

## PORT OF ARGENTIA

## Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project

Initial Project Description Part F – Newfoundland and Labrador



November 2023 - 21-3088



November 29, 2023

Newfoundland and Labrador Satellite Office Impact Assessment Agency of Canada / Government of Canada 301-10 Barters Hill St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1C 6M1

Attention: Leslie Kieley Project Manager

Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project Plain Language Summary Document

Dillon Consulting Limited is pleased to submit Part F: Summary of the Initial Project Description for the Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion in Argentia, NL, on behalf of the Port of Argentia.

Sincerely,

DILLON CONSULTING LIMITED

## <Original signed by>

Michelle Roche, EP, RPF Associate, Environmental Specialist

MLR:jb Enclosure

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## **Abbreviations**

AC CDC	Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre
BMP	
DFO	Best Management Practices Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DWT	
EA	Deadweight tonnage Environmental Assessment
EAD	Environmental Assessment Division
EH&SP	Environmental Health and Safety Contingency Plans
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPP	Environmental Protection Plan
EERP	Environmental Emergency Response Plan
EQS	Environmental Quality Standard
FSC	Food, Social and Ceremonial Fisheries
FTE	full time equivalent
FNI	Federation of Newfoundland Indians
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GOC	Government of Canada
ha	hectare
HADD	Harmful alteration, disruption or destruction
IAA	Impact Assessment Act
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
IPD	Initial Project Description
ISPS	International Ship and Port Facility Security
km	kilometre
km²	square kilometre
LAA	Local assessment area
m	metre
m²	square metre
m <sup>3</sup>	cubic metre
MSS	Marine Safety and Security
MTSR	Marine Transportation Security Regulations
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador
NLDECC	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change
NL ESA	Newfoundland and Labrador Endangered Species Act
NOC	National Occupational Classification
NTCF	National Trade Corridor Fund
PDA	Project development area
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POA	Port of Argentia
PWGSC	Public Works and Government Services
SACC	Strategic Assessment of Climate Change
SAR	Species at Risk
SARA	Species at Risk Act
t/m <sup>2</sup>	ton per square metre
TBD	To be determined
TC	Transport Canada
WRMD	Water Resources Management Division



## **1.0 Part A: General Information**

This document is a summary of Initial Project Description (IPD) submitted by the Port of Argentia ("the Port or POA") to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada ("the Agency") for the proposed Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project ("the Project") at the port of Argentia, Newfoundland and Labrador ("the port").

The IPD was prepared in accordance with the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) and Schedule I of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*. The purpose of this IPD is to provide an overview of the initial planning for the Project to determine if the Project is a "designated project" under the IAA and to outline the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts, as well as the proposed mitigation measures, to ensure that the Project can be carried out in a responsible and sustainable manner.

This report serves as a basis for further assessments, Indigenous and stakeholder consultations, and regulatory reviews, enabling a determination on the advancement of the Project in accordance with the applicable legislation and guidelines.

### 1.1 **Project Name, Sector, and Location**

Project Name: Cooper Cover Marine Terminal Expansion Project Sector: Industrial Service

**Location:** The Project development area (PDA) is located within the inner section of Argentia Harbour at Cooper Cove in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador, approximately 130 km southwest of St. John's as shown on Figure 1.

## 1.2 Proponent

Argentia, once an Untied States Naval Base, is now being reshaped into a multi-use port with various services supporting several industries like marine transport, renewable energy, aquaculture, offshore oil, and mining. Currently the POA manages over 630 meters (m) of docking space at five berths, and approximately 40 tenants. The Cooper Cove Marine Wharf Extension Project being proposed by the Proponent aims to increase docking space by extending the existing fleet dock, creating a new wharf face, increase quayside infrastructure and installing a roll-on-roll-off (Ro-Ro) ramp and is further outlined in Part B. The Proponent's contact information is provided below in Table 1.





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#### **Organizations Identified for Engagement to Date** 1.2.1

This section identifies jurisdictions or other interested parties engaged during the development of the Project, as of September 2023. The following organizations have been notified of the Project, and can be categorized as (in alphabetical order):

- Indigenous Communities: •
  - Miawpukek First Nation; and
  - Qalipu First Nation.
- **Business and Industry Organizations:** •
  - Argentia Freezers and Terminals;
  - Avalon West CBDC ;
  - o Boskalis;
  - CRH Cement;
  - Econext;

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- Energy NL;
- Equinor/BP;
- Integrated Logistics;
- o Mammoet;
- Newco Metals;
- Pattern Energy;
- Placentia Bay Traffic Committee;
- POA Board of Directors;
- Search Minerals;
- Subsea 7;
- TechnipFMC; and
- o TMSI Containers.
- Federal Authorities:
  - Environment and Climate Change Canada;
  - Impact Assessment Agency;
  - Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
  - Transport Canada; and
  - Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund Team.
- Speaking Engagements and Public Events:
  - Placentia Bay Industries Showcase (Star of the Sea Hall);
  - o Memorial University; and
  - Marine Renewables Canada Conference (2022).
- Municipalities:
  - o Town of Long Harbour-Mount Arlington Heights;
  - Town of Fox Harbour;
  - Town of Placentia; and
  - Town of Saint Brides.
- Provincial Authorities:
  - o Department of Environment and Climate Change:
  - Immigration, Population Growth and Skills;
  - o Municipal and Provincial Affairs;
  - Pollution Prevention Division; and
  - Water Resources Management Division.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) conducted an initial review of an early draft of this Initial Project Description in July 2023. Their comments noted that they would be engaging with the following organizations during the public comment period.

- ACAP Humber Arm;
- Balaena Institute for Cetacean Conservation Studies;
- Bay St. George Climate Action Network;



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- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society;
- Council of Canadians;
- Ecology Action Centre;
- Environmental Resources Management Association;
- Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union;
- Island Rooms;
- Montevecchi Lab;
- Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland;
- Sierra Club Canada Foundation;
- Whales Release and Stranding's NL; and
- World Wildlife Fund.

To remain consistent with the process and encourage transparency, the POA issued Project notification letters to the above organizations on August 22, 2023, and provided contact information in the event that there may be questions or concerns related to the Project.

The POA also engaged with several newsgroups, magazines, universities, and associations to describe the works and activities associated with the Project and the potential opportunities for the Port's future growth in new economic sectors. They include:

- allNewfoundlandLabrador;
- Globe and Mail;
- Maclean's Magazine;
- Memorial University; and
- Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Association.

No additional questions, concerns, or issues were provided by these organizations. A full summary of engagement and consultation activities and key issues raised is found below in Table 2 and Appendix A.

Activity	Delivery Method	Date	Stakeholder		
Requests for support	Letter and email	March 2022 – September 2022	Business and organisations		
Project Overviews	Letters, emails and presentations	September 2022 - On-going	Indigenous Groups, Federal and Provincial Governments, Businesses, and organizations		
Speaking engagements	Interview and Speaking engagement	January 23 - On-going	News outlets Universities		

#### Table 2: Summary of Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date



Activity	Delivery Method	Date	Stakeholder
Project updates	Virtual meetings	February 2023 - On-going	Federal Government
Ongoing correspondence	Emails	January 2023 - On-going	Federal and Provincial Government

### **1.3** Plan for Future of Consultation and Engagement

The Port of Argentia is committed to ongoing dialogue with Indigenous communities, stakeholders, organizations, and groups at a suitable level. While some parties have shown interest in staying informed about the Project's progress, feedback has been limited. Going forward consultation and engagement initiatives will be specifically designed for Indigenous communities and organizations needing to provide input. Activities proposed for future engagement have been outlined in Table 3.

#### Table 3: Future Engagement Activities

Engagement Activity	Details and timelines		
	Since the Project is in its early planning stages, initiate "Project		
Draight Introduction Workshops	Introduction Workshops" specifically for interested parties to clarify		
Project Introduction Workshops	the Project's scope and outline potential impacts, including impacts to		
	Indigenous rights, health, social and economic well-being		
	Organize these sessions approximately bi-annually or based on		
Public and Stakeholder Open Houses	Project milestones to serve as platforms for direct interaction,		
	addressing concerns, and providing clarifications		
	Considering stakeholders' diverse geographical locations, ensure		
Virtual Engagement Sessions	virtual sessions' availability (schedule with workshops, open houses		
	and upon request)		
	Use surveys, feedback forms during open houses, and dedicated		
Feedback Sessions	email addresses to gather and address concerns, suggestions, and		
	feedback		

Activities and materials will be planned and utilized to provide information and solicit feedback from Indigenous communities, organizations, provincial agencies, and federal authorities, the general public, and other stakeholders. The engagement and communication strategies will encompass a range of mechanisms. These include; notification letters, direct mail/email campaigns, and newspaper advertisements. Additionally, to foster open dialogue and provide accessible information, the Port will participate in public and stakeholder open houses. These sessions will be conducted in person and virtually, ensuring that all interested parties can participate, regardless of their geographical location.



## 1.4 Summary of Engagement with Indigenous Nations

On the island of Newfoundland two Indigenous communities have been contacted regarding the proposed Project (listed in alphabetical order) and as shown in Figure 2, they include;

- Miawpukek First Nation; and
- Qalipu First Nation.

On February 1, 2023, the POA took the proactive step of notifying the Miawpukek and Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nations about the Project. They provided an overview and visual representation of the completed works while extending an invitation for further discussions.

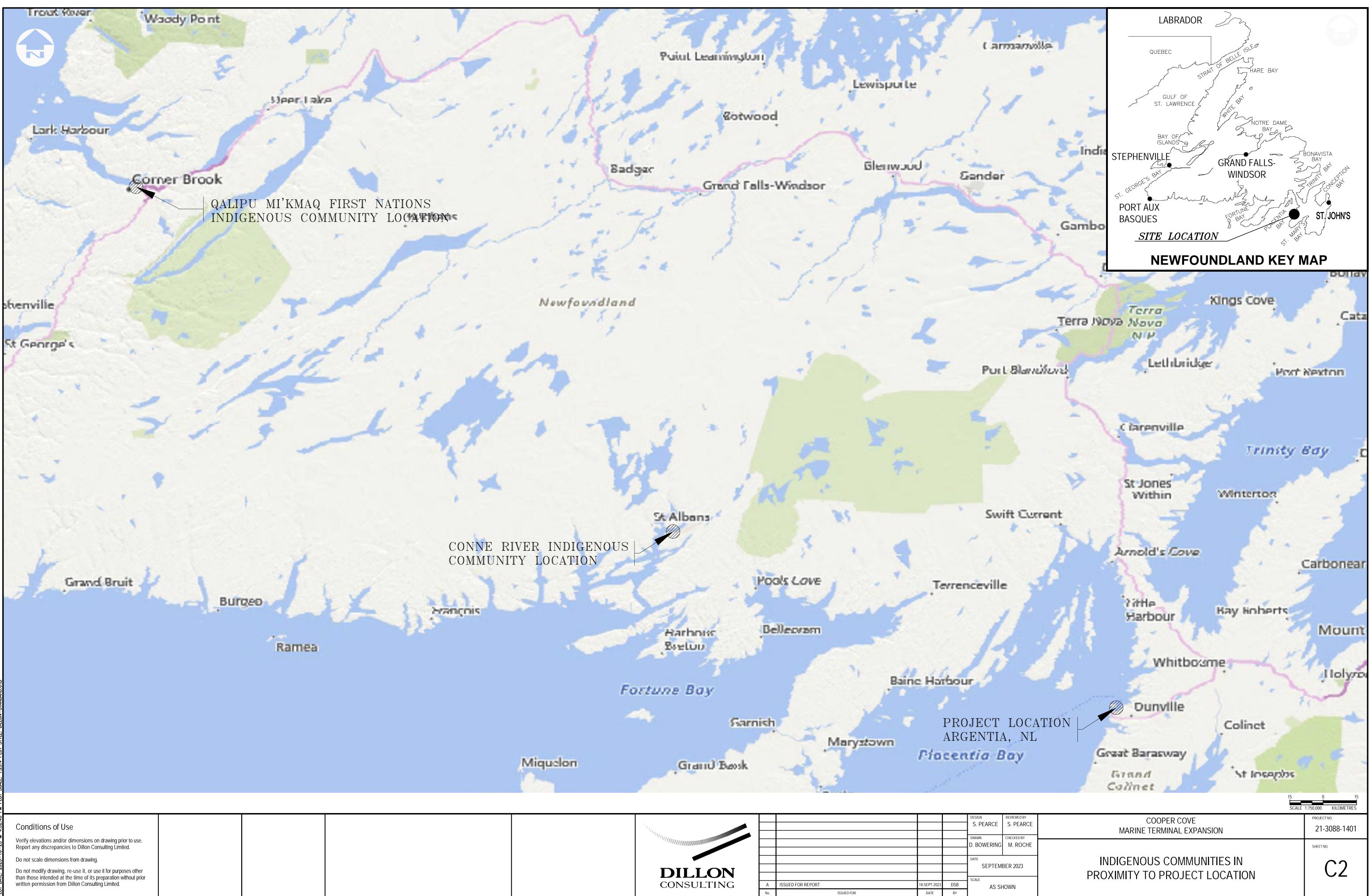
Another notification letter was sent on August 18, 2023, updating them on the Project's status, including funding from the National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF) and offering to address any concerns or questions.

Dillon staff, on behalf of the POA, contacted both groups via phone and email on August 28, 2023, to confirm receipt of the second letter and explore their interest in discussing potential concerns. After receiving a list of contacts from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Dillon staff sent an additional email on September 5, 2023, to establish a connection and provide Project information.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada has committed to funding participation efforts for Miawpukek First Nation and the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation. While neither First Nation has provided feedback on the Project so far, the POA remains dedicated to addressing any concerns or issues that may arise. They also commit to participating in any engagement activities facilitated by the Agency. This section will be updated as new information becomes available.

The Port of Argentia emphasizes its dedication to ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and its collaborative work with federal and provincial regulators to coordinate engagement efforts and consultation requirements. They are firmly committed to fostering positive and constructive relationships with stakeholders throughout the Project lifecycle.





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## 1.5 **Project Studies and Assessments**

#### **1.5.1** Regional Assessments

The term "regional assessment" talks about any study or plan related to the Project that is happening or has happened in the region of the Project. Regional assessments include official assessments and studies by different authorities or Indigenous governing bodies. Below are the publicly available regional assessments that are relevant:

- Assessment of Offshore Wind Development
  - Who is conducting the assessment: Impact Assessment Agency
  - Details: This assessment will inform the POA about what Indigenous and non-Indigenous group's values are in the area where the Project and the wider Placentia Bay are.
- Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling East
  - Who is conducting the assessment: Impact Assessment Agency
  - Details: This gives the POA information on issues brought up by Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups related to commercial fishing, birds, overall environmental impacts, oil spills, fish habitats, and climate change.
- Transport Canada's Cumulative Effects Assessment
  - Who is conducting the assessment: Transport Canada
  - Pilot Area: Placentia Bay
  - Details: This informs the POA about the potential impacts of marine shipping on the environment and coastal communities in Placentia Bay.

### 1.5.2 Strategic Assessments

- Strategic assessments under the *Impact Assessment Act*, like the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (SACC), are important evaluations that help address significant issues, such as climate change. SACC offers a broad look at how Canada approaches environmental challenges and comes with two technical guides:
- Guide 1: Focuses on calculating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, looking at impacts on carbon sinks, creating ways to lessen emissions, developing a net-zero plan, and examining upstream GHG emissions.
- Guide 2: Concentrates on understanding how resilient projects and systems are to the possible impacts of climate change.

Although the Project is still in the design phase the Port has committed to having an expert look at the emissions impacts of the Project. The Port will also be looking for options to reduce emissions through electrification. The follow are steps have been taken to achieve this:

- Sending out a request for proposal (RFP) on August 4, 2023, for an electrification study at the port.
- Committing to allowing renewable energy companies in Argentia to help reduce GHGs globally.



The Port plans to address GHG emissions by incorporating the following guidance document in the Project's planning and operation phases:

- The Strategic Assessment of Climate Change;
- A draft guide for the SACC, which gives guidance on managing net GHG emissions, impacts on carbon sinks, and other aspects; and
- The draft guide for the SACC, focused on assessing resilience to climate change.

## 2.0 **Part B: Project Information**

## 2.1 Purpose for the Project

The proposed Project at the port of Argentia seeks to address the current deficiency in wharf space and quayside infrastructure. While expanding the fleet dock, creating a new wharf face, and installing a roll-on-roll-off (Ro-Ro) ramp, the Project aims to enhance berthage and facilitate smoother cargo flow within Newfoundland and Labrador. Although the project will aid in managing the increased vessel traffic from sectors like the emerging green hydrogen hub, its fundamental purpose is to diversify and strengthen the POA services.

## 2.2 Need for the Project

As a crucial infrastructure upgrade, the proposed Project offers several benefits, such as; enhancing Canada's transportation avenues and stimulating economic growth, particularly in the Placentia region of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Project aligns with and promotes the objectives of Transport Canada's National Trade Corridor Fund (NTCF), focusing on honing transportation priorities and fostering an innovative, green, secure, and integrated transportation system.

Additionally, it plays a pivotal role in facilitating the Port's involvement in the green energy transformation through projects like the green hydrogen, which leverages the region's abundant wind resources to produce green hydrogen, which supports a crucial shift towards more sustainable energy sources. This Project is vital due to the projected surge in investments from renewable energy companies in the Port of Argentia over the next five years, anticipated to lead to a doubling of vessel traffic and cargo volume over the coming 30 years.

Pattern Energy is actively exploring the potential for a renewable energy project at the Port, aiming to produce 400 metric tons per day (MTPD) of green ammonia, a hydrogen electrolysis facility, and a 300-megawatt wind project. This initiative reflects their dedication to sustainable energy solutions and is expected to result in approximately one additional handy-sized vessel visiting the port to transport ammonia per month. Since June 2022, Pattern Energy has held a Ground Lease Option Agreement with the Port of Argentia (POA), amended in May 2023 to incorporate commercial terms related to the Project. Pattern Energy acknowledges the need for capital expenditures, estimated at CAD\$20 million to CAD\$30 million, to enhance the port's infrastructure for the ammonia storage and export terminal. They

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plan to coordinate these expenditures with the POA and other third parties involved in the Port's marine terminal expansion. If Pattern Energy proceeds with the Project, it will also contribute financially to the Cooper Cove Project, with the amount subject to adjustment based on third-party participation.

The POA, while serving as the landlord, has limited involvement in the Project through its partnership in Argentia Capital Inc. (ACI). ACI has the option to acquire a limited partner equity interest in Pattern's renewable Project but has no decision-making authority regarding the Project's planning, development, or operation, leaving those decisions solely to Pattern Energy. Notably, the Project's infrastructure improvements are designed to benefit various sectors without being exclusive to any particular industry. The expansion aims to enhance the port's existing infrastructure, enabling it to meet the diverse needs of current and future tenants and companies across various sectors. The POA's primary role remains to provide essential docking facilities and associated infrastructure to facilitate the efficient flow of goods and cargo in and out of the port rather than managing marine shipping within Placentia Bay.

Also, these new enhancements to the port facilities will be vital for encouraging various other developments and collaborations with numerous entities, including Cenovus, Boskalis, Tesla, Equinor, Eimskip, and TMSI. These industries potentials can have a substantial positive impact on economic growth, job creation, and tax revenue in a future that is pivoting away from hydrocarbons.

#### 2.2.1.1 Strategic Location Advantages

The POA, originally a U.S. Navy Military Base during World War II, now serves various industries, including transportation, container shipping, renewable energy, offshore energy, seafood, critical metal smelting, and metal recycling. The naval base closed in 1994, leading to limited investment in new marine infrastructure. The existing marginal wharf is fully utilized, limiting future growth due to a shortage of wharf space. The port is driven by export-oriented business opportunities, with the current traffic volume at 180 to 200 vessels per year, expected to double over the next 30 years. Within the port, Cooper Cove boasts unique seabed features, accommodating heavy marine operations. With a deep approach channel, it can handle vessels up to 35,000 DWT and is ice-free year-round. The port supports various industries, including shipyards, refineries, and transshipment facilities, primarily serving offshore and green energy sectors.

The Port of Argentia and Placentia Bay are critical for maritime trade and regional development, serving as gateways for Newfoundland's local and international trade. The port accommodates diverse vessels and maintains security certifications under Transport Canada regulations. Existing infrastructure includes three major berths strategically placed within the Atlantic regional traffic service zones. The proposed project within the port is strategically located in an industrial zone, well-connected to road networks and conveniently accessible to the northeastern Avalon Peninsula's industrial zones. It is expected to handle approximately 540,000 tonnes of cargo through about 245 vessels in the next five years. It will increase to 371 vessels and approximately 907,405 tonnes of cargo by the year 2052, facilitating trade across the Eastern Seaboard and trans-Atlantic regions.

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The POA marine shipping activities are quite complex and crucial in moving goods and cargo. This includes loading and unloading various products, making the port a vital part of the supply chain. These activities are closely related to the Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project, which aims to improve the port's infrastructure and capabilities. While the expansion project focuses on the physical aspects of the port, marine shipping activities are closely tied to the industries and trade the port serves. The POA takes responsibility for the care and control of marine shipping when navigating the POA boundaries and once vessels are docked, but it does not control industry drivers or trade activities. Navigation into the port is often coordinated through the Atlantic Pilotage Authority (APA), which ensures safe pilotage services in the region.

The POA collaborates with third-party stevedore services (Argentia Freezers and Integrated Logistics) to handle vessels, and these partnerships require adherence to safety and regulatory standards. Importantly, the benefits of the marine shipping activities at the POA are not limited to a single tenant or business; the port aims to support a variety of industries and enhance its role as a regional trade hub. Additionally, the POA strongly emphasizes regulatory compliance and security, being certified by Transport Canada as an ISPS-compliant port and following Marine Transportation Security Regulations to maintain safety and security.

#### 2.2.1.2 Existing Infrastructure

The roads serving the existing wharf at the POA handle various traffic types, including industrial vehicles for port operations, goods transportation, maintenance vehicles, and local commuter traffic. The traffic intensity fluctuates throughout the day and week, depending on vessel schedules, cargo handling, and port shifts. In contrast, local commuter traffic follows consistent patterns based on the work schedules of the local population.

