

Marine Conservation Network Planning

Scotian Shelf-Bay of Fundy

February 13th, 2025



Presentation Outline



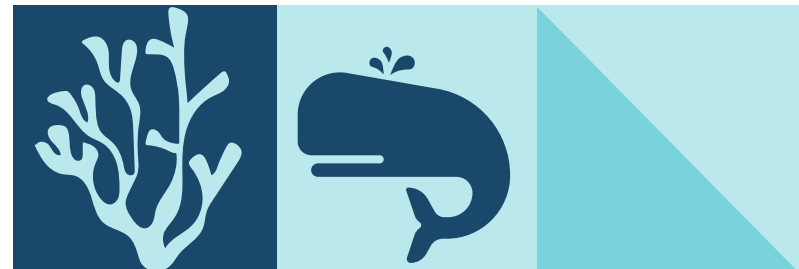
Present Marine Conservation Network Plan



Zoom in to Southwest Nova Scotia

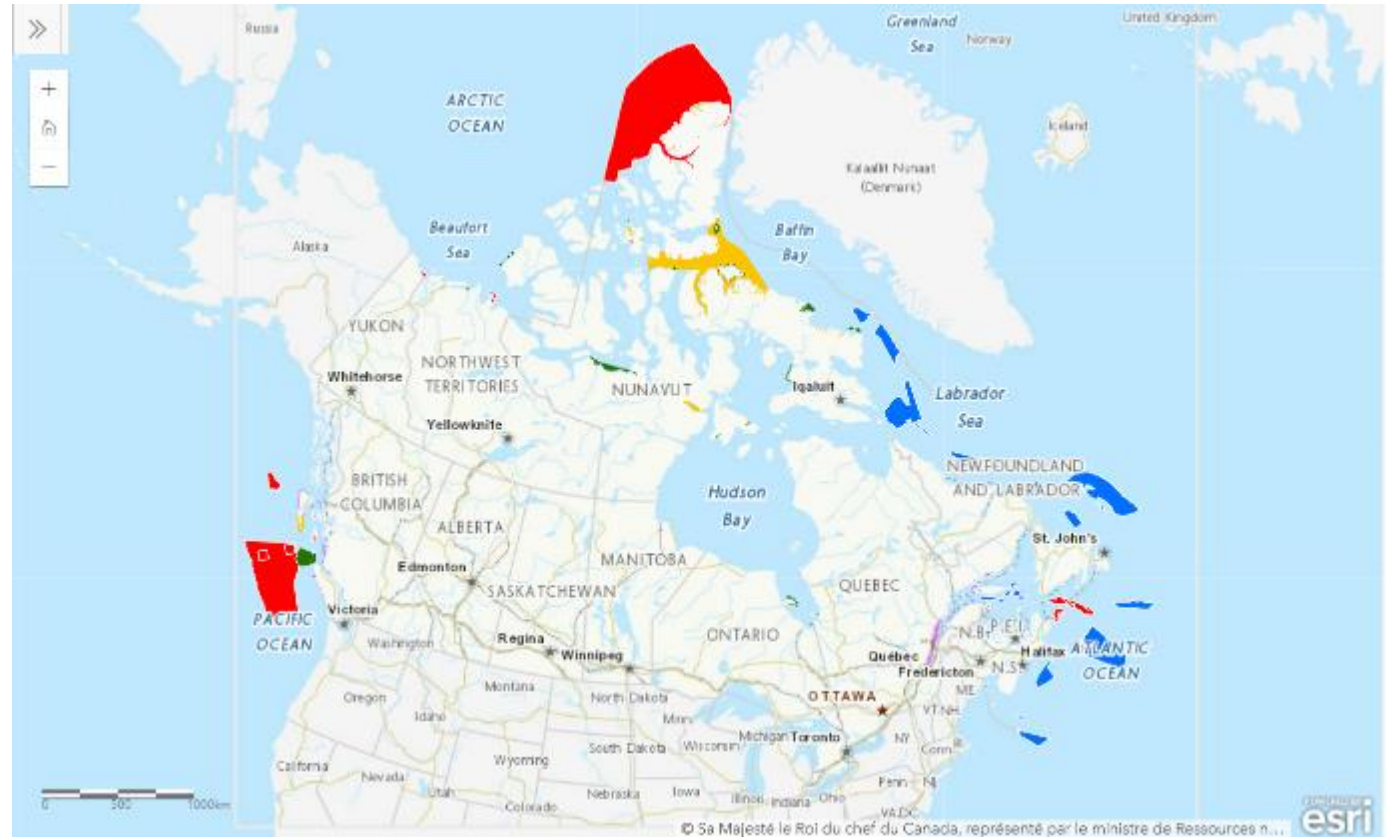


Next Steps

