

Press Release



37 Tannery Rd., P.O Box 730
Lunenburg N.S B0J 2C0
P: 902-634-9977; E: info@coastalaction.org
www.coastalaction.org



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

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Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation (Coastal Action) is pleased to announce our successful application to Environment Canada's Atlantic Ecosystem Initiative (AEI). With this funding, Coastal Action will lead the development and delivery of the 3-year **Atlantic Canada Microplastic Research Project** (2017-2020). The project is in partnership with two other Atlantic Canadian environmental organizations, the Huntsman Marine Science Centre (Saint Andrews, New Brunswick) and ACAP Humber Arm (Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador).

The project aims to address the environmental problem of marine plastic pollution, specifically microplastic (<5 mm in diameter), by quantifying microplastic distribution and concentration across three study locations in Atlantic Canada:

1. The Bay of Fundy (Passamaquoddy Bay)
2. The Bay of Islands (i.e., Gulf of St. Lawrence)
3. The LaHave River Estuary (i.e., Atlantic Coast)

The project includes one year of project development and training and two years of microplastic sampling and analyses within the three study locations. Sampling methodologies will replicate those used by researchers in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River (Eriksen et al., 2013, Casteñeda et al., 2014, and Corcoran et al., 2015), to effectively compare the results of our research with existing data. Samples will be collected both on the surface water using trawls and benthic sediment using a sediment grab to quantify microplastic particles and determine concentrations. The culmination of the proposed project will be an international workshop event to share and discuss results of microplastic data with researchers, scientists, non-government organizations and students.

For more information on this project, please contact Coastal Action's Marine Debris Project Coordinator, Ariel Smith, at 902-634-9977 or ariel@coastalaction.org.

