

# **Eastern Shore Islands Area of Interest for Marine Protected Area Designation**

**Tanya Koropatnick**

Oceans and Coastal Management Division

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

*Sept. 13, 2018*

# Agenda

- *Oceans Act* Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Eastern Shore Islands Area of Interest
- MPA designation process
- Work to date
- Next steps



Nick Jeffery

# What is an *Oceans Act* Marine Protected Area (MPA)?

A part of the ocean that is managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature.

*Oceans Act* MPAs:

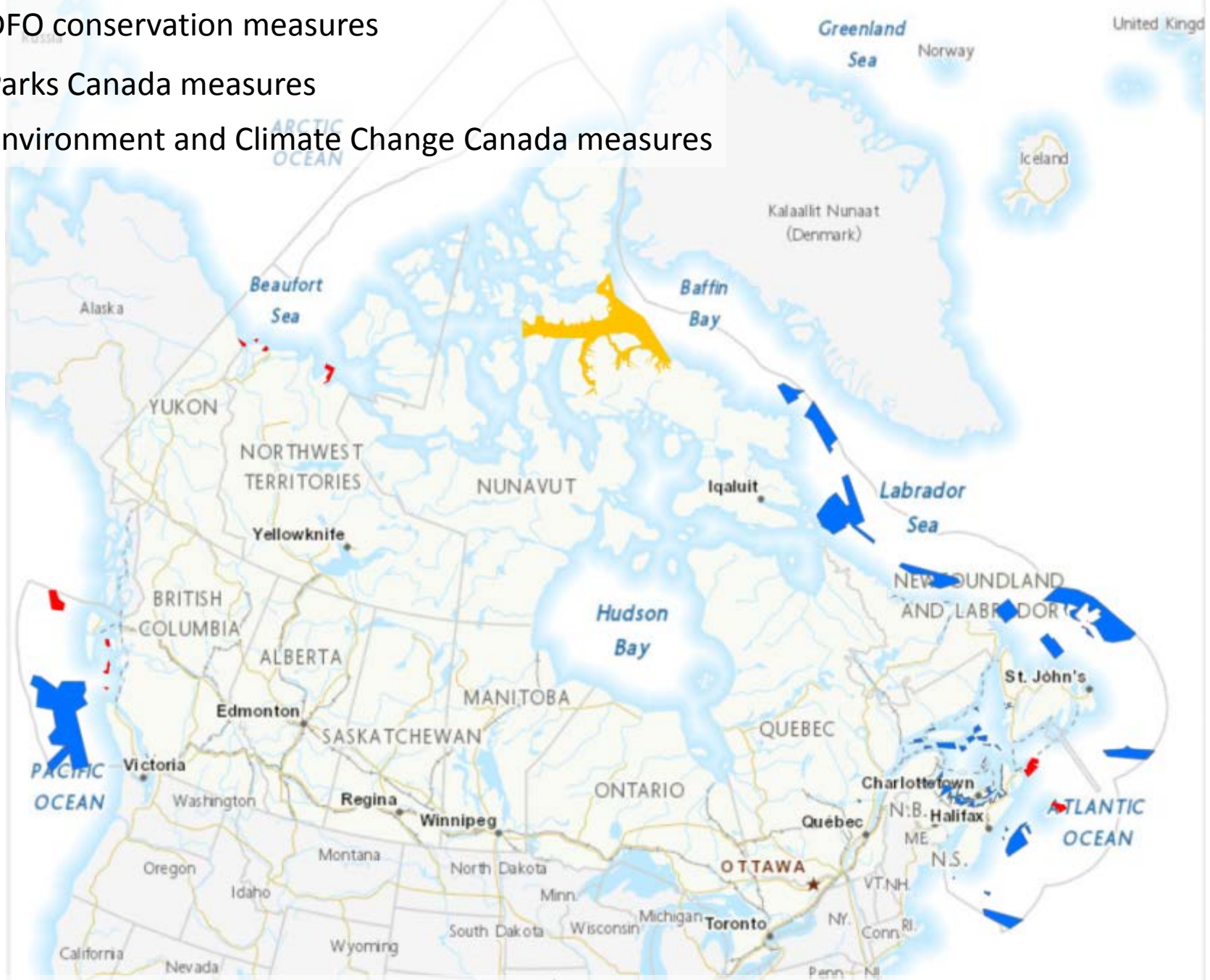
- Protects biodiversity, productivity, unique/sensitive features, species and habitats
- Stops at low tide line – focus is marine environment