In 2023, a major transformation occurred on Waterfront Drive within the POA, involving significant infrastructure upgrades. These upgrades included strategically widening the road and relocating or burying power utility lines. The existing roadway was reconstructed using various materials, making it capable of handling heavy loads, exceeding the typical vehicle and truck loads used for port operations. The main goal of these improvements was to facilitate the efficient and safe transportation of monopiles from the marine terminal to the runway area, demonstrating a proactive effort to optimize the port's logistics and infrastructure to support various industries' smooth flow of goods and materials.

## 2.3 Physical Activities Regulation and Environmental Assessment Regulations

This Projects potential designation refers to the expansion design of an existing marine terminal. This expansion requires constructing a new berth for ships larger than 25,000 deadweight tonnage (DWT) at the port's existing wharf and construction of a new wharf face into Cooper Cove. According to section 53 of the regulations, a designated project includes;

"The expansion of an existing marine terminal, if the expansion requires the construction of a new berth designed to handle ships larger than 25 000 DWT and, if the berth is not a permanent structure in the water, the construction of a new permanent structure in the water".

Section 26 of the NL *Environmental Assessment Regulations* may also be applicable to the Project activities. While the Project's components are not captured under Part III of the regulations, the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change-Environmental Assessment Division (NLDECC-EAD) has indicated that due to the proposal infill of an area greater than 5 ha the Project necessitates the submission of an Environmental Assessment Registration Document.

For clarity, a cooperative Impact Assessment has been requested to ensure a harmonized approach, reduce duplication and increase efficiencies in the review and Project approval process.

### 2.4 Activities, Infrastructure, Structures and Physical Works

The Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project includes following project components:

- 1. Preliminary investigations component: The Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project involves conducting a geotechnical study and sediment characterization program to ensure the structural integrity and environmental sustainability of the wharf extension, as well as a detailed benthic habitat survey in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to better understand the marine environment will be completed. The project requires adherence to specific regulations and potential authorizations concerning marine terminal expansions, protection of fish and fish habitat, and navigational impediments, involving a collaborative impact and environmental assessment approach. The POA has proposed a 25-month environmental approval process, ensuring the Project aligns with legislated requirements and is prepared to modify schedules if additional assessments are required.
- 2. Procurement and design build component: The Project is currently in its preliminary design stage for the wharf infrastructure. Detailed land-based designs will be completed during the design-build stage. This stage requires finalizing detailed designs before initiating the public tendering process, ensuring selections align with the POA's purchasing guidelines. At this time it has not been determined if additional building or structures will be required as part of the land-based design.



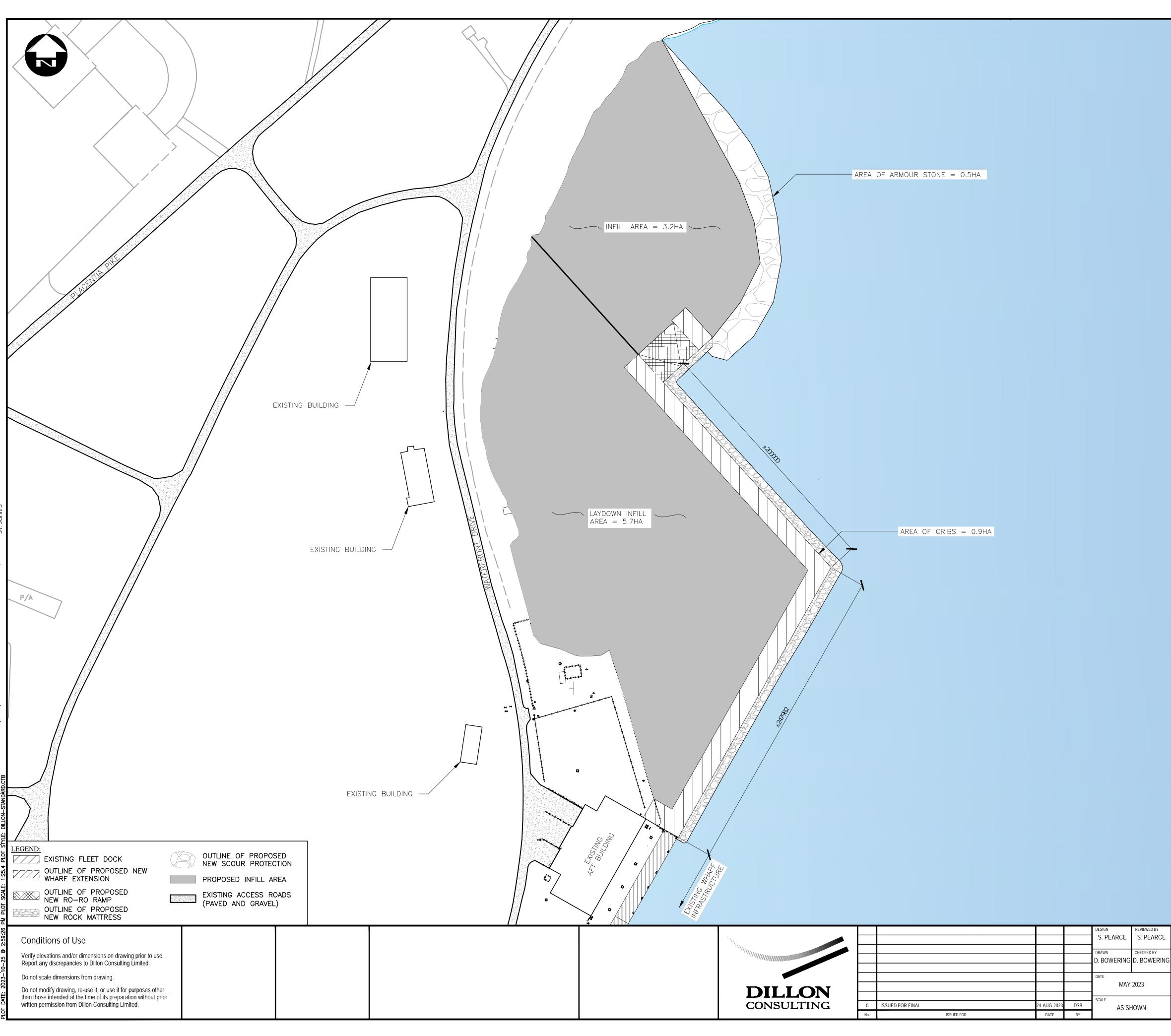
Construction Activity	Design Details
Concrete Caissons and Ro-Ro Ramp Fabrication	<ul> <li>Ro-Ro ramp and concrete caissons vital for wharf expansion.</li> <li>Caissons: approx. 17 m high, 400-500 mm interior wall thickness, contain in-fillable hollow sections (cells).</li> <li>Designed to be partially submerged and floated into place.</li> <li>Ro-Ro ramp constructed similarly but lower, with sloped surface for vesse operations.</li> </ul>
Dredging Operations (Figure 3)	<ul> <li>Essential for removing soft marine sediment for new wharf and infill areas</li> <li>Involves mechanical or hydraulic dredging, using specialized equipment and barges.</li> <li>Average 600mm - thick marine sediment layer needs dredging across the entire wharf footprint. 1200 mm to 2400 mm marine sediment southwest section of infill area.</li> <li>Anticipated to take place over 5 weeks, possibly parallel to caisson installation.</li> <li>Collaboration with various stakeholders, including NLDECC, IAAC, TC, and DFO.</li> </ul>
Installation of Concrete Caissons (Figure 4)	<ul> <li>Follows the completion of dredging operations and rock mattress installation.</li> <li>Final design details of the rock mattress to be determined at final design stage.</li> <li>Concrete caissons floated, placed, and anchored with approved fill materials.</li> <li>Installation might coincide with ongoing dredging operations in different project areas.</li> </ul>
Construction and Installation of Ro-Ro Ramp (Figure 4)	<ul> <li>General construction follows caisson installation but is subject to contractor's approach.</li> <li>Involves seabed preparation, dredging, rock mattress placement, and smaller caisson installation.</li> <li>Ties into the caissons on the west side, bordered by armour stone on the east side.</li> </ul>
Infilling Operations (Figure 3)	<ul> <li>Takes place post-dredging and caisson installation for an approximate infiarea of 10.3 ha.</li> <li>Not all caissons must be installed for infilling to commence.</li> <li>Infill placement and compaction in lifts behind caissons, up to design grade.</li> <li>Precautions needed to protect fill materials from open water areas and wave action.</li> </ul>



Construction Activity	Design Details
Placement of Armour Stone along Wharf Face (Figure 4)	<ul> <li>Positioned along the front of caissons, atop a segment of the rock mattress.</li> <li>Serves to shield the rock mattress from currents and wave action.</li> </ul>
Access and Utility Corridors and Final Infilling	<ul> <li>Facilities, utilities, and access incorporated in the future design-build execution plan.</li> <li>Tying into existing access roads and infrastructure.</li> <li>Identification and possible connection into existing underground infrastructure assessed during the design-build stage.</li> </ul>
Site Grading and Finishing Work	<ul> <li>Undertaken after all infilling and underground connections.</li> <li>Final grading and finishing (e.g., gravel or asphalt surface) to be determined during the design-build process.</li> </ul>

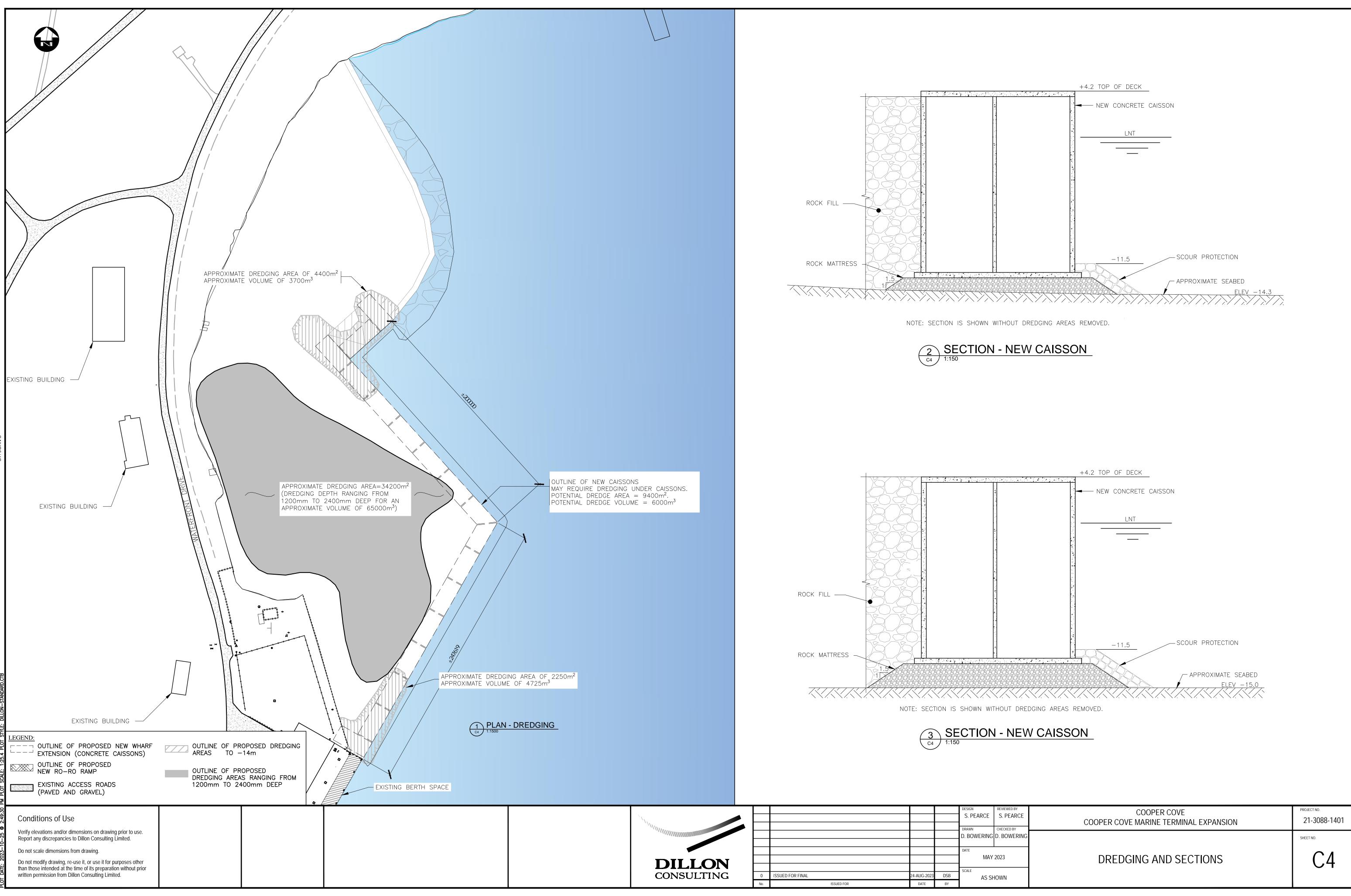
4. Pilotage component: The Port will consult with Transport Canadas (TC) Marine Safety and Security (MSS) and work though Navigation Safety Assessment Process (NSAP), to ensure safety navigation and pilotage requirements are met for the duration of the Project and into operations.

- 5. Commissioning Component: After completing major construction, the project will transition through commissioning and deficiency checks, proceeding to the operational stage for berthing vessels and offloading materials once all issues are resolved.
- 6. The Operation and Maintenance Component: The proposed wharf expansion is anticipated to double vessel traffic and a fourfold increase in cargo volumes over the next three decades. New operational procedures, including container handling and storage, will continue to mirror current practices, ensuring operational consistency. Maintenance activities at the new terminal will also align with the Port's current requirements, including seasonal snow removal and ongoing preventative equipment maintenance schedules.
- 7. Decommissioning and Abandonment Component: Although there are no current plans to decommission the project, it is acknowledged that, like all infrastructure, it will eventually reach the end of its operational life, with a projected service life of 65 to 70 years and regular inspections initiating around the 45 to 50-year mark to uphold structural integrity and inform maintenance schedules. Future decisions regarding the project, whether involving replacement or removal, will depend on various factors, including the structure's condition and landowner preferences, while being mindful of potential environmental effects and conforming to the prevailing regulatory landscape. Once decommissioning is deemed necessary, activities will be assessed and executed in line with the regulatory requirements and environmental considerations applicable at that time.



FILENAME: C:\CAD\DANIELLE BOWERING\21308B-1401-COOPER COVE\CAD FILES FOR IPD\FILES SENT TO TRANSLATOR\FINAL\FIGURE 3 - INFILL AREAS.DWG PLOTTED BY: BOWERING, DANIELLE

	1 INFILL AREAS C3 1:1500	
	COOPER COVE COOPER COVE MARINE TERMINAL EXPANSION	PROJECT NO. 21-3088-1401
G	INFILL AREAS	SHEET NO.



2.5	Capacity Estimate
	The proposed PDA within the port of Argentia with access to major North Atlantic shipping lanes, making it a crucial hub for daily cargo movement, access to resources and business and within proximity essential services like repairs, supplies, housing, and other amenities for the site's 40 tenants.
	Over the next five years, the Port is expected to handle approximately 540,000 tonnes of cargo, with an average of 245 vessels. This volume is projected to grow significantly, reaching an estimated 371 vessels and around 907,405 tonnes of cargo by 2052.
	During operations, the total annual direct employment is expected to be in the 600 - 800-person range, with another 300-400 indirect and direct jobs expected to be generated.
2.6	Preliminary Schedule
	The POA is leading the expansion project with a 25-month environmental approval process to align with construction timelines and meet the April 2028 deadline set by Transport Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund. If an Impact Assessment becomes necessary, the schedule will be adjusted to accommodate all its phases. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2025, spanning 29 months post-environmental approvals. The stages expected for the design, construction and commissioning stages are shown in Figure 5 below.
2.7	Potential Alternatives
2.7 2.7.1	Potential Alternatives Alternative Means of Carrying Out the Project
	<ul> <li>Alternative Means of Carrying Out the Project</li> <li>As part of the feasibility phase of this Project, alternative designs were evaluated for two wharf face layouts:</li> <li>Option A: a straight extension of the fleet dock; and</li> </ul>



## Proposed Project Schedule

				2	2023								20	)24									20	25								20	)26								2	2027					,	028	
Task/Milestone	February	March	May	June	ylul,	September	October	November	January	February	March	April	June	ylul	August	September	November	December	January	February	March	May	June	July Autor	September	October	November	December	February	March	April	June	ylut	August Sentember	October	November	December	February	March	April	Iviay	July	August	September October	November	December	January	March	11011
0.0 Start Date																																																	٦
1.1 Geotechnical - Phase 1																																																	
1.2 Geotechnical - Phase 2																																																	_
1.3 Environmental*				$\square$																																			$\square$										_
1.4 Stakeholder Engagement & Project Scoping							П			П		Т		П			Т					Т	$\square$																										_
1.5 Pre-Design to 33%																																																	_
1.6 RFP Process				$\square$																																													_
1.7 RFQ Process							$\square$			$\square$				$\square$									$\square$																$\square$										_
1.8 Contractor Selection/mobilization/start up meetings							$\square$			$\square$				$\square$																									$\square$										_
2.0 Construction Start							$\square$			$\square$				$\square$																									$\square$										_
2.1 Fabrication/construction of caissons & Ro-Ro-Ramp							$\square$																																$\square$										_
2.2 Dredging operations							$\square$			$\square$				$\square$								1																1	$\square$			$\square$			+				_
2.3 Caisson Installation fleet dock							$\square$			$\square$				$\square$								1														$\square$		1	$\square$			$\square$			+				_
2.4 Caisson Installation New wharf face							$\square$			$\square$				$\square$				1				1																+	$\square$			$\square$			+				_
2.5 Ro-Ro Ramp Installation							$\square$			$\square$				$\square$								1	$\square$														- 7					$\square$			+				_
2.6 Infill (fleet dock and new wharf face)				$\square$			$\square$															+																						-					
2.7 Armour Stone placement			$\top$	$\square$	$\neg$		$\square$			$\square$		$\uparrow$	$\top$	$\square$			$\top$	1		$\uparrow$		$\top$	$\square$		$\top$		$ \uparrow $		1	$\square$		$\top$									T			+					
2.8 Additional infill adjacent to Ro-Ro Ramp							$\square$			$\square$				$\square$								1	$\square$													$\square$		1	$\square$						+				_
2.9 Site grading							$\square$			$\square$				$\square$								1	$\square$													$\square$		1	$\square$						+				_
3.0 Commissioning/deficiency checks/demob from site			$\top$				$\square$			$\square$			$\top$	$\square$	$\neg$									$\neg$			$\square$						$\square$		$\top$			$\top$	$\square$		$\top$	$\top$				$\square$			-
3.1 Operation			$\top$	$\square$			$\square$			$\square$			$\top$	$\square$	$\neg$							$\top$		$\neg$			$\square$						$\square$		$\top$				$\square$		$\top$					$\square$			
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Milestone 1: Ro-Ro ramp and caissons		4																				L																											

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Milestone 1: Ro-Ro ramp and caissons Milestone 2: Fleet dock extension and infill Provincial Environmental Assessment Process (Project-specific timelines may be applicable)

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In addition, the following short-term cost-effective alternatives means were considered:

- Floating Barges and Jetties: Considered a short-term measure, are platforms for spooling equipment to ensure operational flexibility; and
- Mooring Dolphins: Evaluated as potential anchoring points for ships during construction, offering an innovative solution that could defer the need for a major terminal extension in the interim.

While these alternatives were assessed and recognized for their potential to navigate short-term challenges and ensure operational continuity during construction at the Port, they failed to deliver a solution to meet the anticipated diversification of the Port's services and the anticipated increase in vessel and cargo traffic in the long term.

During the planning phase of the Project, the POA will evaluate alternatives to determine the most feasible and cost-effective design that would meet the Project's requirements while carefully considering environmental aspects to ensure that the expansion aligns with responsible and sustainable development framework. These alternatives encompass a wide range of aspects, including:

- Site Access and Road Placement: Exploring the most efficient layouts to ensure seamless movement while minimizing environmental impact.
- Underground Infrastructure: Designing systems that ensure sustainability, safety, and longevity.
- Aggregate Supply Sources and Storage: Identifying reliable and sustainable sources for aggregates and designing effective storage solutions.
- Dredging Methods: Adopting techniques that are both efficient and environmentally conscious.
- **Waste Management Practices:** This involves not just disposal, but also a strong emphasis on material recycling, ensuring a circular economy approach.
- Aquatic Offsetting and Compensation Strategies: Ensuring any aquatic impact is balanced with strategies that restore and enhance aquatic ecosystems.
- Effluent Discharge Procedures: Establishing systems that prioritize the purity of discharges, safeguarding water bodies.
- **Resource Utilization:** Implementing measures to ensure the most efficient use of resources, minimizing wastage and optimizing outputs.

#### 2.7.2 Alternatives to the Project

When considering the expansion of the existing wharf facilities at the port, the POA has explore various alternatives to ensure the optimal path forward is chosen that aligns with environmental, economic, and technical viability. Following are the alternatives to the Project that were explored, keeping the overarching goal and purpose of the project in mind.

- 'Do Nothing' Approach:
  - **Description**: This approach would involve retaining the current infrastructure without any enhancements or expansions.
  - **Evaluation**: Although this would have the least immediate environmental and financial implications, it wouldn't meet the project's purpose of enhancing berthage capabilities and

#### Port of Argentia



accommodating the forecasted increase in cargo and vessel traffic. Economically, in the long run, this could result in lost opportunities for growth and might not support the evolving needs of the region.

- Utilization of Alternative Ports:
  - **Description**: Another approach could be diverting some of the cargo and vessel traffic to other ports within the region.
  - **Evaluation**: While this might alleviate some of the immediate pressures on the port, it would not foster focused economic growth for the POA. Additionally, relying on external ports might not be economically viable in the long run due to transportation costs, potential delays, and logistical challenges. It also aligns differently with the project's purpose of strengthening the POA capabilities.
- Modular Expansion Over Time:
  - **Description**: The port could consider phased or modular growth instead of a comprehensive expansion. This would involve expanding the port in smaller increments over a longer period.
  - **Evaluation**: This approach might be less costly in the short term and might reduce immediate environmental impacts. However, it may not efficiently provide a solution for the anticipated rapid increase in vessel and cargo traffic. Incremental developments might also result in intermittent disruptions to port activities.
- Technological Enhancements without Physical Expansion:
  - **Description**: Leveraging advanced technologies to optimize the current operations of the port without expanding its physical infrastructure.
  - **Evaluation**: While technology can enhance operations to a degree, the physical constraints of berth space and quayside infrastructure still pose limitations. The Project's primary objective of addressing these physical constraints might not be fully realized with this alternative.
- Collaborative Operations with Nearby Ports:
  - Description: Form strategic partnerships with nearby ports to handle cargo and vessel traffic collaboratively.
  - **Evaluation**: While this might help in distributing the traffic and economic benefits, there are other solutions to the specific needs of the POA. Furthermore, the complexity of multi-port coordination might introduce new challenges.

In summary, while several alternatives can be considered, it is important to weigh them against the specific needs and objectives of the Project. The primary focus remains on revitalising the POA capabilities and ensuring its readiness to meet the evolving demands of the region.



## 3.0 **Part C: Location Information and Context**

The proposed PDA is located within Argentia in the inner section of Argentia Harbour in Newfoundland and Labrador. Positioned on the Argentia Peninsula, approximately 130 km southwest of St. John's, the project strategically leverages the proximity of surrounding communities like Fox Harbour, Saint Brides, and Placentia, offering essential services and accommodations. Spanning 319 hectares of harbor lands, the PDA is under the ownership and operation of the Port of Argentia following a 2022 "Agreement to Transfer" Parcel 2021-2 from the Public Works and Government Services. Zoned as 'Industrial' according to the Town of Placentia's Development Regulations and situated within the 'Transportation' classified marine water lot, the project aligns seamlessly with established land-use guidelines and regulations, making it exceptionally well-suited for development in this region.

## 3.1 Geographic Coordinates

The expansion of the existing fleet dock is proposed to commence at coordinates N5243008.89, E274755.81, marking the Project's starting point. The expansion will proceed until it reaches its end point at N5242739.41, E274633.14, where the new wharf face begins (Table 4). This new wharf face will then extend towards the state-of-the-art Ro-Ro ramp, located at N5242609.3, E274727.78.

Table 4: Pro	posed Geogi	raphic Coor	dinates
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Location	Longitude	Latitude	Easting (m) NAD83	Northing (m) NAD83
Fleet Dock Expansion Start	-53.979667902358855	47.301796614893	E274755.81	N5243008.89
Fleet Dock Expansion Stop/New Wharf Face Begins	-53.981152150804235	47.299332861310354	E274633.14	N5242739.41
New Wharf face Ends	-53.97983624381367	47.298196220654035	E274727.78	N5242609.3

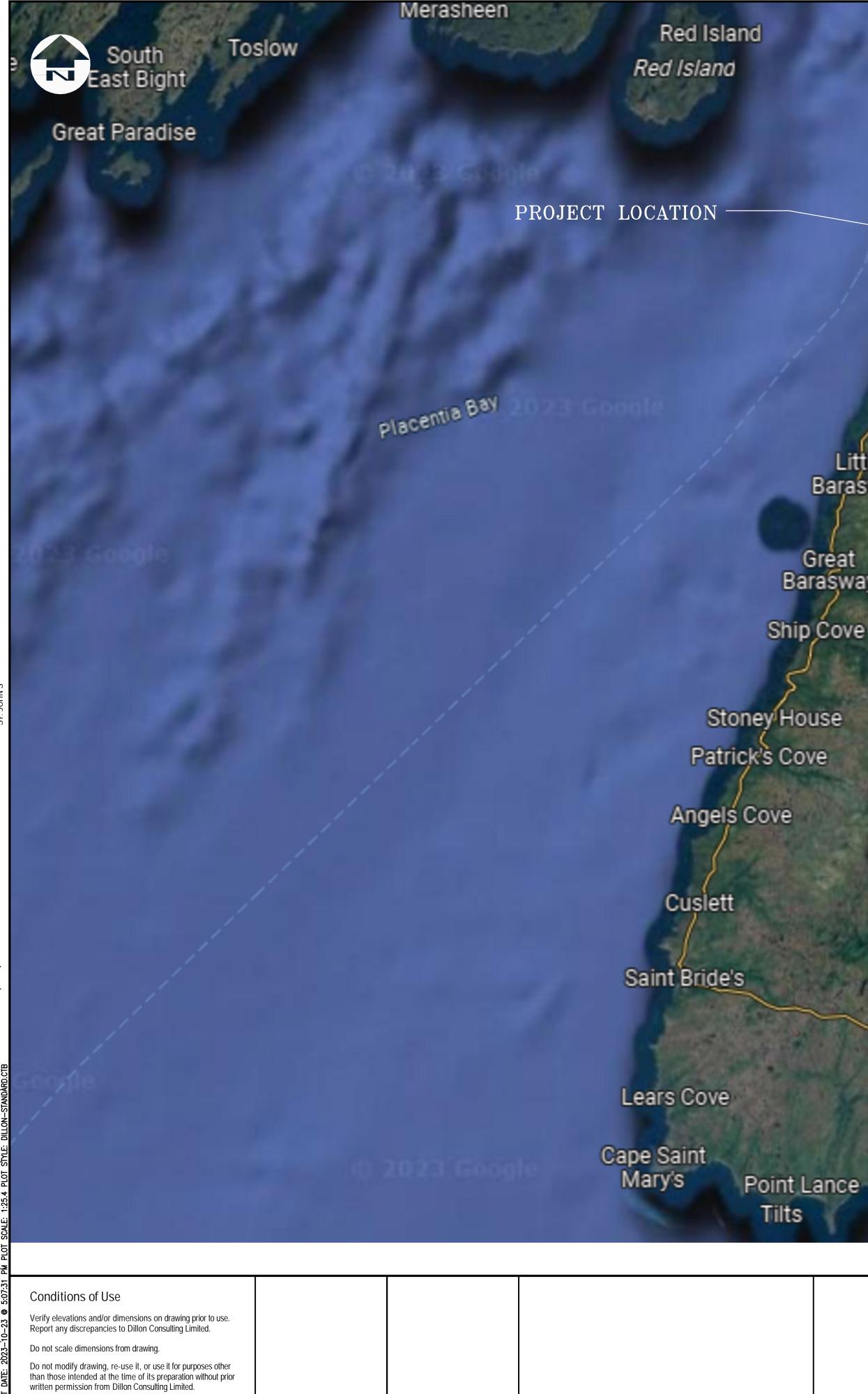
#### 3.2

## **Projects Proximity to Residence and Nearby Communities -**Community Pro**fi**le

The Project is located in Argentia, a seaport located within the town of Placentia, which consists of the port of Argentia (Argentina Industrial Park), Townside Placentia, Freshwater, Gallardin Point, Dunville, Southeast Placentia, Point Verde, and Jerseyside. Other nearby municipalities include the towns of Fox Harbour, Saint Brides, and Long Harbour-Mount Arlington Heights (see Figure 6).

Based on the 2021 and 2016 Census, the current demographics of these municipalities is as follows in Table 5.





## Iona

# Ship Harbour

Fox Harbour Argentia Villa Marie McAndrew

Gallardin, Point Dunville Placentia Southeast Placentia

Little Barasway

Great Barasway

Ship Cove

Branch

Placentia Junction-

Markland

Nuggetville

81

Colinet-

92

93 Harricott

North Harbour

91

Saint Joseph's

Cape Dog

92

Admirals Beach

Great Colinet Island

Riverhead

Cootes Pond

St Marys

Point La Haye Gaskiers-Point La Haye

90 Saint Vincent's

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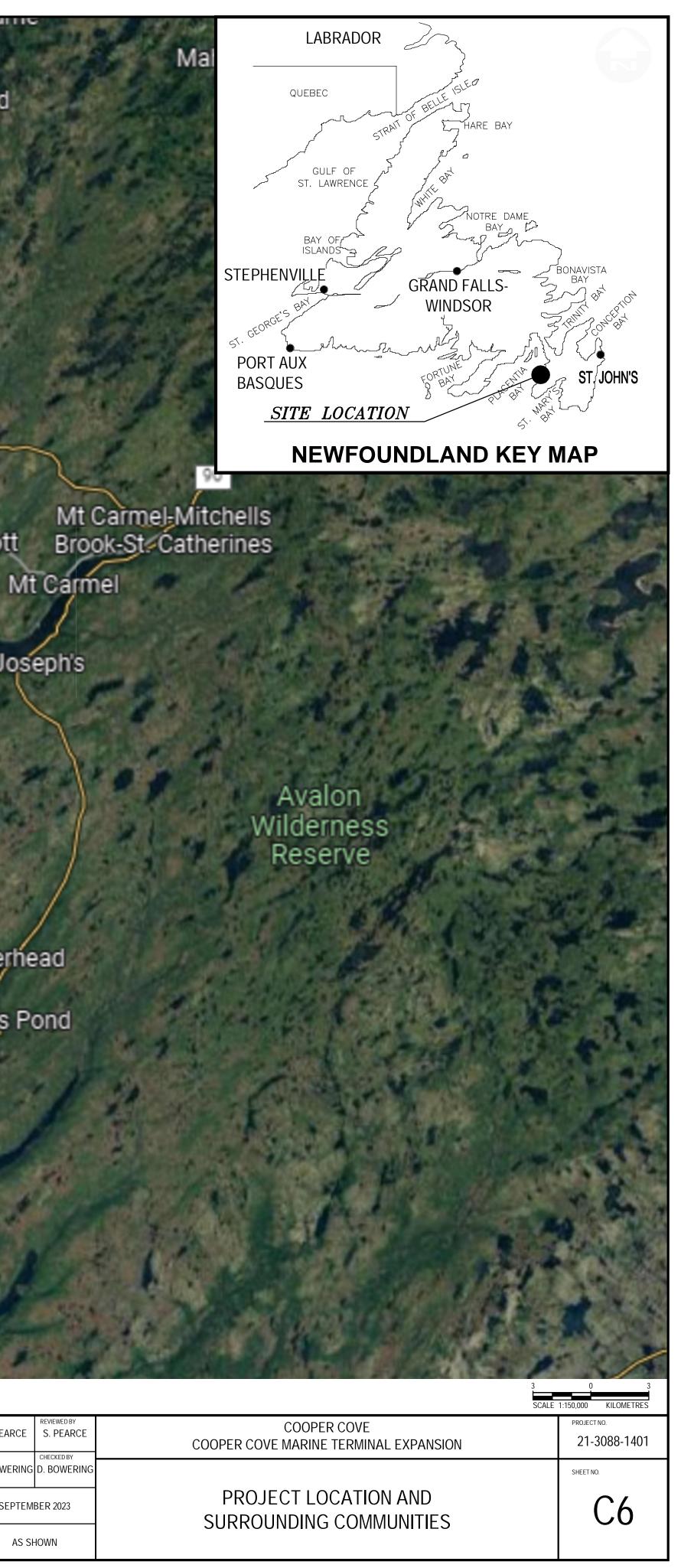


Table 5: Community Demographics

Municipality	Population (2021 <sup>1</sup> )	Population (2016)	% Change, 2016 to 2021	Age	Gender
				125: 0-14 yrs <sup>2</sup> 680: 16-64 yrs	670 M
Placentia	1,338	1374	-2.6%	3	665 F
				525: 65+ yrs	000 F
				60: 85+ yrs	
				15: 0-14 yrs	
Fox Harbour	226	252	-10.3%	140: 16-64 yrs	125 M
				65: 65+ yrs	100 F
				30: 85+ yrs	
				15: 0-14 yrs	
Saint Dridas	318	252	+26.2%	180: 16-64 yrs	175 M
Saint Brides	318	252	+20.2%	120: 65+ yrs	140 F
				10: 85+ yrs	
Long Harbour				10: 0-14 yrs	
Long Harbour-	105	250	27.04	95: 16-64 yrs	100 M
Mount Arlington	185	250	-26%	80: 65+ yrs	90 F
Heights				5: 85+ yrs	
Total	2067	2,128	-3%	N/A	

<sup>1</sup> Source for 2021 and 2016: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dppd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTICIist=1&DGUIDIist=2021S05101575,2021A00051001254,2021A00051001228,2021A00051001263&HEADERlist=37,36,,21,19,,42,4 4,40,43,41&SearchText=long%20harbour <sup>2</sup> Yrs = Years; N/A = Not Applicable



The total population between these four municipalities is 2,067, down 3% from 2016. Communities tend to be generally balanced between genders, however there are more males than females. The majority of the population is within working age (16-64 years old), with those 65+ making up most of the remainder. Of the 2,067 people residing in these municipalities, 2021 Census data indicate 15 are Indigenous (Statistics Canada 2023).

Average household income levels were not available for Fox Harbour or Long Harbour-Mount Arlington Heights. Based on the average household income levels for Placentia and Saint Brides, it is assumed that average household income levels in this area are around \$54,000. Additionally, the majority of the population of these municipalities have a high school degree (or equivalent) or higher.

Based on the 2021 Census, the current labour and employment of these municipalities is as follows in Table 6.

## 3.3 Projects Proximity to Lands of Significant for Indigenous Peoples

Located at the mouth of Conne River's on Newfoundland's south coast, the Miawpukek First Nation is approximately 224 km away from the service hub of Gander, Newfoundland. Established in 1987 as a reserve, Miawpukek has witnessed rapid growth and development. The community, accessible by land, air, and water, boasts a total population of 3,100 as of April 2023, with 835 members residing in the Conne River reserve and an additional 2,263 living outside the reserve.

Established in 2011 under the Indian Act, the Qalipu First Nation is a Mi'kmaq Indigenous Band. While the Qalipu do not possess any reserve land, their collective representation of 67 Mi'kmaq communities in Newfoundland positions them as one of Canada's largest First Nations groups. This "landless band" is divided into nine electoral wards on the island's west or northern coasts. The membership, now exceeding 25,000 as of April 2023, spans various communities in the province. Their historical presence stretches from western to central Newfoundland, and they currently represent the nine Mi'kmaq bands formerly under the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI).

## 3.4 Projects Proximity to Federal Lands

A Marine Navigation Light (property number 34873) located within Argentia, is a federally owned property, and the closest to the PDA, situated about 2 km away which is operated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, followed by a crown owned radio facility (property number 34849) located approximately 5 km from the PDA. The Miawpukek First Nation is roughly a 500 km drive from the PDA.



Table 6: Labour and Employment

Municipality	Median Household Income (2020 <sup>3</sup> )	Unemployment Rate	Education	Total Population with a High School Degree (or higher)
Placentia	\$53,600	19%	260: High School Diploma (or equivalent) 555: Post-Secondary certificate, diploma, or degree 100: Bachelor's Degree or higher	915 (of 1338)
Fox Harbour	N/A	31%	75: High School Diploma (or equivalent) 85: Post-Secondary certificate, diploma, or degree 0: Bachelor's Degree or higher	160 (of 226)
Saint Brides	\$54,400	39%	145: High School Diploma (or equivalent) 90: Post-Secondary certificate, diploma, or degree 15: Bachelor's Degree or higher	250 (of 318)
ong Harbour-Mount Arlington Heights	N/A	31.8%	45: High School Diploma (or equivalent) 130: Post-Secondary certificate, diploma, or degree 15: Bachelor's Degree or higher	190 (of 185)*

\*population data from 2021 Census may not be accurate.

<sup>3</sup> Source: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dppd/prof/details/page.cfm?LANG=E&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&DGUIDIst=2021S05101575,2021A00051001254,2021A00051001228,2021A00051001263&HEADERlist=37,36,9,,21,19,,42 \_\_44,40,43,41,1&SearchText=long%20harbour



## 4.0 **Physical and Biological Environmental Setting**

### 4.1 Climate, Air Quality, Noise, Light

According to the most recent data available from Canadian climate normals from 1991-2020 from the Gander station, the daily average temperatures in the area ranges from a low of -6.6°C to a high of 16.6°C, with extreme temperatures recorded as low as -31.1°C and as high as 35.6°C. On average, Gander receives approximately 103 mm of precipitation annually.

The Port of Argentia serves as an active marine port, and its emissions mirror the daily marine traffic, industrial undertakings, and vehicular movement. Noise levels within the port are influenced by areas actively engaged in the loading and unloading of goods, machinery operations, ship engines, and vehicle traffic. Given that the port might operate round-the-clock, overhead lights, ship lights, and facility illumination are consistently used.

## 4.2 Physiography and Geology

The PDA is positioned entirely within the Port of Argentia marine water lot which is zoned for transportation purposes. The land parcel is zoned for industrial use and predominantly features native gravel, cobble, and boulder material, complemented by low and sparse shrubby vegetation. The proposed infill and wharf development area has an artificial shoreline extending eastward towards Cooper Cove water lot.

Geologically, the PDA is identified as a Marine-terrace, as per the provincial government's classification of the Landforms and Surficial Geology of the Argentia Map Sheet. The site comprised clay, silt, sand, gravel, and cobble. These materials predominantly originate from erosion and marine wave activity acting upon glacially deposited sediments.

### 4.3 Surface Water and Groundwater

The Port of Argentia receives domestic water from the Placentia municipal water supply. While Husky Energy operates a settling pond in the northwestern part of the Port of Argentia industrial site, this water is not anticipated to be utilized for construction or operational activities at the PDA. Surface and groundwater from the PDA align with the local terrain, flowing towards the downslope towards the marine waterlot.

## 4.4 Terrestrial Environment

The PDA is located within the Maritime Barrens Ecoregion, characterized by its limited forest cover, primarily consisting of shrubs like alder and conifers like black spruce. The industrial nature of the site



has resulted in a sparse presence of terrestrial mammals. However, the broader Argentia area is home to various animals, including otters, muskrats, moose, rodents, snowshoe hares, minks, foxes, and masked shrews.

In terms of avian life, Placentia Bay hosts a diverse range of birds with approximately 26 species of seabirds, 13 species of waterfowl, 10 species of shorebirds, and 7 raptor species. Notably, the Cape St. Mary Ecological Reserve is situated approximately 75 km away from the PDA.

### 4.5 Aquatic Environment

The PDA is located within the Placentia Bay - Grand Banks Integrated Management Area and the expansive Large Ocean Management Area, which covers approximately 550,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the Atlantic Ocean. This is a significant area for Canada, recognized as a priority for Integrated Management due to the surge in human activities, hence being identified as a Coastal Management Area. Also, the locale falls under the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelves Ecozone and the Atlantic Zone Monitoring Program. Placentia Bay is active with year-round fisheries and serves as a habitat for diverse species such as Atlantic Cod, American Eel, barnacles, mussels, hermit crabs, and lobsters.

### 4.6 Species at Risk

In a historical environmental assessment in 2012 for a nearby projects, no significant nesting, feeding, or overwintering areas for at-risk bird and mammal species were found in the nearshore area. However, a 2021 Baseline Marine Sediment Sampling Program and Multibeam Survey revealed seven rare animal records in the Argentia Harbour vicinity. This included three records for Short-eared Owls and one for a Harlequin Duck, both designated as special concerns under the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada and vulnerable under the provincial Endangered Species Act. Six rare plant records were also identified near Argentia, with three being Water Pygmyweed, also recognized as vulnerable under the provincial Endangered Species Act.

Fast forward to 2023, a search of the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre findings indicated potential Species of Conservation Concern (SoCC) within a 5 km radius of the Project area (Table 7, Appendix B). This encompassed specific plants, such as the Water pigmy-weed and the Sago Pondweed, and birds like the Short-eared Owl and Harlequin Duck. Fish species of conservation concern in Placentia Bay could include the Atlantic Cod and the American Eel. Additionally, certain marine mammals might be present in Placentia Bay and Cooper Cove, including the Blue Shale and the Harbour Porpoise. Although, Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre 2023 projections suggested that species like the Boreal felt lichen and Rusty blackbird might be within 5km of the site, no direct observations confirmed their presence.



Common Name	Scientific Name
Pla	nts
Water pigmy-weed	Crassula aquatica
Sago pondweed	Stuckenia pectinata
Maritime sea-blite	Suaeda maritima
Southern Running-Pine	Diphasiastrum digitatum
Boreal Felt Lichen	Erioderma pedicellatum
Anir	nals
Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus
Harlequin Duck	Histrionicus
American Golden-Plover	Pluvialis dominica
Black-bellied Plover	Pluvialis squatarola
Horned Lark	Eremophila alpestris
Northern Harrier	Circus hudsonius
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes
Northern Harrier	Circus hudsonius
Greater Yellowlegs	Tringa melanoeuca
Sanderling	Calidris alba
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra
Rusty Blackbird	(percna subspecies)
Barrows Goldeneye	Euphagus carolinus
Atlantic Cod	Bucephala islandica
American Plaice	Gadus morhua
Atlantic Salmon	Salmo salar
Banded Killifish	Fundulus diaphanous
Blue Whale	Balaenoptera musculus
Fin Whale	Balaenoptera physalus
Harbour Porpoise	Phocoena phocoena
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Dermochelys coriacea
North Atlantic Right whale	Eubalaena glacialis
White Shark	Carcharodon carcharias)
Spotted Wolffish	Anarhichas minor
Northern Wolffish	Anarhichas denticulatus

### Table 7: Species at Risk within 5 km radius of the Project

# 4.7 Social, Economic and Health Context

## 4.7.1 Site History

Argentia, originally used as a small fishing port by local residents, was expropriated and developed into a base for the United States Navy during World War II. Over the years, it has evolved into a busy center for diverse industries. Presently, it plays a pivotal role in supporting sectors such as transportation,

# Port of Argentia



container shipping, renewable and offshore energy, seafood, and metal smelting, including nickel, copper, and cobalt.

Since the closure of the Argentia Naval Base in 1994, there has been a noticeable pause in marine infrastructure development. However, with the current wharf fully utilized, there's a clear vision for growth. Addressing the current constraints, there is an ambitious plan to expand the available wharf space and enhance the options for quayside facilities.

# 4.7.2 Social Context

The Placentia Bay region, situated on the southeastern coast of Newfoundland, is home to 3,289 residents, with a population density of 56.9 per square kilometre. The area's diverse terrain offer ample recreational opportunities for both locals and tourists, including fishing, trapping, camping, and hunting. While there are no First Nations lands within the vicinity of the PDA, the reserve lands of Miawpukek First Nation are located roughly a 500 km drive away. However, Placentia Bay does include several Food, Social and Ceremonial and Commercial Fisheries (FSCC). Lastly, the Castle Hill National Historic Site is 5 kilometres from the PDA, and the Cape St. Mary's Ecological Reserve is about 75 kilometres away.

# 4.7.3 Economic Context

The Port of Argentia has been pivotal to Newfoundland and Labrador's economic growth, particularly when the Hibernia oil platform's construction in the 1990s ushered in new economic avenues. The current Project, seen as a crucial economic asset, promises substantial employment, income, and trade prospects. The potential for the Project is significant, with the anticipation of 315 person-years of direct employment and a surge of up to 800 jobs during its construction phase.

In collaboration with Strategic Concepts, Incorporated, the Port of Argentia developed a comprehensive economic impact estimate using models based on projected capital and operating expenditures for the Project. The findings were significant. Over a span of three years, the estimated impact is 805 person-years of employment, of which 670 person-years will benefit Newfoundland and Labrador directly. Capital expenditure impacts are expected to unfold over 6-8 years, yielding approximately 20,000 person-years of employment over a decade, with 11,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador. Once operational, the Project is set to provide 600-800 direct jobs and an additional 300-400 indirect and induced jobs within Newfoundland and Labrador.

# 4.7.4 Health Context

The Placentia Health Care Centre currently support the Placentia Bay region. As the primary healthcare facility in the area, it offers a comprehensive range of services tailored to meet the diverse health needs of its residents. From general medicine to specialized care, the center ensures that the community has access to timely and quality healthcare close to home.



With the start of the Project, there is more than just economic growth on the horizon; there is the prospect of a healthier future for the community. The Project has the potential to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure through a surge of economic stimulus and population growth, allowing for advancements in medical technology, recruitment of specialized professionals, and expansion of the facility's service offerings. Additionally, by generating more employment opportunities and increasing the average income of residents, the Project can play a pivotal role in reducing poverty.

# 5.0 Part D: Federal, Provincial, Indigenous and Municipal Involvement and Effects

# 5.1.1 Federal Funding or Federal Lands

The estimated cost of the Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project is \$104 million. Funding for the expansion will be sourced from various channels. The National Trade Corridor Fund, administered by Transport Canada, has approved nearly \$38 million in funding for the Project components outlined in the "Marine Terminal Expansion - Port of Argentia Multi-Tenant Dock" comprehensive project proposal, and a contribution agreement is currently being drafted which will include only eligible activities for this funding. Additionally, the Port of Argentia will contribute up to \$36 million towards the Project. As outlined in section 3.1 Pattern Energy's amended lease agreement stipulates the necessity of substantial capital investments, ranging from CAD\$20-30 million, to upgrade the port's infrastructure for an ammonia storage and export terminal. Additionally, if Pattern Energy chooses to exercise its leasing option and proceed with the development of a wind farm and a green hydrogen/ammonia terminal (contingent upon Pattern's discretion), the company has committed to providing financial support for the Cooper Cove Project, with the precise amount subject to reduction if additional third-party contributors participate in the project.

### Amount to be Contributed to the Project (\$CAD) Cost Summary Eligible Costs (NTCF) \$ 84,333,363 Indelible Costs (NTCF) \$ 19,766,650 **Total Project Costs** \$104,100,013 Contributors Transport Canada, National Trade Corridor Fund \$ 37,950,013 Pattern Energy \$ 30,000,000 Port of Argentia \$ 36,150,000 \$ 104,100,013 Total Contributions towards Eligible Costs

### Table 8: Contributors to the Project



### Authorities in Respect of the Project 5.2

When relevant, the POA will review, verify, and secure all necessary permits, licenses, and approvals before initiating the Project's construction. Below is a summary of the primary federal, provincial, and municipal legal frameworks expected to be relevant to the proposed Project.

The following is a list of the anticipated permits, licenses and approvals required for an undertaking of this nature.

### 5.2.1 Federal

The Impact Assessment Act (IAA) applies to Projects listed in the Physical Activities Regulations or those designated by the Minister. The Physical Activities Regulations, under its Section 53, encompasses the expansion of an existing marine terminal if the expansion requires the construction of a new berth designed to handle ships larger than 25,000 DWT and, if the berth is not a permanent structure in the water, the construction of a new permanent structure in the water. Therefore, this IPD is presented to meet the criteria for a specified Project, allowing IAAC to decide if this specific Project necessitates an impact assessment under the IAA.

Additionally, several federal permits, approvals, or other forms of authorization will likely be required following the completion of the impact assessment, as listed in Table 9.

# Table 9: Federal Powers, Duties, or Functions of Federal Authorities in Respect of the Project

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Powers, Duties, or Functions of Federal Authorities (Including Approvals/Permits/Authorizations)	Federal Authority
Impact Assessment Act - Impact Assessment	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
* <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act</i> – Disposal at Sea Authorization	Environment and Climate Change Canada
* <i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i> (CNWA) Authorization	Transport Canada
* Request for Review and possible <i>Fisheries Act</i> Authorization	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Provision of Federal Funding through the National Trade Corridor Fund (NTCF) for approved scope of work in the Comprehensive Project Proposal	Transport Canada
*denotes permits that are dependent on design	

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# 5.2.2 Provincial

Upon review of the NL *Environmental Assessment Regulations*, 2003 list of designated undertakings, an environmental assessment (EA) may not be necessary for the proposed Project activities. Despite this uncertainty, the NLDECC-EAD has been consulted early in the planning and design stages to clarify these potential requirements. Table 10 provides a list of possible provincial permits and approvals needed before initiating specific construction tasks, all aimed at preserving Newfoundland and Labrador's natural resources. In addition, the POA is dedicated to following several regulatory approvals, including guidelines from the NLDECC-WRMD regarding the construction and maintenance of wharves, breakwaters, slipways, and boathouses.

If an EA is required, season-specific field studies may be necessary. The POA will consult with NLDECC regarding option for a cooperative impact assessment to reduce duplication and increase efficiencies in the review and Project approval process.

Provincial Approvals/Permits/Registrations	Provincial Agency
*Provincial Environmental Assessment	NL Department of Environment and Climate Change Environmental Assessment Department (NLDECC-EAD)
Permit to Alter a Body of Water	NL Department of Environment and Climate Change, Water Resources Management Division (NLDECC-WRMD)
Water Use License	NL Department of Environment and Climate Change, Water Resources Management Division (NLDECC-WRMD)
*Permit for Construction a Non-Domestic Well	NL Department of Environment and Climate Change, Water Resources Management Division (NLDECC-WRMD)
*Certificate of Approval for Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products/Used oil used glycol control regulations	Service NL
Certificate of Approval (Industrial Compliance)	NL Department of Environment and Climate Change, Pollution Prevention Division (NLDECC-PPD)

### Table 10: Provincial Approvals, Permits, and Registrations Required for the Project

\*denotes permits that are dependent on design

# 5.2.3 Municipal

The Cooper Cove Marine Wharf Extension Project is situated in the Municipality of Placentia. The area is zoned for both Industrial land use and transportation use, specifically for the marine water lot.

# *5.3* Federal Interests

The Project requires adherence to multiple federal acts such as the *Fisheries Act*, the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) *and the Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA). The Fisheries Act, especially post-2019 amendments, mandates the prevention of "harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction" of fish habitats, permitting only those alterations that assure minimal impact



and constructive offsetting of any negative effects through improvement and restoration of fish habitats. Additionally, the SARA, which categories species as extirpated, endangered, or threatened, necessitates assessments and permitting, ensuring any Project activities have minimal impact on the species and their habitats and that any adverse effects are not just incidental but are also mitigated.

Compliance with the MBCA and the CNWA is also required. The MBCA, which emphasizes the safeguarding of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, may necessitate coordination with the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to ensure that the Project activities, particularly those that might cause habitat disturbances or require vegetation removal, are timed to prevent disruption during critical breeding seasons or are justified and permitted by ECCC. Meanwhile, adherence to the CNWA ensures the unimpeded right to navigate in Canada's waterways, which requires a thorough navigation safety assessment and an approval from Transport Canada. Any works on navigable waterways requires public notification to enable input from local stakeholders and indigenous communities, thereby ensuring the project does not significantly impede navigation or ecological balance in the area. The integral role of these federal acts ensures that the Project prioritizes infrastructural development and ensures safety, ecological and environmental protection at its core.

# 5.4 Status Environmental Studies and Approvals

Project planning includes assessing environmental and socio-economic conditions in and around the PDA. Preliminary studies completed include:

- Infill feasibility study;
- Environmental screening of species at risk within a 5 km radius of the PDA;
- Assessment of potential residual effects during construction and operation; and
- Geotechnical and marine sediment sampling program.

Coordination with DFO will facilitate the underwater benthic habitat survey within Cooper Cove, with the technical report being integrated into the Project's approval process. Submissions of a Project-specific "Request for Review "application package to DFO and a CNWA authorization application to Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program are also planned.

# 6.0 **Part E: Potential Effects of the Project**

# 6.1 Changes to Components of the Environment within Federal Jurisdiction

The Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion is an infrastructure project with potential implications for various components of the local environment. In line with federal guidelines, the POA has conducted a preliminary evaluation of the potential impacts of this Project requiring legislative and regulatory approvals.



The preliminary assessment outlined in Section 5.2.1 addresses three primary environmental components: fish and fish habitat as defined in subsection 2(1) of the Fisheries Act; aquatic species, as outlined in subsection 2(1) of the Species at Risk Act; and migratory birds as defined in subsection 2(1) of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994. Recognizing the potential for the Project's construction and operational activities to interact with these components, it's imperative to detail and understand any possible effects. This understanding forms the foundation for subsequent planning and potential mitigation measures outlined in Section 6.5.

# 6.2 Changes to the Environment on Federal and Transboundary Lands

In compliance with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012, an evaluation of potential environmental changes that might arise from implementing the Project was completed through a preliminary impact assessment and environmental effects assessment as seen in Table 13.

As a result, no environmental changes are anticipated on federal lands as a direct or indirect consequence of the proposed Project. The Project is situated within the POA-tenured lands without any overlap with federal territories. Furthermore, the assessment has determined that there will be no environmental implications in provinces other than the one in which the Project is set to be conducted.

Additionally, the Project does not anticipate inducing any environmental shifts outside of Canada. All potential environmental interactions and effects are restricted within Canadian boundaries.

# 6.3 Changes to the Environment on Indigenous Peoples

The Port is committed to uphold the rights and interests of the Indigenous peoples of Canada, a preliminary assessment was undertaken regarding the potential impacts of the Project on Indigenous communities, particularly the Miawpukek First Nation (MFN). Based on available public information and engagement efforts to date, no direct impact on the physical and cultural heritage of the MFN or any other Indigenous communities has been identified. It is important to note that the MFN reserve lands are located approximately 500 km by road from the PDA, which establishes a significant distance between the two areas.

# 6.4 Health, Social, or Economic Conditions

Taking into consideration the distance between the PDA and the MFN reserve lands, as well as data from public sources and engagement sessions with Indigenous communities, no notable changes to the health, social, or economic conditions of the MFN or other Indigenous peoples in Canada are projected as a result of the Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion.



# 6.5 Preliminary Impact Assessment/Environmental Effects Assessment

The Port is providing an early assessment of how the project might affect important aspects of the environment, even though the laws under the IAA do not require it for the IPD. This extra step was taken to help the Agency make informed decisions according to a specific part of the IAA (Section 16(1)).

# 6.5.1 Selection of Valued Components

Valued components (VCs) are parts of the environment and social settings important to various groups, including regulatory agencies, local communities, and Indigenous people. Choosing these VCs considers laws, scientific factors, and guidelines. Also, advice and input from various meetings with regulatory bodies, the public, Indigenous communities, experts, and field observations are crucial in deciding which VCs are selected.

For the Project, the identified VCs include:

- Atmospheric Environment;
- Acoustic Environment;
- Potable Water Resources;
- Marine ecosystem (covering fish and their habitats);
- Freshwater environment (including fish and fish habitat);
- Wetlands and terrestrial vegetation;
- Terrestrial fauna and their habitats;
- Socioeconomic conditions;
- Human Health;
- Navigation;
- Heritage resources; and
- Indigenous Rights.

The core of the environmental/impact assessment lies in recognizing how the Project might overlap with these VCs, potentially leading to environmental impacts. Given that each phase of the Project has distinct activities and might have varying overlap with the VCs, the effects assessments for the construction and operation phases were conducted separately.

The assessment of possible environmental interactions with the VCs spans two primary areas: the Project Development Area (PDA) and the Local Assessment Area (LAA).



## Project Development Area (PDA)

The Project Development Area (PDA) is defined as the area of physical disturbance (or physical footprint) associated with the Project. As outlined in Figure 7, the PDA consists of a total area of up to approximately of 10, 300 m<sup>2</sup> of the marine water lot extending from the existing wharf at the POA into Cooper Cove. Land use for this Project will be determined as part of the design-build stage.

## Local Assessment Area (LAA)

The local assessment area (LAA) is defined as the maximum area where Project-specific environmental interactions can be predicted and measured with a reasonable degree of accuracy and confidence (i.e., the "zone of influence" of the Project on each VC) as show in Figure 7. The LAA, which can vary by VC, is summarized for each VC in Table 13.

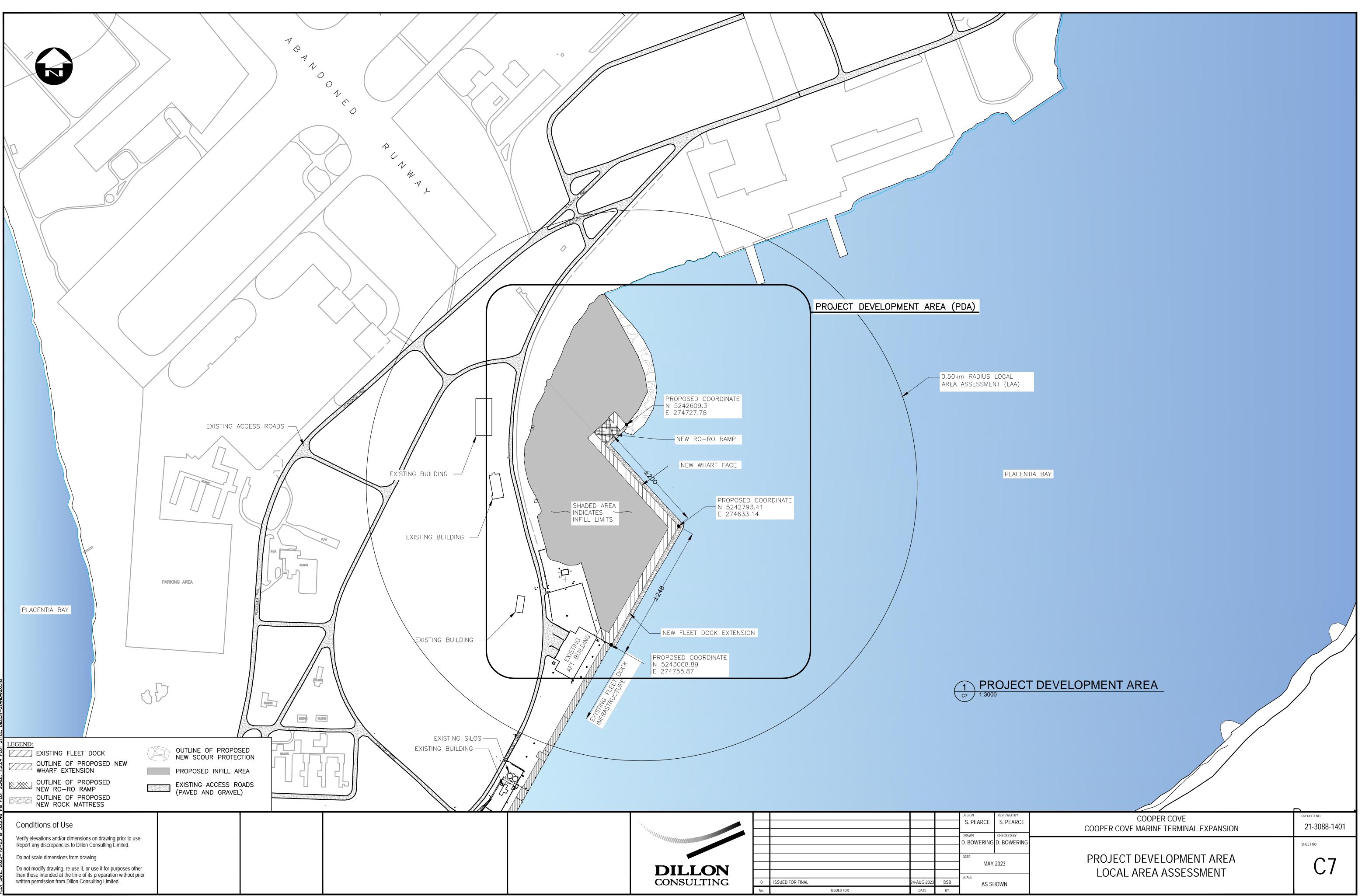
# 6.6 **Project-Valued Component Interactions**

A preliminary assessment, presented in Table 13, was conducted to determine potential interactions between the Project and each VC. Only those interactions predicted to result in a tangible negative impact on the VC underwent a preliminary assessment. VCs that still showed residual impacts postmitigation were further evaluated for the significance of these effects (Table 13). Conversely, any impacts that did not indicate a substantive environmental change as a result of proposed activities required for the Project were not further assessed.

In identifying VCs and their interactions with a project, certain VCs are determined not to have anticipated interactions across any project phase, as highlighted in the table above. Notably, Potable Water Resources are not anticipated to be impacted by the Project activities, due to the nearest Public Water Supply Area, Larkin's Pond, positioned roughly 4km away. Similarly, due to the absence of freshwater watercourses within a 100m radius of the Project development area, interactions are not anticipated. Furthermore, given the heavily industrialized project location lacking vegetation and wetlands, no interactions are anticipated. These non-interacting VCs are acknowledged and considered in the subsequent environmental effects evaluation.

All other VC's have been evaluated to determine the significant of residual impacts and environmental effects in Table 13. The descriptors that will be used to assess the significance of impacts/environmental effects are provided in Table 14.





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LENAME: G:\CAD\DANIELLE BOWERING\213088-1401-COOPER COVE\CAD FILES FOR IPD\C7 - PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AREA.DWG PLOTTED BY: BOWERING, DANIELL OT DATE: 2023-10-23 © 3:22:48 PM PLOT SCALE: 1:25.4 PLOT STYLE: DILLON-STANDÅRD.CTB

		F	Project Phase	S	
Valued Component (VC)	<u>Phase 1</u> Dredging	<u>Phase 2</u> Caisson Placement	<u>Phase 3</u> Infilling	<u>Phase 4</u> Top-side Infrastructure	Operation
Atmospheric Environment	~	✓	$\checkmark$	✓	✓
Acoustic Environment	✓	✓	$\checkmark$	✓	✓
Potable Water Resources					
Marine Environment (Including Fish and Fish Habitat)	~	~	✓	✓	~
Freshwater Environment (Including Fish and Fish Habitat)					
Wetlands and Terrestrial Vegetation					
Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat					✓
Indigenous Rights <sup>*</sup>	✓	✓	$\checkmark$		✓
Socioeconomic Environment	✓	✓	$\checkmark$	✓	✓
Human Health	✓	~	$\checkmark$	✓	✓
Navigation	✓	✓			~
Heritage Resources	✓				

Table 11: Project Interactions with Value components (VC) of the Environment

# 6.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with the Project

The Project anticipates producing GHG emissions in construction, mainly from heavy machinery and vehicles as outlined in the 2023 National Inventory Report. The amount of greenhouse gas emissions from the construction work was estimated to be 22,511 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. It is important to mention that this estimate specifically looked at the emissions caused by the construction activities and didn't include any details about how much fuel or electricity would be used on the site or how the equipment would operate. Because of this, an assessment of the emissions for the regular day-to-day operations of the project could not be completed at this time. The POA will conduct an additional study to gather a baseline inventory of its GHG emissions for operations.

During the operation phase, the Project commits to reducing its carbon footprint and operating newly built marine infrastructure with as little carbon emission as possible. The Port will actively encourage tenants to use practices that produce little to no emissions, further reducing GHGs. The Port will also host renewable energy companies, indirectly supporting global GHG reduction efforts.



While considering these actions and the dedication to include improved emissions reduction technologies when they're available, the Project aims to lessen its environmental impact and promote practices that are good for the environment throughout the building and operation phases.

