

# NAVIGATING THE MAZE

## *A Citizen's Guide to Coastal Management in Nova Scotia*



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Issues Committee



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# NAVIGATING THE MAZE

## *A Citizen's Guide to Coastal Management in Nova Scotia*

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## ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

Many Nova Scotians have a profound connection to the coast. The Ecology Action Centre (EAC) developed *Navigating the Maze* to help citizens take action for better coastal protection and management in Nova Scotia. This booklet strives to inform readers about policies and regulations governing our coast and provide information about the correct department or office to contact to address coastal issues. The most important thing citizens concerned about Nova Scotia's coasts can do is to voice those concerns. *Navigating the Maze* is a tool to help accomplish this.

When faced with environmental concerns regarding the coast, residents must navigate a confusing and, at times seemingly contradictory regulatory system. Jurisdictional overlaps and differing mandates of various government agencies often cause difficulties for people looking for answers. Coastal environmental action is also limited by a lack of adequate governmental regulations and enforcement and a lack of public awareness about coastal challenges and opportunities.

Nova Scotia is known as "Canada's Ocean Playground" for its beautiful coastal vistas that include long expanses of beaches, dunes, quiet coves and inlets, rocky ocean shores and many other rich and diverse habitats. Our shorelines are facing intensifying development pressures and Nova Scotia lacks a comprehensive coastal strategy to regulate and coordinate activities in the coastal zone. Most municipalities have very little land use planning or bylaws specific to the coast. Nova Scotia needs to develop and implement improved coastal policies, however, until that happens, learning to navigate the existing maze of policies and regulations is essential for those wishing to stand up for the coast.

## BACKGROUND

Nova Scotians are increasingly concerned with coastal issues, such as inappropriate coastal development and public access to coastal areas. The Ecology Action Centre (EAC) receives daily calls from people from all across the province concerned about inappropriate coastal developments. Throughout the province, community groups are taking action on local coastal issues. Concern is constantly increasing for the health and future sustainability of coastal ecosystems and the social, economic, and environmental resources that depend on healthy coastal lands and waters.

One example was the immense outpouring of community support in the Digby Neck and Islands against the proposed development of a basalt quarry and marine terminal in that community. It is clear that coastal communities want more control over the type of development that takes place along the coast on both public and private lands. The increasing prevalence of community interest in protecting coastal access and coastal habitats has led to the formation of the Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia (<http://ccns.chebucto.org>). This group is working to increase stewardship and coastal planning at the local level while raising awareness about the need for a comprehensive coastal strategy at the provincial level.

## JURISDICTIONS

This section briefly outlines the three levels of government that have jurisdiction over coastal management in Nova Scotia. The area(s) that each department with a coastal mandate manages is also described.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Canadian Federal Government controls coastal waters from the ordinary low water mark seaward to 200 nautical miles or 370.4 km.

Many federal government departments have mandates that impact and influence coastal management with no one department being responsible for all aspects of managing the coastal zone. However, the **Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)** is the primary responsible agency. Legislation under DFO includes the *Oceans Act* and *Canada's Ocean Strategy* which make commitments to integrated coastal management under the authority of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Also under DFO, the *Fisheries Act* prohibits activities that may cause harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. This includes coastal marine habitat and freshwater habitat.

**Environment Canada (EC)** is another federal agency responsible for an aspect of the coast. Legislation under EC includes the *Canada Water Act* which protects water resources and promotes sustainable management of water use. The *Species at Risk Act* protects endangered plants, animals and birds throughout Canada, many of which live in marine and coastal areas. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* protects birds and their habitats along migration routes. This is important because many migratory birds use coastal habitat in their migration. The *Canada Wildlife Act* protects wildlife in Canada which extends to their habitat. This act also allows for the formation of special areas for the protection of wildlife and their habitat. The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* is triggered when activities might potentially alter fish habitat (under the *Fisheries Act*). Environment Canada is also the lead agency for the Federal Wetlands Protection and Conservation Policy, which is primarily implemented through the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. An environmental assessment will be necessary for federal projects that might impact wetlands.

