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Oceans and Coastal Management Division, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Area of Interest (AOI) Selection and Consultations Feedback Form for the next AOI for  
the Eastern Scotian Shelf

**1. Canada has committed to establishing six new Oceans Act MPAs by 2012. Do you support the establishment of new MPAs in Canada? Please explain.**

Yes.

The establishment of MPAs in Canada will provide opportunities for securing or rebuilding ecological prosperity by providing both conservation and economic benefit for long-term sustainable use of natural resources. MPAs are the single best oceans management action at this time, that can restore ecosystem resilience by protecting biodiversity and habitat sufficient to allow nature to resist and adapt to the impacts of major disturbances such as climatic changes, increased ocean acidity, and broadscale changes in temperature and currents.

**2. In your opinion, what are the most important reasons for establishing MPAs? (multiple reasons may be selected)**

- √ To protect or recover at risk species
- √ To protect areas of high biodiversity
- √ To protect bottom habitat
- √ To protect areas of high biological productivity
- √ To protect or sustain healthy populations of commercial species

Other, please specify:

- MPAs, along with Integrated Management, will help achieve a balance between nature and industrial uses of our oceans
- MPAs can act as refugia to allow recovery of stocks
- MPAs can help damaged ecosystems recover
- MPAs help restore oceans and coastal economies
- MPAs help build ecosystem resilience in the face of uncertain environmental

**3. Please choose an option that reflects your opinion of the potential economic or social benefits of MPAs.**

	Low Potential	Medium Potential	High Potential	No opinion
Benefits to maritime coastal communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefits to fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefits to Aboriginal people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefits to the scientific community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefits to Canadian society as a whole	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Other, please specify:

- Job creation and security through the rebuilding of a natural resource base that is available for future sustainable use;
- And securing livelihood needs (e.g. food security) for aboriginal peoples as most northern communities still rely on a form of subsistence hunting (fishing & marine mammals) for their livelihood needs – thus restoring or maintaining a sustainable resource base is very much in their interest and to their benefit.

**4. Do you have any comments on the Scotian Shelf-Bay of Fundy protected area network planning process or the Eastern Scotian Shelf AOI selection process (see Section 2 of the Consultation Booklet)?**

Economic, social and cultural impacts need to be better assessed for each area. With respect to social, it is important to look at the capacity of coastal communities to cope with or adapt to potential management actions (like tolerating the closure of fishing areas). The MPA has to be set in the context of current and future management decisions and a long-term business case needs to be developed. New job opportunities and financing tools to bridge the gap between short-term costs and long-term benefits should be evaluated.

Additional information would include:

- the role of each AOI within the broader ecosystem based management framework or MPA network;
- which AOI may be in greatest need of research assistance what important datasets are still missing but feasible;
- accessibility for management and enforcement requirements;
- consideration of other benefits (i.e. educational diving, tourism opportunities);
- what it is that the Site is being protected from (this would allow for an explanation of how the proposed management measures will provide the necessary protection, and why these measures represent the most efficient way of doing so);
- zoning plans;
- how will the affected fisheries be managed;
- assessment of the future impacts of climate change on the AOIs as it is possible that some AOIs may in fact shift over time under warming scenarios, therefore management should be proactive in nature to take these potential transitions into account (through measures such as buffers or zoning to maintain to option for an AOI to transition into a new place successfully);
- MPA network incorporating as many of these objectives as possible could look like;
- information towards fished and un-fished zones over space and time, in order to understand responses to spatial management; and
- conservation financing.

Need to designate a Site that will also allow for capacity-building and networking among MPA managers and planners, reducing differences in organization and power among stakeholders that must be considered in how we incorporate protected areas into EBM.



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**5. Please choose an option that reflects your level of support for the establishment of an MPA under the Oceans Act in the different candidate AOIs.**

	Middle Bank	Misaine Bank/Eastern Shoal	St Anns Bank
I strongly oppose an MPA in this area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I somewhat oppose an MPA in this area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I neither oppose nor support an MPA in this area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I somewhat support an MPA in this area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I strongly support an MPA in this area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**6. In the space provided, please explain why you support or oppose the future establishment of an MPA under the Oceans Act in the different candidate AOIs. Please highlight any potential benefits or costs associated with establishing an MPA in these locations.**

***Middle Bank candidate AOI:***

Benefits

- Good size
- Includes complex habitat, high fish species diversity
- Includes rare/endangered species
- Commercial fisheries, mainly shrimp and snowcrab
- Low potential for oil and gas BUT Low – area is adjacent to the current gas pipeline from the SOEP and the planned pipeline from the future Deep Panuke project.

***Misaine Bank & Eastern Shoal candidate AOI:***

Benefits

- Includes complex habitat
- Includes rare/endangered species, high fish/invertebrate species diversity and unique habitats
- Includes migratory routes
- Commercial fisheries, mainly ground fishery
- Important overwintering and mixing area for Atlantic cod

Costs

- Large size could be costly for management/enforcement
- Interest in oil and gas exists

***St Anns Bank candidate AOI:***

Benefits

- Good size
- Includes complex habitat
- Includes rare/endangered species, high fish/invertebrate species diversity and unique habitats
- Includes migratory routes
- Commercial fisheries including significant lobster fishery
- Low potential for oil and gas
- Enforcement and management options may be facilitated at this site given its location and proximity to land
- Proximity to Scatarie Island (NS Wilderness Area) provides opportunities for
  - offshore-inshore linkages;
  - potential Provincial – Federal government collaboration in protected areas management (collaborative governance);
  - better accessibility for public; and
  - increased public support.



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#### Costs

- Will have to manage for shipping routes

#### **7. If you feel there will be negative impacts or costs associated with the establishment of an MPA in one or more of the candidate AOIs, do you have any suggestions on how these costs could be reduced or mitigated?**

Financing tools to bridge the gap between short-term costs and long-term benefits should be evaluated.

Negative impacts or costs could be mitigated and minimized by implementing sound management measures that allow activities, including fishing, but with restrictions and in a sustainable manner so that the designation of an MPA does not mean closure to all activities.

The high value of all three would suggest that enhanced spatial management measures be applied in all areas regardless of which one is chosen as an MPA.

#### **8. Background information about you:**

In which sector are you employed?

- Retired
- Full-time homemaker
- Student
- Commercial fishing/processing
- Farming
- Forestry
- Oil and gas
- Professional services
- Other private sector
- Academic
- Federal government
- Provincial government
- Municipal government
- Non-governmental organization
- I am between jobs
- I am employed in another field

Where do you live?

- Nova Scotia Please specify county: *Halifax County*
- New Brunswick
- Prince Edward Island
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Quebec
- Ontario
- Manitoba
- Saskatchewan
- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Nunavut
- Northwest Territories
- Yukon
- Outside Canada but I am a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident



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Outside Canada - I am not a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident

If you are directly involved in commercial fishing activities on or near the Eastern Scotian Shelf, in which fishing areas do you fish?

- 4Vn
- 4Vs
- 4W

Other, please specify: