA](#). Wla mawkina'matimk ewe'wasikip ekinua'tekemk tel-pipanuikemk MPA aqq maw-lukwutimk mawio'mi'l aqq pilue'k wenik etl-lukwutijik kiswa ketu-kjijitu'tij tela'sik koqoey St. Anns Bank MPA.

2024-ek, panuijkatekemk aqq jiko'tekemk St. Anns Bank MPA-iktuk wiaqtekik sa'q panuijkatekemk (kutey msanuksa'q jikeyut mawo'tasik kinua'taqn) aqq pile'l tela'tekemkl kutey wesua'tumk [environmental DNA \(eDNA\) sampling](#). DFO pipanuijka'tite'wk panuijkatmi'tij tel-ewe'wmumk eDNA wjit kisi-wi'tanew milamuksultijik waisisk aq nme'jk milamu'kl etl-qatmumkl MPA mita pipanuijkatmumk eDNA na weljewiaq aqq mu ajkna'lenuk tel-jikeyujik tel-milamu'k mimajuaqn. Mi'soqo nuke', pamiw 14 milamuksultijik nme'jk aqq suel 100 milamuksultijik mu wo'knmi'k samqwane'jk, pikwelkik plankton, weji-kjijijik eDNA analysis iloqptasik MPA. DFO siaw-toq-lukwutisnik pilue'k kutey Cape Breton university wjit jiko'taqatinew SAB 2024-ek, we'kaw ewe'wmi'titl Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures (ARMS). Elmi'knik, toqi-lukwutimkik L'nu'k No'pa Sko'sia keknuite'tasital wjit tel-jiko'taqatimk.

be important habitat for this species. Thorny skate are very slow growing and can live up to 28 years old! The antifreeze in their blood and their heavily armoured skin allows thorny skates to live all the way up to Greenland and as far south as South Carolina in the United States.



Thorny Skate (*kekunaluei*), swimming past a sea pen (*Samqwane'i*). Photo credit: Marilyn Thorne (DFO).



Research and monitoring

In 2024, a milestone for St. Anns Bank MPA was reached with the publication of the first [review of St. Anns Bank MPA monitoring](#) by the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS). This data review was conducted to examine baseline data and ongoing survey data contributions towards monitoring the MPA's conservation objectives. Long-term data sources reviewed include the [Atlantic Zone Monitoring Program's](#) (AZMP) oceanographic and biological data survey. Monitoring of animal movement was examined by looking at data from passive acoustic monitoring for cetaceans and data from the Maritimes Region's Snow Crab Survey. Acoustic telemetry data was used to examine fish movement and diversity in and around the MPA.

In conjunction with the monitoring review, a [report](#) was published from a workshop on additional recent and short-term research and



A CTD rosette, used by the Atlantic Zone Monitoring Program. Photo credit: DFO.

monitoring efforts within the MPA. The hybrid workshop served as a forum to communicate current scientific efforts occurring in the MPA and to promote collaboration amongst groups and individuals either working in, or with an interest in, the St. Anns Bank MPA.

In 2024, research and monitoring in St. Anns Bank MPA included a combination of long-standing surveys (e.g., the halibut longline survey) and newer techniques like [environmental DNA \(eDNA\) sampling](#). DFO scientists have been exploring the use of eDNA to identify different species across different habitats in the MPA as the analysis of eDNA is an effective and non-invasive way to monitor biodiversity. To date over 14 fish species and nearly 100 invertebrate species, most of which are planktonic, have been detected from eDNA analysis in the MPA. DFO continued partnerships with external groups like Cape Breton University for monitoring in SAB in 2024, including deployment of Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures (ARMS). In the future, partnerships with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia will be prioritized for monitoring activities.



A common dolphin (mujpej) nemu'p St. Anns Bank MPA-iktuk. Nuji-wasoqotesteket: DFO.



Toqi-lukwutimkik aqq mawkwamk

Wutanl St. Anns Bank-iktuk aqq skwijinu'k kikjiw wikultijik aqq ewe'wmi'tij maqmikew kikjiw MPA-iktuk ketlewa'tun wjit wela'sin koqoey. Ketlewa'tumk skwijinu'k aqq wutanl elita'suatmi'tij St. Anns Bank iknmuaten kisi-apoqntmnew aqq wiaqpinew tel-maliaptmumk MPA keknue'k wjit DFO.

Lukwaqn wjit tel-siawa'tumk mawkwamk wjit tel-nujo'tmumk St. Anns Bank MPA me' pemiaq. Klamam kisa'ten wla lukwaqn, nuji-ilutaqatijik ika'lupni'k wsku'tmnew teli-anko'taqatimk aqq ankuatunew L'nu'k wiaqi-lukwutnew MPA. Koqoey ketu' tla'taqatijik wla nuji-ilutaqatijik na siawa'tunew mawaknumamkl ta'n elmi'knik tli-mawi-ilsutasitew St. Anns Bank. Nuji-ilutaqatijik wejita'jik:

- Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn (KMK)
- Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
- The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Dalhousie University

Maw-lukwutijik welteskatultipni'k nankl te'sikiskikil 2024-ek aqq kisitu'tipn terms of refererance.

Piluey koqoey weksu'tmi'tip kiskaja'tumk tli-maw-lukwutiten pipanuijkemk aqq wiaqa'tumk Etuaptmumk, kisna two-eyed seeing, ta'n tel-lukwuti'tij MPA Activity Plan Review. Etuaptmumk na kitk kepmite'tasikl, muiwatmumkl aqq keknuite'tmumkl L'nuey aqq Aklasi'wey kijjitaqn. Wiaqa'tumk wla wije'wmumk teli-iloqaptasik ketu' tla'taqatimk keknua'tew koqoey kisutasik wjit teli-anko'taqati'tij MPA, ettetew telita'sulti'tij aqq ketu' tlataqati'tij wenik wiaqpultijik teli-anko'tmumk St. Anns Bank MPA.



DFO aqq L'nu'k wiaqa'sultijik toqi-lukwutimk Essisoqnik. Nuji-wasoqotesteket: KMK Communications.



Iloqaptasikl: welapesimkl

Wksitqamuey

St. Anns Bank etekl milamu'kl etlqatmumkl weja'tekemk pakwekl Curdo aqq Scatarie Bank misoqo apaqtuk Laurentian Channel. St. Anns Bank ma keknue'k elteskmumk wjit kjikmuewe'k waisisk aqq nme'jk assuita'jik Gulf of St. Lawrence. MPA etek etlqatmumk wjit pikwelkik kesi-sespete'tasijik, pemi-ktmeto'jik aqq suel ketmaqsunejik milamuksultijik waisik aqq nme'jk. Menaqaj maliaptmumk wla etek ejikla'toq teli-askeywek ekwitamtimk aqq apoqntik siawi-i'mnew tel-milamuksultijik.



A common dolphin (mujpej) observed in St. Anns Bank MPA. Photo credit: DFO.



Collaborations and partnerships

The communities around St. Anns Bank and the people who live near and use the area around the MPA are critical for its success. Ensuring that the people and communities with a vested interest in St. Anns Bank have an opportunity to collaborate and partner on the management of the MPA is a priority for DFO.

Work to advance a co-governance arrangement for the management of St. Anns Bank MPA remains ongoing. To enable this work, a planning group was created to discuss management issues and enhance Mi'kmaq collaboration associated with the MPA. The goal of this planning group is to advance discussions on a future co-governance arrangement for St. Anns Bank. The group is comprised of representatives from:

- Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (KMK)
- Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
- The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- DFO
- Dalhousie University

The full planning group met 5 times in 2024 and developed a terms of reference. Other topics

discussed with the group included planning for collaborative science field work and integrating *Etuaptmumk*, or Two-Eyed Seeing, into the MPA Activity Plan Review process. *Etuaptmumk* is a balanced respect, appreciation, and consideration for Indigenous and Western knowledge. Incorporating this principle into the evaluation of activity plan reviews will help to ensure that management decisions in the MPA reflect the perspectives and objectives of those involved in the management of the St. Anns Bank MPA.



DFO and the Mi'kmaq participate at a collaborative workshop in Eskasoni. Photo credit: KMK Communications.



In the spotlight: benefits

Ecological

St. Anns Bank is comprised of a wide variety of habitat types ranging from the shallows of Curdo and Scatarie Bank to the deep waters of the Laurentian Channel. St. Anns Bank is a part of a key migration corridor for marine mammals and fish that travel in and out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The MPA provides habitat for several threatened, endangered and depleted species. Protecting this diverse area by reducing pressures such as fishing activities helps to preserve biodiversity.

Telo'ltimkewe'l

L'nu'k No'pa Sko'sia maw tumk eyu'tipni'k aqq anko'tmu'tip St. Anns Bank, wiaqtek wla etek nike' teluisik MPA. L'nu'k No'pa Sko'sia aqq Kanataewey Kaplno'l toqi-ilsutaqatijik tl-maliaptiten St. Anns Bank. ila'tumk tela'matultimk aqq maw-kina'masimk etek miawe'k wla lukwaqn. Keknue'k wjit wla toqi-lukwutimk ne'kaw pemi-mlkinewa'tumk tela'matultimk aqq ketlewa'toq apaji-toqwa'tumkl wutanl aqq St. Anns Bank.