# 6.7.1 Wastes and Emissions

Table 12 offers a breakdown of the anticipated waste products and emissions that are projected to arise during the project's construction and operational stages. This overview aims to give stakeholders a clear understanding of potential environmental considerations throughout the Project's lifecycle.

nvironmental Component to which Emissions and Wastes are Released	Applicable Project Phase	Type/Source or Emission or Waste
Air	Construction	<ul> <li>Dust emissions</li> <li>Emissions from heavy equipment</li> <li>Noise</li> <li>Light</li> </ul>
All	Operation	<ul> <li>Dust emissions</li> <li>Emissions from heavy equipment</li> <li>Noise</li> <li>Light</li> </ul>
Land	Construction	<ul><li>Solid waste</li><li>Regulated industrial solid</li><li>Vibration</li></ul>
Land	Operation	<ul><li>Solid and domestic waste</li><li>Regulated industrial solid</li><li>Vibration</li></ul>
Water	Construction	<ul> <li>Temporary increased sedimentation</li> <li>Liquid waste</li> <li>Domestic sewage</li> <li>Storm water runoff</li> </ul>
	Operation	Storm water runoff

### Table 12: Anticipated Waste/Emissions



Valued Component (VC)	Potential Effects (Without Mitigation)	Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects (After Mitigation has been applied)	Characterization of Residual Effect	Significance	Confidenc
Atmospheric Environment	Construction -Emissions of combustion gases from the combustion of fossil fuels by heavy equipment and vehicles associated with on-site construction activities and from transport of materials on- and off-site could result in air contaminants that could disperse in the atmosphere to off-site receptors. -Emissions of fugitive dust from earth moving activities, and from transport of materials on- and off-site during construction activities could be generated and disperse in the atmosphere to off-site receptors. -The combustion of fossil fuels from the operation of mobile equipment and on-site trucks during construction activities could result in emissions of greenhouse gases. <u>Operation</u> -Emissions of combustion gases and greenhouse gases from the combustion of fossil fuels by heavy equipment and vessels associated with the operation of the Project could result in air contaminants that could disperse in the atmosphere to off-site receptors. -Marine vessels using of auxiliary engines while at berth and increased vehicle traffic.	<ul> <li>-Monitoring of weather (wind conditions and storm events) and stabilization of construction materials to minimize airborne fine particulate matter.</li> <li>-Vehicles and equipment will be maintained in proper working order.</li> <li>-A non-idling policy will be implemented and followed.</li> <li>-Adopting best management practices during construction such as minimization of the quantity of aggregate stockpiled at the construction site, minimizing drop distances for material transfer, and appropriate stockpile formation (slope angles and direction).</li> <li>-Complete Port Electrification Study.</li> <li>-Complete baseline assessment and SACC if required.</li> <li>-Water will be used to reduce dust, as necessary. Chemical dust suppressants will not be used at the proposed PDA.</li> </ul>	Construction -Interactions between the Project and the atmospheric environment are expected to be primarily related to the operation of heavy mobile equipment and vehicles as well as the transport of materials on- and off-site. These activities have the potential to result in changes to the local air quality through the generation of emissions of fugitive dust and particulate matter from material movement as well as combustion emissions associated with the combustion of fossil fuels in heavy equipment. -Emissions of combustion gases from the combustion of fossil fuels by heavy equipment and vehicles during on-site construction activities and from transport of materials on- and off-site will be mitigated by implementing a non-idling policy and ensuring that equipment is in good working order. -Similarly with emissions of combustion gases, the emissions of greenhouse gases from the operation of mobile equipment and on-site trucks during construction activities will be mitigated by a anti-idling policy. Equipment will also be in good working order which will also keep emissions of GHGs as low as possible. <u>Operation</u> -Although an increase in emissions due to operational capacity increases are expected; the POA will be looking at options for electrification at the POA.	Magnitude: low Geographic Extent: local Duration: long term Frequency: intermittent Reversibility: reversible Ecological or Socioeconomic Context: high	Not significant	High

# Table 13: Summary of Potential Residual Effects during Construction and Operation, and Significance Determination



Valued Component (VC)	Potential Effects (Without Mitigation)	Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects (After Mitigation has been applied)	Characterization of Residual Effect	Significance	Confidence
Acoustic Environment	<u>Construction</u> Elevated noise levels at adjacent and nearby receptors during Project construction phases related to heavy equipment use, materials movement/delivery potential blasting. <u>Operation</u> Elevated noise levels at adjacent and nearby receptors during Project operation phases.	<ul> <li>-A noise reduction plan will be established and communicated to the contractors and operators prior to construction.</li> <li>-Vehicles and equipment will be properly muffled and maintained according to noise suppression standards.</li> <li>-During construction, nearby residents will be notified of the schedule for construction activities and the likely duration.</li> <li>-Construction equipment will be well maintained and will be turned off when not in active use to minimize excess idling.</li> <li>-POA will ensure drivers know the designated vehicle routes, parking locations, no-idling policy, normal delivery hours, and use of engine brakes policy.</li> <li>-Complaints related to noise from the construction will be addressed by POA.</li> </ul>	<u>Construction</u> -Interactions between the Project and the acoustic environment are expected to be primarily related to the operation of heavy mobile equipment and vehicles as well as the transport of materials on- and off-site. Developing a noise reduction plan to consider the closes residential receptor (Sunset RV Park), located approximately 2.5 km from the PDA. <u>Operation</u> -Although elevated noise levels are anticipated during Project operation phase; they are not anticipated to be substantially more than current operations and as such residual effects due to the operations phase are not anticipated.	Magnitude: low Geographic Extent: local Duration: long-term Frequency: intermittent Reversibility: reversible Ecological or Socioeconomic Context: high	Not significant	Moderate
Marine Environment	Construction-The permanent loss of fish habitat (i.e., harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat) from dredging and marine infilling activities. -Temporary change to fish habitat (through dredging activities). -A change in local surface water quality in POA due to the potential release of deleterious substances, including sediment, petroleum hydrocarbons and/or chemicals. -Change in marine fish populations and fish habitat (e.g., adult fish, juveniles, eggs and larvae, invertebrates and marine plants) through direct mortality, disruption (due to construction associated noise), injury or indirectly through alteration or destruction of habitat. -Introduction or spread of invasive species in the marine environment may be impacted by the operation of the new facility through	<ul> <li>-If determined by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) that the Project may cause HADD (harmful alteration, disruption or destruction) of fish habitat, POA shall apply for and obtain an authorization under Section 35(2) of the <i>Fisheries Act</i>, with applicable offsetting and monitoring.</li> <li>-Complete dive survey (underwater benthic habitat study) in consultation with DFO.</li> <li>-The work will be conducted in accordance with a site-specific Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) to systematically reduce the likelihood of potential effects.</li> <li>-Dredge spoils will be disposed of in approved areas and as outlined in the EPP and approved by appropriate regulatory authorities.</li> <li>-Only clean fill material from a provincially approved source will be used to develop the land level expansion.</li> <li>-Dredging will be limited to areas required for the Project.</li> <li>-Ground disturbance shall be minimized to the extent possible to reduce the potential for construction debris to reach the marine environment.</li> <li>-Construction material and stockpiled materials will be set back a minimum of 30 m from Cooper Cove.</li> <li>-If practical, work will be scheduled so as to avoid periods of significant storm events.</li> </ul>	<u>Construction</u> -Approximately 10,000 m <sup>2</sup> of work (i.e., dredging and infilling) will occur below the high-water mark. Of that area, approximately 75,000 m <sup>2</sup> will be the land level expansion and result in the permanent loss of fish habitat. Approximately 25,000 m <sup>2</sup> will be temporarily altered beyond the permanent footprint. This temporary impact area will be a sloped transition to provide stability to the land level expansion and is expected to infill naturally overtime returning to existing conditions and function. Furthermore, although mitigation measures to prevent and minimize death of fish will be implemented, some incidental death of fish may occur during the construction phase of the Project. -The fish habitat within the PDA is not specialized or limited with abundant habitat similar in nature throughout the harbour. Given the industrial/commercial nature of the POA, habitat is not expected to be of	Dredging: Magnitude: moderate Geographic Extent: site-specific Duration: short-term Frequency: intermittent Reversibility: reversible Ecological or Socioeconomic Context: highMarine Infilling: Magnitude: moderate Geographic Extent: site-specific Duration: permanent Frequency: intermittent Reversibility: irreversible Ecological or Socioeconomic Context: highMarine Infilling: Magnitude: moderate Geographic Extent: site-specific Duration: permanent Frequency: intermittent Reversibility: irreversible Ecological or Socioeconomic Context: highOther Construction and Operation Activities: Magnitude: low Geographic Extent: local Duration: short-term to permanent	Not Significant	Moderate



lued Component	Potential Effects (Without Mitigation)	Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects	Characterization of Residual	Significance	Confidenc
(VC)		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	(After Mitigation has been applied)	Effect	olgrinicariee	oonnach
	changes in local surface water quality related	-Construction material and stockpiled materials will be	high quality and higher quality habitat is	Frequency: intermittent		
	to use of typical chemicals and equipment	checked daily, and prior to major storm events, to ensure they	expected to be available elsewhere.	Reversibility: reversible		
	used in shipbuilding due to the proximity of	are properly stored/secured.	Furthermore, the area of temporary impact	Ecological or Socioeconomic		
	the Project to the marine environment.	-Visual monitoring of the turbidity will be required in the	is expected to infill naturally overtime	Context: high		
	-The marine environment may be impacted by	vicinity of the dredging to ensure that the turbidity is limited.	returning to existing conditions.			
	elevated noise levels during operations,	If excessive change occurs in the turbidity (i.e., distinct colour				
	causing sensory disturbance to fish or marine	difference) beyond the harbour entrance as a result of the	Operation			
	mammals.	dredging activities, the work will stop.	Residual effects are not anticipated from			
		-Equipment that has been in the marine environment (i.e.,	daily operations as they will not be			
		excavators, piping, etc.) will be cleaned of any sediments,	substantially different than current			
		plants or animals and washed before and after construction to	operations.			
		avoid the transfer of invasive species.				
		-Best management practices will be adopted during the				
		dredging activities to minimize sedimentation such as: low ascent and decent speeds of the dredging bucket.				
		-A bubble curtain will be used to isolate the site and to assist				
		in the prevention of sedimentation being transported off-site.				
		-All Project work must follow the <i>Canada Shipping Act, 2001</i>				
		and its regulations and requirements for inspection and				
		certification of vessels used in the project, as well as the				
		appropriate training and certification of competency for				
		operators. More information on the Act can be found at the				
		following:				
		http://www.tc.gc.ca/ActsRegulations/acts/2001c26/menu.htm				
		-For in-water work during dredging and land level expansion,				
		the contractor will adhere to the conditions set by DFO and				
		NLDECC-WRD approvals.				
		-Should blasting be required, prior to commencing with				
		underwater blasting, a blast control and monitoring plan that				
		adheres to DFO's "Guidelines for the Use of Explosives In or				
		Near Canadian Fisheries Waters" will be submitted and				
		approved by DFO and the UXO legacy sites program approved by DND.				
		-Underwater blasting will be scheduled to the extent possible				
		to avoid peak and sensitive migration periods, in consultation with DFO.				
		-Acoustic measures (hazing) will be used to repel fish and				
		mammals immediately prior to underwater blasts as directed				
		by DFO.				
		-Underwater blasting will be conducted in accordance with the				
		"Measures to Avoid Causing Harm to Fish and Fish Habitat" on				
		DFO's website.				



Valued Component	Potential Effects (Without Mitigation)	Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects	Characterization of Residual	Significance	Confidence
(VC)	Construction         -Sensory disturbance from construction activities could result in disruption to wildlife species and avoidance of the PDA.         -Heavy equipment use during the construction activities may cause direct injury or death of birds through collisions and destruction of food sources; and         -Food scraps remaining at the PDA could enhance populations of scavenging birds in the active construction area.         Operation         -Though unlikely to be present, terrestrial wildlife may be impacted by the operation of the new facility through potential wildlife interactions at the PDA.	<ul> <li>POA will ensure that procedures are in place to address the safe handling and storage of hazardous products.</li> <li>Furthermore, the facility will have an Environmental Emergency Response Plan.</li> <li>-All workers will adhere to the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994</i> and the <i>Migratory Birds Regulations</i> (MBR), which protect migratory birds from undue harm, injury, harassment, or death, and outlines that no migratory bird nests or eggs may be moved or obstructed during the construction and operation phases of the Project.</li> <li>-Project-related lighting during construction and operation shall be directed downwards to the extent possible and will be shielded as necessary to prevent undue attraction of birds.</li> <li>-Though no clearing is expected to take place to accommodate the Project, the ground shall be visually surveyed for the presence of nesting activity by ground-nesting bird species during this period prior to carrying out earth moving activities or stockpiling of dredge spoils.</li> <li>-If a nest or young birds are encountered, the contractor shall immediately cease work in the immediate area of the nest and contact the POA HSE and/or biologist representative.</li> <li>-Concentrations of seabirds, waterfowl, or shorebirds should not be approached.</li> <li>-To minimize bird or nest encounters, the following shall be implemented.</li> <li>-No attempt will be made by any worker at the PDA to chase, catch, divert, follow, or otherwise harass birds by vehicle or on foot.</li> <li>-If the nest of any bird is encountered during construction and operation activities, work around the nest shall immediately cease until a biologist representative assesses the situation and appropriate mitigation measures are applied.</li> <li>-A 100 m buffer zone shall be established around any discovered nests, within which no work will be permitted to take place until a biologist representative assesses the situation and appropriate mitigation measures are applied.</li> <li>-A 100 m buffer zone shall be</li></ul>	(After Mitigation has been applied) Construction -Development of the Project will not result in the permanent loss of terrestrial wildlife habitat; however, it may interact with wildlife through sensory disturbances such as noise vibration, light or by increased traffic during construction and operation if wildlife species are present. Due to the lack of vegetation and industrial activities at the PDA, terrestrial wildlife (with the exception of birds) are not expected to occur within the PDA. Furthermore, although migrating and overwintering birds may visit the PDA for foraging purposes, there is no critical or well-suited habitat identified within the PDA. -Project activities are likely to result in sensory disturbances to birds and thus most bird species are likely to avoid the areas during each phase of work, thereby limiting the potential for injury or mortality of bird species. <u>Operation</u> -Although there is the potential for interactions with wildlife during operations, these interactions would be similar to present day activities and as such, residual effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat during operations are not anticipated.	Effect         Magnitude: low         Geographic Extent: site-specific         Duration: long-term         Frequency: intermittent         Reversibility: reversible         Ecological or Socioeconomic         Context: high	Not Significant	High



alued Component (VC)	Potential Effects (Without Mitigation)	Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects (After Mitigation has been applied)	Characterization of Residual Effect	Significance	Confidence
		-In the event of a mortality of a bird species at risk, or if mortality of 10 birds of any species occurs, ECCC and the NL Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. Should interaction with wildlife become problematic during the operations phase, POA will develop a response plan.				
Socioeconomic Environment	<u>Construction</u> -With an increasing number of high-density developments, there is a greater chance of land use conflicts between industrial and residential uses, in the form of dust particles and noise-pollution from Project activities -Creation of jobs during the construction phase of the Project. <u>Operation</u> -Ongoing job creation and economic activity in the Placentia Bay region from the ongoing operation of the POA.	<ul> <li>-Refer to atmospheric environment VC for mitigation related to air quality.</li> <li>-Refer to acoustic environment VC for mitigation related to noise.</li> <li>-POA will engage with local residents prior to and throughout the Project to identify and consider concerns.</li> <li>-Vehicles and equipment will be equipped with mufflers and maintained, and dust suppression will be applied to stockpiled soil during dry periods.</li> <li>-Working hours will conform to site operations policies and should work be completed during nighttime conditions within allotted working times, directional lighting will be used on site with a downward lateral focus to minimize light leaving the site.</li> <li>-A transportation plan will be developed for the Project to manage truck and equipment flow on-site and off-site.</li> <li>-Although not anticipated, all necessary permits will be obtained, and industry best practices will be followed for special moves or traffic interruptions on public roads.</li> <li>-Where possible, the labour force will be drawn from the local economy.</li> <li>-Inclusion of Gender-based Violence (GBV) in the Health and Safety Plans for all work conducted at the PDA.</li> <li>-Development of Hiring Strategy that includes Diversity and Inclusion Policy.</li> </ul>	Construction-Refer to atmospheric environment VC for residual effects related to air quality. -Refer to acoustic environment VC for residual effects related to noise. -With a growing local economy, it is likely that the labour force will be absorbed into other construction projects in the region after this shipyard expansion is complete. -As the POA continues to prioritize economic growth within the Placentia areas, there will continue to be increased residential density within the surrounding communities in proximity to the PDA. -With the incorporation of the above outlined measures, in combination with additional planning and development by- laws at the municipal level, residential effects are not anticipated.Operation -As the new facility operations are not anticipated to be substantially different than current operations, adverse residual effects are not anticipated.The Shipyard will continue to create jobs and provide economic activity for the Placentia Bay region.	Magnitude: low Geographic Extent: local Duration: long-term Frequency: intermittent Reversibility: reversible Ecological or Socioeconomic Context: high	Not significant	High



Valued Component (VC)	Potential Effects (Without Mitigation)	Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects (After Mitigation has been applied)	Characterization of Residual Effect	Significance	Confidence
Human Health	-Worker safety and occupational health and safety are beyond the scope of this IPD. The only other pathway that might result in effects to human health is from emissions to the atmospheric environment. The potential environmental effects of the Project on human health would be from fugitive air emissions, which are assessed in under the atmospheric environment VC. As such, the atmospheric environment and human health VCs were assessed together. Please refer to the atmospheric environment VC for potential interactions, mitigation measures and residual effects pertaining to human health.	Refer to atmospheric environment above.	Refer to atmospheric environment above.	Magnitude: low Geographic Extent: local Duration: long-term Frequency: intermittent Reversibility: reversible Ecological or Socioeconomic Context: neutral	Not significant	High
Navigation	Construction         Temporary delay or access disruption to vessel         traffic (commercial or recreational) due to         marine construction phase.         Operation         The new facility will interact with recreational         and commercial boat movement during         operation.	All Project work must follow the <i>Canada Shipping Act, 2001</i> and the <i>Navigation Protection Act</i> as well as their Regulations (permits from TC will be obtained for impediments to navigation caused by the Project); -To the extent practical, work will be scheduled so as to avoid periods when the Project activities are anticipated to affect navigation in the harbour; and The POA will coordinate harbour activities for the duration of the Project so as to avoid unnecessary interference with harbour users.	Construction-While the Project is not anticipated to impede use of existing wharf facilities nor the social, economic, or cultural purposes among the public particularly after mitigation measures are implemented. -Disruptions to navigation during construction are not anticipated to have residual effects.Operation -Though the Project is not anticipated to impede the flow of vessels. -Applications to TC will be submitted for approval in order to proceed with the Project. From the proponents perspective the Project effects on navigation are not significant, however this will be confirmed by TC in the review and permitting process.	Magnitude: low Geographic Extent: local Duration: long-term Frequency: continuous Reversibility: irreversible Ecological or Socioeconomic Context: high	Not significant	High
Heritage Resources	Construction -Accidental disruption/destruction of heritage resources within the PDA Project development area during construction due to dredging and caisson placement activities. <u>Operation</u>	-Minimize the extent of disturbance of the PDA by planning as small a disturbance area as possible.	<u>Construction</u> -The PDA is in an area of historically used as a Naval Base. Alternation to the site are not anticipated to have any impact to historical resources. <u>Operation</u>	Magnitude: low Geographic Extent: site-specific Duration: short-term Frequency: intermittent Reversibility: irreversible Ecological or Socioeconomic Context: Neutral	Not significant	Moderate



Valued Component (VC)	Potential Effects (Without Mitigation)	Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects (After Mitigation has been applied)	Characterization of Residual Effect	Significance	Confidence
Indigenous Rights*	Construction-Based on feedback during pre-engagementand available information, the highest level ofimpact is assumed to relate to potentialimpact on fisheries in POA, due to theProject's impact on the marine habitatthrough marine dredging and infrastructureplacement associated with the Project thatwill result in loss of fish habitat within thefootprint of the Project-related facilitiesThe Project activities of dredging, caissonplacement, and infilling have potential effectson the following Indigenous rights: Food Socialand Ceremonial Fishery, and the Right to aModerate Livelihood (Commercial Fishing)Project activities were assessed against theHunting, Trapping and Gathering Rights; theRight to land and to Establish Treaties, and theRight to Ceremony. The potential effects ofthe Project activities on these rights wasdetermined to be low, given the Project'sindustrial location, absence of knownarchaeological findings, and the absence ofknown ceremonial activities taking placewithin the PDATo date no concerns have been raisedthrough engagement efforts*.Operation-Potential interactions between the Projectand Indigenous rights during the operationphase are not anticipated.	-The Proponent will continue to engage Indigenous persons and communities (if they so choose) throughout the Project to share Project-related information, exchange ideas, address issues and concerns, and seek further clarity on which, if any, Indigenous rights are being affected by the Project, to what extent, and how they might be accommodated. -Refer to the marine environment VC for mitigation related to fish and fish habitat. -The POA is interested in other ways that it can mitigate any cultural impacts associated with this Project and will continue work toward building a stronger relationship with communities including finding ways of addressing real or perceived barriers to Indigenous employment at the POA.	Construction -Refer to the marine environment VC for the evaluation of residual effects to fish and fish habitat. -Indigenous people have an inherent right to fish, including within the POA. Although the footprint of the Project is relatively small in comparison to the amount of habitat available in the Placentia Bay, the Project will impact fishing activities in Cooper Cove, and while fishing activity is not known to occur at this location, this does not extinguish the right of Indigenous people to fish in these waters if they so choose. -Even with mitigation measures in place, building relationships with Indigenous communities will continue. The mitigation efforts will additionally not account for the cumulative effects that stem from historical colonization and the displacement of Indigenous people where the Project is located. These effects are historical and not connected to the Project itself. <u>Operation</u> As the new facility operations are not anticipated to be substantially different than current operations, adverse residual effects are not anticipated.	Magnitude: low Geographic Extent: regional Duration: long-term Frequency: intermittent Reversibility: irreversible Ecological or Socioeconomic Context: neutral	Not significant	Moderate



## **Table 14: Effects Significance Evaluation**

Characterization Criteria	Criteria Definition	Range of C
Duration	The length of time the residual effect is expected to persist	Short-term: Effect lasts less than 1 year (i.e., during one specific su Medium-term: Effect lasts 1-5 years (i.e., the duration of the cons Long-term: Effect lasts greater than 5 years until the end of useful Permanent: Indefinitely; beyond the useful life of the Project.
Magnitude	The expected size or intensity of the residual effect on a VC	Negligible: No detectable changes from baseline conditions. Low: Change that is not likely to have a definable, detectable, or n within a normal range of variation) or is below established thresho Moderate: Change that is definable, measurable, or detectable an approaches the limits of natural variation but is equal to or only m thresholds of acceptable change. High: Change that is easily definable, measurable, or detectable an established thresholds of acceptable change and results in change
Geographic Extent	The spatial area over which the residual effect on the VC is anticipated to occur	Discrete: Effect occurs within the PDA. Local: Effect extends beyond the PDA but not beyond the LAA. Regional: Effect occurs beyond the LAA but within the regional are communities). Beyond Regional: Effect extends beyond Placentia Bay.
Frequency	How often the residual effect occurs	Once: Effect occurs once during any phase of the Project. Intermittent: Effect occurs at intermittent or sporadic intervals du Regular: Effect occurs at regular intervals during any phase of the Continuous: Effect occurs continuously during any phase of the Pr
Reversibility	The degree of permanence of a residual effect and whether the residual effect can be reversed once the physical activity or activity causing the disturbance ceases	Reversible Short-Term: Effect ceases when the activity ceases and a 1-year period). Irreversible: Effect that persists even after the activity causing it co
cological or Socioeconomic Context	The sensitivity and resilience of a VC to changes caused by the Project given existing conditions, cumulative effects of other projects and activities, and the impact of natural and human-caused trends on the condition of the VC	High context: The VC has high resilience to disruption in the receive characteristics of the area in which the VC have significantly affect Neutral context: The VC has neutral sensitivity and resilience to di adapt to effect. Or the characteristics of the area in which the VC is Low context: The VC has low resilience to disruption in the receive characteristics of the area in which the VC are located relatively pr

# Criteria

sub-phase of the project such as dredging or infilling). hstruction phase of the project) ul life of the Project.

measurable effect above baseline (i.e., potential effect is holds of acceptable change (e.g., water quality guideline) and differs from the average value for baseline conditions and marginally above standards/guidelines or established

and from baseline conditions, exceeding guidelines or ges beyond the natural range of variation.

area (i.e., within the Town of Placentia Bay and surrounding

during any phase of the Project.

ne Project.

