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Investigating Microplastics in Atlantic Canada: *Microplastic Quantity & Impact Assessment in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and Saint John River Watershed*

Mahone Bay, NS: The *Microplastic Quantity & Impact Assessment in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and Saint John River Watershed* (2020 – 2023) is a project that will assess the quantities, types, and impacts of microplastics in freshwater and near-shore marine environments of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Saint John River Watershed. The project is led by Coastal Action, providing training and leadership to partners as they investigate quantities and types of microplastics at priority sites in the Saint John River Watershed and Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The project also includes assessing microplastic impacts on commercially and ecologically important species, by analyzing microplastic quantities ingested by blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*).

This project will expand on Coastal Action's past microplastic research and build capacity in Atlantic Canada through training and standardization of data collection methods. This work will strengthen the current body of research and facilitate comparisons of microplastic data in the region.

Microplastic sampling of both surface water and sediment will be conducted over a two-year period in priority areas, including a bivalve microplastic digestion study. Results will be communicated to the public through a final report, as well as through Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) Atlantic's online data platform, a peer-reviewed journal article, and social media. The project will engage multiple stakeholders to discuss prevention opportunities, solutions, and next steps.

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Project Partners:



WINTER RIVER - TRACADIE BAY
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