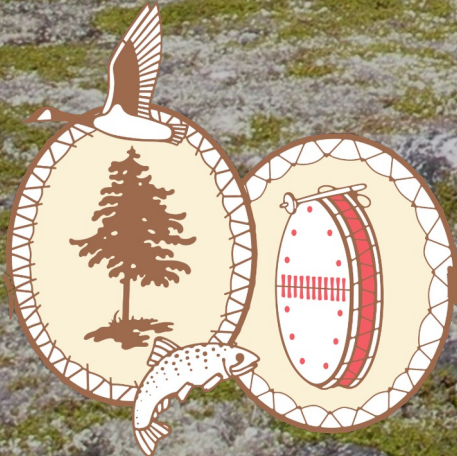


Partners in marine conservation in Eastern James Bay : Cree Nation Government and Parks Canada- combining strengths and resources

Hudson Bay Summit
November 30 2022



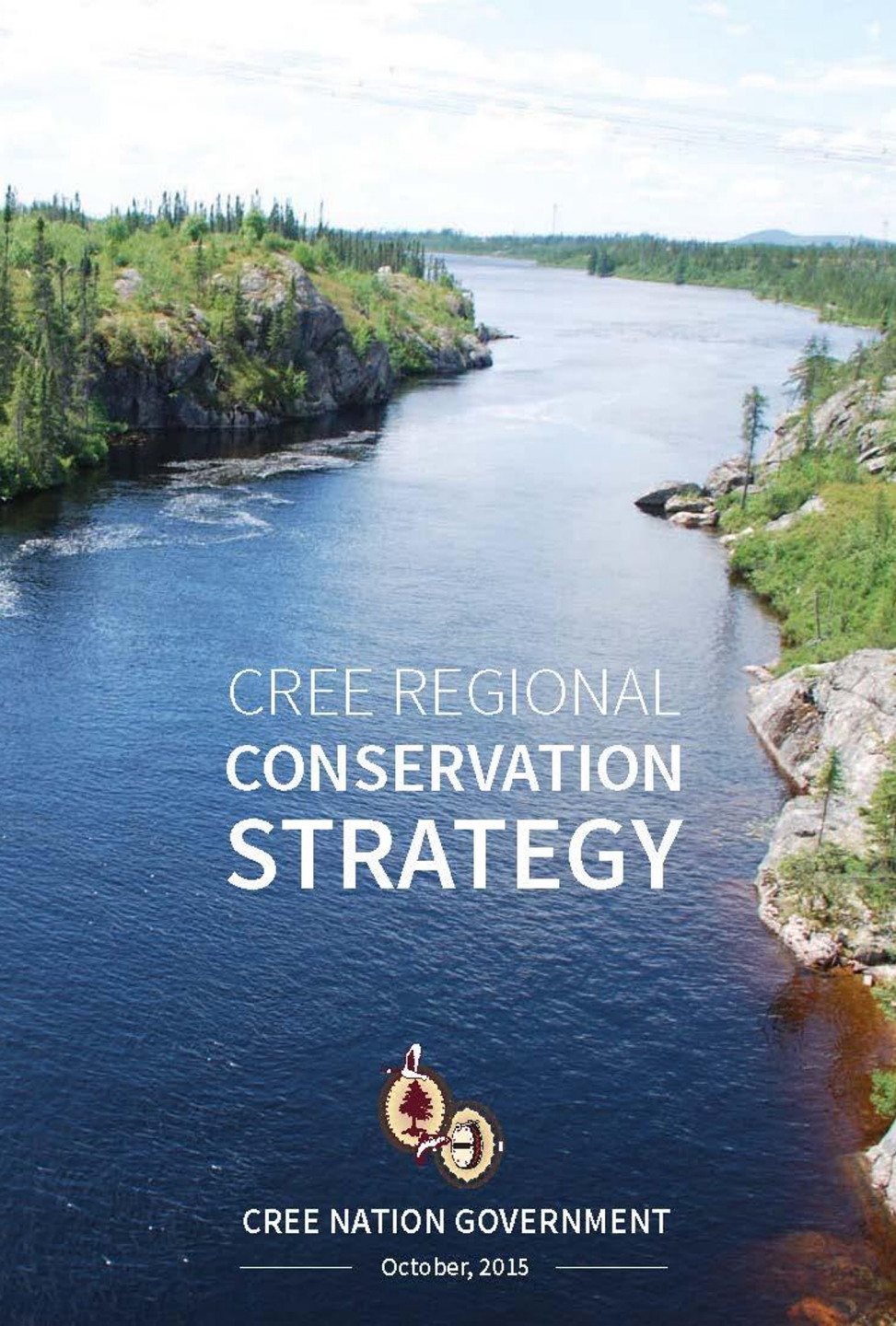
Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

A sunset over a lake with a forest silhouette. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The forest in the background is silhouetted against the bright light of the sun.

