



The Golden Cod

Official Newsletter of the Gilbert Bay MPA



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The Golden Cod is dedicated to informing the public about the Gilbert Bay Marine Protected Area. The Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust publish the newsletter on behalf of the Gilbert Bay Steering Committee (GBSC).

Don't forget to visit our website at: www.gilbertbay.com

Gilbert Bay Officially Designated as a MPA!!!

On October 11, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Geoff Regan, officially designated Gilbert Bay as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) under DFO's *Oceans Act*. The Gilbert Bay MPA was designated along with two other Areas of Interest (AOI), Eastport (Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland), and Basin Head (off Prince Edward Island). These newly established MPAs make a combined total of five MPAs across Canada.

The purpose of establishing a MPA within Gilbert Bay is to protect its genetically and geographically distinct population of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), and the ecosystem that supports them.

Being a community driven initiative, the Minister's announcement marks the culmination of a journey that began in 1998 when residents from William's Harbour and Port Hope Simpson first approached DFO about making Gilbert Bay a MPA.

Congratulations to all the members of the Gilbert Bay Steering Committee (GBSC) on their efforts over the past four years towards making Gilbert Bay a MPA!!!

Research in Gilbert Bay

As in past years, this year the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Memorial University have continued to conduct a substantial amount of research in Gilbert Bay.

Dr. John Green of Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) visited Gilbert Bay three times this summer.

During his time there, Dr. Green carried out both tagging and tracking of Gilbert Bay cod, as well as numerous plankton tows. Assisting Dr. Green with his work in Gilbert Bay were George Rowe (GBSC), Corey Morris (DFO), and Wayne Russell (MPA Community Coordinator for Gilbert Bay).

While in Gilbert Bay this summer, Dr. Green also deployed an array of receivers that throughout the winter will record the movements of ten Gilbert Bay cod implanted with coded sonic tags. The receivers will be retrieved next spring and the information stored in them downloaded to a computer.

Corey Morris (DFO) visited Gilbert Bay on two separate occasions over this past summer to conduct research. During his time there, Corey conducted beach seining throughout Gilbert Bay as well as conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) cast.

Nadine Wells (DFO) and Laura Park (DFO) also visited Gilbert Bay this past summer. The purpose of their visit was to examine the sewage outfall in William's Harbour and to evaluate its impact on the Gilbert Bay MPA. Based on their findings, the sewage outfall poses no danger to the MPA; however, the outfall will be monitored on a periodic basis to ensure that it continues to pose no threat.

Dr. Joe Wroblewski (MUN) visited Gilbert Bay this past summer, along with his graduate student, Valerie Kendall, to retrieve data gathered by temperature loggers that were deployed in Gilbert Bay. During his visit, Dr. Wroblewski met with some of the scallop *(continued on next page)* →



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Pictures from Gilbert Bay:



A Gilbert Bay cod. Notice the reddish-brown or "golden" coloration.



Dr. John Green of MUN (left) and Corey Morris of DFO (right) collect Gilbert Bay cod eggs from plankton net.



Nadine Wells (left) and Laura Park (right) of DFO, prepare to do sampling at William's Harbour's sewage outfall.



Corey Morris (DFO) measures American sand lance captured in the main arm of Gilbert Bay.

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→ (continued from page 1) fishermen fishing in Gilbert Bay to discuss an upcoming scallop conservation project that he is proposing.

Scallop Logbooks

This past fishing season marks the first time scallop fishing enterprises have been asked to complete a log of their fishing activities in Gilbert Bay.

The logbook that the fishermen were asked to keep was voluntary, and was put in place to gather data on the scallop fishery being conducted in Gilbert Bay. The hope is to get local fishermen involved in a scallop conservation project for Gilbert Bay.

Dr. Joe Wroblewski of MUN is heading up the initiative. There will be more information available on this project prior to the opening of next year's scallop season.

The Role of the Public in the Gilbert Bay MPA

Now that Gilbert Bay is officially designated a MPA, it is the public's role as stewards of this resource that will help ensure the "Golden Cod" of Gilbert Bay, along with the habitats and ecosystem which support them, remain for future generations to enjoy.

A Note From the Coordinator

Hi, my name is Wayne Russell and I am the Community Coordinator for the Gilbert Bay MPA. This is the inaugural issue of our newsletter. Our plan is to distribute two issues each year, one in the fall, and one in the spring.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the

Gilbert Bay MPA. Also, if you currently do not receive our newsletter and would like a copy, please let me know. I can be contacted at the address below.

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