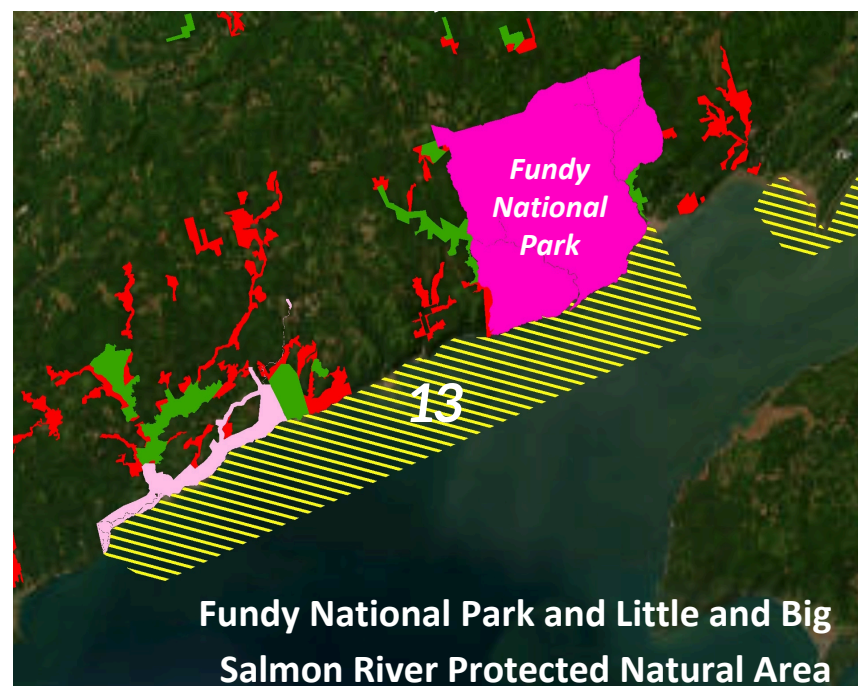
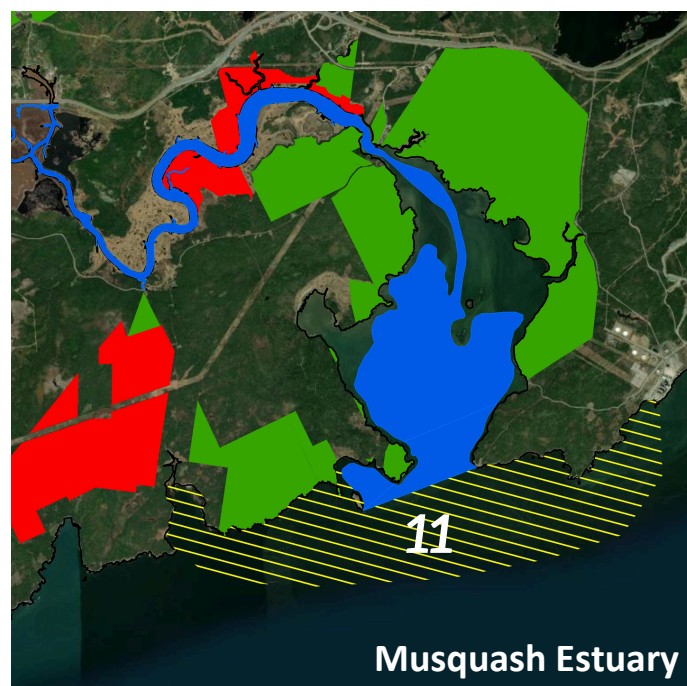