**Transport Canada (TC)** also has a role in the management of coastal areas through the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* which protects the public right of navigation. This right might be affected in some cases of shoreline alteration.

**Parks Canada** is responsible for the shoreline, beaches and infrastructure in National Parks and Heritage sites.

## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

The Nova Scotia Provincial Government has jurisdiction on coastal lands inland from the ordinary low water mark, and between the ordinary high and low water mark.

Coastal features, such as the intertidal zone of the shore, dunes, salt marshes, mud flats and estuaries are all within provincial jurisdiction. However, there is not one provincial department that is solely responsible for managing coastal areas; rather, multiple departments have specific duties and responsibilities that lengthen our coastal maze.

Many provincial departments have responsibility for the coast in Nova Scotia. These departments are: the **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**, the **Department of Environment and Labour (DEL)**, the **Department of Agriculture (DA)**, the **Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA)**, the **Department of Education**, and **Service Nova Scotia and Municipal relations (SMR)**. In addition, the **Department of Transportation and Public Works (DOT)** and the **Department of Energy** play a lead role in certain types of activities that have important impacts on the coast.

The **Department of Natural Resources** manages most of the crown land in Nova Scotia. This includes provincial parks and some other protected areas. The *Beaches Act* has designated 92 beaches as protected; however, this is no guarantee the area will

remain free of development since this act is largely oriented towards preventing the removal of sand and rocks. Nova Scotia has approximately 470 beaches.

Permits are required from DNR before building a wharf or any other structure below the ordinary high water mark of any coastal waters in Nova Scotia. Applications can be processed at the nearest DNR office. Structures that require permits include wharf construction, repair to existing wharves (in some cases), boat ramp construction, breakwater construction, infilling (in most cases not permitted), moorings (if you are not the upland landowner) and bank protection (if carried out below the ordinary high water mark and may be subject to review by DFO). Landowners are responsible for proper erosion control measures to protect the aquatic environment from siltation. For more information or applications for construction on coastal submerged lands contact a DNR office. The DEL has jurisdiction over construction near fresh water bodies.

The *Off-Highway Vehicles Act* and related regulations under the DNR stipulates where off highway vehicles (OHV) can operate in Nova Scotia. An OHV operator requires written permission to operate on private property unless they are the property owner. Vulnerable or protected areas that OHV are not allowed to access or operate in as designated by the regulations are: highland or coastal barrens, beaches, sand dunes, watercourses and wetlands. A permit from DNR is required to operate an OHV in or on a coastal or highland barren, beach, or sand dune. A permit from DEL is required for the operation of an OHV in a sensitive area under the *Off-Highway Vehicles Act* and the operation of an OHV in a watercourse or wetland under the *Environment Act*. However a property owner is permitted to operate an OHV on a coastal or highland barren to access established trails or structures. In the case of properties municipally owned, contact the municipality in question to determine if they have by-laws restricting OHV use.

To report violations, contact the nearest DNR office or call 1-800-565-2224 or the RCMP.

The **Department of Environment and Labour** is responsible for the health of Nova Scotia's environment. The *Environment Act* governs management of watersheds and water quality including wastewater and sewage disposal. Regulations under the *Environment Act* require a permit before any alternations to a watercourse take place. Permits can be obtained from a local DEL office. Poorly maintained or malfunctioning sewage systems put human health and the environment at risk. Homeowners can learn if their septic systems are working through DEL's Nova Scotia Environmental Home Assessment Program. Depending on your location in the province one of three program delivery organizations will complete an assessment free of charge. See the *Contacts* section of this booklet for more information. Malfunctioning systems can also be reported to a local DEL field office. The DEL also is responsible for the creation and management of protected areas under the *Wilderness Act*.