# What can *Oceans Act* MPAs offer?

- Proactive management of human uses
  - Low impact activities continue, higher impact activities are restricted
  - Healthy ecosystem supports sustainable industry, economy
- Economic opportunities
  - Sustainably caught seafood
  - Eco-tourism
- Focus for research and monitoring
- Opportunities for education, outreach, stewardship
  - Classroom visits, signage, museum displays, beach cleanups
- Collaboration between industry, community, academia, and government

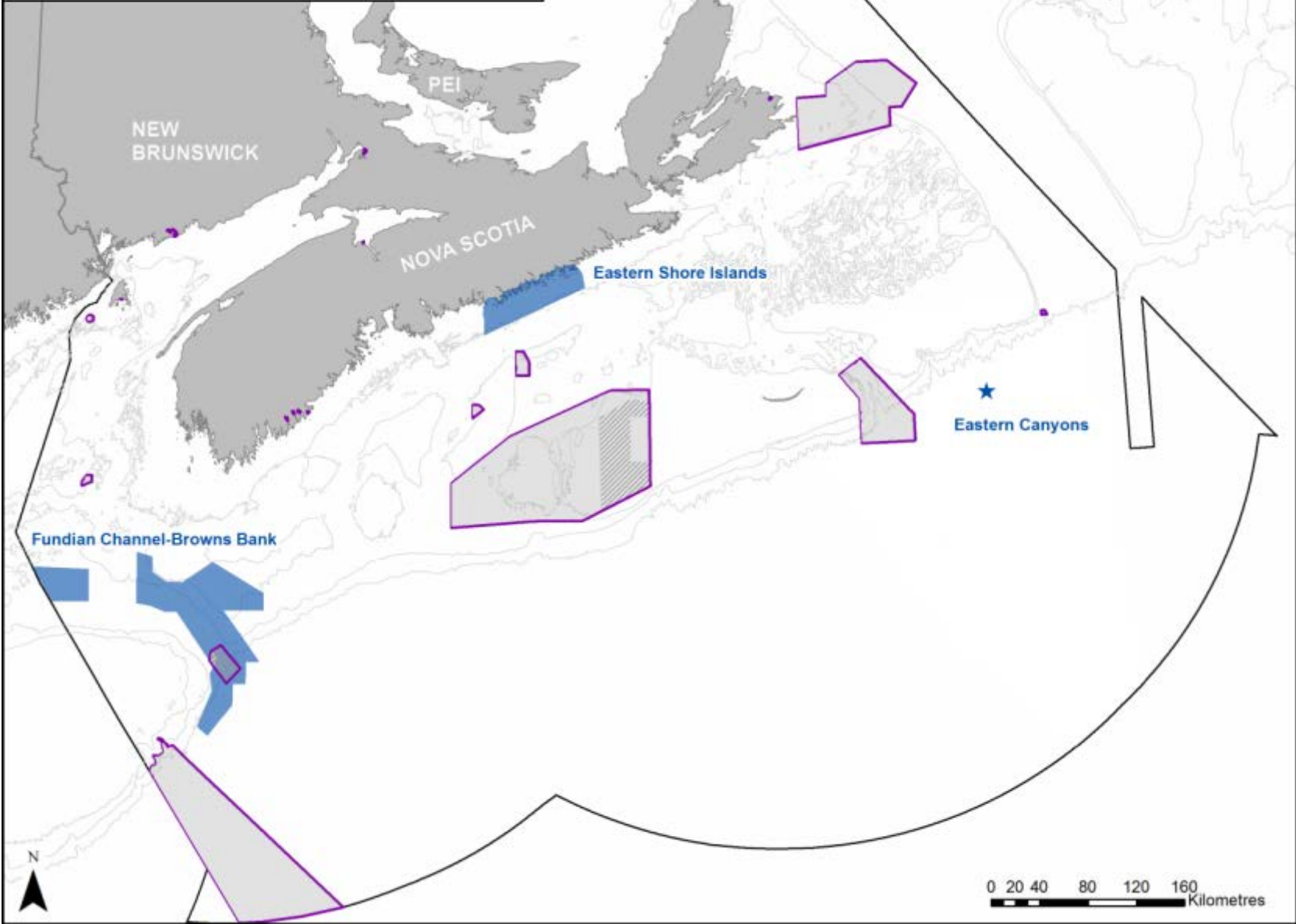
- DFO conservation measures
- Parks Canada measures
- Environment and Climate Change Canada measures



