

# DARE TO BE DEEP



## PROTECTING CANADA'S OCEAN

**1%.** That's how much of Canada's ocean is found in marine protected areas. Yet our country has the longest coastline and seventh-largest ocean estate in the world!

The U.S. has protected 30% of its ocean territory. Canada needs to catch up, and we need to ramp up action if we're going to meet our stated international goal of protecting at least 10% of our ocean by 2020.

## NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE, THE OCEAN'S HEALTH MATTERS!

Every second breath you take is generated by the ocean. Quite literally, your life depends on the ocean's continued health. Beyond breathing, there's food. Canadians and people the world over count on seafood as an important part of our diets.

According to scientific studies, over the past century humans have depleted a large percentage of the ocean's large fish. Who can forget the massive collapse of the cod fishery on Canada's east coast in the 1980s? If we're going to continue to eat fish, we need to sustain the marine nurseries that give them life.

And then there's weather. Ocean currents, winds and water cycles affect the weather we experience every day. Protecting more of the ocean today means protecting vital ecosystems that give us life – from the air we breathe to the food we consume to the daily weather we experience.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join CPAWS and become part of a vital organization working across Canada to protect marine life along all of our coasts. Our goals are to protect more marine hotspots in the near term, and create large networks of marine protected areas over the next decade.

CPAWS marine conservation specialists and volunteers work side by side with governments, industry and Aboriginal communities. We're also part of the international Mission Blue: Sylvia Earle Alliance. Together with our partners, we develop solutions that will sustain local fisheries, conserve endangered wildlife such as belugas and other kinds of whales and maintain fragile species such as amazing glass sponge reefs. Your support and involvement makes our work possible.

Visit [www.cpaws.org](http://www.cpaws.org)  
to learn more and become part of the effort!

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*You can help protect these and many more of Canada's special ocean places and creatures!*



## Hecate Strait, British Columbia Glass sponge reefs

Described as “living fossils,” these 9000-year-old reefs are the only living glass sponge reefs left on earth!

Over 50% of these reefs were destroyed by bottom trawling before the practice was banned. However, trawling currently takes place all around the reefs and threatens to smother them with sediments that are stirred up from the seafloor.

CPAWS is leading the effort to convince Canada to protect this globally unique ecosystem.



## Southern Strait of Georgia, British Columbia Orcas (Killer whales)

Home to the endangered southern resident Orcas and “old growth” rockfish which live for over 100 years in the swaying fronds of kelp forests.

The Southern Strait of Georgia is also the playground, fishing ground and transportation route for hundreds of thousands of people every year. The ecosystems within the strait are severely threatened by overfishing, pollution and climate change.

CPAWS is part of a coalition of organizations working with local and national governments to protect this area.



## Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick North Atlantic right whales

The Bay of Fundy is a rich marine ecosystem that supports an incredible diversity of marine life, including the endangered North Atlantic right whale, and contains the highest tides in the world.

The Bay is becoming increasingly industrialized, however, with proposals for large open-net salmon aquaculture sites, coastal mega-quarries, increased oil tanker traffic associated with the proposed Energy East pipeline project, and inappropriate tidal energy projects.

CPAWS is encouraging the establishment of a network of marine protected areas in the Bay of Fundy.



## St. Lawrence Estuary, Québec Beluga whales

The St. Lawrence population of beluga whales has escaped the threat of a proposed petroleum port at Cacouna in the heart of their baby nursery, but this highly endangered mammal still lacks the security it would have in a long-proposed marine protected area surrounding Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park.

CPAWS and other groups successfully fought in court against allowing a petroleum port at Cacouna. Now we're pushing for a permanent marine protected area for this region.

*CPAWS is Canada's only nationwide charity dedicated solely to the protection of our public land and water, and ensuring our parks are managed to protect the nature within them.*

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 **CPAWS**  
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY