



Qata'skwil na etlsaqliaql kikjuk paqtapa'ql aqq aqu'tekl wiskipoql kutey nike' Pitu'poq. Qata'skwil nikwekl siwkw aqq nipk tuijw nepu'tikl toqa'q aqq kesik aqq na'taqamto'tikl. Mi'kmaq ewe'wmi'tisnl kisua'tu'tijl wikuoml aqq welkne'k ewe'wmi'tisnl kisua'tunew wikual.

Qata'skwil

- Ika'tu'tij kamlamuti samqwaniktuk kwlamam nme'jk kislamultitaq
- Ewipuna'la'tijik tku'k
- Enqapeka'tu'tij msitn
- Enqa'tu'tij maqamikew ejiklapuektn
- Kelnmi'tij mijipjewe siskuiktuk
- Ankua'tu'tij mijipjewe ta'n tuijw suklikaq
- Ekinua'tekek ta'n samqwan telapua'q. Mita nuta'tij waqamitk samqwan ta'n na'ku'set sapisitew klaman nikwektital aqq ltutaq me' kamlamuti
- A'jela'tu'tij elikasuti wjit nme'ji'jk, mntmu'k, minjinikejk jikijik aqq kakwetk
- Keknue'k wjit mimajuaqney. Jipji'jk aqq meskilultijik nme'jk malquma'tijik waisisk wikultilijik qata'skiktuk. Pilue'k waisisk kutey tmaqane'jk, jikijik aqq kakwetk malquma'tijik juji'jk aqq oqotaqamu'kl etikutikl qata'skwiktuk
- A'jela'tu'tij etl-sika'lamk, kutey nike' alanjue'l nijinl nastultikl qataskwiktuk

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

na etek Unama'ki keluasik ta'n tuijw Inu'k nuta'tij apoqnmasuti wjit mawi kisitaqn aq ta'n koqoe'l etekl wla wsitqamu'k.

Maliaptikl nankl Inue'kati'l Unama'ki etekl wla wjit mawi kisitaqn aq ta'n telo'tasik.

Nipuktl, samqaniktuk weji panuijkasik koqoe'l, ta'n teli milamuksit wa'isis, ta'n teli Inuita'simk, samqwan siawi jiko'tasin aq kisamatultinen wenik se'k tle'k.

Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

is Cape Breton's Mi'kmaq voice on natural resources and the environment.

We represent the five Mi'kmaq communities of Unama'ki on Mi'kmaq natural resources and their sustainability.

Forestry, marine science research, species management, traditional Mi'kmaq knowledge, water quality monitoring and environmental partnerships are areas we are involved in.



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Tetpaqo'tmnej Qata'skwil

Use Eelgrass Meadows Properly

Qata'skwil (eelgrass) is a flowering plant that is found in estuaries and sheltered areas in salt water like the Bras d'Or Lakes. Qata'skwil grows in the spring and summer and dies back in the fall and winter and washes ashore. The Mi'kmaq used it as insulation for wigwams and later as insulation for houses.

Qata'skwil

- Contributes oxygen to the water for fish to breathe
- Reduces wave action
- Slows tidal currents
- Prevents erosion
- Stabilizes nutrient-rich bottom sediments in the water
- Adds nutrients when it decomposes
- Can be used as an indicator of water quality. It needs enough light from clear water to grow and produce oxygen
- Provides sheltered habitat for young fish and invertebrates such as oysters, green crab, snails and starfish
- Plays an important role in the food web. Birds and larger fish feed on animals that live in eelgrass. Microorganisms like bacteria and algae are found on qata'sk blades and provide food for other animals like ducks, snails and starfish
- Provides spawning habitat, for example, herring eggs can be found attached to qata'skwil



Welikwekl qata'skwl Healthy eelgrass



Ewlikwekl qata'skwl Unhealthy eelgrass



Qata'skwl is protected by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Fisheries Act because of its importance as fish habitat. You can be fined or imprisoned for destroying fish habitat, even if activities occur on First Nations lands.

The largest threats to qata'skwl are related to human activities. Boating, shellfish harvesting and pollution affect qata'skwl. Boats and boat motors tear up qata'skwl meadows. Wharves create shady areas where it can't grow. Shellfish harvesting can damage beds if care is not taken during raking.

Excessive sediments going into the Bras d'Or Lakes from roads, construction and logging can bury plants and reduce or limit the amount of light needed for qata'skwl to grow.