Project.

nd is readily reversible over a short period of time (i.e., within

ceases, and cannot be reversed (i.e., is permanent).

eiving environment and can adapt to the effect. Or the cted by human activities.

disruption in the receiving environment and may be able to

C is located have been somewhat affected by human activities.

ving environment and will not easily adapt to effect. Or the

pristine and have not been affected by human activities.



# 6.7.2 Potential Environmental Impacts, Accidents and Malfunctions during Construction and Operation

The POA is committed to develop management plans in consultation with regulators to meet all legal and regulatory requirements for the Project's construction and operational phases to ensure environmental risks are mitigated, including accidental ones. The management plans that will be developed for construction phase include:

- Environmental Protection Plan (EPP): Overarching framework for managing environmental risks and accidental environmental impacts.
- Environmental Management Plans (EMPs): Help manage impacts from activities like infill and dredging.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs): Outline specific requirements for construction activities to mitigate environmental impacts.
- Environmental Health and Safety Contingency Plans (EH&S): Developed to identify potential accidents/malfunctions during construction and consider external threats like severe weather.
- Environmental Emergency Response Plans (EERP): Prepared to manage responses to environmental emergencies.

This commitment extends to reducing air and noise pollution, managing hazardous waste, protecting water resources, and ensuring the health and safety of workers and nearby communities during construction. All the plans above aim to anticipate, manage, and mitigate possible environmental impacts from construction activities such as dreading and infilling and operation activities like increased cargo vessel traffic.

# 6.7.3 Overview of Potential Environmental Effects

Table 13 offers an overview of the possible environmental effects and residual impacts of the Project. Further clarification on this information will be achieved through continued engagement activities, the environmental approval process, and investigations and environmental studies for the extension.

The *Impact Assessment Act* mandates the consideration of potential cumulative effects. These cumulative effects will be evaluated and mitigated as part of the continued planning for the Project. For the Project, future assessment will likely encompass cumulative effects related to increase marine shipping, dreading, infilling within the marine water lot. The aim is to expand or adjust the facilities developed during the planning stage, ensuring that environmental disturbances are kept to a minimum where feasible.

A full outline of the potential environmental effects and their associated mitigation measures for the Cooper Cove Marine Terminal Expansion Project can be reviewed in the Initial Project Description. This



document presents a summary of the IPD, shedding light on anticipated impacts, their consequences, and the proposed strategies for mitigation.

# 7.0 Closing

This Initial Project Description (IPD) was prepared by Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) on behalf of the Port of Argentia (POA). Dillon has used the degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised under similar circumstances at the time the work was performed by reputable members of the environmental consulting profession practicing in Canada. Dillon assumes no responsibility for conditions which were beyond its scope of work. There is no warranty expressed or implied by Dillon.

The material in the report reflects Dillon's best judgment in light of the information available to Dillon at the time of preparation. Any use which a third party makes of this report, or any reliance on or decisions made based on it, are the responsibilities of such third parties. Dillon accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by any third party as a result of decisions made or actions based on this report. This report has been prepared by a team of Dillon professionals on behalf of the Port of Argentia.

Sincerely, DILLON CONSULTING LIMITED <Original signed by>

Michelle Roche, EP, RPF Associate, Project Manager



# Appendix A

Record of Engagement





# Contact List

I ( harlos Vondor Kand Manador	cpender@galipu.ca
Charles Pender, Band Manager	
	709-634-8059
Ian Sullivan, Manager of Environment and	isullivan@galipu.ca
Natural Resources	709-634-0998
	705 05 1 0550
Brendan Mitchell, Chief	bmitchell@qalipu.ca
Ross Hinks, Director, Department of Natural	rhinks@mfngov.ca
Resources	709-882-3002
Mise'l Joe, Chief	saqamaw@mfngov.ca
Vanessa King, Chief's Assistant	ca@mfngov.ca
	Ian Sullivan, Manager of Environment and Natural Resources Brendan Mitchell, Chief Ross Hinks, Director, Department of Natural

## Engagement Log: Indigenous Communities – Qalipu Mi'kmaq

Date	From	То	Method	Content	Response/Concerns
February 1, 2023	Port of Argentia	Qalipu Mi'kmaq - Chief Brendan Mitchell - Jonathan Strickland - Andrew Simms - Paulette Brinston	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion	N/A
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Qalipu Mi'kmaq -Chief Brendan Mitchell -Ian Sullivan	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 28, 2023	Dillon Consulting Ltd.	Ian Sullivan, Manager of Environment and Natural Resources	Email	Forwarded original message and if there were any questions, coordinate a time to meet	

September 6, 2023	Dillon Consulting Ltd.	Charles Pender, Band Manager cc. Ian Sullivan	Email	Forwarded original message and if there were any questions, to contact. Noted that the Agency indicated Charles and lan as the contacts for engagement protocols.	
September 13, 2023	Diedre Halbot, Director of Environment and Natural Resources	Michelle Roche, Dillon Consulting cc. Charles Pender, Brendan Mitchell, Alana Vigna	Email	Question regarding whether there are any other documents associated with the Project.	
September 14, 2023	Michelle Roche, Dillon Consulting	Diedre Halbot, Director of Environment and Natural Resources cc. Charles Pender, Brendan Mitchell, Alana Vigna	Email	Provided an update regarding the Initial Project Description (IPD) and that the Project Team will share the IPD once submitted. Offered the option to discuss the project by email or phone call.	
Note:					

## Engagement Log: Indigenous Communities – Miawpukek First Nation

Date	From	То	Method	Content	Response/Concerns
February 1, 2023	Port of Argentia	Miawpukek First	Letter	Notice of Project	N/A
		Nation		Expansion	

August 18, 2022	Dillon Conculting on	-Chief Mise'l Joe -Ross Hicks -Vanessa King	Letter	Nation of Project	*lattor is dated Aug
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Miawpukek First Nation -Chief Mise'l Joe	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 28, 2023	Dillon Consulting Ltd.	Vanessa King, Chief's Assistant	Voicemail	Called to confirm Aug 18 letter was received, any questions or concerns. Follow up in an email	
August 28, 2023	Dillon Consulting Ltd.	Vanessa King, Chief's Assistant	Email	Forwarded original message and if there were any questions, coordinate a time to meet	
September 6, 2023	Dillon Consulting Ltd.	Ross Hinks, Director, Department of Natural Resources	Email	Forwarded original message and if there were any questions, to contact. Noted that the Agency indicated Ross as the contact for engagement protocols.	
Note:					

Date	From	То	Method	Content	Response/Concerns
March 14, 2022	Port of Argentia	Town of Placentia CRH Cement Subsea 7 TMSI Containers Argentia Freezers and Terminals	Email	Request for support for Marine Terminal Expansion	N/A
March 15, 2022	Port of Argentia	Newco Metals Pattern Energy TechnipFMC Econnext Integrated Logistics	Email	Request for support for Marine Terminal Expansion	N/A
March 18, 2022	Port of Argentia	Mammoet Search Minerals Boskalis	Email	Request for support for Marine Terminal Expansion	N/A
March 30, 2022	Town of Placentia	Port of Argentia	Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised
March 30, 2022	CRH Cement	Port of Argentia	Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised
March 30, 2022	Subsea 7	Port of Argentia	Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised
March 30, 2022	TMSI Containers	Port of Argentia	Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised
March 31, 2022	Argentia Freezers and Terminals	Port of Argentia	Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised
March 31, 2022	Newco metals	Port of Argentia	Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised
March 31, 2022	Pattern Energy	Port of Argentia	Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised
March 31, 2022	TechnipFMC	Port of Argentia	Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised
April 1, 2022	Econnext	Port of Argentia	Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised

## Engagement Log: Government Departments and Agencies; Local Municipalities; Business and Industry organizations; Individuals

April 1, 2022       Ener         April 11, 2022       Man         April 14, 2022       Sear         May 24, 2022       Bosk	rgy NL mmoet rch Minerals kalis	Port of Argentia	Letter Letter Letter Letter Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion Support for Marine Terminal Expansion Support for Marine Terminal Expansion Support for Marine Terminal Expansion Support for Marine	No additional issues raised No additional issues raised No additional issues raised No additional issues raised No additional issues
April 11, 2022         Man           April 14, 2022         Sear           May 24, 2022         Bosk	mmoet rch Minerals kalis	Port of Argentia Port of Argentia Port of Argentia	Letter Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion Support for Marine Terminal Expansion Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised No additional issues raised No additional issues raised
April 11, 2022         Man           April 14, 2022         Sear           May 24, 2022         Bosk	mmoet rch Minerals kalis	Port of Argentia Port of Argentia Port of Argentia	Letter Letter	Terminal Expansion Support for Marine Terminal Expansion Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	raised No additional issues raised No additional issues raised
April 14, 2022         Sear           May 24, 2022         Bosk	rch Minerals kalis	Port of Argentia Port of Argentia	Letter	Support for Marine Terminal Expansion Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised No additional issues raised
April 14, 2022         Sear           May 24, 2022         Bosk	rch Minerals kalis	Port of Argentia Port of Argentia	Letter	Terminal Expansion Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	raised No additional issues raised
May 24, 2022 Bosk	kalis	Port of Argentia		Support for Marine Terminal Expansion	No additional issues raised
May 24, 2022 Bosk	kalis	Port of Argentia		Terminal Expansion	raised
• •			Letter	•	
• •			Letter	Support for Marine	No additional issues
	t of Argentia				
	t of Argentia			Terminal Expansion	raised
•		The Honourable Seamus	Presentation	Project overview with	No additional issues
2022		O'Regan		the Minster and	raised
	-			senior staff	
•	t of Argentia	Equinor/BP	Presentation	Project overview with	No additional issues
2022	-			senior staff	raised
•	t of Argentia	Energy NL	Presentation	Project overview	No additional issues
2022					raised
	0	Newfoundland and Labrador	Presentation	CEO speaking	No additional issues
2022		Construction Association		engagement on Port's	raised
			Deserved	future plans	New addition of the second
• •	-	Department of Industry, Energy,	Presentation	Project overview with	No additional issues
2023		and Technology		Minister Andrew	raised
				Parsons and senior	
January 18, Port	t of Argentia	Transport Canada, National	Email	staff	N/A
<b>2023</b>	•	Trade Corridors Fund			N/A
		Maclean's Magazine	Interview	Interview regarding	N/A
<b>2023</b>				Port growth	יאיַה
	n of Placentia	Port of Argentia, Boskalis	Meeting	Interface meeting	No additional issues
2023		lore of Argentia, bostans	meeting	interface meeting	raised
	t of Argentia	Transport Canada, National	Email		N/A
<b>2023</b>	•	Trade Corridors Fund	2		

Date	From	То	Method	Content	Response/Concerns
January 30, 2023	Port of Argentia	Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund	Email		N/A
February 10, 2023	Port of Argentia	Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund	Email		
February 13, 2023	Port of Argentia	Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund	Email		
February 14, 2023	Port of Argentia	Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund	Email		
February 20, 2023	Port of Argentia	Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund	Email		
February 22, 2023	Port of Argentia	Memorial University	Speaking Engagement	A new paradigm to operations in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century	N/A
February 23, 2023	Port of Argentia	Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund	Virtual Meeting	Discussion regarding Project	N/A
February 27, 2023	Globe and Mail	N/A	News Article	Newfoundland's dreams of a wind- powered hydrogen future are starting to take shape	N/A
March 2, 2023	Maclean's Magazine	N/A	News Article	Bay du Nord: The \$16- billion oil project that could make or break Newfoundland	N/A
March 2, 2023	Port of Argentia	Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund	Email		N/A
March 6, 2023	ACI	Port of Argentia Board of Directors	Presentation	Presentation from project partner regarding	
March 8, 2023	Port of Argentia	Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund	Email		
March 13, 2023	Port of Argentia	Transport Canada, National Trade Corridors Fund	Email		

Date	From	То	Method	Content	Response/Concerns
March 27, 2023	Allnewfoundland Labrador	N/A	News Article		
March 27, 2023	Port of Argentia	Avalon West CBDC	?	'provision of information'	
March 27, 2023	Port of Argentia	Placentia Bay Traffic Committee	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion	N/A
March 27, 2023	Port of Argentia	Town of Placentia	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion	N/A
March 27, 2023	Port of Argentia	Town of Long Harbour and Mount Arlington Heights	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion	N/A
March 27, 2023	Port of Argentia	Town of Fox Harbour	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion	N/A
March 27, 2023	Port of Argentia	Town of St. Brides	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion	N/A
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	World Wildlife Fund	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Whale and Release Strandings	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Sierra Club Canada Foundation	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Salmonid Association of Eastern Newfoundland	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Montevecchi Lab	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion	*letter is dated Aug 17

Date	From	То	Method	Content	Response/Concerns
				Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Island Rooms	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Fish, Food & Allied Workers Union	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Environmental Resources Management Association	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Ecology Action Centre	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	The Council of Canadians	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Bay St. George Climate Action Network	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	Balaena Institute for Cetacean Conservation Studies	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion	*letter is dated Aug 17

Date	From	То	Method	Content	Response/Concerns
				Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	
August 18, 2023	Dillon Consulting, on behalf of Port of Argentia	ACAP Humber Arm	Letter	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	*letter is dated Aug 17
October 11, 2023	Michelle Roche, Dillon Consulting	Vicki Ficzere, Government of NL Leslie Kieley, IAAC Jason Flanagan, Transport Canada Melissa Ginn, Transport Canada	Email	Project update that the team is examining the geotechnical report and that preliminary insights have raised considerations that might influence the proposed dimensions of the dredging area	
October 11, 2023	Vicki Ficzere, Government of NL	Michelle Roche, Dillon Consulting	Email	Thanking Michelle for Project update	
October 17, 2023	Michelle Roche, Dillon Consulting	Vicki Ficzere, Government of NL Christa Skinner, Government of NL Leslie Kieley, IAAC Jason Flanagan, Transport Canada Carl Sheppard, Port of Argentia Chris Newhook, Port of Argentia	Email	Project update that the Initial Project Description is expected to be submitted the week of October 30, 2023.	
October 18, 2023	Jason Flanagan, Transport Canada	Michelle Roche, Dillon Consulting	Email	Thanking Michelle for Project update	
October 31, 2023	Alana Vigna, Dillon Consulting Ltd (on behalf of Michelle Roche, Dillon Consulting)	Murray Hupman, Marine Atantic cc. Tara Laing, Marine Atlantic	Email	Notice of Project Expansion Opportunity to meet/discuss issues	

Date	From	То	Method	Content	Response/Concerns
October 31,	Alana Vigna, Dillon	Officer-in-Charge: MCTS	Email	Notice of Project	
2023	Consulting Ltd (on	Operations		Expansion	
	behalf of Michelle			Opportunity to	
	Roche, Dillon			meet/discuss issues	
	Consulting)				

# **Issues Tracking Sheet**

Issue	Community, Organization	Origin of Issue (letter, meeting, etc.)	Management of Issues (commitments, mitigations, etc.)	Resolved? Y/N Action Items

Note: No issues raised as of November 2, 2023

# Appendix B

ACCDC Report - SAR





Roche, Michelle <mroche@dillon.ca>

# RE: New Data Request: 2023-04-18 18:18:27

**Durocher, Adam** <AdamDurocher@gov.nl.ca> To: "mroche@dillon.ca" <mroche@dillon.ca> 27 April 2023 at 09:57

Hi Michelle,

Attached are the data request results for your Cooper Cove point of interest at the Port of Argentia in Newfoundland & Labrador.

Summary: Within 5km of your point of interest, there were 15 rare animal records and 8 rare plant records found. Of these 8 rare plant records, 5 of them are for Water Pygmyweed (Tillaea aquatica), a plant listed as Vulnerable under our provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA). The other plant records are for plants which are not found on the provincial ESA or federal COSEWIC lists, and outside of Newfoundland and Labrador, none of them are considered globally rare.

As for the 15 rare animal records, there was 1 Lesser Yellowlegs record (Threatened under COSEWIC), 1 Harlequin Duck record (Special Concern under COSEWIC, Vulnerable under our ESA), and 4 Short-eared Owl records (Threatened under COSEWIC, Vulnerable under our ESA). The remaining animal records are for species which are not found on the provincial ESA or federal COSEWIC lists, but they are considered rare on the Island of Newfoundland.

Secondly, our Expert Opinion Maps are the result of our work with species-specific experts to gather suggestions about locations where species at risk - either provincially or COSEWIC listed - may be found. While we don't have observations in our database for these species within your study area, our Expert Opinion Maps suggest that Boreal Felt Lichen, Red Crossbills, and Rusty Blackbirds are possible; while Banded Killifish are possible, but unlikely. Your area is also said to be within the Barrow's Goldeneye's range.

For more information, including a map of the area showing the locations of the rare flora and rare fauna, please refer to the following attached documents:

Map.jpg - shows the locations of the rare fauna, rare flora and the 5 km buffer around the point of interest.

RareFauna.xls - a list of rare animal records, including their SRANK, NRANK, GRANK and habitats.

RareFlora.xls - a list of the rare plant records, including their SRANK, NRANK, GRANK and habitats.

Data Dictionary.doc - explains the various columns in RareFlora.xls and RareFauna.xls.

Ranking.rtf - explains the S, N and GRANKS.

Herbaria.xls - A list of herbariums in case you would like to follow up on the specimens included in this request. Caveats.doc - The fine print - please read. This is also included at the end of this email. RQ1044.pdf - Invoice for the data request.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Adam Durocher Data Manager Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre Corner Brook, NL 709-637-2494

DATA SOURCES: All data housed at Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (ACCDC). Refer to the 'CITATION' field for data sources.

### CAVEATS:

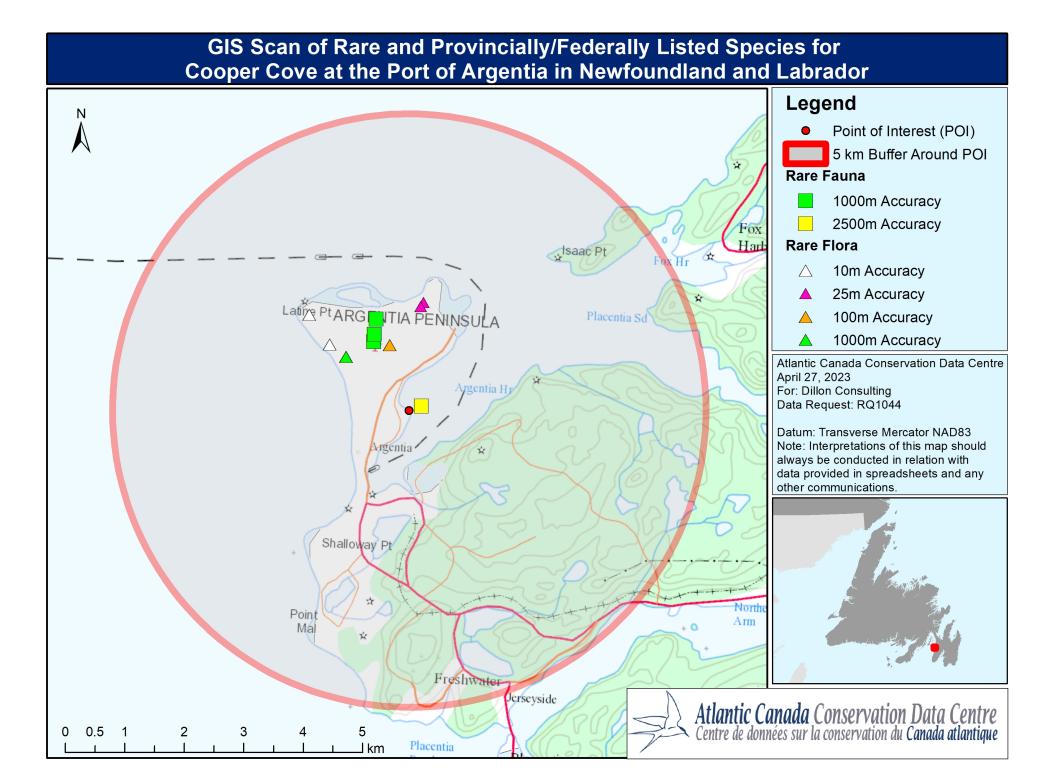
ACCDC rare taxa occurrence records are offered as a guide recognizing that the ability to find plants and animals will depend upon the season. The ACCDC makes a strong effort to verify the accuracy of all the data it obtains, generates and manages, but it will not be held responsible for inaccuracies in data that it provides.

### PLEASE NOTE:

\* ACCDC data is restricted for use by the specified data user only; any third party requiring data must make its own request to the ACCDC.

\* Specified data users may not publish any information provided by the ACCDC or its partners without prior permission. \* To ensure the currency of the data, the ACCDC requires Data Users to destroy all copies of data 18 months after the date of receipt.

\* ACCDC data reports are restricted to that data in our Data System at the time of the request.



Dillon Consulting Limited Mail - RE: New Data Request: 2023-04-18 18:18:27

\* Data accuracy is qualified as to location (Accuracy) and time (Date)

\* ACCDC data reports are not to be constructed as exhaustive inventories of taxa in an area.

\* The non-occupancy of a taxon cannot be inferred by its absence in an ACCDC data report.

\* Museum databases, which are the basis for more accessible public databases, such as those of the ACCDC, are works in progress. Essentially, they are finding aids and dynamic data records, constructed primarily to serve scientists engaged in the continuing, active process of plant systematics and taxonomy. Ongoing additions of new collections, and frequent upgrades to the identifications of all plant specimens housed in museum herbaria, may not always be reflected, in real time, by databases such as those of the ACCDC. Specifically, the conservation status of individual species recorded in the ACCDC database may not be absolutely current. It is therefore the responsibility of the data user to contact the relevant museums directly, in order to check for the most current identifications of specimens of individual species in question. The absolute conservation status of any given species is dynamic, and subject to change over short periods of time.

-----Original Message-----From: Charity Robicheau <charity.robicheau@accdc.ca> Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:50 PM To: Durocher, Adam <AdamDurocher@gov.nl.ca> Subject: FW: New Data Request: 2023-04-18 18:18:27

CAUTION :This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Hi Adam,

Here's a data request!

Charity

Charity Robicheau Conservation Data Analyst Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (AC CDC) charity.robicheau@accdc.ca

-----Original Message-----From: James Churchill <James.Churchill@accdc.ca> Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:19 PM To: Jocelyn Pender <jocelyn.pender@accdc.ca>; Charity Robicheau <charity.robicheau@accdc.ca> Subject: FW: New Data Request: 2023-04-18 18:18:27

From: Apache <apache@webserv2.mta.ca> Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:18:28 PM (UTC-04:00) Atlantic Time (Canada) To: James Churchill Subject: New Data Request: 2023-04-18 18:18:27

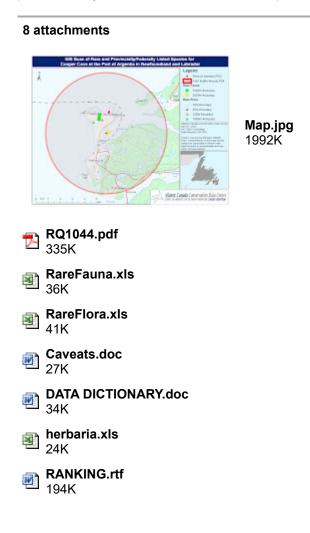
New Data Request:

name: Michelle Roche company: Dillon Consulting phone: 7097646863 email: mroche@dillon.ca email2: mroche@dillon.ca jobnum: 21-3088-1402 area: Port of Argentia details: Cooper Cove Species at Risk Survey lat: 47.2993337 lon: -53.9827741 comment: asap: standard

"This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain

#### Dillon Consulting Limited Mail - RE: New Data Request: 2023-04-18 18:18:27

privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender."





# Atlantic Canada CDC Canada Atlantique

Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre

Centre de données sur la conservation du Canada Atlantique

Accounts Receivable ATTN Jean Breau PO Box 6416 Sackville NB E4L 1G6 CANADA

tel. 506-364-2657 jean.breau@accdc.ca

# INVOICE

Assemble, p	present and report data from GIS scan	1.00	\$150.00
Details:		unit	¢150.00
Re: Project no. Amount:	Cooper Cove, Port of Argentia - Rare Taxa Report : 21-3088-1402 \$150.00		
From: To: Contact:	Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (NL) Dillon Consulting Michelle Roche		
Invoice: Date:	RQ1044 27 Apr 2023		

**Terms**: HST not payable. A late-payment charge of 2% per month will be charged on past-due accounts.

Please make cheque payable to: Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre PO Box 6416 Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6 CANADA

Please address any queries to Jean Breau, (506) 364-2657.

Thank you.

GNAME	GCOMNAME	FAMILY	Observer	TotalNumber	Month	Day
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	Strigidae		2	7	0
Histrionicus histrionicus	Harlequin Duck	Anatidae		1	1	25
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	Strigidae	Bruce Mactavish		7	20
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	Strigidae	Bruce Mactavish		7	23
Pluvialis dominica	American Golden-Plove	Charadriida	Bruce Mactavish,	2	9	2
Pluvialis squatarola	Black-bellied Plover	Charadriida	Bruce Mactavish,	1	9	2
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	Strigidae	Bruce Mactavish	1	7	17
Eremophila alpestris	Horned Lark	Alaudidae	Bruce Mactavish	10	7	17
Circus hudsonius	Northern Harrier	Accipitridae	Bruce Mactavish	1	9	5
Pluvialis squatarola	Black-Bellied Plover	Charadriidae	Bruce Mactavish	15	8	18
Tringa flavipes	Lesser Yellowlegs	Scolopacida	Bruce Mactavish	1	8	18
Circus hudsonius	Northern Harrier	Accipitridae	Bruce Mactavish	1	8	18
Tringa melanoleuca	Greater Yellowlegs	Scolopacida	Bruce Mactavish	3	8	18
Calidris alba	Sanderling	Scolopacida	Bruce Mactavish	4	9	5
Pluvialis dominica	American Golden-Plove	Charadriida	Bruce Mactavish	3	9	5

Year S	SRANK_2015	SRANK_	2NRANK	GRANK	GeneralStat	COSEWIC_ST	PROVINCIAL
1991	S3B,SUM	S3B	J4B,N3N,N	G5	Secure	Threatened	Vulnerable
1947 S	S3B, S2N,SUM	1 S3B,S2N	14B,N3N,N	G4	Secure	Special Concern	Vulnerable
2019	S3B,SUM	S3B	J4B,N3N,N	G5	Secure	Threatened	Vulnerable
2019	S3B,SUM	S3B	J4B,N3N,N	G5	Secure	Threatened	Vulnerable
2020	S3M	S4N	14N5B,N5N	G5	Secure		
2020	S3M	S4N	13B,N5N,N	G5	Secure		
2021	S3B,SUM	S3B	J4B,N3N,N	G5	Secure	Threatened	Vulnerable
2021	S3B,SUM	S4B	15B,N5N,N	G5	Secure		
2020	S3B,SUM	S3?B	N5B,N4N	G5	Secure		
2021	S3M	S4N	13B,N5N,N	G5	Secure		
2021	S3M	S3N	14N5B,N51	G5	Secure	Threatened	
2021	S3B,SUM	S3?B	N5B,N4N	G5	Secure		
2021	S3B, S4M	S4B,S5N	/15B,N4N,N	G5	Secure		
2020	S3M	S4N	13B,N4N5N	G5	Secure		
2020	S3M	S4N	√4N5B,N5M	G5	Secure		

SARA	DESCR_HABIT SITE_NAMI	E	Accuracy	SYNAME
Special Concern	airbase		1000	
Special Concern		Argentia	2500	
Special Concern			1000	
Special Concern			1000	
			1000	
			1000	
Special Concern			1000	
			1000	
			1000	
			1000	
			1000	
			1000	
			1000	
			1000	
			1000	

CITATION Canadian Wildlife Service Montevecchi list nf.birds, Jul 20, 2019 nf.birds, Jul 23, 2019 nf.birds, Sep 2, 2020 nf.birds, Sep 2, 2020 nf.birds, Jul 17, 2021 nf.birds, Jul 17, 2021 nf.birds, Sep 5, 2020 nf.birds, Aug 18, 2021 nf.birds, Aug 18, 2021 nf.birds, Aug 18, 2021	IDNUM mstr1009443 mstr1006198 mstr1055739 mstr1055741 mstr1056971 mstr1061861 mstr1061862 mstr1061862 mstr1061886 mstr1061887 mstr1061888

GNAME	GCOMNAME	OBSERVER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
Crassula aquatica	Water Pigmy-Weed	Fernald, M.L., B. Long, B.	8	26	1924
Stuckenia pectinata	sago pondweed	Fernald, M.L., B. Long, B.	8	26	1924
Suaeda maritima	Maritime Sea-blite	Fernald, M.L., B. Long, B.	8	26	1924
Diphasiastrum digitatum	southern running-pine	Bouchard, A., S. Hay, L. B	7	15	1988
Crassula aquatica	Water Pigmy-Weed	J. E. Maunder	9	20	2006
Crassula aquatica	Water Pigmy-Weed	J. E. Maunder	9	20	2006
Crassula aquatica	Water Pigmy-Weed	John Maunder, Susan Mau	8	17	2020
Crassula aquatica	Water Pigmy-Weed	John Maunder, Susan Maı	8	17	2020

Verification	SRANK_2010	SRANK_2015	NRANK	GRANK	FAMILY
V	S1	S1	N4N5	G5	Crassulaceae
V	S2	S2S3	N5	G5	Potamogetonace
V	S3	S3	N5	G5	Amaranthaceae
V	S2	S2	N5	G5	Lycopodiaceae
V	S1	S1	N4N5	G5	Crassulaceae
V	S1	S1	N4N5	G5	Crassulaceae
V	S1	S1	N4N5	G5	Crassulaceae
V	S1	S1	N4N5	G5	Crassulaceae

#### PROV\_END\_A COSEWIC DESCR\_HABIT/ACCURACY\_MESYNAME SITE\_NAME Vulnerable Sandy and peaty 1000 Crassula aquatic Argentia Sandy and peaty 1000 Potamogeton pe Argentia Damp depressio 1000 Argentia 100 Lycopodium digit Argentia In turfy gravel; ol Shallow depress 10 Crassula aquatic Argentia Vulnerable 10 Crassula aquatic Argentia Shallow depress Vulnerable Vulnerable in cracks and de 25 Crassula aquatic Airstrip, NE end, Vulnerable in cracks and de

25 Crassula aquatic Airstrip, NE end,

SURVEYSITE	ACRONYMS_O	COLLECTION	SOURCES	IDNUM	EST_NF_ID
Argentia.	GH	26737	Bouchard, A.	Da SP024093	975829
Argentia.	GH	26229	Bouchard, A.	Da SP026226	448307
Argentia.	GH	26645	Bouchard, A.	Da SP024028	636771
Argentia.	MT; CAN	88044	Bouchard, A.	Da SP026422	376418
Argentia, Argentia P	e		Water Pygmy	we SP068700	975829
Argentia, Argentia P	e		Water Pygmy	we SP068701	975829
			Email corresp	on (SP095784	975829
			Email corresp	on (SP095785	975829

DATA SOURCES:

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#### \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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# DATA DICTIONARY

GNAME	Scientific Name of taxon
GCOMNAME	Common name of taxon
FAMILY	Family of taxon
OBSERVER	Person or persons who observed the taxon
TOTAL NUMBER	The number of specimens at a given observation.
MONTH	Month of survey
DAY	Day of survey
YEAR	Year of survey
SRANK_2010	Subnational rank - CDC ranking system
SRANK_2015	Subnational rank - CDC ranking system
NRANK	National Rank - CDC ranking system
GRANK	Global Rank - CDC ranking system
GeneralStatusRanks	General Status text for the province
COSEWIC_STATUS	Denotes the COSEWIC status.
PROVINCIAL_STATUS	Denotes if the species is on the provincial endangered species list.
SARA	Denotes if the species is on the federal SARA list.
HABITAT	Description of the habitat where plant or animal was found
SITE_NAME	The name of the place where the occurrence occurred
ACCURACY	The accuracy in metres of the location.
	Synonym for the plant or animal name in cases it is known by more
SYNAME	than one scientific name.
ACRONYM OF	Acronym of the herbarium where this specimen is kept, see the
HERBARIA	complete definitions of the acronyms in the HERBARIA.xls
COLLECTION NUMBER	The collection number assigned to the specimen by the collector, this should be used to refer to the specimen when contacting the herbarium
CITATION	
UTATION	Primary source of the data Field Office Number: Internal ACCDC record reference (not the
IDNUM	EONUM)

ACRONYM	HERBARIUM	ADDRESS	PO_BOX	CITY	PROVINCE	POSTALCODE
ACAD	Acadia University	32 University Avenue	P.O. Box 48	Wolfville	Nova Scotia	B4P 2R6
ALTA	University of Alberta			Edmonton	Alberta	T6G 2E9
CAN	Canadian Museum of Nature		P.O. Box 3443 Station D	Ottawa	Ontario	K1P 6P4
СО	Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle Eastern Cereal and Oilseed	Wm. Saunders Building,	B.P. 225	Concarneau		F-29125
DAO	Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Central Experimental Farm 1350 Regent Street		Ottawa	Ontario	K1A 0C6
FFB	Atlantic Forestry Centre	Centre, Canadian Forest Service	P. O. Box 4000	Fredricton	New Brunswick	E3B 5P7
GH	Gray Herbarium, Harvard University	22 Divinity Avenue		Cambridge	Massachusetts	02138-2020
GMNP	Gros Morne National Park		P.O. Box 130	Rocky Harbour	Newfoundland	A0K 4N0
н	University of Helsinki		P.O. Box 7	Helsinki		FIN-00014
LD	Botanical Museum	Östra Vallgatan 18		Lund		S-223 61
MB	Herbarium fur Spezielle Botanik, Philipps Universitat			Marburg		D-35032

МО	Missouri Botanical Gardens		P.O. Box 299	St. Louis	Missouri	63166-0299
MT	Herbier Marie-Victorin, Universite de Montreal	4101, rue Sherbrooke est		Montreal	Quebec	H1X 2B2
NASC	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	375 Church Street		North Adams	Massachusetts	01247-4100
NFLD	Ayre Herbarium, Memorial University of Newfoundland			St. John's	Newfoundland	A1B 3X9
NFM	Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador	9 Bonaventure Avenue	P.O. Box 1800	St. John's	Newfoundland	A1C 5P9
NY	New York Botanical Garden	William and Lynda Steere Herbarium		Bronx	New York	10458-5126
OAC	Univeristy of Guelph			Guelph	Ontario	N1G 2W1
QFA	Herbier Louis-Marie, Universite de Laval	Pavillon CE. Marchand Sainte-Foy		Quebec	Quebec	G1V 0A6
SLRO	Slippery Rock University	Herbarium Biology Department		Slippery Rock	Pennsylvania	16057-1326
SWGC	Sir Wilfred Grenfell College			Corner Brook	Newfoundland	
TNNP	Terra Nova National Park	Herbarium Department		Terra Nova	Newfoundland	
TRTE	Erindale College	of Biology, 3359 Mississauga Road, N		Mississauga	Ontario	L5L 1C6

TSM	Museo Civico di Storia Naturale	e Piazza Hortis 4		Trieste		I-34123
UAC	University of Calgary	Department of Biological Sciences		Calgary	Alberta	T2N 1N4
UBC	UBC Herbarium, Beaty Biodiversity Museum	3529-6270 University Boulevard Connell Memorial Herbarium Biology		Vancouver	British Columbia	V6T 1Z4
UNB	University of New Brunswick	Department United States National	P.O. Box 4400	Fredricton	New Brunswick	E3B 5AE
US	Smithsonian Institute	Herbarium Department of Botany NMNH, MRC-	P.O. Box 37012	Washington	District of Columbia	20013-7012
UWO	University of Western Ontario	Herbarium, Department of Biology		London	Ontario	N6A 5B7
WAT	University of Waterloo	Herbarium, Biology Department		Waterloo	Ontario	N2L 3G1

NOTE: All contact information presented here has been extracted from the online Herbaria of the World Index, url: http://sweetgum.nybg.org/ih/index.php fc

COUNTRY	URL	PHONE	CORRESPONDENT	TITLE	EMAIL
Canada	http://museums.ual	[1] 902/ 585-1335	Ruth Newell	Curator	ruth.newell@acadiau.ca
Canada	berta.ca/vascularpl ants/index.aspx	[1] 780/ 492-5523	Jocelyn Hall	Curator of Vascular Plant Herbarium	jocelyn.hall@ualberta.ca
Canada		[1] 613/ 364-4076.	Jennifer Doubt	Chief Collection Manager	jdoubt@mus-nature.ca
France	http://res2.agr.ca/e	[33] 2/ 98 97 0659	Marie Le Gal	Curator	ylegal@sb-roscoff.fr
Canada	corc/dao/index_e.ht m	[1] 613/ 759-1373	Paul Catling	Curator	catlingp@agr.gc.ca
Canada	http://www.Atl.cfs.N RCan.gc.ca	[1] 506/ 452-3515	J. Hurley	Curator Manager of	J.Edward.Hurley@NRCan.gc.ca
USA	http://www.huh.har vard.edu	[1] 617/ 495-2365	Emily Wood	Systematics Collections	ewood@oeb.harvard.edu
Canada	http://www.fmnh.he	Contact [1] 709/ 458-2418	Michael Burzunski	Director, Head	Michael.Burzynski@pc.gc.ca
Finland	lsinki.fi/english/bota ny/index.htm	[358] 9/ 1911	Pertti Uotila	Curator of Phanerogams	pertti.uotila@helsinki.fi
Sweden	http://www.biomus.l u.se/indexBe.html	[46] 46/ 222 95 58	Ingvar Kärnefelt	Director	ingvar.karnefelt@botmus.lu.se
Germany	http://staff-www.uni- marburg.de/	· [49] 6421/ 282 2091	Hans Weber	Curator	weberh@mailer.uni-marburg.de

USA	http://www.mobot.o rg/ http://www.irbv.umo	[1] 314/ 577-5169	James Solomon	Curator of Vascular Plants	jim.solomon@mobot.org
Canada	ntreal.ca/francais/h erbier/accueil.htm		Luc Brouillet	Curator	brouille@irbv.umontreal.ca; luc.brouillet@umontreal.ca
USA		[1] 413/ 662-5342	C. Hellquist	Curator of Vascular Plants	bhellqui@mcla.mass.edu
Canada		[1] 709/ 737-7498	Peter Scott	Curator	pscott@mun.ca
Canada	http://www.theroom s.ca/museum/	[1] 709/ 729-5007	Nathalie Djan- Chekar	Curator	nathaliedjanchekar@therooms.ca
USA	http://www.nybg.or g/ http://www.uoguelp	[1] 718/ 817-8626	Barbara Thiers	Director Curator of	bthiers@nybg.org
Canada	h.ca/ib/facilities/her barium.shtml	[1] 519/ 824-4120, ext. 58581	Carole Ann Lacroix	Phanerogam Collections	botcal@uoguelph.ca
Canada	www.herbier.ulaval ca	[1] 418/ 656-7538	Serge Payette	Curator	serge.payette@herbier.ulaval.ca
USA		[1] 724/ 738-2489	Jerry Chmielewski	Curator	jerry.chmielewski@sru.edu
Canada			Henry Mann		hmann@swgc.mun.ca
Canada			Greg Stroud		Greg.Stroud@pc.gc.ca
Canada		[1] 905/ 828-3984	Peter Ball	Curator	pball@credit.erin.utoronto.ca

Italy		[39] 040/ 6758658	Sergio Dolce	Director	dolces@comune.trieste.it
Canada	http://www.beatymu	[1] 403/ 220-5262	C. Chinnappa	Curator	ccchinna@acs.ucalgary.ca
Canada	seum.ubc.ca/herba rium/index.html	[1] 604/ 822-3344; 822-2133.	Jeannette Whitton	Director and Curator of Vascular Plants	jwhitton@interchange.ubc.ca
Canada	http://www.unb.ca/h erbarium/	ו [1] 506/ 452-6205	Bev Benedict	Curator of Vascular Plants	bbenedic@unb.ca
USA	http://www.nmnh.si edu/sysbiology/	[1] 202/ 633-0920.	George Russell	Collections Manager	russellr@si.edu
Canada	http://www.science.	[1] 519/ 661-2111	Jane Bowles	Curator	jbowles@uwo.ca
Canada	•	[1] 519/ 888-4567, ext. 3751	John Semple	Director	jcsemple@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca

or more information please visit the url provided.



2012 Edition

# Part I. Conservation Data Centre Subnational Rarity Ranks

Biological diversity or biodiversity can be described at a number of levels, from molecules to ecosystems. Biodiversity is a combination of species diversity (the variety of species), genetic diversity (the genetic variability among individuals of that species), and ecological diversity (the variety of ecosystems/habitats in which they live). Conservation Data Centres (CDCs), as part of The NatureServe\* international network, track biodiversity at two levels: species and ecological communities. Species and ecological communities are referred to as **elements** of biodiversity. Elements are ranked in each jurisdiction (province or state) and at global and national levels in order to help prioritize conservation efforts.

NatureServe and all CDCs (called Heritage Programs in the US) use a standardized element ranking system that has evolved over some 30 years, with input from hundreds of scientists, managers and conservationists. The following material describes this element ranking system at the subnational (S) or provincial level and explains how ranks are assigned for species elements of biodiversity. (The community ranking process is slightly different.)
\* Formerly known as The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

#### **Definitions of Provincial (subnational) ranks - SRANKS**

- **S1 Critically Imperiled**—Critically imperiled in the jurisdiction because of extreme rarity or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the jurisdiction.
- **S2 Imperiled**—Imperiled in the jurisdiction because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations, steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from jurisdiction.
- **S3 Vulnerable**—Vulnerable in the jurisdiction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations, recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.
- **S4 Apparently Secure**—Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
- **S5 Secure**—Common, widespread, and abundant in the jurisdiction.
- **SX** Presumed Extirpated—Species or ecosystem is believed to be extirpated from the jurisdiction (i.e., nation or state/province). Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.

