

THE IMPORTANCE OF SHORELINE HABITATS

TO SOCIETY, ECOSYSTEMS, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT



SOCIETY

Shorelines have traditionally provided cultural, economic and recreational opportunities to residents of Torbay. These habitats foster access to the ocean for fishing, boating and whale and seabird watching, which are all deeply rooted in Newfoundland and Labrador culture.

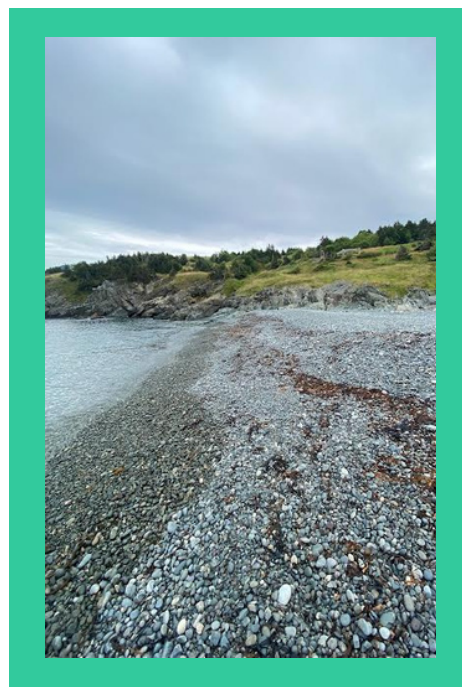


ECOSYSTEMS

Coastal ecosystems, such as tidal wetlands and salt marshes, often contain eel grass habitats and brackish water that provide shelter and food to fish, invertebrates and migrating birds. The nutrient-rich mixture of fresh and saltwater can support a range of both terrestrial and aquatic species, contributing to thriving biodiversity.

WHY ARE SHORELINE HABITATS IMPORTANT?

Shoreline habitats, the area where land meets the sea, are often places of strong cultural significance and spectacular biodiversity, offering scenic views of the ocean. In Newfoundland and Labrador, these dynamic habitats include bays, tidal wetlands, salt marshes and beaches that typically support abundant populations of wildlife.



SAFETY

- Shoreline habitats effectively absorb wave energy during powerful storm surges, reducing flood risks in Newfoundland and Labrador's coastal communities.
- Plant roots in tidal wetlands and salt marshes help to prevent coastal erosion by holding soil and gravel in place during heavy precipitation.

ENVIRONMENT

- Shorelines are vital resources to scientists, as they preserve records of ancient life through trapping dead plants and animals under layers of fast-moving sand and mud. The constant clashing of waves and erosion against the shore can gradually wear away rocky cliffs to expose ancient fossils.
- Coastal habitats represent areas where wildlife can forage for food, find shelter, grow and reproduce. These unique landscapes of sheltered inlets and cliff ranges allow for some of the widest ranges of biodiversity on Earth.



The estimated length of Newfoundland's coastline is 17,542 kilometres!