Vision for Conservation in Eeyou Istchee

- "Our Vision is to maintain strong ties to the Cree cultural heritage and way of life, and sustain biodiversity by creating a large, interconnected network of conservation areas in Eeyou Istchee."



CREE REGIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY



CREE NATION GOVERNMENT

October, 2015

Cree Regional Conservation Strategy

A coordinated approach for protected area development in Eeyou Istchee

- **This Strategy is designed to:**
 - ensure respect for Cree rights and protect Cree lands, waters and resources for today and tomorrow.”
 - assist in the development of protected areas in both the terrestrial and marine regions of Eeyou Istchee.”
- **Eeyou Istchee is not limited to terrestrial boundaries; the coastal communities are connected to the shores and water of James and Hudson Bays.**
 - The Eeyou Marine Region Lands Claims Agreement recognizes the rights of the Crees in the offshore region of Eeyou Istchee.
 - This agreement provides for the creation of marine protected areas within the offshore area.

Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement

- Agreement between the Cree Nation Government and the Federal Government
- **Canada recognized Cree ownership of the islands in the offshore Cree Zone – 80% Cree and 20% Government**
- Owned collectively by the Cree:
 - Including subsurface rights for the islands (excluding intertidal around islands and the seabed)
 - Islands are held by the Cree Nation Government (CNG) on behalf of the Cree Nation as a whole



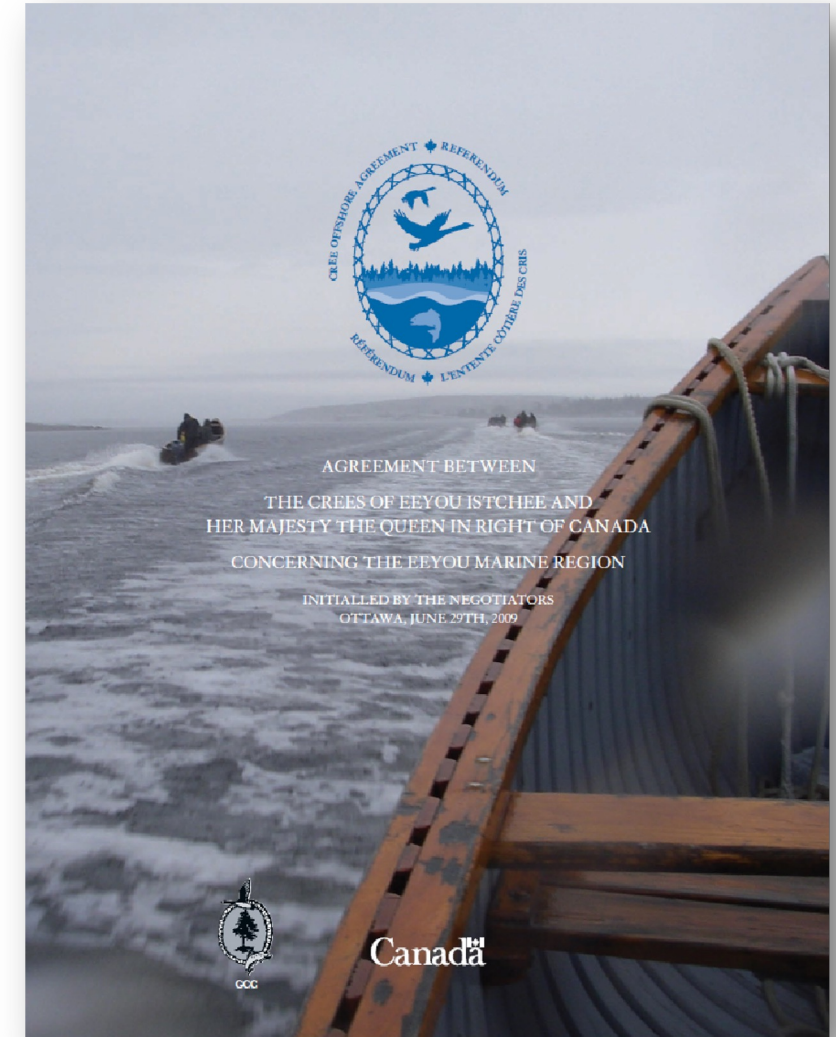
EMRLCA: Institutions of Public Government (IPG) and their roles in the National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) process

