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EELGRASS IN CANADA

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS



Canada 

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CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS EELGRASS IN CANADA

December 2020

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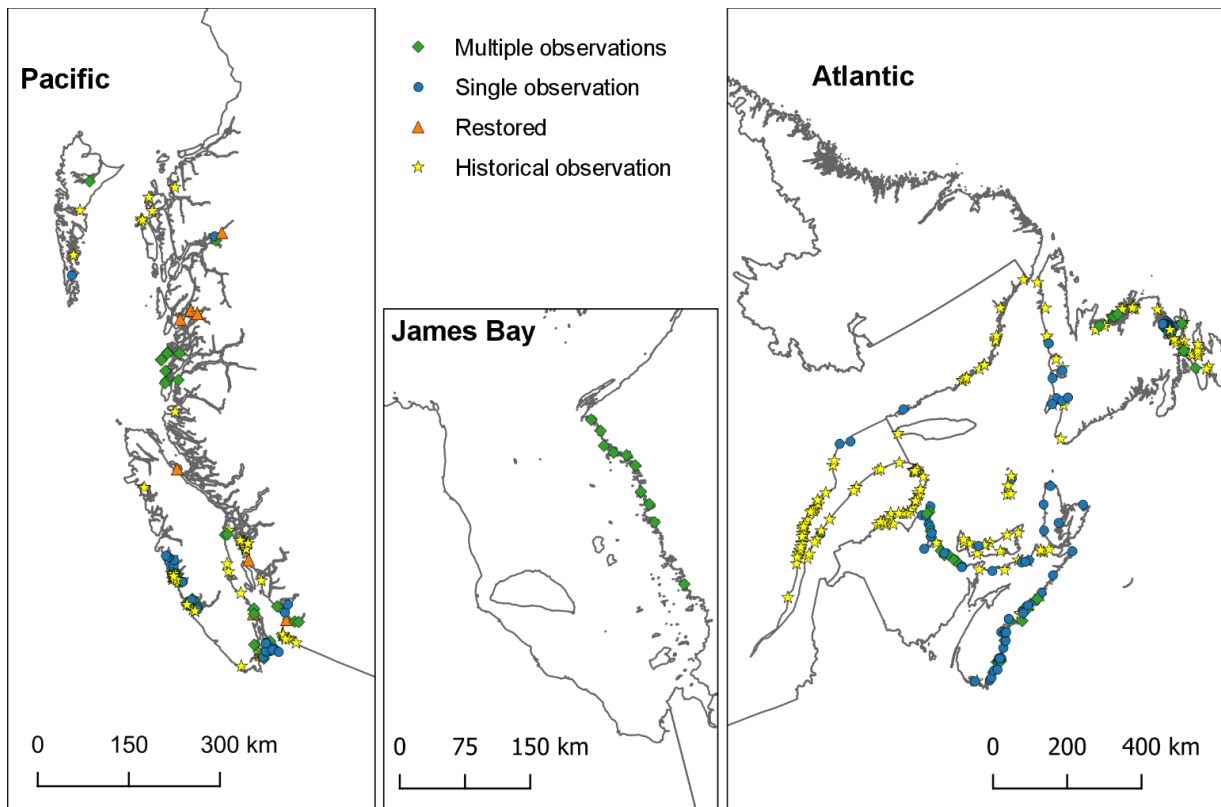
Eelgrass in Canada

Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) is a common seagrass species that plays an important role in coastal and estuarine ecosystems. Eelgrass beds provide a variety of ecosystem services, including stabilizing sediments and reducing the force of waves, and they are habitats for various types of animals including fish and invertebrates. They also form a substrate for other plants, are food for various marine organisms and are an efficient carbon sink. The maps below show compiled information on the distribution of eelgrass sites in Canada, including historical observations. They provide a snapshot of where eelgrass has been studied in Canada.

Key results

- Eelgrass is widespread on the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic (Hudson Bay) coasts of Canada
- Most of the mapped eelgrass sites in James Bay (Hudson Bay) are in recovery following major declines
- For the information included, the majority of eelgrass sites in Canada are single observations or sites for which the most recent observations are more than 10 years old (historical)¹

Figure 1. Eelgrass sites in Canada, 2020



[Data for Figure 1](#)

Note: The eelgrass distribution maps presented here should not be considered complete, as eelgrass is known to occur in other locations. The maps are a reflection of collected and published material on eelgrass, as of March 2020. Various data sources, with different data collection dates, have been combined. Eelgrass site categories include historical sites (data more than 10 years old), single observations and multiple observations within the last ten years, and sites where restoration efforts have occurred. In addition, site designations may represent individual eelgrass beds or larger areas with multiple eelgrass beds. See [Table 1. Status of eelgrass sites](#) for more information. Additional details are available in the [detailed data table](#) (Excel/CSV; 136 KB).

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2020).

¹ Information compiled to date is derived from independent research studies differing in their objectives, methodologies and spatial scope.

The importance of eelgrass to ecosystems was shown after a widespread [wasting disease outbreak](#) along the Atlantic coast of North America in the 1930s resulted in a 90% loss of eelgrass. It is estimated that populations of migratory Brant geese along the Atlantic coast, which rely heavily on eelgrass outside the breeding season, declined by as much as 90%.² Declines of clams, lobsters, crabs, scallops, cod and flounder were also reported following the loss of eelgrass.³

Eelgrass beds are highly productive and several studies have indicated that eelgrass beds contribute to the sequestration of "blue carbon" in marine sediments, providing a valuable ecosystem service in coastal areas.^{4,5}

Eelgrass decreases can be associated with a number of environmental stressors that can work together to cause cumulative effects. Examples of environmental stressors include, physical disturbances from human activities or storm events and increased water temperature due to climate change. Other stressors, such as excessive nutrients causing an increase in algae and sedimentation can smother eelgrass or reduce light penetration. Invasive species, like European green crab, can also negatively affect eelgrass distribution.

Canada does not have a national scientific monitoring program with standardized methodologies for assessing eelgrass sites. Eelgrass data collection is ongoing, with data collected from many different sources using various methods. Data trends are difficult to detect as there is high natural variability in eelgrass beds over time and the interpretation of observed changes may not be consistent between measured variables. For example, a common stress response of eelgrass plants is to flower, thereby dispersing their seeds. This response may lead to an increase in eelgrass distribution that could mask the detection of the initial stress.

For the majority of documented eelgrass sites in Canada, there is only a single observation indicating the species' presence at a specific location. Some sites have monitoring data that include information about measures such as extent, shoot density, biomass and leaf length over multiple years.

About the indicator

What the indicator measures

The indicator shows compiled information on the distribution of eelgrass sites in Canada, including historical observations. It provides a snapshot of the locations where eelgrass has been studied in Canada.

Why this indicator is important

Eelgrass is a common seagrass species in Canadian coastal waters and has been described as an [ecosystem engineer](#), because it physically changes its environment creating habitat and resources for other species. Eelgrass health is well-correlated with the success of many commercially harvested fish species, as eelgrass beds serve as nursery areas for juveniles.⁶ Changes in eelgrass growth and distribution can have significant effects on coastal marine and estuarine (where fresh water meets sea water) ecosystems. Given the many ecosystem services provided including carbon sequestration, eelgrass has been designated an ecologically significant species in Canada. However, despite the environmental and economic benefits of seagrasses in general, their populations are declining globally.⁷

² Ganter B (2000) [Seagrass \(Zostera spp.\) as food for brent geese \(Branta bernicla\): an overview](#). Helgoland Marine Research 54: 63–70. Retrieved on October 5, 2020.

³ Muehlstein LK (1989) [Perspectives on the wasting disease of eelgrass Zostera marina](#). Diseases of Aquatic Organisms 7:211-221. Retrieved on October 5, 2020.

⁴ Postlethwaite VR et al. (2018) [Low blue carbon storage in eelgrass \(Zostera marina\) meadows on the Pacific Coast of Canada](#). PLOS ONE 13(6): e0198348. Retrieved on October 5, 2020.

⁵ Greiner JT et al. (2013) [Seagrass Restoration Enhances "Blue Carbon" Sequestration in Coastal Waters](#). PLOS ONE 8(8): e72469. Retrieved on October 5, 2020.

⁶ Unsworth RKF, Nordlund LM, Cullen-Unsworth LC (2018) [Seagrass meadows support global fisheries production](#). Conservation Letters 12: e12566. Retrieved on September 10, 2018.

⁷ Smithsonian Institution (2018) [Seagrass and Seagrass Beds](#). Retrieved on September 10, 2018.



Healthy coasts and oceans

This indicator supports the measurement of progress towards the following [2019 to 2022 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy](#) long-term goal: Coasts and oceans support healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems.

Related indicators

The [Canadian species index](#) indicator tracks average population trends for vertebrate species in Canada (including marine vertebrates) and is a good proxy measure of overall biodiversity trends.

The [Status of major fish stocks](#) and the [Sustainable fish harvest](#) indicators address the condition and management of wild fish stocks.

[Canada's conserved areas](#) indicators report the amount and proportion of Canada's terrestrial and marine area that is conserved.

Data sources and methods

Data sources

Eelgrass data used in this indicator were gathered and provided to Environment and Climate Change Canada by academic, government and community sources and were combined into a single inventory.

More information

There is no national monitoring program for eelgrass. Scientists, managers and local communities collect data in different ways for different purposes. The presence of eelgrass can be detected using satellite images and aerial photos, however, for the information compiled to date most of the observations were obtained from field studies.

All Canadian eelgrass sites reported by data holders or found in the scientific literature were included in this indicator. When more than one series of observations existed for the same site, the most recent assessments were used. Site observations may be single observations or include information on multiple observations over time. Eelgrass sites are studied using different methods for different purposes.

The indicator reflects the state of knowledge as of March 2020.

Methods

Eelgrass sites were mapped using location and site history information.

More information

Reported data may include measured variables such as shoot density, extent or biomass. When information for a site was available from more than one source, the site was considered to have multiple observations. Table 1 provides information on how the eelgrass beds were classified.

Table 1. Status of eelgrass sites

| Status | Description |
|------------------------|---|
| Multiple observations | Eelgrass presence at the site has been confirmed in multiple years within the last ten years. |
| Restored | Site has been subject to restoration efforts. |
| Single observation | Only 1 observation is available for the site. |
| Historical observation | The latest observation at the site was made more than 10 years ago. |

Caveats and limitations

The indicator contains information on eelgrass sites for which data has been provided. Other eelgrass sites exist.

Seasonal and annual variation in eelgrass beds is large. Furthermore, changes may not be consistent between measured variables: as an example, below-ground biomass can decrease while above-ground biomass is increasing. Structural differences in eelgrass beds occur along environmental gradients. Trends are, therefore, difficult to determine, and require several years of data. Note that an increase in leaf length or canopy height is a common response to light limitation and is a sign of stress, although such an increase can also occur in plants growing at the furthest extent of their potential depth range.

Data are collected from many different sources, each potentially using different methodologies. As such, considerable care must be taken when comparing and interpreting data from eelgrass sites.

Data quality and the geographical precision of mapping varies between data providers.