Teli-pkwatekemk

St. Anns Bank MPA asite'tkl tepjike'kl ekwitamtimkl keknu-i-maliaptasikl etekl tepkissaqisikl MPA (tepkissaqisikl 2, 3 aqq 4). Mawa'tumk, weja'tekemk 2018-ek misoqo 2022-ek, ekwitamtimk MPA wejiaq \$440,000 natqa'lujik nme'jk. Te'sijik natqa'lujik, 75% aptukli'tijik walipotl tle'l wutanl Unama'kik (Cape Breton County). Nankl pilue'l wmitkiual etekl No'pa Sko'sia elt wejapeksultijik wla ekwitamtimk. Sanukk maw kaqi'sk natqa'lujik, na'tamiaw 85% natqa'luemk MPA aqq pilue'k elqanatekewe'k nme'jk.



Jikaptasik aqq melkuktmumkl wije'wmumkl

DFO's Conservation and Protection (C&P) lukwuowinu'k ewe'wmi'titl milamu'kl skmaqnn aqq lukwaqne'l wjit teli-jiko'taqati'tij aqq melkuktmumkl wije'wmumkl St. Anns Bank MPA, we'kaw:

- walipotey jiko'taqne'l
- musikiskituk alayjita'ql jiko'taqne'l
- amasek wettekl ewe'wasikl jiko'taqne'l, kutey walipotey jiko'taqne'l.

2024-ek, 82 hours ewe'wasikipn jiko'tmumk St. Anns Bank MPA, ewe'wmumkl kitk musikiskituk

aqq walipotey jiko'taqne'l. Newte' kisna jel tapu'kl musikiskituk jiko'taqne'l alayjita'qipn te's newte' ekntie'wimk pemiaq, alayjita'ql nankl te's nesiska'q jel si'st na'kwekl pemiaq, wiaqtek alayja'timk wjit jikaptasik aqq melkuktmumkl wije'wmumkl MPA.

Lukwaqnl siawa'sikl ta'n tel-wikasikl kisite'taqn-iktuk, aqq ketu' tel-lukwutimkl pem-kiskaja'tasikl wjit ila'tun St. Anns Bank MPA melkuktmumkl wije'wmumkl wjit 2025-2026.

O'pla'taqnl kisi-telipia'q 2023-ek, Wikewiku's 23, 2024 alsusite'w ilsmup o'pla'tun section 39.6(1) Oceans Act wjit ewe'wk pittaq a'papi nastekl pikwelkl mkiknl ta'n mu asite'tasinukl ekwitamtimk St. Anns Bank MPA. Wla maw tumk ilsmut wen wejiaq Oceans Act in DFO Maritimes region.

DFO's C&P lukwuowinu'k wiaqa'lsultijik kina'muenew koqoey tami-teliaq klaman nenten aqq wije'wten kisutasik wjit MPAs.



Walipot o'pla'teket tel-kwitamet Zone ne'wt St. Anns Bank MPA-iktuk. Nuji-wasoqotesteket. DFO.



Apoqnmasuti aqq wiaqpultimk

Amalapimkewey wjit St. Anns Bank MPA tewa'tu'tip DFO [YouTube-iktuk](#) Nipniku's 2024-ek. Aqq elt, St. Anns Bank MPA wesku'tasikip MPA amal-lukwatmumk wi'katikn kisa'tasikip

Socio-cultural

The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia were the first people who inhabited and cared for St. Anns Bank, including the area that is now the MPA. The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada are rebuilding a Nation to Nation relationship through the St. Anns Bank co-governance planning group. Relationship building and co-learning is at the heart of this work. Continuing to strengthen the relationship and focusing on re-connection between communities and St. Anns Bank is a priority for the group.

Economic

The St. Anns Bank MPA allows certain commercial harvesting activities in the adaptive management zones of the MPA (Zones 2, 3 and 4). On average, between 2018 and 2022, fisheries in the MPA provided around \$440,000 annually from fish landings. Of those landings, 75% is caught by vessels based in communities in Cape Breton County (within Unama'ki). Five additional counties across Nova Scotia also benefit from these fisheries. Halibut is the most commonly caught species, representing 85% of landings, in the MPA followed by other groundfish species.



Surveillance and enforcement

DFO's Conservation and Protection (C&P) officers use a variety of platforms and tools to carry out surveillance and enforcement efforts in the St. Anns Bank MPA, including:

- vessel patrols
- aerial surveillance
- remote monitoring tools, such as the vessel monitoring system

In 2024, a total of 82 hours were spent patrolling in the St. Anns Bank MPA, using both aerial and vessel platforms. A total of 1 to 2 aerial patrols occurred every week, averaging 5 flights per month, including flights specifically dedicated to MPA surveillance and enforcement.

Activities continue as outlined in the enforcement plan, and efforts are underway to update the St. Anns Bank MPA enforcement plan for 2025-2026.