Three (3) institutions of public government:

- EMR Wildlife Board
- EMR Impact Review Board
- EMR Planning Commission

CNG responsibilities:

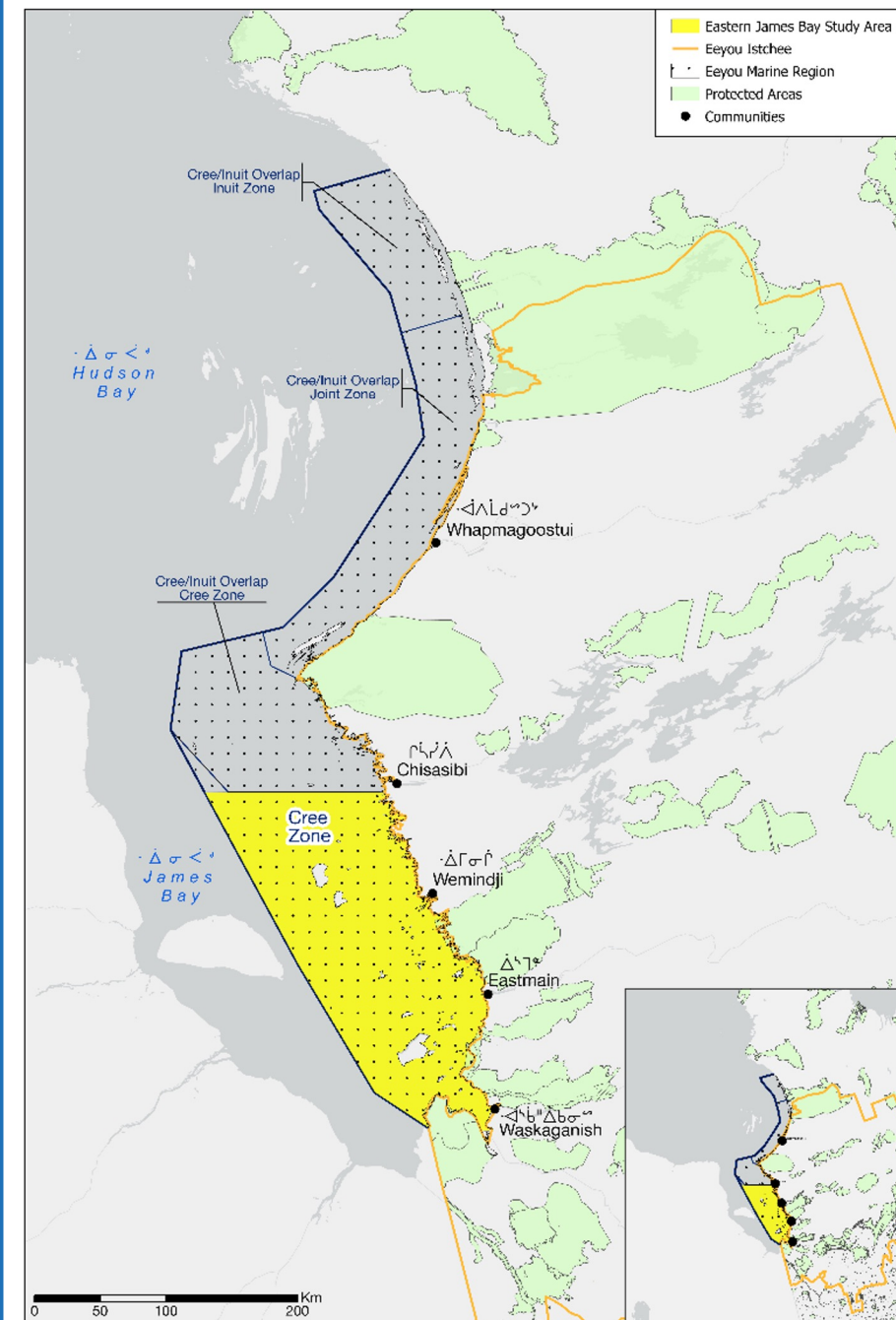
- Protected Areas
- Access and entry
- Toponymy
- Archeology
- Research





Eeyou Marine Region and Eastern James Bay Study Area for a feasibility assessment for a National Marine Conservation Area

- Initial study area is south of La Grande River; could change during the consultation process
- Quebec government needs to be engaged in conservation of coastal ecosystems
- Mushkegowuk Council started a NMCA feasibility study in Western James Bay and Southwestern Hudson Bay





Parks Canada's Mandate

On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations.



5 NATIONAL
MARINE
CONSERVATION AREAS



47
NATIONAL PARKS



450 000+ km²
area protected



174 NATIONAL
HISTORIC
SITES



1 NATIONAL
URBAN PARK



monitoring of
200+
species at risk



31 MILLION
archaeological and
historical objects



PARKS CANADA AT A GLANCE

collaboration with
300 INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES

7,000 km
of trails



20
MILLION
visits per year



7500+
DEDICATED
EMPLOYEES



12,000
CAMPSITES



And Much
MORE



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

“Nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the protection provided for existing aboriginal or treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada by the recognition and affirmation of those rights in section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.”





National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs)

Managed for **ecological sustainability**

Indigenous rights respected

Sustainable harvest and activities continue, including traditional activities

Provides **lasting benefits** for Indigenous peoples and coastal communities

Legal tool for long term conservation: Canada NMCA Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-7.3/>)



× **Prohibited:**

- × Exploration for, and exploitation of hydrocarbons, minerals, aggregates or any other inorganic matter (Canada NMCA Act)
- × Bottom trawling and ocean dumping: under **new federal standards** for marine protected areas

Fisheries and marine navigation and safety continue to be regulated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada



Benefits of National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs)





Basic NMCA Establishment Process

1. Identify representative sites



2. Select potential NMCA



3. Determine feasibility



Currently



4. Negotiate establishment agreement(s)



5. Formally protect under the Act





How are Feasibility Assessments Done?

- An agreement (ex., MOU) sets how the feasibility assessment will be done; it typically includes a **Steering Committee**



- Compiling Knowledge: Time limited **studies** (Ecological/traditional/socio-economic)



- **Contribution agreement** provides funding to Indigenous organizations to support capacity and meaningful engagement



- Build **relationships and trust**, and address challenges to progress



- Partners, Stakeholders, and Indigenous **consultations/engagement**



FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT PRODUCTS

Report with Recommendations to Federal Ministers and Grand Chief

- A finding of feasibility and terms and conditions
- A statement of basic goals/objectives/purpose
- A final/conceptual boundary
- Summary of results of studies and consultations (What we heard report)
- Key issues identified and recommended actions

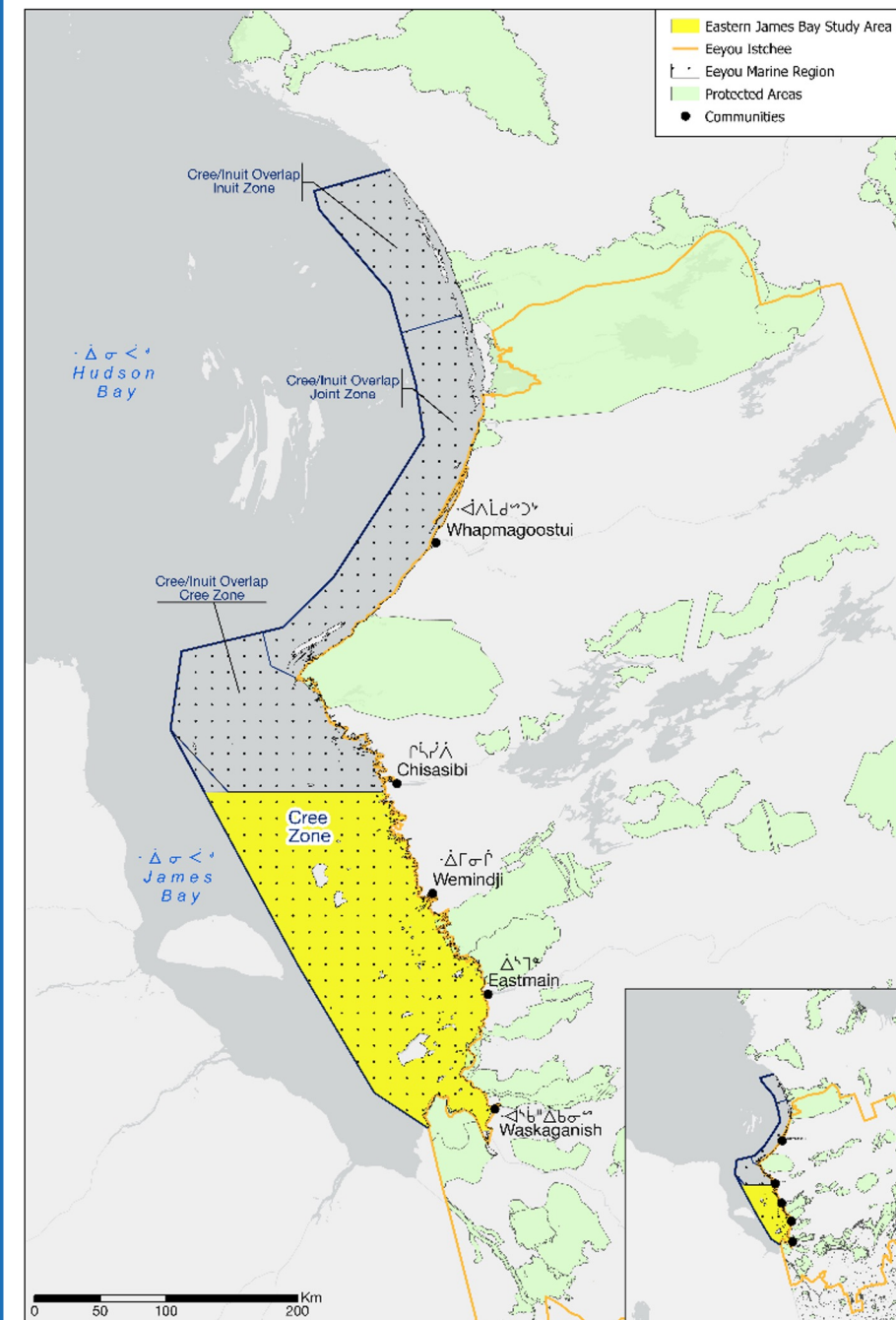
Memorandum of Understanding to Conclude Assessment and Launch Negotiations