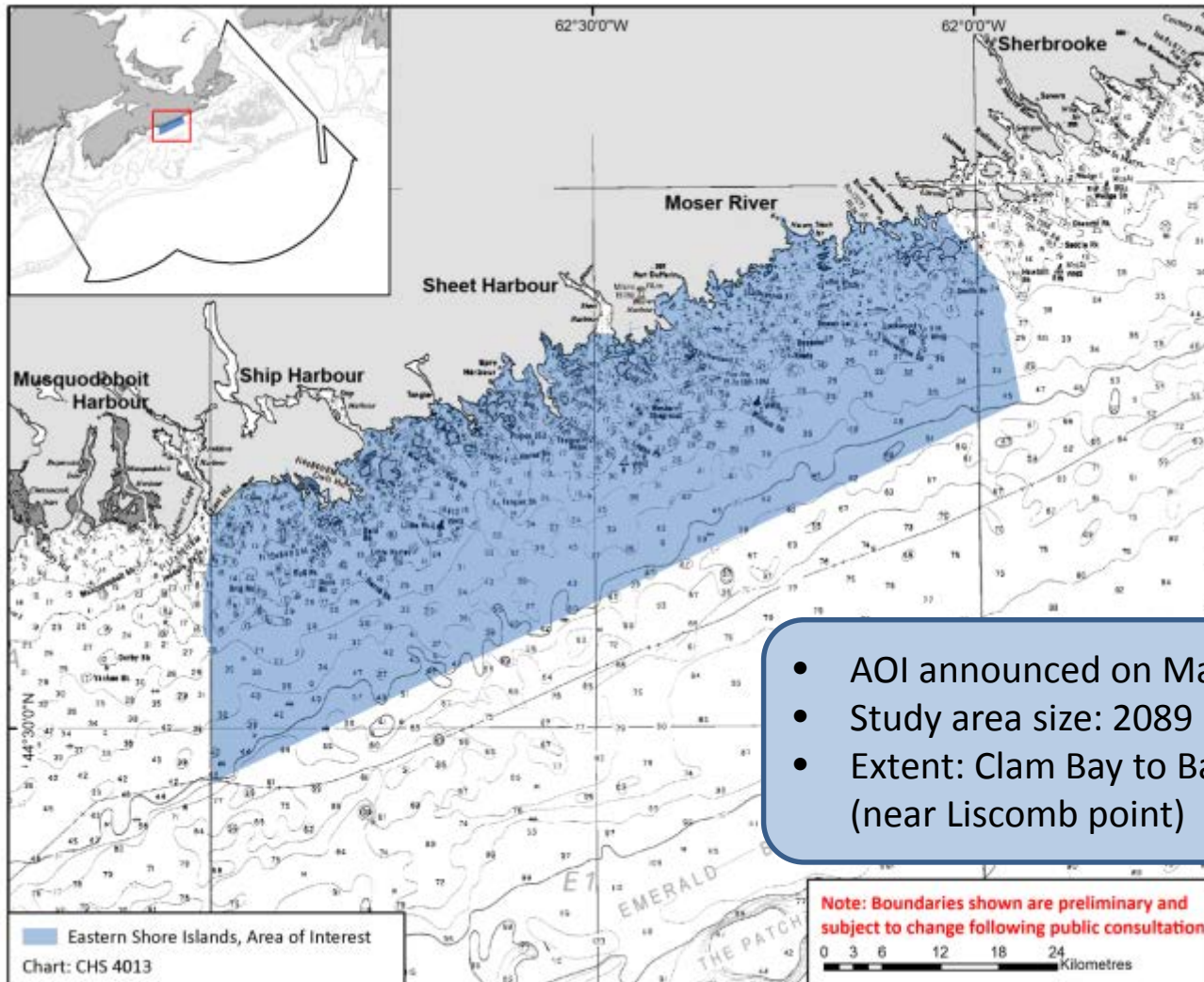


- Area of Interest for Oceans Act MPA
- ★ Proposed Conservation Area Under the Fisheries Act
- Existing Network Site
- Portion of existing site not included in the network

Note: Boundaries of the proposed new sites are preliminary and subject to change following engagement and consultation



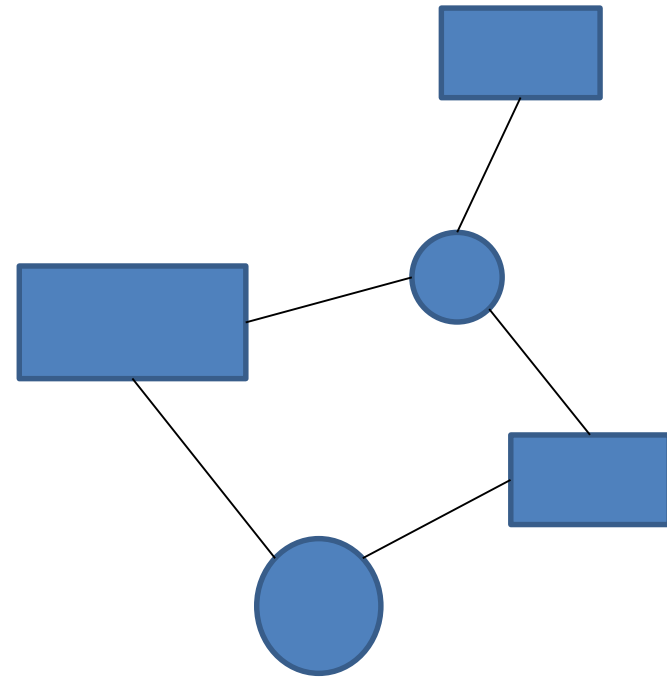
# Eastern Shore Islands (ESI) Area of Interest



# How did we select the ESI AOI?

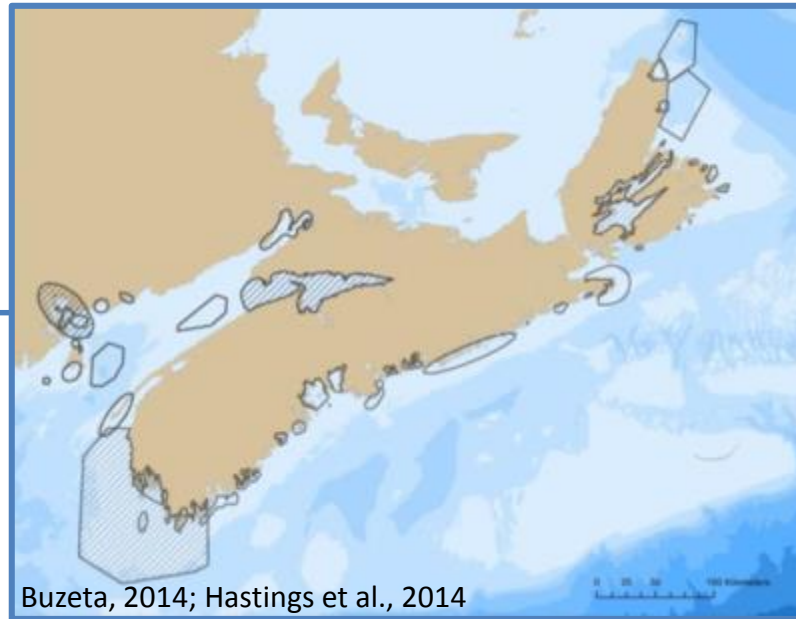
## MPA Network planning

- Forward-looking, science-based marine conservation planning initiative
- Technical design work began in mid-2000s
  - Science and industry working groups (since 2014)
  - Formal science review processes (2012, 2014, 2016)
- On-going consultation (since 2015)
  - Over 150 meetings on process, data and objectives
  - 10 public open houses throughout DFO Maritimes Region





# Coastal MPA Network Site Selection



Identify Coastal Conservation Priorities and set Targets

Assess “Conservation Value” of each EBSA

Assess Feasibility (social, cultural, economic considerations)

Identify and roughly delineate areas for inclusion in the draft MPA network design

# Eastern Shore Islands Network Site



## Conservation value criteria:

- ✓ Highly natural
- ✓ unique archipelago system
- ✓ Complex mosaic of bottom types
- ✓ Eelgrass, kelp and saltmarsh
- ✓ Juvenile areas for cod and hake
- ✓ Herring spawning area
- ✓ Important Atlantic Salmon habitat
- ✓ Foraging area for many birds (incl. Harlequin Duck and Roseate Tern)