Following fishing infractions that occurred in 2023, on October 23, 2024 the captain of a fishing vessel was convicted under section 39.6(1) of the *Oceans Act* for longline fishing in a prohibited area of St. Anns Bank MPA. This is the first conviction under the *Oceans Act* in DFO Maritimes Region.

DFO's C&P officers also participate in outreach efforts by attending local events to increase knowledge and promote compliance within and around MPAs.



Vessel illegally fishing in Zone 1 of the St. Anns Bank MPA.
Photo credit: DFO.



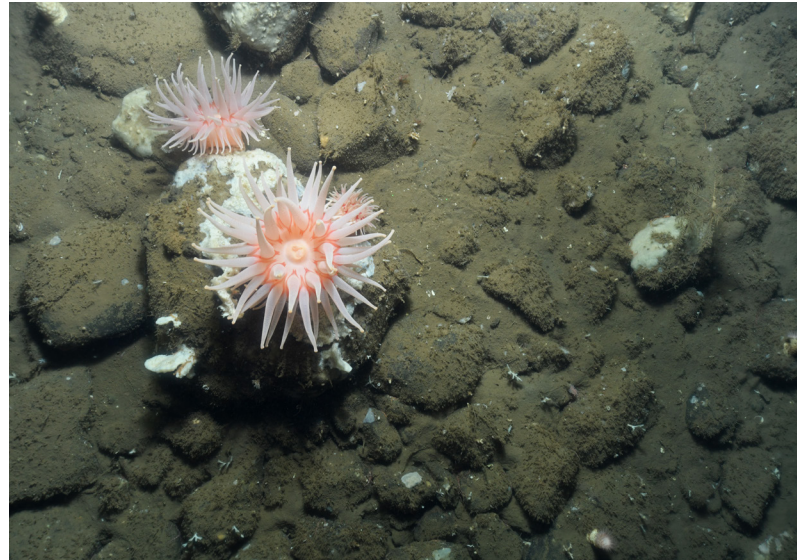
Outreach and engagement

A [promotional video](#) for the St. Anns Bank MPA was released by DFO on YouTube in June 2024. Additionally, St. Anns Bank MPA was featured in an MPA Activity Book which was produced

aklasiew-iktuk aqq wenuj-iktuk. Etekl pkesikn wla amal-lukwatmumk wi'takikn kwaski-wi'kmi'tip Kji-Wikuom Studios, Mi'kmawey tli'suti etl-lukwasik, Eskissoqnik.

St. Anns Bank wesku'tasikip KMK ita'tu'tijek 2024-ek te'si punqekew maw-aknutmamk ta'n eymu'tipnik saqmaq aqq nikanpukultijik wejita'jik newtisikekl te'sikl L'nue'kati'l No'pa Sko'sia wjit maw-lukwutimk etl-lukwasik aqq mawkwamk tl-wela'ten te'sinmuksijik St. Anns Bank ne'kaw wesku'tasik wiaqtek wjit tel-wiaqa'lsimk maliaptmumk wksitqamuey Martimes Region, we'kaw te'si-punqekewey, kta'nukewey teliaq koqoey jipuktuk wjit tel-kinua'tuj msit wen kinua'taqn wjit MPA-l Kanata. Kta'newey na'kwek wi'kapaltimk DFO aqq KMK lukwuowinu'k elta'pnik Aros Na Mara wenqatasikip wutank Qamitewitk No'pa Sko'sia. Wla wenaqa'tasikip

wutank ika'tu'tip petawti kinua'taqnew wjit tel-maw-lukwutimk kisa'tu'tij toqi-maliaptmi'tij MPA aqq Kaplno'l Kanata aqq Mi'kmaq No'pa Sko'sia.



Deep-sea anemone (samqwane'j) St. Anns Bank MPA-iktuk. Nuji-wasooqotesteket: P. Lawton aqq K. Phelan.

in English and French. Select pages of the activity book were translated into Mi'kmaw with translation by Kji-Wikuom Studios, a Mi'kmaq language lab in the community of Eskasoni.

St. Anns Bank was highlighted at KMK's 2024 annual Nationhood conference with Chief and Council representatives from 10 of 13 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Communities. Attendees learned about the collaborative work being undertaken and the relationship-building success between Nations. St. Anns Bank continues to be highlighted as part of conservation outreach in the Maritimes Region, including annual Oceans Week events in Halifax aimed at sharing information about Canada's MPAs with the public. As part of the Oceans Day celebrations, DFO and KMK staff attended the *Aros Na Mara* community event in Iona, Nova Scotia. This community event had a booth to

share information about the collaborative work being done towards co-management of the MPA by the Government of Canada and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.



*Deeplet sea anemone (samqwane'j) in St. Anns Bank MPA.
Photo credit: P. Lawton and K. Phelan.*

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