The DEL's Wetland Designation Policy (WDP) does not allow any wetland alteration without a 'water approval'. This requirement holds, no matter the size of the wetland, the size of the alteration, or whether the wetland is on private or provincial land. Developers are required to avoid wetland alteration and if alternatives exist DEL will not issue a water approval. If avoidance is not possible the WDP requires both the DEL and the proponents to work toward minimization or compensating for adverse impacts. The WDP applies to all wetlands in Nova Scotia, including salt marshes but does not apply to mudflats, lagoons, tidal pools (all below the low water mark), beaches, bluffs and dune systems. Any wetlands alteration application that affects a wetland of over two hectares will trigger the Environmental Assessment process and requires further approval and permitting from the DEL's Environmental Assessment branch. To report damage or alteration to a wetland, call DEL inspectors or compliance officers based in the nearest field office.

The **Department of Education** is responsible for the *Special Places Protection Act*. Seven designated special places contain coastal areas at this point.

The **Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture** manages aspects of federal coastal waters through management agreements, and takes the lead role on inland fisheries and inland waters. *The Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act* has relevance to coastal communities' management of coastal resources and aquaculture site licensing. The *Canada – Nova Scotia: Memorandum of Understanding on Fish Habitat* acknowledges that the federal government, under the *Fisheries Act*, and the provincial DFA both have jurisdiction over regulation of fish habitat. Of note, this department is home to the interagency **Provincial Oceans Network** (PON) which has been tasked with developing a provincial coastal framework by 2009.

The **Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act** allows the minister to develop marshland for agricultural purposes and to reconstruct and repair any dykes for the maintenance of agricultural land that would otherwise be marshland.

**Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations** is involved in the regulation of land-use and enforcing the *Municipal Government Act* in individual municipalities. This act gives municipalities in Nova Scotia the authority to zone lands within their jurisdiction - meaning that municipalities control what type of development is allowed along their coasts. While the *Municipal Government Act* articulates provincial interest statements in five areas, none of these deal with the coast.

The **Department of Energy** is the lead agency concerned with climate change in Nova Scotia. It works with other departments to develop a climate change adaptation strategy for coastal areas. The Department of Energy also regulates the development of renewable energy resources, such as tidal power and wind energy that are emerging in coastal areas of Nova Scotia.

The **Department of Transportation and Public Works** constructs and maintains public infrastructure including highways, public roads, causeways, bridges, and culverts, all of which can have significant impact on coastal areas. Furthermore, natural

changes along the coast, along with expected climate change impacts make some coastal infrastructure extremely vulnerable to damage. In recent years, DOT has played a key role in culvert replacement and other salt marsh restoration efforts in coastal areas.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

**Municipal Governments in Nova Scotia have direct control over land-use regulations for most land uses.**

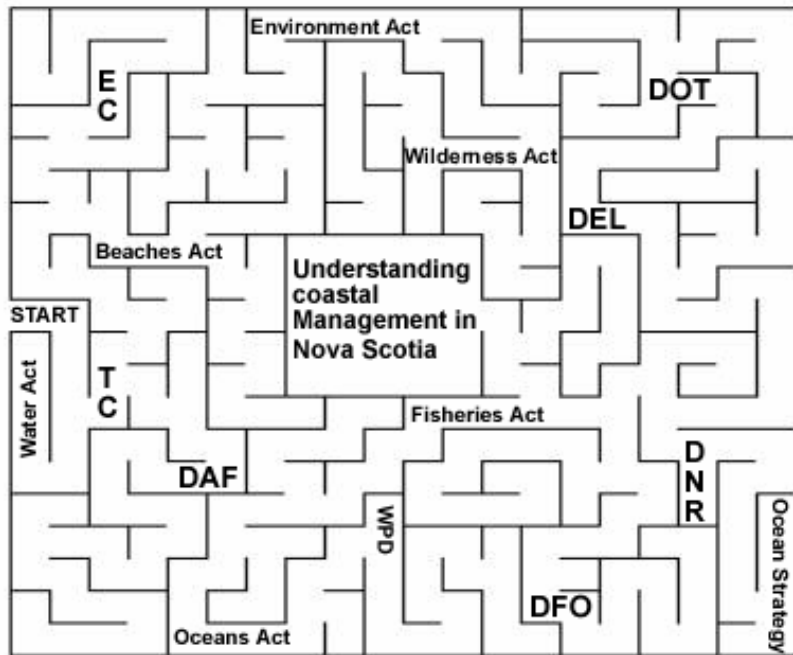
Municipalities have significant power in regulating what type of development is allowed within their jurisdictions. This power is extended through municipal bylaws and planning documents. In order for municipalities to regulate and direct land use they must have a municipal planning strategy and land-use bylaw in place. The map below illustrates which areas had formal municipal planning in 2007.



(Source: SNSMR 2007, modified by A. Nicol)

The remaining areas of the province do not have municipal land use planning. The coastline in these areas is only protected by province-wide standards set out by provincial subdivision regulations, building codes, and provincial department acts, such as the *Environment Act*.

Of note, some activities associated with land use are not within municipal jurisdiction. These include quarrying or removing minerals from the ground and harvesting trees.



Navigating Current Coastal			
	First Nations	Landowners	Non-Governmental Organizations NGOs
Planning Role	Exercise aboriginal rights to traditional lands and waters along the coast. Conduct or collaborate with federal/ provincial/ local governments on coastal inventory and planning.	Call for and participate in local consultations and planning programs.	Advocate for plans where needed; Participate in local consultations and planning programs; Acquire key coastal habitat for protection.
Approvals Role		Respect regulations; Obtain necessary permits; Protect, restore and enhance coastal habitat on their properties; Demonstrate stewardship practices; Adopt best management practices for all activities or works on private waterfront properties; The 'eyes and ears' of coastal stewardship.	Advocate for improved regulations; Inform and educate; Manage local restoration / enhancement projects; The 'eyes and ears' for coastal stewardship.
Legislation			

# Management in Nova Scotia

Municipal and Local Government	Provincial Government	Federal Government
Prepare and implement regional and community plans; Zone lands for specific uses; Plan and provide local services and facilities such as roads, parks sewer and drainage.	Responsible for coastal zone planning, address issues of land use and protection (Crown and private) and resource use. -Allocate, license and regulate the use of crown foreshore, aquatic lands and beaches; -Regulate mineral, oil and gas development; Approve and regulate discharges to coastal waters; Approve alteration to wetlands; -Regulate marshland use for agriculture; -Approve and regulate aquaculture operations and facilitate collaboration and efficiency between jurisdictions; -Designate protected areas; -Enforce duties of municipal governments.	Facilitate costal zone planning under Canada's Ocean Strategy.
Prepare and implement regional and community planning strategies; Official community plans; Zone lands for specific uses including subdivision; Plan for watercourse protection, tree protection and sediment and erosion control; Plan and provide local services and facilities such as roads, parks sewer and drainage and storm water management.		Protect fish and aquatic habitat and migratory bird habitat;  Regulate disposal of materials to deep ocean;  Assess environmental impacts of federal projects; Designate Protected areas.
Municipal Government Acts, By Laws and Statements of Provincial interest.	-DNR: Beaches Act; -DEL: Environment Act, Wilderness Areas Protection Act and WDP; -DA: Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act ; -DFA: Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act and MOU; -DE: Special Places Protection Act; -SMR: Municipal Government Act.	-DFO: Canada's Ocean Strategy, Oceans Act and Fisheries Act; -EC: Migratory Birds Convention Act, Species at Risk Act, Canada Water Act, Willife Act and Canadian Environmental Assessment Act; -TC: Navigable Waters Protection Act.

## TAKING COASTAL ACTION

Before contacting government officials about an activity it is important to know exactly what the problem is and what outcome is desired. Efforts will likely be more successful when the issue is clearly explained. Use the following check list to become organized.