Pollution from sewage or farming activities can increase the amount of algae. Too much algae growing in the water and on qata'skwl can harm qata'skwl by reducing the amount of light it receives. It can also add pollutants like pesticides and metals that can harm qata'skwl. Green Crabs cut qata'sk blades and burrow into the seabed, causing qata'skwl to float away.

Here are some ways you can protect qata'skwl

- Limit construction near the shoreline and use sediment fences or control ponds to reduce the sediments entering the Bras d'Or Lakes.
- Instead of building many wharves, consider sharing with a neighbour.
- Take care when boating. Lift outboard motors and land boats in areas where there is less qata'skwl.
- Be gentle when raking for oysters.
- If you live along the shores of the Bras d'Or Lakes, use environmentally-friendly products in the home to help improve water quality by reducing the amount of chemicals in our wastewaters.
- Don't fertilize lawns near the shoreline.

If these meadows are destroyed, fish habitat is destroyed.

Mtmo'taqney wjit Ekwitamemk aqq Tplutaqn wjit Tel-kwitamemk Apaqtuk ikatmi'tijl qata'skwl mita keknuekl wjit ta'n weskwita'tij nme'jk. Kisi-pija'luksimk kisna netutmuksimk wjit teli-o'pla'tumk ta'n weskwita'tij nme'jk tlia'j jel tla'sik koqoey Inue'katikek.

Mawelk nsanoqn wjit qata'skwl wejiaq koqoey ta'n mimajuinu'k tel-lukuti'tij. Alissukwimk, mntmu'k aqq e'sik ketanuj aqq winamkwa'tumk samqwan mesitu'tijl qata'skwl. Walipotl aqq alte'mamkewe'l tewiste'mi'tijl qata'skwl. Epatua'timkewe'l kisitu'tijl kaqjikatekl ta'n tett qata'skwl mu kisikwenukl. Mu menaqajewa'simint ta'n teliketanj mntmu'k aqq e'sik opla'tuten qata'skwl.

Awsamelk sisku wejiaq ta'n telitumk awti'l aqq wenji'kuo'ml aqq esnoqnemk, na anquna'toql qata'skwl aqq mu tepianuk na'ku'setewik sapatenuk kwlaman qata'skwl wlikwetal. Mi'janapu aqq teli-ika'taqemk winamkwa'tu'tij samqwan aqq kisa'tu'tij ajelk oqotoqomu'k nikwektn. Awsamelk oqotoqomu'k samqwaniktuk aqq nasikwek qataskwiktuk o'pla'tu'tijl qata'skwl mita ajitkle'jk na'ku'setewik. Aqq elp ika'tumk winamkwa'tekekl koqoe'l kutey nike' ne'patekemkewe'l npisunn aqq qasawo'ql o'pla'ten qata'skwl. Minjinkejik temasqate'mi'tijl qata'skwl aqq mulqatmi'tij lamamk, kisa'tu'tijl qata'skwl jiklqo'qitikt.

Wla etek koqoey kistla'teketen wjit teli-ikatmumkl qata'skwl

- Wetqutmumk te'sik lukwaqnn kikjuk qasqe'k. llutaqnn kisna pputaskl ewe'wmumkl naqa'tun te'sik sisku piskwapuek Pitu'poq.
- Mu eltasiktuk pukwelkl epatua'timkewe'l awnaqa newte'jk maw-wekasultinew wen wikma'jk.
- Menaqajewa'timk alissukwimk. Wenaqa'lut alte'mamkewe'y aqq epatua'mk ta'n mu te'snukl etlikwekl qata'skwl.
- Menaqajewa'timk teliktanj mntmu'k.
- Elmiaq wikin kikjuk Pitu'poq ewe'wtisk waqama'tekemkewe'l ta'n ma' amsela'tu'tik samqwan aqq ma' ankua'tu'tik koqoey winjik samqwaniktuk.
- Mukk ewe'wmu epkenaqn kkaqnmk elmiaq wikin tepow sitmuk.

Ta'n qata'skwl etlikutikl o'pla'tumk na elp o'pla'ten ta'n weskwita'tij nme'jk.

Qata'skwl Eelgrass

Wela'lioq. Kisi-kewaskui'kik Lnuiktuk Barbara Sylliboy. Aq elp wela'luksie'k Kisiku'k—George Sylliboy, Albert aq Murdena Marshall wjit teli- apoqnmuksiek kwilmekl tettapu'tekl klusuaqnn. Wela'lioq. Mi'kmaq translation provided by Barbara Sylliboy. Special thanks to Elders George Sylliboy, Albert and Murdena Marshall for their expertise. Kisi-wasooqitestekek / Photos by Herb Vandermeulen (Bedford Institute of Oceanography).