

## Submission Re: Formation of a Marine Protected Area on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore

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Resident of the Eastern Shore

I feel compelled to make a written submission immediately after hearing the comments of the Premier of Nova Scotia about allowing Drilling for Oil and Gas or open pen salmon feedlots within the confines of the MPA along the Eastern Shore.

In my view, the Premier of Nova Scotia is functioning with a very out-moded, industrial age, economic model if he thinks that those industries will be the economic saviour of the Eastern Shore. I would advise the Premier to take a trip to Nanaimo, Haida Gwaii, Barkley Sound or the Gulf Islands in British Columbia. For several years now I have been working on the Eastern Shore with various groups, including the ACOA funded Wild Islands Tourist Accelerator Program to rebrand the Eastern Shore along the lines of pristine nature and sustainability. The stakeholders along the Eastern Shore unanimously agreed that this was the selling feature of the shore, especially after the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Dept of Environment, Protected Areas, protected the crown land islands and purchased several private islands within the archipelago of the Eastern Shore. To allow oil and gas drilling, dragging, open pen salmon feedlots or any unsustainable activity within the confines of the MPA would undo years of work by organizations such as ours to make the Eastern Shore a destination as desirable as the ones in BC that serve as our models. The most sought after tourist product in the world is pure unspoiled nature. We have that along the Eastern Shore; with wisdom and cooperation from all levels of government we will be able to parlay that into economic development and monetization for the citizens of the Eastern Shore.

I would urge members of the consultative committee to check out the case of the British Columbian Marine Parks Network. I have been trying for years to get some instance of government in Nova Scotia to create a Marine Parks Network in Nova Scotia. In 2013 over 26,000 US citizens entered BC waters on a private vessel. In the same year 526 US citizens entered Nova Scotia on a private vessel. An MPA that included a Marine Parks Network would be a way of protecting a marine environment while creating a sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> Century economic initiative benefiting rural coastal communities.

I do agree with the Premier of Nova Scotia, however, when he states that an MPA should not jeopardize the lobster fishery along the Eastern Shore. This is an owner/operator, decentralized, sustainable fishery, and the economic backbone of the shore for now. To hinder this fishery would result in the loss of a social mandate for an MPA from the citizens of the shore. The result of that loss would be far for

peaceful. I highly advise that the MPA designators do everything in their power to avoid losing social mandate in this community. Rather than closing the lobster fishery or a part of it I suggest that an MPA begin with science and research to understand how the federal DFO can help lobster fishers thrive while ensuring the sustainability of their resource.

Finally, it should be seen that the community is in a manner of speaking giving up the potential for certain types of economic activity by designating the Eastern Shore an MPA. In light of this, I would suggest that the DFO and the federal government owe the Eastern Shore residents some compensations, such as a crustacean research base and a Marine Interpretative Centre in Sheet Harbour to encourage tourism and local information gathering within this economically disadvantaged community.