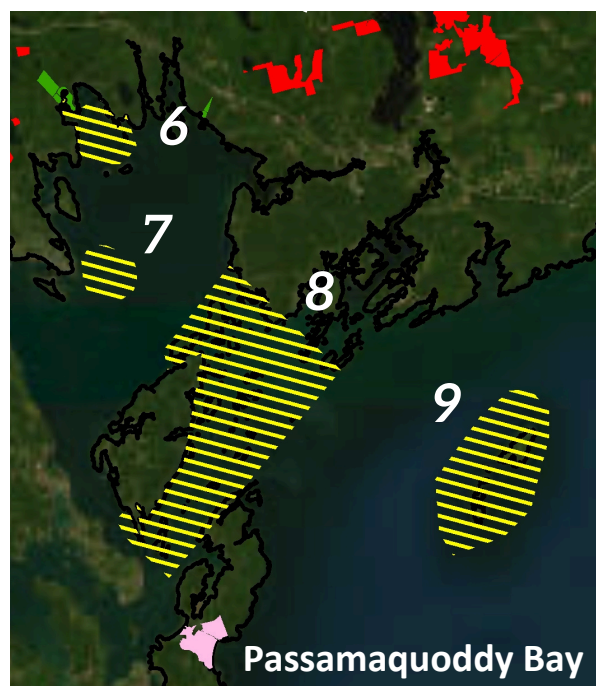
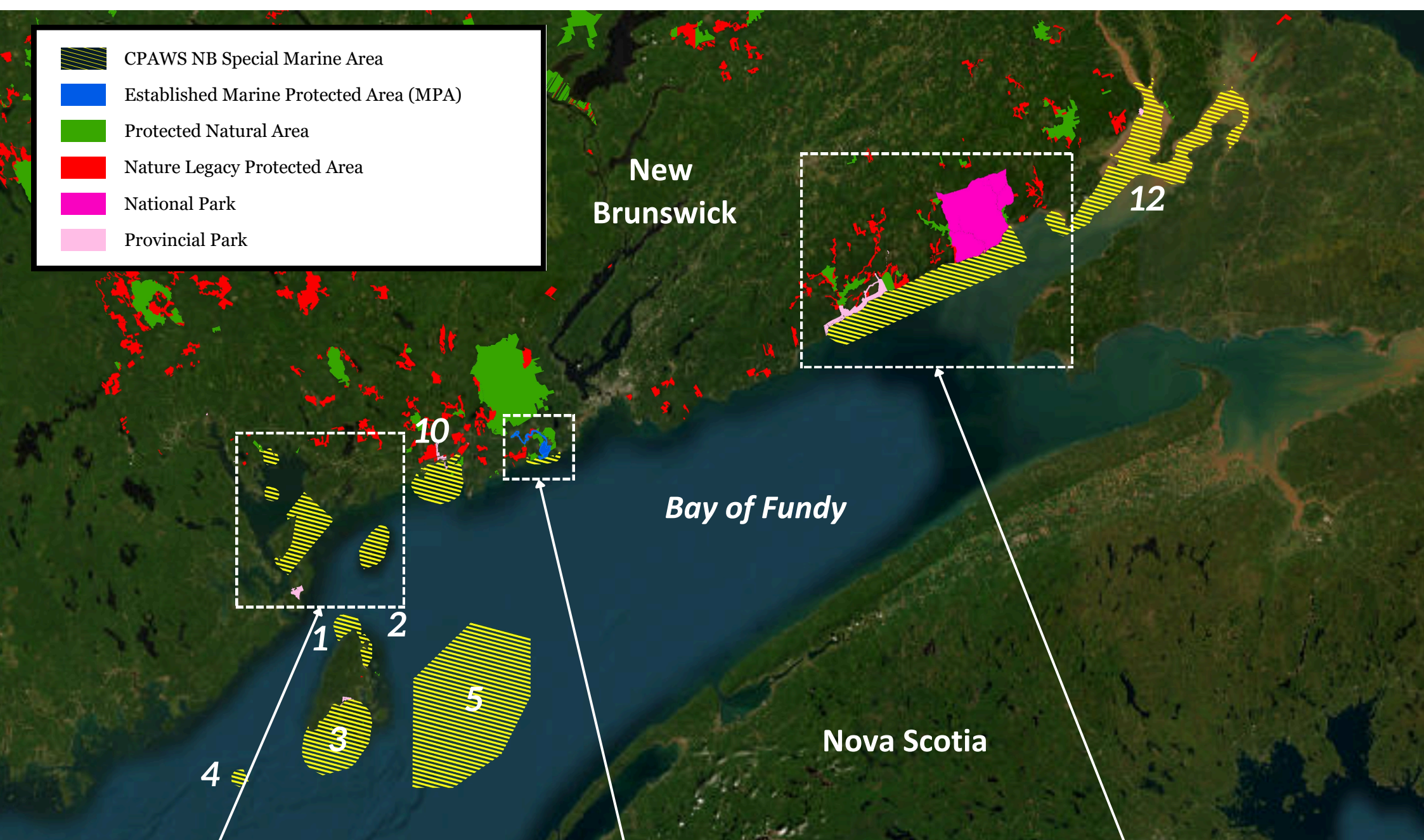