- SH Possibly Extirpated— Known from only historical records but still some hope of rediscovery. There is evidence that the species or ecosystem may no longer be present in the jurisdiction, but not enough to state this with certainty. Examples of such evidence include (1) that a species has not been documented in approximately 20-40 years despite some searching or some evidence of significant habitat loss or degradation; (2) that a species or ecosystem has been searched for unsuccessfully, but not thoroughly enough to presume that it is no longer present in the jurisdiction.
- **S#S#** Range Rank A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3 or S1S3) is used to indicate any range of uncertainty about the status of the species or ecosystem. Ranges cannot skip more than two ranks (e.g., SU is used rather than S1S4).
- **SU Unrankable**—Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
- **SNR** Unranked—National or subnational conservation status not yet assessed.
- **SNA** Not Applicable A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species or ecosystem is not a suitable target for conservation activities.

Not applicable cases:

Hybrid – Element represents an interspecific hybrid without conservation value. (Note that hybrids may be assigned a numeric rank if they do have a conservation value.)

Exotic Origin – Element is not native to the nation or subnation.

Accidental/Nonregular – Element is not regularly found in the nation or subnation, in other words, infrequent and outside of normal range.

Not Confidently Present – Element's presence in the nation or subnation has been reported, but the report is unconfirmed or doubtful; Element has been falsely reported, and may or may not potentially occur; Element may potentially occur (e.g., habitat is suitable); Element was never present in the nation or subnation despite presence in surrounding areas.

No Definable Occurrences – Element is native and appears regularly but lacks practical conservation concern in the subnation because it is transient or occurs in a dispersed, unpredictable manner.

Synonym – Element reported as occurring in the nation or subnation, but the national or provincial data center does not recognize this taxon; therefore the Element is not assigned a national or subnational rank.

#### Rank Qualifier

**S#?** Inexact Numeric Rank—Denotes inexact numeric rank. This designation should not be used with any of the variant national or subnational conservation status ranks or NX, SX, NH, or SH.

#### Breeding Status Qualifiers<sup>4</sup>

- **B Breeding**—Conservation status refers to the breeding population of the species in the nation or state/province.
- **N Nonbreeding**—Conservation status refers to the non-breeding population of the species in the nation or state/province.
- M Migrant—Migrant species occurring regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. Conservation status refers to the aggregating transient population of the species in the nation or state/province.

<sup>4</sup> 4A breeding status is only used for species that have distinct breeding and/or nonbreeding populations in the nation or state/province. A breeding-status S-rank can be coupled with its complementary non-breeding-status S-rank if the species also winters in the nation or state/province. In addition, a breeding-status S-rank can also be coupled with a migrant-status S-rank if, on migration, the species occurs regularly at particular staging areas or concentration spots where it might warrant conservation attention. Multiple conservation status ranks (typically two, or rarely three) are separated by commas (e.g., S2B,S3N or SHN,S4B,S1M).

# **Part II. The Ranking Process**

To rank species elements, 8-10 different biological criteria are assessed for each species. The ten factors considered in assigning status ranks are described below.

Ranking Matrix Eight ranking	g criteria and value of letter scores for each criterion.

			MATRI	X SCORE					
	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	I
CRITERIA									
Population	1-50	50-250	250-1000	1000-	2500-	10000-	100000-	>1000000	
size				2500	10000	100000	1000000		
Range	<100km <sup>2</sup>	100-	250-	1000-	5000-	20000-	200000 -		
Extent		250km <sup>2</sup>	1000km <sup>2</sup>	5000km <sup>2</sup>	20000	200000	2500000		
					km²	km²	km²		
Short-term	Decline	Decline	Decline	Decline	Decline	Decline	Relatively	Increase	Increase
Trend	>90%	of 80-	of 70-	of 50-	of 30-	of 10-	Stable	of 10-25%	of >25%
		90%	80%	70%		30%	(<10%		
					50%		change)		
Long-term	Decline	Decline	Decline	Decline	Decline	Decline	Relatively	Increase	Increase
Trend	>90%	of 80-	of 70-	of 50-	of 30-	of 10-	Stable	of 10-25%	of >25%
		90%	80%	70%	01 30-	30%	(<10%		
					50%		change)		
Area of	<0.4km <sup>2</sup>	0.4-4km <sup>2</sup>	4-20km <sup>2</sup>	20-	100-	500-	2000-	>20000	
Occupancy				100km <sup>2</sup>	500km <sup>2</sup>	2000km <sup>2</sup>	20000km <sup>2</sup>	km²	

Number of Element Occurrences (EOs) Number of EOs with Good Viability	0-5 No occurren ces with excellent or good viability or ecologica I integrity	6-20 Very few (1-3) occurren ces with excellent or good viability or ecologica l integrity	21-100 Few (4- 12) occurren ces with excellent or good viability or ecologica l integrity	>100 Some (13-40) occurren ces with excellent or good viability or ecologica l integrity	Many (41-125) occurren ces with excellent or good viability or ecologica l integrity	Very Many (>125) occurren ces with excellent or good viability or ecologica		
Enviro- nmental Specificity	Very Narrow	Narrow	Moderate	Broad		I integrity		
Threat Scope	Pervasive (71- 100%)	Large (31-70%)	Restricte d (11- 30%)	Small (1- 10%)				
Threat Severity	Pervasive (71- 100%)	Large (31-70%)	Restricte d (11- 30%)	Small (1- 10%)				

## 1. Population Size

Population size is the estimated current total population of the species which is naturally occurring and wild within the area of interest (globe, nation, or subnation), and that is of reproductive age or stage (at an appropriate time of the year), including mature but currently non-reproducing individuals, which should be included in counts or estimates. Abundance is measured in different ways depending on the biology of the species. For animal populations it is usually measured by the number of individuals, for plants it may be measured by the area occupied by a distinct population, and for aquatic invertebrates it may be measured by the stream length that the species occupies:

Z = Zero, no individuals believed extant (i.e., species presumed extinct)

- A = 1–50 individuals
- B = 50–250 individuals
- C = 250–1,000 individuals
- D = 1,000–2,500 individuals
- E = 2,500–10,000 individuals
- F = 10,000–100,000 individuals
- G = 100,000–1,000,000 individuals
- H = >1,000,000 individuals
- U = Unknown
- Null = Factor not assessed

\*A value range (e.g., DE) can also be used to indicate uncertainty.

(DE would indicate between 1000 – 10000 individuals).

#### 2. Range Extent

This denotes the approximate range of the species as a percentage of the province's area. It is defined as the current area contained within the shortest continuous imaginary boundary which can be drawn to encompass all the known, inferred or projected sites of occurrence, but, *excluding* significant areas where the species does not occur due to unsuitable habitat. Thus the estimate of range for a species exhibiting a linear use of coastal forests or riverine habitats would not consider tracts of unsuitable habitat in the interior of the polygon.

Z = Zero (no occurrences believed extant; species presumed extinct or ecosystem believed eliminated throughout its range)  $A = <100 \text{ km}^2$ (less than about 40 square miles)  $B = 100 - 250 \text{ km}^2$ (about 40–100 square miles)  $C = 250 - 1,000 \text{ km}^2$ (100–400 square miles) D = 1,000–5,000 km<sup>2</sup> (400–2,000 square miles)  $E = 5,000-20,000 \text{ km}^2$ (2,000-8,000 square miles) F = 20.000-200.000 km<sup>2</sup> (8,000-80,000 square miles) G = 200,000–2,500,000 km<sup>2</sup> (80,000-1,000,000 square miles) H = >2,500,000 km<sup>2</sup> (greater than 1,000,000 square miles)

## 3. Short-term Trend

The rating code that best describes the observed, estimated, inferred, or suspected degree of change in population size, extent of occurrence (range extent), area of occupancy, number of occurrences, and/or number of occurrences or percent area with good viability or ecological integrity over the short term, whichever most significantly affects the conservation status assessment in the area of interest (globe, nation, or subnation). Consider short-term historical trend within ten years or three generations (for long-lived taxa), whichever is the longer (up to a maximum of 100 years), or, for communities and systems, typically 30 years, depending on the characteristics of the type.

The trend may be recent or current, and the trend may or may not be known to be continuing. Trends may be smooth, irregular, or sporadic. Fluctuations will not normally count as trends, but an observed change should not be considered as merely a fluctuation rather than a trend unless there is evidence for this. Conservation Status Assessments: Factors for Assessing Extinction Risk 25 In considering trends, do not consider newly discovered but presumably long existing occurrences, nor newly discovered individuals in previously poorly known areas.

Also, consider fragmentation of previously larger occurrences into a greater number of

smaller occurrences to represent a decreasing area of occupancy as well as decreasing number of good occurrences or populations.

A = Decline of >90% B = Decline of 80–90% C = Decline of 70–80% D = Decline of 50–70% E = Decline of 30–50% F = Decline of 10–30% G = Relatively Stable ( $\leq 10\%$  change) H = Increase of 10–25% I = Increase of >25% U = Short-term trend unknown Null = Factor not assessed

## 4. Long-term Trend

The rating code that best describes the observed, estimated, inferred, or suspected degree of change in population size, extent of occurrence (range extent), area of occupancy, number of occurrences, and/or number of occurrences or percent area with good viability or ecological integrity over the long term (ca. 200 years) in the area of interest (globe, nation, or subnation).

A = Decline of >90% B = Decline of 80–90% C = Decline of 70–80% D = Decline of 50–70% E = Decline of 30–50% F = Decline of 10–30% G = Relatively Stable ( $\leq$ 10% change) H = Increase of 10–25% I = Increase of >25% U = Long-term trend unknown Null = Factor not assessed

#### 5. Area of Occupancy

Area of occupancy for taxa can be defined as (modified from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature 2001):

"...the area within its 'extent of occurrence', which is occupied by a taxon or ecosystem type, excluding cases of vagrancy. The measure reflects the fact that a taxon or type will not usually occur throughout the area of its extent of occurrence, which may contain unsuitable or unoccupied habitats. In some cases, (e.g., irreplaceable colonial nesting sites, crucial feeding sites for migratory taxa) the area of occupancy is the smallest area essential at any stage to the survival of existing populations of a taxon. The size of the area of occupancy will be a function of the scale at which it is measured, and should be

at a scale appropriate to relevant biological or ecological aspects of the taxon or type, the nature of threats and the available data."

- **A** = <0.4km<sup>2</sup>
- **B** = 0.4-4
- **C** = 4-20 km<sup>2</sup>
- **D** = 20-100 km<sup>2</sup>
- **E** = 100-500 km<sup>2</sup>
- **F** = 500-2000 km<sup>2</sup>
- **G** = 2000-20000 km<sup>2</sup>
- H = >20000 km<sup>2</sup>

#### **5b. Linear Distance of Occupancy**

Ecosystems that occur as linear strips. They are often ecotonal between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. In undisturbed conditions, typical occurrences range in linear distance from 0.5 to 100 km.

- **A** = <4km<sup>2</sup>
- **B** = 4-40
- **C** = 40-200 km<sup>2</sup>
- **D** = 200-1000 km<sup>2</sup>
- $E = 1000-5000 \text{ km}^2$
- **F** = 5000-20000 km<sup>2</sup>
- $G = 20000-200000 \text{ km}^2$
- H = >200000 km<sup>2</sup>

## 6. Number of Element Occurrences (EOs)

An "element occurrence" is the mapping unit of CDC methodology. It is generally defined as an area of land or water on which an "element of biodiversity" (plant and animal species or natural community) is or was present. It is a physical location important to the conservation of a species or community, an area worth preserving to insure the survival of a community or species at risk. For a species it is generally the habitat occupied by a local population, for a community it is the area containing a stand or patch. What constitutes an occurrence also varies between species (e.g. hibernacula, den sites, breeding ponds where adults, egg masses and/or larvae have been identified, breeding colonies, etc.). Some species can have more than one type of occurrence, for example breeding and wintering occurrences.

A single letter code (below) represents the number of estimated occurrences believed extant for the species in the province. When a species' distribution is extremely limited and there are very few site occurrences, it is very susceptible to any number of ecological disturbances, both predictable and unpredictable. This criteria is therefore an important factor influencing SRANK when the number of occurrences is few. If the letter code for this field is A or B, the species usually qualifies for a rank of S1 or S2.

$$A = 0 - 5$$
 occurrences

**B** = 6 - 20 occurrences

**C** = 21 - 100 occurrences

**D** = 101+ occurrences

#### 7. Number of EOs with Good Viability

For species, an occurrence with at least good (i.e., excellent-to-good) viability exhibits favorable characteristics with respect to population size and/or quality and quantity of occupied habitat; and, if current conditions prevail, the occurrence is likely to persist for the foreseeable future (i.e., at least 20–30 years) in its current condition or better. See Hammerson et al. (2008) for more details. For ecosystems, an occurrence has excellent-to-good ecological integrity when it exhibits favorable characteristics with respect to reference conditions for structure, composition, and function, operating within the bounds of natural or historic disturbance regimes, and is of exemplary size (Faber-Langendoen et al. 2008). One would expect only minor to moderate alterations to these characteristics for an occurrence to maintain good ecological integrity.

For many occurrences, viability or ecological integrity assessments or ranks have been applied by biologists and ecologists throughout the NatureServe network. For species, these Element Occurrence (EO) ranks estimate the probability of persistence of the occurrence. For ecosystems, the rank is a succinct assessment of the degree to which, under current conditions, an occurrence of an ecosystem matches reference conditions for that system, without any presumptions made about future status or persistence. Ranks for species and ecosystems are based on a set of "occurrence rank factors," namely size (including population size and/or occupied area), abiotic and biotic condition, and landscape context. These factors may be further refined to specific indicators or metrics. The overall ranks range from A = Excellent viability/integrity, to D = Poorviability/integrity

**A** = No occurrences with excellent or good (assessed as A or B) viability or ecological integrity

**B** = Very few (1-3) occurrences with excellent or good viability or ecological integrity

**C** = Few (4–12) occurrences with excellent or good viability or ecological Integrity

**D** = Some (13–40) occurrences with excellent or good viability or ecological integrity

**E** = Many (41–125) occurrences with excellent or good viability or ecological integrity

**F** = Very many (>125) occurrences with excellent or good viability or ecological integrity

**U** = Unknown number of occurrences with excellent or good viability or ecological integrity

Null = Factor not assessed

## 8. Environmental Specificity

Environmental Specificity is the degree to which a species or ecosystem depends on a relatively scarce set of habitats, substrates, food types, or other abiotic and/ or biotic factors within the overall range. Relatively narrow requirements are thought to increase the vulnerability of a species or ecosystem. This factor is most important when the number of occurrences, and the range extent or area of occupancy, are largely unknown.

A = Very Narrow. Specialist or ecosystem with key requirements scarce. For species, specific habitat(s), substrate(s), food type(s), hosts, breeding/ non-breeding microhabitats, or other abiotic and/or biotic factor(s) are used or required by the species or ecosystem in the area of interest, with these habitat(s) and/or other requirements furthermore being scarce within the generalized range of the species or ecosystem within the area of interest, and the population (or the number of breeding attempts) expected to decline significantly if any of these key requirements become unavailable. For ecosystems, environmental requirements are both narrow

and scarce (e.g., calcareous seepage fens).

- B = Narrow. Specialist or ecosystem with key requirements common. Specific habitat(s) or other abiotic and/or biotic factors (see above) are used or required by the species or ecosystem, but these key requirements are common and within the generalized range of the species or ecosystem within the area of interest. For ecosystems, environmental requirements are narrow but common (e.g., floodplain forest, alpine tundra).
- C = Moderate. Generalist or community with some key requirements scarce. Broad-scale or diverse (general) habitat(s) or other abiotic and/or biotic factors are used or required by the species or ecosystem, but some key requirements are scarce in the generalized range of the species or ecosystem within the area of interest. For ecosystems, environmental requirements are broad but scarce (e.g., talus or cliff forests and woodlands, alvars, many rock outcrop communities dependent more on thin, droughty soils per se than specific substrate factors).
- D = Broad. Generalist or community with all key requirements common. Broad-scale or diverse (general) habitat(s) or abiotic and/or biotic factors are used or required by the species or ecosystem, with all key requirements common in the generalized range of the species or ecosystem in the area of interest. For animals, if the preferred food(s) or breeding/non-breeding microhabitat(s) become unavailable, the species switches to an alternative with no resulting decline in numbers of individuals or number of breeding attempts. For ecosystems, environmental requirements are broad and common (e.g., forests or prairies on glacial till, or forests and meadows on montane slopes).

## 9. Threat Severity

Within the scope (as defined spatially and temporally in assessing the scope of the Threat), severity is the level of damage to the species or ecosystem from the Threat that can reasonably be expected with continuation of current circumstances and trends

(including potential new threats) (Table 7). Note that severity of Threats is assessed within a ten-year or three-generation time frame, whichever is longer (up to 100 years).

For species, severity is usually measured as the degree of reduction of the species' population. Surrogates for adult population size (e.g., area) should be used with caution, as occupied areas, for example, will have uneven habitat suitability and uneven population density. For ecosystems, severity is typically measured as the degree of degradation or decline in integrity (of one or more key characteristics).

Extreme	Within the scope, the Threat is likely to destroy or eliminate the occurrences of an ecological community, system or species, or reduce the species population by 71–100%
Serious	Within the scope, the Threat is likely to seriously degrade/reduce the effected occurrences or habitat or, for species, to reduce the species population by 31–70%
Moderate	Within the scope, the Threat is likely to moderately degrade/reduce the effected occurrences or habitat or, for species, to reduce the species population by 11–30%
Slight	Within the scope, the Threat is likely to only slightly degrade/reduce the effected occurrences or habitat or, for species, to reduce the species population by 1–10%

## 10. Threat Scope

Scope is defined herein as the proportion of the species or ecosystem that can reasonably be expected to be affected (that is, subject to one or more stresses) by the Threat within ten years with continuation of current circumstances and trends (Table 6). Current circumstances and trends include both existing as well as potential new threats. The ten-year time frame can be extended for some longer-term threats, such as global warming, that need to be addressed today. For species, scope is measured as the proportion of the species' population in the area of interest (globe, nation, or subnation) affected by the Threat. For ecosystems, scope is measured as the proportion of the occupied area of interest (globe, nation, or subnation) affected by the Threat. If a species or ecosystem is evenly distributed, then the proportion of the population or area affected is equivalent to the proportion of the range extent affected by the Threat; however, if the population or area is patchily distributed, then the proportion differs from that of range extent.

Pervasive<br/>LargeAffects all or most (71–100%) of the total population or occurrencesCarge<br/>RestrictedAffects much (31–70%) of the total population or occurrencesRestrictedAffects some (11–30%) of the total population or occurrences.SmallAffects a small (1–10%) proportion of the total population or<br/>occurrences.

## 11. Intrinsic Vulnerability

Note that this factor is not used if the Threats status factor has been assessed.

Intrinsic Vulnerability is the observed, inferred, or suspected degree to which characteristics of the species or ecosystem (such as life history or behavior characteristics of species, or likelihood of regeneration or recolonization for ecosystems) make it vulnerable or resilient to natural or anthropogenic stresses or catastrophes. For ecosystems, Intrinsic Vulnerability is most readily assessed using the dominant species and vegetation structure that characterize the ecosystem, but it can also refer to ecological processes that make an ecosystem vulnerable or lack resiliency (e.g., shoreline fens along estuarine and marine coasts subject to rising sea levels).

Since geographically or ecologically disjunct or peripheral occurrences may show additional vulnerabilities not generally characteristic of a species or ecosystem, characteristics of Intrinsic Vulnerability are to be assessed for the species or ecosystem throughout the area of interest, or at least for its better occurrences. Information on population size, number of occurrences, area of occupancy, extent of occurrence, or environmental characteristics that affect resiliency should not be considered when assessing Intrinsic Vulnerability; these are addressed using other status factors.

Note that the Intrinsic Vulnerability characteristics exist independent of human influence, but may make the species or ecosystem more susceptible to disturbance by human activities. The extent and effects of current or projected extrinsic influences themselves should be addressed in the comments field of the Threats status factor.

A = Highly Vulnerable. Species is slow to mature, reproduces infrequently,

and/or has low fecundity such that populations are very slow (>20 years or five generations) to recover from decreases in abundance; or species has low dispersal capability such that extirpated populations are unlikely to become reestablished through natural recolonization (unaided by humans). Ecosystem occurrences are highly susceptible to changes in composition and structure that rarely if ever are reversed through natural processes even over substantial time periods (>100 years).

- B = Moderately Vulnerable. Species exhibits moderate age of maturity, frequency of reproduction, and/or fecundity such that populations generally tend to recover from decreases in abundance over a period of several years (on the order of 5–20 years or 2–5 generations); or species has moderate dispersal capability such that extirpated populations generally become reestablished through natural recolonization (unaided by humans). Ecosystem occurrences may be susceptible to changes in composition and structure but tend to recover through natural processes given reasonable time (10–100 years).
- C = Not Intrinsically Vulnerable. Species matures quickly, reproduces frequently, and/or has high fecundity such that populations recover quickly (<5 years or 2 generations) from decreases in abundance; or species has high dispersal capability such that extirpated populations soon become reestablished through natural recolonization (unaided by humans). Ecosystem occurrences are resilient or resistant to irreversible changes in composition and structure and quickly recover (within 10 years).
- U = Unknown Null = Factor not assessed

## 12. Other Considerations

Other considerations in determining the rank that are not apparent from the letter codes selected for the above criteria. Generally, these considerations will raise rather than lower the rank, e.g., "Never sexually reproduces" or "All occurrences are in areas under development".

#### References

Master, L., D. Faber-Langendoen, R. Bittman, G. A. Hammerson, B. Heidel, J. Nichols, L. Ramsay, and A. Tomaino. 2009. NatureServe Conservation Status Assessments: Factors for Assessing Extinction Risk. NatureServe, Arlington, VA.