### Coastal Action Checklist

- ✓ What activity are you reporting?
- ✓ Who is planning or carrying out the activity?
- ✓ How is the activity affecting you or your community now and how will it affect it in the future? Describe effects to your community and the ecosystem.
- ✓ What do you want to see done? Do you want the action to be stopped or just modified?
- ✓ What type of habitat is being affected? Example: A beach, a salt marsh, or a mudflat? <sup>1</sup>
- ✓ What type of structure is being built? Example: A groyne, a wharf or a breakwater
- ✓ What type of activity is being carried out? Example: road construction or repair or infilling a wetland.
- ✓ What type of equipment is being used? Example: bulldozer, back hoe, drill
- ✓ What is the history of the coastal area? Example: Is it a protected area? Has it historically been a rich fishing area? How does the local community use this area?

- ✓ Are there others in your community, such as neighbours or community leaders, who share your concerns? It would be useful if you had permission to use their names and thoughts as this could add strength to your position.

## Documentation

When you are ready to start contacting people, make sure that you have a pen and paper in hand.

It is important to make note of:

- ✓ Who you spoke with and their contact information
- ✓ When you spoke with them
- ✓ What was discussed
- ✓ What action or follow up they agreed to do on your behalf

Even very general notes may be helpful in the future. For example, if you are referred to another person or department, keep track of who told you this, and why they referred you. Good documentation is also helpful if your action leads to a long-term relationship with a government department or if you are a representative reporting back to a group.

Other forms of documentation are pictures or videos of the coastal development or action of concern and tape recordings or videos of conversations with officials or community members. These documents provide evidence to support your claims and help explain the situation. Originals should be kept in a safe place and only copies should be provided.

While speaking with an official about your complaint, ask what they are going to do about the issue.. Asking for concrete action encourages officials to acknowledge the complaint and prompts them to get back to you after they have taken some action that you both agree upon.

<sup>1</sup> An excellent resource for terms related to coastal processes and habitats: *A guide to Land Use Planning in Coastal Areas of the Maritime Provinces*.  
[http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/e/ocmd/final version - a guide to land use planning.pdf](http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/e/ocmd/final%20version%20-%20a%20guide%20to%20land%20use%20planning.pdf)

## Approaches to Coastal Action

- **Indirect approach.** Identify an issue, suggest alternatives and notify officials about the concern through phone or letters but do not become an active participant in finding a solution to the problem.
- **Direct approach.** Recognize the issue, suggest alternatives, notify officials by phone or letters, and attempt to find a solution. A solution may be found through compromising with the offending party, or by using existing legislation to stop the activity. Sometimes working to change legislation or policy may be an appropriate course of action, and if successful may help stop the same type of issue from happening elsewhere.

Both approaches to coastal action are valid and important. Writing a letter to officials voicing your concerns is better than not notifying anyone. Concerns should be brought to the attention of the offending party, and government representatives (Federal, Provincial, and Municipal). When taking a direct approach, first notify the offending party of your concerns, and then determine which government levels and departments are the most pertinent to notify in order to effect action on the issue.

## The Most Important Detail

In either approach you decide to take, the most important point to remember is to be friendly. Always try to approach the property owner or the person in charge of the action that is taking place before complaining to the government. The owner may not realize what sort of impact their actions may have, or may be willing to compromise and work with the community. Being friendly and understanding will result in more co-operation and compromise. It is also important to be polite to the government officials. Although some officials may not be able to help, they will be even less likely to assist a confrontational person. In many cases, especially with regard to private property, landowners have the right to do what they like on their own land. Existing regulations may not prevent

them from doing something on their land, even if it will have negative consequences for the coastal environment and the wider community. It is still a good idea to voice opinions, because even though it often takes a long time for policy change, the first step is citizens speaking up and asking for change.