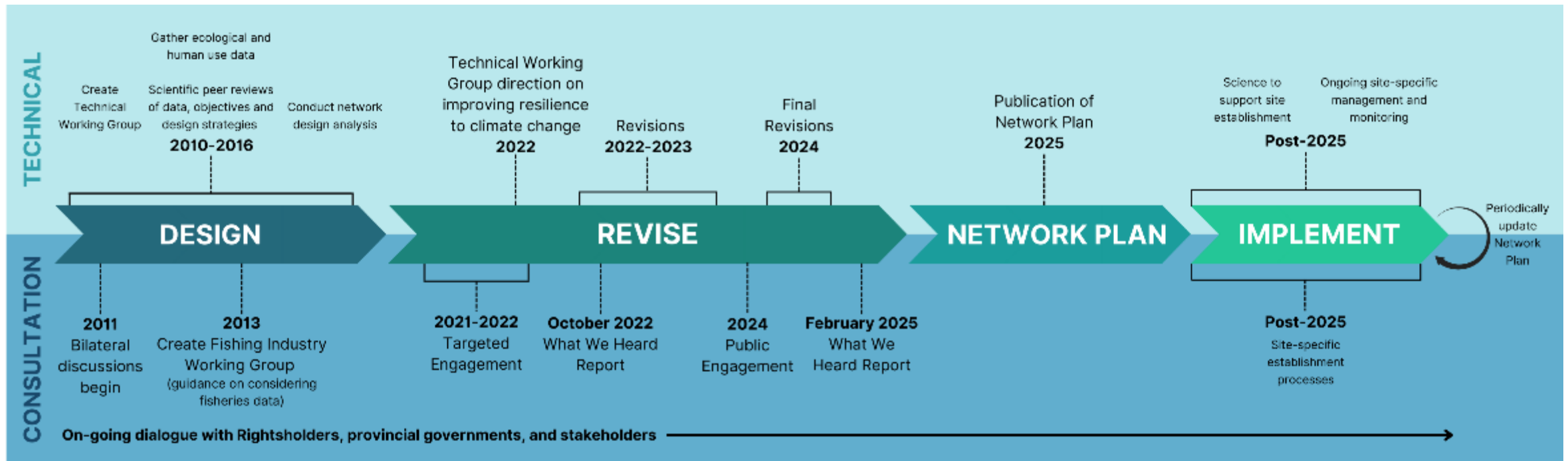


National Context

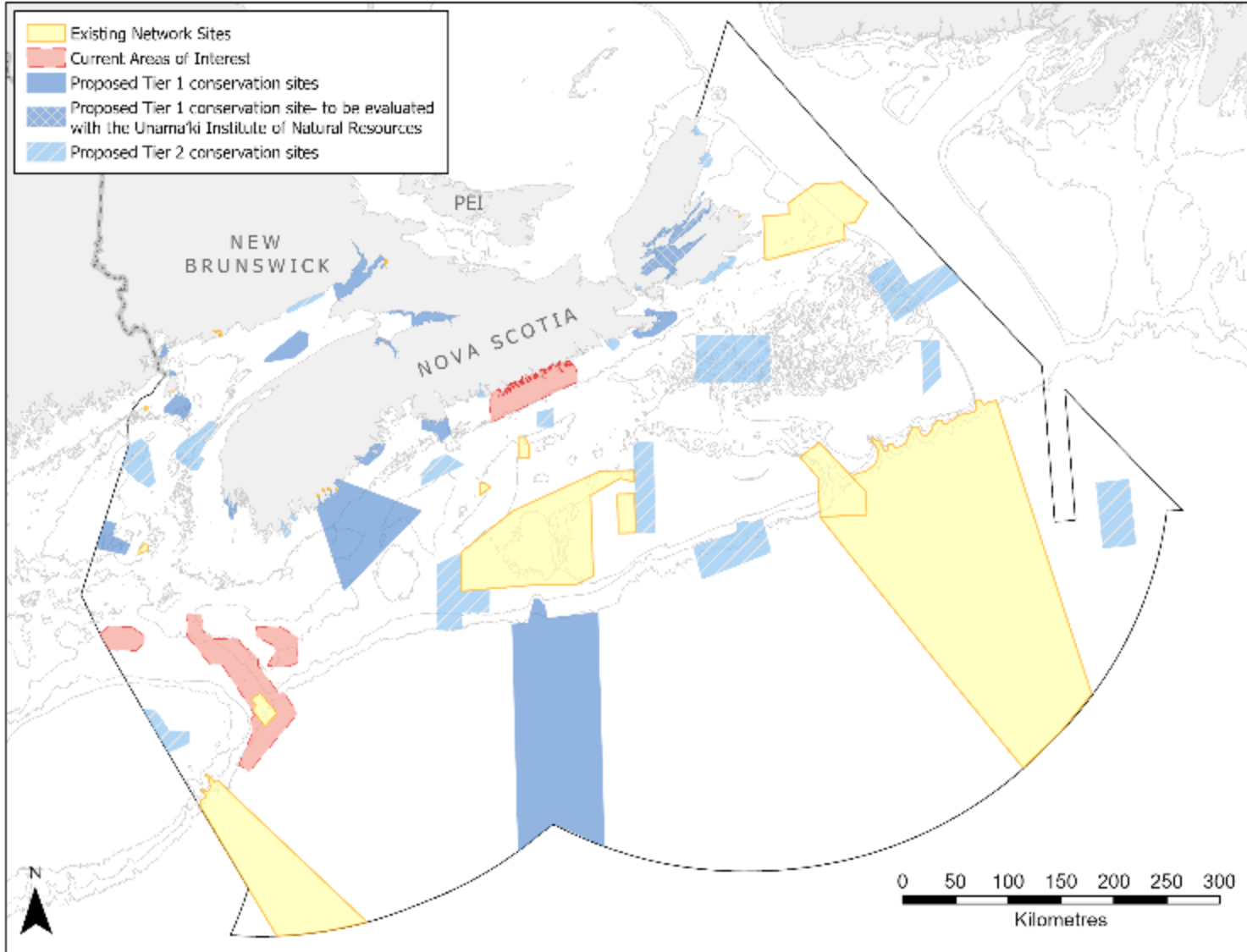
- Canada has committed to protecting [30% of its oceans by 2030](#) (15.54% currently protected)
- Emphasis on ecologically representative networks of MPAs and *other effective conservation measures*
- *Oceans Act* s. 35(2): “the Minister shall lead and coordinate the development and implementation of a national network of marine protected areas on behalf of the Government of Canada.”
- Collaboration between DFO, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and Parks Canada (PC)



Conservation Network Planning Process for the Scotian Shelf–Bay of Fundy

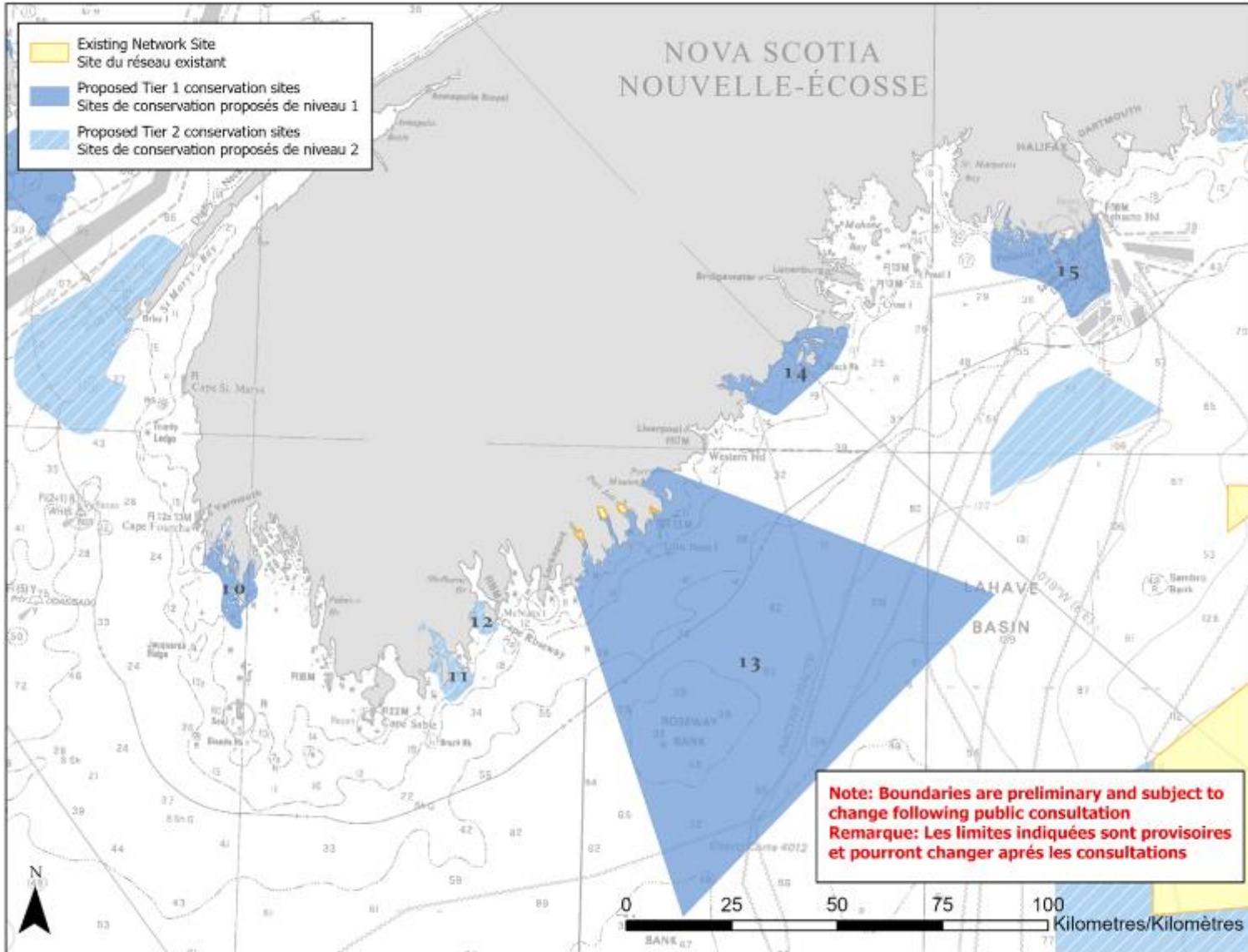


Marine Conservation Network Plan (2024 version)



- April-June consultation on 2024 version
- Mostly minor revisions made in Fall 2024
- Conservation Network Plan to be finalized in early 2025
- Plan includes:
 - Existing sites
 - Current Areas of Interest for Oceans Act MPA designation (e.g., Fundian Channel-Browns Bank)
 - Proposed Tier 1 sites: Higher priority for implementation due to ecological value and feasibility
 - Proposed Tier 2 sites: Lower priority for implementation. More information needed

