

CAMP

Community Aquatic Monitoring Program

CAMP is the Community Aquatic Monitoring program, a monthly beach seine survey that collects information from shallow areas (less than 2 m) around the Bras d'Or Lakes–Eskasoni, Potlotek, We'koqma'q, Wagmatcook, Malikewe'j, and Grand Narrows. UINR has been monitoring these areas since 2009.



A large net is hauled once in the sample area of 225 m². All species captured are identified, counted, and recorded on data sheets. Species are returned to the water unharmed. Temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen are also recorded. A 1 m² transect divided into four quadrants is thrown randomly 3 three times to sample submerged vegetation. A visual survey of other vegetation and type of bottom is also completed. Water quality samples taken in 2014 showed that water and sediments are within established guidelines.

- 33 species were identified as common to the shallows of the Bras d'Or Lakes.
- The most commonly encountered species include grass shrimp, sand shrimp, smelt, Atlantic silversides, and Northern pipefish.
- Green crab has been in the Bras d'Or Lakes since the early 1990s and show signs of increasing since 2010.

- Other invasive species found include golden star tunicate which tends to be found covering eel grass.

- Temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen all show good measurements, with the exception of Eskasoni where dissolved oxygen fell below acceptable levels in 2011. As we have not seen this again, it may have been due to a sampling error or equipment failure.

Common sea plants found in the shallows:

- Eel grass *Zostera marina*
- Green filamentous sp. *Enteromorpha intestinalis*)
- Sea lace *Chorda tomentosa*
- Kelp *Laminaria* sp.
- Fucus sp.
- Brown filamentous *Pilayella littoralis*
- Sea lettuce *Ulva lactuca*
- Iris moss *Chondrus crispus*
- Knotted wrack *Ascophyllum nodosum*



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