

Proposed  
**SOUTH  
COAST  
FJORDS**  
National Marine  
Conservation Area

**Parks Canada, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Miawpukek First Nation, Qalipu First Nation, and the Town of Burgeo**

are working in partnership to assess the feasibility of establishing a national marine conservation area (NMCA) on the southwest coast of Newfoundland. An NMCA would contribute to increased protection of the natural and cultural values of the coastline and marine environment of the South Coast Fjords.

The South Coast Fjords Study Area (9,112 km<sup>2</sup>) is characterized by immense granite cliffs, deep glacially carved fjords, sand dunes and white sand beaches, productive coastal waters, estuaries and marshes and diverse marine ecosystems that are exceptional in their beauty and ecological importance. These waters are a key habitat and migration route for over 20 species of whales and dolphins. They are also home to a variety of marine species, such as porpoises, turtles, sharks, and other fishes, invertebrates, and seabirds, including many that are species at risk.

Parks Canada protects nationally significant examples of natural and cultural heritage and plays a role in administering these cornerstones of Canada's tourism industry. Parks Canada is committed to supporting tourism in communities across the country by providing visitors with meaningful high quality educational experiences protecting these special places for future generations.

An NMCA in the South Coast Fjords would provide opportunities for visitors from Canada and around the

world to experience the region's rich maritime culture through the sharing of these treasured places and the histories, cultures, and contributions of the Town of Burgeo, other coastal communities, and First Nations peoples.

The possible re-designation of Sandbanks Provincial Park as a national park is also being explored. The Sandbanks study area is 2.26 km<sup>2</sup>.

The South Coast Fjords NMCA and Sandbanks study areas include many archaeological sites of importance depicting such cultures as Maritime Archaic, Dorset, Pre-Inuit, recent Indigenous and European.



*South Coast Fjords granite cliffs © Parks Canada*

All partners share an interest in protecting the ecological and cultural integrity and diversity of the South Coast Fjords region. The strengthened protection of this special region would support the conservation of biodiversity, and the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. It would also support the culture, traditions, and well-being of coastal and First Nations communities who have long been stewards of these lands and waters.

Beach at Sandbanks Provincial Park  
© Julie Baggs



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

Newfoundland  
&  
Labrador



Qalipu  
FIRST NATION



## What is an NMCA?

National marine conservation areas (NMCAs) are established and managed by Parks Canada in collaboration with partners to protect and conserve significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural marine heritage.

The *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act* is the guiding legislation. NMCAs are protected to achieve the following goals:

1. **Protect** marine biodiversity to maintain or improve ecological sustainability
2. **Conserve** cultural heritage
3. **Manage** use in an ecologically sustainable manner
4. **Support** Indigenous leadership in marine conservation
5. **Contribute** to the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and coastal communities
6. **Facilitate** opportunities for meaningful visitor experiences
7. **Enhance** awareness and understanding of NMCAs
8. **Advance** effective collaboration between partners for management of the NMCA.

Oil, gas and mining are prohibited under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*.

Bottom trawling and the deposit of waste, deleterious drugs and pesticides are prohibited in Canada's marine protected areas, including NMCAs. Indigenous traditional use continues in NMCAs.

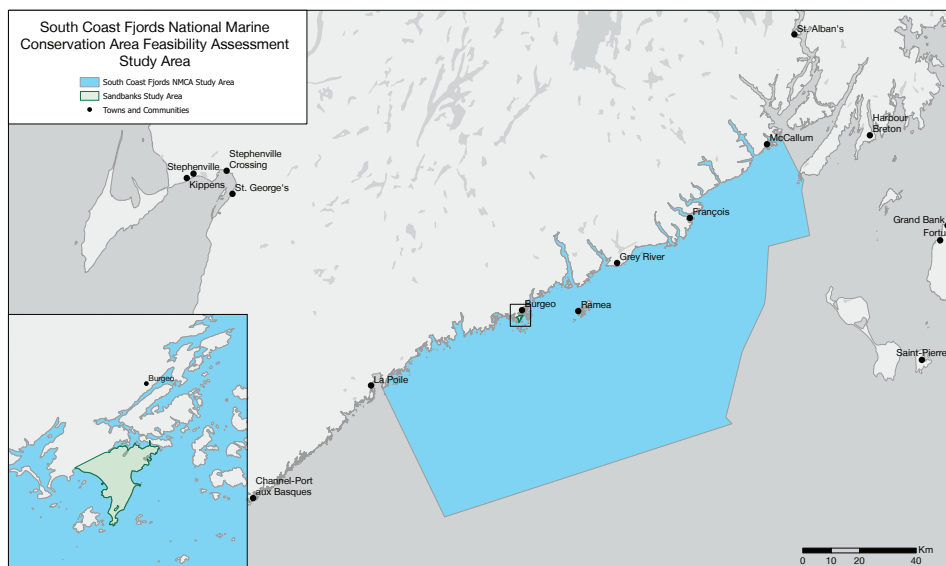
## Benefits of an NMCA

NMCAs offer an array of ecological, social, cultural and economic benefits to Indigenous and coastal communities, including opportunities to pursue cultural practices and sustainable livelihoods.

An NMCA would support current livelihoods including commercial fishing, local tourism, research and recreation.

NMCAs protect the health of marine ecosystems, including local food sources, upon which Indigenous and coastal communities depend. NMCAs also contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by enhancing and conserving carbon storage and enhancing ecosystem resilience.

*The proposed study area boundaries remain subject to change based on information and feedback received during the feasibility assessment processes.*



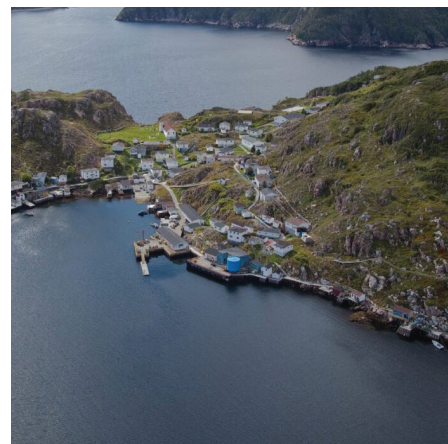
## For more information:

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Kayaking off Burgeo, overlooking Richard's Head  
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Overlooking McCallum © Fisheries and Oceans Canada