## Feasibility criteria:

- ✓ Majority of human uses would be compatible with MPA conservation objectives
- ✓ Extensive terrestrial conservation
- ✓ Salmon conservation efforts
- ✓ Opportunities to support nature-based tourism
- ✓ Academic research interests
- ✓ Opportunities to expand upon existing industry-led research and monitoring

# Eastern Shore Islands AOI selection

- Discussions on potential Eastern Shore Islands AOI (and several other shortlisted coastal sites) took place in spring – fall 2017

Pre-announcement Meeting Dates	Sectors/Organizations (not including meetings with Nova Scotia or First Nations)
July 2017	Eastern Shore Fishermen's Protective Association
August 2017	Eastern Shore Fishermen's Protective Association
September 2017	Rockweed Advisory Committee
October 2017	Multi-sector community meeting: fishing, tourism, municipal government, ENGOs, Chambers of Commerce, local residents, NS Department of Environment and NS Department of Natural Resources, etc.
October 2017	Eastern Shore Fishermen's Protective Association
December 2017	Aquaculture Association of NS and lease holders
December 2017	Halifax Regional Municipality
January 2018	Wild Islands Tourism Advancement Partnership (WITAP)
January 2018	Eastern Shore Fishermen's Protective Association
January 2018	Halifax Regional Municipality
January 2018	Nova Scotia Salmon Association
February 2018	Environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOs)
February 2018	100 Wild Islands Workshop hosted by NS Nature Trust and NS Environment
February 2018	Lobster Fishing Area 32 Advisory Committee
February 2018	Lobster Fishing Area 31B Advisory Committee
March 2018	Eastern Shore Fishermen's Protective Association

# MPA Designation Process and Timeline

## Step 1: Announce Area of Interest (AOI)

- Create consultation / advisory processes (First Nations, province, AOI Advisory Committee, ESFPA working group, community)

## Step 2: Gather/ assess information

- Collection and analysis of ecological and human use information (ecological overview, economic overview, Indigenous knowledge study, fisheries mapping project)
- Assess potential risk of human activities to the ecosystem

## Step 3: Design site

- Finalize conservation goals, objectives and priorities
- Design: proposed boundaries, zoning and allowable activities

## Step 4: Designate the MPA

- Canada Gazette (includes open public consultation period)

## Step 5: Manage the MPA

- Research & monitoring, education & outreach, surveillance, activity approvals

consultation

2018 –  
2019

2019–2020

2020...

# Allowable Activities in a Future ESI MPA?

- All activities will be analysed through a risk assessment
- Based on experience in other MPAs, compatible activities are expected to include:
  - Lobster, other traditional commercial fixed gear and dive fisheries
  - Food, social and ceremonial fisheries
  - Recreational activities (fishing, kayaking, boating, swimming, etc.)
  - Vessel traffic, wharf repair
- Best practices for MPA design includes a “no commercial extraction” zone
  - Size, shape, number would be determined through consultation and information gathering
- *Oceans Act* MPAs stop at the low tide line
  - Intertidal and terrestrial activities (e.g., clamming, rockweed harvest, and hunting on the islands) would occur outside of a future MPA boundary



# Work to Date

- Consultation and Advisory processes
  - Bilateral meetings with First Nations, Province, industry, community groups
  - 2 ESFPA working group meetings (April, August)
- Public meeting
  - Community meeting hosted by APES (July)
- Science
  - Ecological Overview peer review (March)
  - Research and Monitoring

# What we've heard so far

- Lack of trust in government
- Importance of protecting local culture, traditional ways of life
- Eastern shore communities must be involved in the AOI process
  - Need for constructive ways to engage the broader community throughout the process (public information sessions, workshops)
- Confusion about process; questions about what an MPA can mean for the Eastern Shore
  - Need for broad distribution of accurate information on the site and the MPA process, answers to frequently asked questions, etc.
- Concerns about the idea of a “no commercial extraction” zone
- Need for independent assessment of social and economic costs and benefits

# Immediate Next Steps for ESI AOI

- Information gathering
  - Finalize ecological overview
  - Socio-economic profile
  - Resource Assessment
  - Indigenous knowledge study
  - Fisheries mapping study
- Ecological risk assessment
- Communications
  - web site updates, newsletters, social media
- Consultation and engagement
  - First Nations and provincial consultations
  - Advisory committee meetings
  - ESFPA working group meetings
  - Community
    - Information sessions in Sheet Harbour and Ship Harbour (Fall)
    - Workshops to engage community on proposed design (Winter or Spring)