# Special Marine Areas in the Bay of Fundy

**Marine protected areas (MPAs)** are vital to maintain the health of the ocean around us. They protect **habitats** that wildlife need for **feeding, breeding, and safe refuge**. They help preserve important cultural and tourism opportunities for coastal communities. MPAs will keep the most important areas healthy and protect against current and future threats.

CPAWS NB has identified **13 Special Marine Areas** that represent the diverse habitats in the Bay of Fundy.



# CPAWS New Brunswick's Special Marine Areas in the Bay of Fundy

**1. Long Eddy, Grand Manan** – Due to upwellings and a high concentration and diversity of plankton, this area is a spawning area for herring and critical feeding area for fin whales, harbour porpoises, puffins, shearwaters and gannets.

**2. Flagg Cove and Whale Cove, Grand Manan** – The sheltered, warm waters have been a consistent lobster nursery for decades. The large collection of egg-carrying female lobsters is critical to the abundance of the lobster fisheries in the area.

**3. Southern Grand Manan, including Northeast Bank, Old Proprietor Shoal, Murr Ledges, Clark's Ground, and Kent Island** – The area has the highest seabird species richness in the Canadian Atlantic. It supports significant flocks of migrating and overwintering marine birds, including a large population of razorbills. It's recognized as an Important Bird Area for Canada, but that does not come with any protection measures.

**4. Machias Seal Island** – This tiny island is one of the most important seabird nesting colonies in the Gulf of Maine. The island is protected as a Migratory Bird Sanctuary, protecting the birds, but not the waters surrounding the island. Puffins, razorbills and terns get the food to raise their chicks from the ocean. We need new legal protection measures to safeguard their ocean habitats from industrial disturbance.

**5. Grand Manan Basin Right Whale Critical Habitat** – High concentrations of plankton provides critical habitat for the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale to feed and raise their young.

**6. Sam Orr's Pond, St. Croix Estuary, Passamaquoddy Bay** – The warm waters of these bays and coves support a rare collection of plants and animals not found in other areas along the coast. The area includes Nature Trust of New Brunswick protected sites, including Dick's Island and Caughey-Taylor Nature Preserve. Dick's Island is important nesting habitat for seabirds, such as black-backed gulls and eider ducks. Protection for Passamaquoddy Bay will help connect established terrestrial protected areas.

**7. Tongue Shoal, Passamaquoddy Bay** – The unique geography of the shoals merging into deeper waters in this area creates a special habitat for a variety of bottom-dwelling wildlife. Located near Saint Andrews and the traditional territory of the Passamaquoddy peoples, the area is important for cultural reasons.

**8. Head Harbour Passage, West Isles archipelago, and The Passages** – This area has been consistently identified as a high priority for conservation – by Indigenous Peoples, by researchers and local communities. High tides and currents flowing around the passages and islands create a high concentration of plankton, the tiny plants and animals that form the basis of the marine food chain. The rocky and cobbled sea floor is covered with sea peaches, anemones, sea stars, urchins and sponges. This food supply attracts harbour porpoise, humpback, minke and fin whales, Atlantic wolffish and seabirds.

**9. The Wolves and White Horse Island** – These islands are crucial for the endangered Harlequin duck and other seabirds. It's a known spawning area for fish and is an important feeding area for basking sharks. White Horse Island is a provincial Protected Natural Area, but the waters around it remain unprotected.

**10. Maces Bay** – The bay is a feeding ground for young lobster and both migrating and resident seabirds. Maces Bay surrounds the bird nesting colonies on the New River Island Nature Preserve of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. Its waters provide the ocean view for visitors to New River Beach Provincial Park.

**11. Musquash Estuary** – This is the largest fully intact and functioning estuary in the Bay of Fundy. The Musquash Estuary is already designated as a Marine Protected Area. Protection needs to be extended further to Little Musquash Cove to provide a buffer against industrial activities.

**12. Mary's Point, Grindstone Island, and Chignecto Bay** – These coastal mudflats and saltmarshes are one of the most important areas in Eastern North America for migrating shorebirds. The large intact mudflats are home to significant amounts of tiny mud shrimp, which attract hundreds of thousands of sandpipers and plovers that stop to feast along their way to South America.

**13. Coastal and offshore areas of Fundy National Park and Little and Big Salmon River Protected Natural Areas** – The waters off the coast of Fundy National Park and the Fundy Trail Provincial Park need to be legally protected. This will help conserve the habitat of the endangered Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon, and preserve important saltmarshes, rocky shorelines and feeding areas for seabirds. Indigenous Nations have designated an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) in the Big Salmon River watershed, west of the National Park.