## SCENARIOS FOR COASTAL ACTION

### BUILDING ALONG THE COAST



*You own a house along the coast. A neighbour is building a new home very close to the water. You are concerned about the impacts of this construction on the dunes, salt marsh, and shorebirds, and possible grey water contamination from the septic system.*

*Who should you contact?*

In any situation involving construction of a house or other structure, contact your local municipality to check if the builders have a building permit and that construction meets local building standards, including any zoning, setbacks or land use requirements. The provincial Department of Environment issues permits for altering salt marshes and other wetlands, as well as for on-site sewage systems. Contact them to find out if the developer has a permit for the activity, or if you are concerned that the construction may be causing damage to the salt marsh.

If the development project impacts a provincially owned beach or protected area, contact the Department of Natural Resources. Although, if the development is happening on private property then there is often nothing that can be done unless it can be demonstrated that the development is directly impacting the protected beach or other crown land. If there is a possibility that there may be an impact on fish habitat, contact DFO. If there is a chance that habitat for endangered fish species or migratory bird species may be affected, contact the Canadian Wildlife Service

(Environment Canada). The provincial DNR is the contact for potential damage to endangered plants or terrestrial species.

## SHORELINE ALTERATION



*One of your neighbours is building a dock on the back section of their land at the coast. Your neighbors are using heavy equipment to dig and add rocks to the shoreline. You are concerned about the effects of this on the bottom habitat and you think it might affect your ability to get around in your boat in shallow water. Who should you contact to see if your neighbour's actions are legal?*

Transport Canada's Navigable Waters Protection Act governs the approvals process for any construction on or under water, such as docks, bridges and breakwaters. If you think that this construction project might be impacting the ability of the public to navigate in these waters you should contact Transport Canada.

If your concerns are more about the impact that this work will have on fish habitat you should contact the DFO Habitat Management Division. This is the part of DFO that reviews development project proposals to see if they comply with all fisheries regulations. DNR is the agency responsible for giving permits for any structures that will extend below the ordinary high water mark. These structures include: wharves, boat ramps, breakwaters, infilling, moorings and bank protection. Contact the nearest DNR office to determine if your neighbors have a permit, and ask that an official inspects the construction to make sure that it falls within the parameters of the permit.

## COASTAL ACCESS



*You live in a coastal area a few kilometers away from the beach. There is a path that crosses through a stretch of private property that your family uses frequently to access the water. Recently this property was sold and a fence erected, blocking your path.*

*What can you do to improve this situation?*

In this case, your best option is to try to work out coastal access with the neighbour. Newcomers to an area may not realize how important these pathways are to their neighbours and the wider community. They may also be concerned about liability issues from allowing people to walk across their land. In many cases, a cordial request to the new landowner will yield positive results especially if you can explain the historical significance of this traditional pathway.

If this approach does not work, then you can attempt to verify the property lines through the Land Registry and Information Management Services Division of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. This office will be the first place to look to get an idea of property lines on the land plot in question. For more detailed information you should ask for survey plans and the deed descriptions. These are often available at your local county registry or deeds office. At some point you may need to get a surveyor to visit your area and verify boundaries.

Keep in mind that if this is private property the property owner has the right to restrict public access. In this case, it is recommended you contact your local municipality to ensure that in the future, public access routes to the coast are protected through land use policies.

On a related note, land seaward of the high water mark is public land and private landowners are not permitted to restrict access along the shore.

### OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES



*You notice off highway vehicles on a beach close to your home. There is currently signage posted notifying the public that Piping Plovers are currently breeding there. You are concerned about how this act may affect the fragile dune and beach habitat that the plovers are breeding in.*

It is best not to directly confront the OHV operators, and instead gather as much information about the event as you can. This includes the date, time, location, license plate numbers, number of vehicles, the type of terrain that they traveled over and whether it was private or public property.

A permit from DNR is required to operate an OHV in or on a coastal or highland barren, beach, or sand dune. Call your local DNR office or RCMP detachment to report the incident. Also remember that piping plovers are protected under the *Species at*

*Risk Act* under Environment Canada and provincial Species at Risk legislation.

