

THE IMPORTANCE OF MARINE WATERS

TO SOCIETY, ECOSYSTEMS, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT



SOCIETY

Historically, Torbay Bight has shaped the town's local economy, cultural heritage and regional identity. Local fishers depend on the ocean's healthy fish populations and tourism benefits from whale watching, bird watching, and scenic, coastal trails.

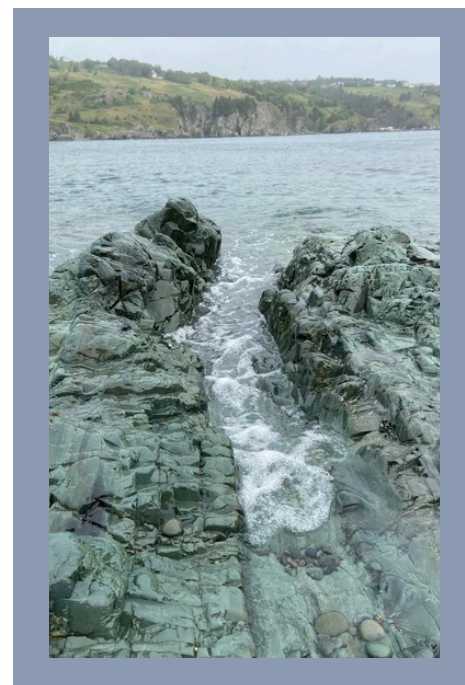


ECOSYSTEMS

Marine habitats support up to 80% of the world's biodiversity from microscopic phytoplankton to the blue whale. The ocean is far from barren, as it's home to thriving habitats such as coral reefs, kelp forests and coastal estuaries. Recently, cold-water coral reefs have been discovered off the coast of Newfoundland, hosting dazzling arrays of sea sponges, anemones and coral species.

WHY ARE MARINE HABITATS IMPORTANT?

The marine habitats surrounding the island of Newfoundland are essential in supporting a rich diversity of life and contributing to the province's culture and economy. From jagged coastlines to deep ocean waters, these habitats supply food, nesting grounds, shelter and migration routes for a vast number of marine species.



SAFETY

- The ocean provides animal protein to millions of people around the world and is rooted deeply in the history of Torbay. Established partly as a fishing outpost, fishing has been a crucial part of our food security for over 250 years.
- Medicines, derived from marine organisms and microbes, can be used to treat a range of illnesses and improve our quality of life.

ENVIRONMENT

- It is estimated that around half of the oxygen production on Earth, which allows us to breathe, comes from the ocean. This is produced mostly from oceanic plankton, algae and certain bacteria with photosynthesizing capabilities.
- The ocean drives weather patterns by absorbing the sun's heat, distributing heat and moisture around the globe, resulting in the formation of clouds and precipitation.



The ocean holds about 97% of all water on Earth, totaling roughly 1.335 billion cubic kilometres!