Southwest Nova Scotia network sites

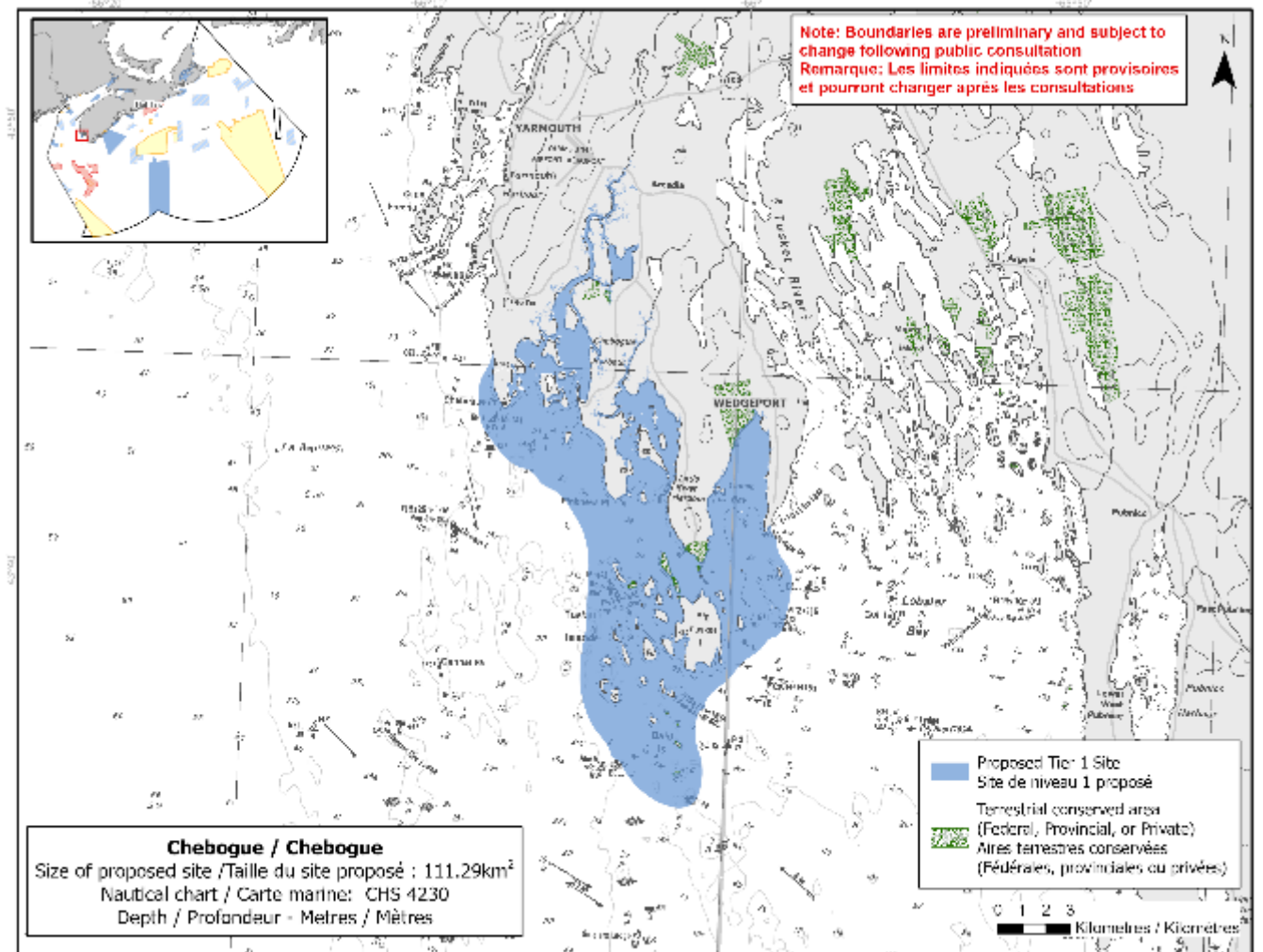


Chebogue Bay

Tier 1: DFO

- Important foraging area for seabirds, sea ducks, and shorebirds
- Significant concentrations of saltmarsh, eelgrass and rockweed
- Spawning area for Atlantic herring
- Juvenile/nursery area for lobster and various fish species

Current Uses: FSC licenses; softshell clam aquaculture lease; recreational activities; fisheries (groundfish-fixed, lobster, mackerel); marine plant harvesting





Management of MPAs



Research &
Monitoring



Education &
Outreach



Surveillance



Activity
approvals

Management Plan, Advisory Committee,
Continued Opportunities for Collaboration

Overview of Network Feedback Received to Date



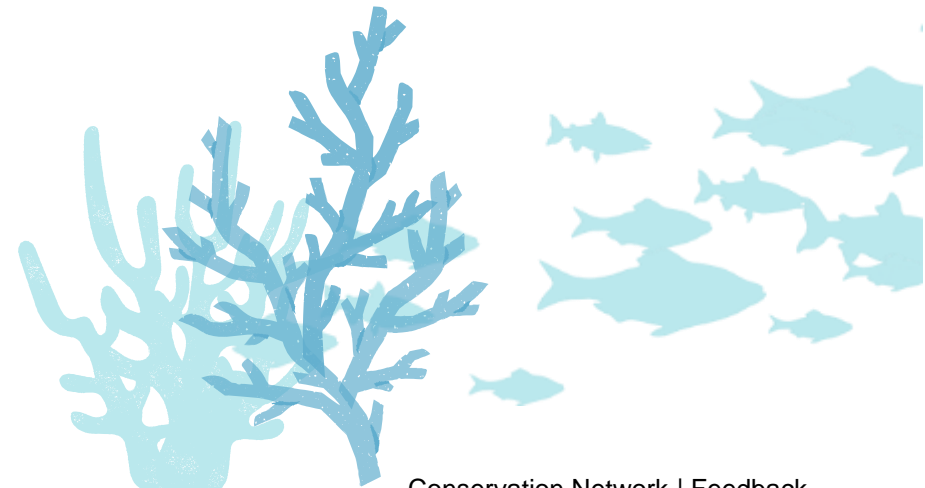
1092 online surveys completed



230 emails in MPA.Maritimes Inbox



34 letters



Credit: Kenchington Lab



Next Steps

Conservation Network Plan



Credit: Scott Leslie



Completed in early 2025



Guide Selection of Future Sites



Provide more Certainty for Marine Users



Evergreen & Adaptable



Contact Us



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