## CONCLUSION

This guide has provided basic information about who to contact about a coastal issue and how coastal management and planning works in Nova Scotia. *Navigating the Maze* can still be challenging and there is always more to learn. The Ecology Action Centre's Coastal Issues Committee is here to help. Please feel free to contact us at [coastal@ecologyaction.ca](mailto:coastal@ecologyaction.ca) or by phone at (902) 442-5046. Many other resources and community groups in Nova Scotia deal with coastal issues, see the *Resources* section for contacts.

## CONTACTS

### FEDERAL

- General enquiries number for all of Canada. 1-800-622-6232.  
This number is used to answer questions on any subject for all regions of Canada

#### **Environment Canada, Atlantic Region**

<http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca>

#### **Environmental Conservation Branch, Canadian Wildlife Service**

<http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html>

Phone: (506) 364-5044

Fax: (506) 364-5062

E-mail: [nature@ec.gc.ca](mailto:nature@ec.gc.ca)

#### **To Report an Environmental Emergency in the Maritimes:**

<http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/emergencies/contacts.html>

CALL:- 1-800-565-1633 (outside the Metro Halifax area).

- 426-6030 (within the Halifax Metro area).

- 902-426-6200 Environment Canada, Maritimes, 24 hour.

#### **Roger Percy**

Regional Environmental Emergencies Coordinator

Dartmouth, N.S.

Telephone: (902) 426-2576

Fax: (902) 426-9709

Email: [roger.percy@ec.gc.ca](mailto:roger.percy@ec.gc.ca)

#### **Transport Canada**

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/en/menu.htm>

#### **Marine Safety, The Navigable Waters Protection Program.**

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/oep/nwpp/menu.htm>

Tel. 902-426-2726 (8-4 M-F)

#### **Department of Fisheries and Oceans**

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/>

#### **Atlantic Region General Inquiries**

Phone: (902) 426-3760

#### **DFO Habitat Management Office**

Tel. 902-426-8105 (8-4 M-F)

[www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/canwaters-eauxcan/habitat/index\\_e.asp](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/canwaters-eauxcan/habitat/index_e.asp)

### PROVINCIAL

- Contact details for all provincial government departments can be found in the Blue page section of your telephone book.
- For a List of Current Nova Scotia Ministers see:  
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/MEMBERS/cabinet/cabinet.html>
- To Find Your Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA):  
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/MEMBERS/directory/alpha.html> or call 1-800-670-4357.
- Province of Nova Scotia general enquiries line:  
Tel. 1-800-670-4357 (8:30-4:30 M-F)

#### **Nova Scotia Environment and Labour**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/>

#### **The Office of the Minister**

Minister: Hon. Mark Parent

5151 Terminal Road, 6th floor

Halifax, NS B3J 2T8

Phone: 902-424-6647

Fax: 902-424-0575

#### **Deputy Minister: Nancy Vanstone**

Phone: 902-424-6767

Email: [nvanston@gov.n.s.ca](mailto:nvanston@gov.n.s.ca)

**Environmental Monitoring and Compliance (all inquiries)**

Phone: 902-424-2547

Fax: 902-424-0569

Toll Free: 1-877-9ENVIRO (1-877-936-8476)

E-mail: emc@gov.ns.ca

**Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Regional and District Offices:** <http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/offices/emcoffices.asp>

**Nova Scotia Environmental Home Assessment Program**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla/airlandwater/homeassessment.asp>

- Eastern Region: Bluenose Coastal Action Program – Cape Breton, (902) 567-1628
- Central and Northern Region: Clean Nova Scotia, 1-800-665-5377
- Western Region: Clean Annapolis River Project, (902) 532-7533

**Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish>

**Minister:** Hon. Ron Chisholm

1741 Brunswick Street, 3rd floor, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3X8.

Email: MIN\_DFA@gov.ns.ca

Phone: (902) 424-8953

Fax: (902) 428-3145

**Deputy Minister:** Paul LaFleche

Email: laflecpt@gov.ns.ca

Phone: (902) 424-0300

Fax: (902) 424-0698

**Marine and Coastal Advisory Services**

1741 Brunswick St., 3rd Floor, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3X8.

Phone: (902) 424-4560

Fax: (902) 424-1766

DAF Staff Directory:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/contactus/staffdir/>

**Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr>

DNR Staff Phone Directory for Various Branches:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/staffdir/default.asp>

**Contact the Office of the Minister**

Minister: Hon. David Morse

1701 Hollis Street, P.O. Box 698

Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3M8

Email: MIN\_DNR@gov.ns.ca

Phone: (902) 424-4037

Fax: (902) 424-0594

**Deputy Minister:** Peter Underwood

Email: underwpc@gov.ns.ca

Phone: (902) 424-4121

Fax: (902) 424-0594

**Regional Services Branch: Enforcement Division**

John Mombourquette, Director

Email: jamombou@gov.ns.ca

Phone: (902) 424-5254

Fax: (902) 424-7735

### **Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations**

Responds to requests for information on provincial government programs and initiatives.

Public Enquiries - Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations  
Mail Room, 8 South, Maritime Centre, 1505 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS, B3J 3K5

Phone: 902-424-5200

Toll-free from within Nova Scotia: 1-800-670-4357

Fax: 902-424-0720

Website: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/>

Email: [askus@gov.ns.ca](mailto:askus@gov.ns.ca)

### **Service Nova Scotia Office Locations:**

<https://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/contact/locations.asp>

### **Nova Scotia Permits Directory Home**

Includes permit information on provincial departments, agencies, boards, Commissions, Municipalities and businesses.

<https://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/paal/>

### **Land Registration Office - Halifax County**

#### **Map Library Services - Central Region**

5151 Terminal Road, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 2205

Halifax, NS, B3J 3C4

Hours: Monday to Friday - 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM (except holidays)

Phone: (902) 424-8571

Fax: (902) 424-5747

### **Department of Education**

<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/>

### **Special Places Protection Act**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/statutes/specplac.htm>

### **Nova Scotia Department of Energy**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/energy>

Main Office: Bank of Montreal Building, Suite 400  
5151 George Street, P.O. Box 2664, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3P7

Phone: (902) 424-4575

Fax: (902) 424-0528

### **Department of Transportation and Public Works**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/tran/>

Head Office: Johnston Building, 1672 Granville St., Halifax.

Phone: (902) 424-2297

Fax: (902) 424-0532

E-mail: [tpwpaff@gov.ns.ca](mailto:tpwpaff@gov.ns.ca)

Mailing Address P.O. Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2N2

## **MUNICIPAL**

- Find your municipal or town elected representatives to assist through the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.
- **Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities**  
<http://www.unsm.ca/members.htm>  
Suite 1106, 1809 Barrington Street  
Halifax, N.S. B3J 3K8  
Phone: (902) 423-8331  
Fax: (902) 425-5592  
E-mail: [mainunsm@eastlink.ca](mailto:mainunsm@eastlink.ca)

## RESOURCES

Clean Nova Scotia  
<http://www.clean.ns.ca>

Coastal Communities Network  
<http://www.coastalcommunities.ns.ca>

Coastal Coalition of Nova Scotia  
<http://ccns.chebucto.org>

Coastal Wetland Institute  
<http://www.mta.ca/Research/macwi/index.html>

Ecology Action Centre  
<http://www.ecologyaction.ca>

The Living by Water Project  
<http://www.livingbywater.ca>

The Nova Scotia Environmental Network  
<http://www.nsen.ca>

Stewardship Canada  
<http://www.stewardshipcanada.ca>

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Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. 2007. *Where can off-highway vehicles be operated in Nova Scotia ?* <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/ohv/wherecanIride.asp>

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