- **Agreement of parties to proceed to create an NMCA**
- **Boundary / interim protection measures**
- **Approach to issues/contents of establishment agreement**
- **Agree to proceed to negotiate a formal establishment agreement**



Eeyou Marine Region and Eastern James Bay Study Area (NMCA feasibility assessment)

- Initial study area is south of La Grande River, but could change during the consultation process
- Quebec government needs to be engaged in conservation of coastal ecosystems
- Mushkegowuk Council looking at NMCA feasibility in Western James Bay and Southwestern Hudson Bay





Eastern James Bay project: National Marine Conservation Feasibility Assessment

Steering Committee (SC)

- CNG members:
 - **Mandy Gull-Masty**, Grand Chief
 - Alternate: **Norman A. Wapachee**, Deputy Grand Chief
 - **Chantal Otter Tétreault**, Specialist, Protected Areas & Conservation
- Parks Canada members:
 - **Kevin McNamee**, Director, NMCA Establishment
 - **Diane Blanchard**, Manager, NMCA Establishment
 - Alternate: **Martin Desrosiers**, Special Advisor, Office of the Executive Director for Québec and Nunavut





Upcoming steps; Future steps

Upcoming steps:

- Sign a Contribution Agreement to support Cree capacity and participation in the feasibility assessment
- CNG has hired a project coordinator and a community liaison – start soon
- Cree Knowledge project
 - in collaboration with the Planning Commissions
- Information sessions with Coastal Communities near the study area

Future steps:

- Obtaining expertise from different organisations, including EMR Boards
- Coastal community engagement / consultations
- Other federal departments and stakeholders consultations



For questions, ideas, suggestions, please contact:

Chantal Otter Tétreault

Protected areas and Conservation Specialist
Cree Nation Government

chantal.tetreault@cngov.ca

(514) 212-4086

Chantal Ouimet

Project manager, NMCA Establishment Branch
Parks Canada

chantal.ouimet@pc.gc.ca

(819) 661-0758



Extra information



Eastern James Bay project: NMCA Feasibility Assessment

- Sign Contribution Agreement to support Cree capacity and participation in the feasibility assessment
- Gather and compile existing/relevant information on the study area
 - Fill in the gaps
- Communicate information and project progress with Cree coastal communities and stakeholders
- Organise and lead consultations with Cree coastal communities in the study area
- Steering Committee reports on feasibility:
 - Results from studies and consultations
 - Recommendations on feasibility to governments
 - Proposed boundary
 - Issues to be addressed in establishment agreement negotiations (the next step)