Resources

References

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Related information

[North American Blue Carbon, 2017](#)

[SeagrassNet, Global Seagrass Monitoring Network](#)

Annex

Annex A. Data tables for the figures presented in this document

Table A.1. Data for Figure 1. Eelgrass sites in Canada, 2020

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Agamemnon Channel | BC | 49.649 | -124.071 | Historical observation |
| Ahousaht | BC | 49.274 | -126.065 | Single observation |
| Alert Bay | BC | 50.599 | -126.932 | Restored |
| Ahousaht | BC | 49.278 | -126.054 | Restored |
| Arakun | BC | 49.170 | -125.889 | Multiple observations |
| Atleo | BC | 49.373 | -126.062 | Single observation |
| Auseth | BC | 49.119 | -125.786 | Multiple observations |
| Bag Harbour (Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site) | BC | 52.359 | -131.348 | Single observation |
| Baikie Slough | BC | 50.038 | -125.265 | Multiple observations |
| Banks Island, inlet of outer coast on northwest end of island | BC | 53.607 | -130.535 | Historical observation |
| Banks Island, Rawlinson Anchorage, outer coast, northwest end of island; south side of Anchorage | BC | 53.576 | -130.543 | Historical observation |
| Bawden Bay | BC | 49.288 | -126.006 | Single observation |
| Beaumont | BC | 48.754 | -123.240 | Single observation |
| Beck | BC | 49.160 | -125.904 | Multiple observations |
| Bedwell Bay | BC | 49.316 | -122.915 | Multiple observations |
| Bella Bella | BC | 52.138 | -128.144 | Multiple observations |
| Bish Cove, Kitimat | BC | 53.921 | -128.750 | Single observation |
| Boundary Bay | BC | 49.030 | -122.960 | Historical observation |
| Boundary Bay | BC | 49.005 | -123.034 | Historical observation |
| Broken Group Islands | BC | 48.900 | -125.310 | Multiple observations |
| Cabbage Island | BC | 48.798 | -123.089 | Single observation |
| Calmus | BC | 49.209 | -125.960 | Multiple observations |
| Campbell River; White Rock, mouth of river | BC | 49.017 | -122.783 | Historical observation |
| Cannery Bay | BC | 49.142 | -125.670 | Single observation |
| Choked Pass | BC | 51.675 | -128.119 | Multiple observations |
| Clarke | BC | 48.888 | -125.380 | Multiple observations |
| Columbia Beach | BC | 49.355 | -124.378 | Historical observation |
| Comox | BC | 49.661 | -124.941 | Historical observation |
| Condos | BC | 49.153 | -125.898 | Historical observation |
| Coode Island | BC | 50.027 | -124.744 | Historical observation |
| Cortes Island | BC | 50.058 | -124.893 | Historical observation |
| Cove west of Beulah Island | BC | 50.057 | -124.800 | Historical observation |
| Cowichan Bay | BC | 48.745 | -123.624 | Multiple observations |
| Denman Island; Denman Point, offshore, north of Denman Point | BC | 49.567 | -124.833 | Historical observation |

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Ducking | BC | 49.139 | -125.865 | Multiple observations |
| Duthie Bay | BC | 52.780 | -128.215 | Restored |
| East Okeover | BC | 49.978 | -124.685 | Historical observation |
| East Trevenen Bay | BC | 50.020 | -124.737 | Historical observation |
| Effingham | BC | 48.876 | -125.304 | Multiple observations |
| Effingham south | BC | 48.874 | -125.309 | Single observation |
| Elbow Bank | BC | 49.195 | -125.943 | Multiple observations |
| Feather Bay | BC | 50.063 | -124.822 | Historical observation |
| Felice | BC | 49.156 | -125.921 | Multiple observations |
| Float dock | BC | 49.155 | -125.909 | Historical observation |
| Gibsons Harbour | BC | 49.399 | -123.503 | Multiple observations |
| Goat Cove | BC | 52.781 | -128.397 | Restored |
| Gobeil Bay | BC | 53.876 | -128.670 | Multiple observations |
| Goose southeast | BC | 51.925 | -128.454 | Multiple observations |
| Goose southwest | BC | 51.923 | -128.465 | Multiple observations |
| Haines | BC | 48.834 | -125.196 | Historical observation |
| Hammond Bay | BC | 49.230 | -123.960 | Multiple observations |
| Hand Island | BC | 48.951 | -125.313 | Multiple observations |
| Hand Island, north | BC | 48.953 | -125.319 | Single observation |
| Head of Bamfield Inlet | BC | 49.105 | -125.749 | Historical observation |
| Head of Okeover Inlet | BC | 49.969 | -124.683 | Historical observation |
| Head of Penrose Bay | BC | 50.010 | -124.730 | Historical observation |
| Hootlakootla | BC | 49.363 | -126.229 | Single observation |
| Hotsprings | BC | 49.377 | -126.269 | Single observation |
| Howe Sound mainland | BC | 49.487 | -123.297 | Single observation |
| Hyacinthe Bay | BC | 50.118 | -125.226 | Historical observation |
| Indian | BC | 49.112 | -125.775 | Multiple observations |
| Irish Bay | BC | 48.820 | -123.208 | Single observation |
| James Bay | BC | 48.843 | -123.400 | Single observation |
| Jamie's Whaling Station | BC | 49.152 | -125.897 | Historical observation |
| Jaques-Jarvis Lagoon | BC | 48.921 | -125.276 | Multiple observations |
| Joe's Bay | BC | 48.913 | -125.318 | Multiple observations |
| Kennedy Cove | BC | 49.139 | -125.675 | Single observation |
| Kitkatla | BC | 53.795 | -130.438 | Historical observation |
| Kitsilano Beach | BC | 49.274 | -123.189 | Restored |
| Koeye Estuary | BC | 51.780 | -127.871 | Multiple observations |
| Kootowis | BC | 49.105 | -125.749 | Multiple observations |
| Larsen Island, northwest of Banks Island | BC | 53.608 | -130.575 | Historical observation |
| Larson Bay | BC | 49.362 | -123.283 | Single observation |
| Lyall Harbour | BC | 48.797 | -123.185 | Single observation |
| Malksope River, estuary | BC | 50.133 | -127.417 | Historical observation |
| Mayne Bay | BC | 48.974 | -125.311 | Multiple observations |

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| McMullin North | BC | 52.062 | -128.412 | Multiple observations |
| McMullin South | BC | 52.052 | -128.403 | Multiple observations |
| Mikes | BC | 49.133 | -125.866 | Historical observation |
| Minette Bay | BC | 54.019 | -128.632 | Restored |
| Monas | BC | 49.184 | -125.885 | Historical observation |
| Moresby East | BC | 48.719 | -123.300 | Single observation |
| Morse Basin | BC | 54.269 | -130.236 | Historical observation |
| Mouth of Theodosia | BC | 50.067 | -124.702 | Historical observation |
| Mud Bay | BC | 49.185 | -125.956 | Multiple observations |
| North of Lucy Rock | BC | 49.977 | -124.691 | Historical observation |
| North of Public Dock | BC | 49.994 | -124.715 | Historical observation |
| Nanaimo | BC | 49.180 | -123.943 | Historical observation |
| Nanaimo | BC | 49.158 | -123.910 | Multiple observations |
| Nanaimo Estuary | BC | 49.153 | -123.926 | Restored |
| Nettle | BC | 48.935 | -125.248 | Multiple observations |
| North Vancouver | BC | 49.297 | -123.001 | Multiple observations |
| Olive Point/Boswell Inlet | BC | 51.336 | -127.586 | Historical observation |
| Opitisaht | BC | 49.172 | -125.910 | Restored |
| Parks dock | BC | 48.827 | -125.137 | Historical observation |
| Pat Bay | BC | 48.660 | -123.451 | Historical observation |
| Pinkerton | BC | 48.963 | -125.279 | Multiple observations |
| Pooley Island | BC | 52.785 | -128.220 | Historical observation |
| Porcher Island, east side of isthmus between Serpentine Inlet and outer coast | BC | 53.946 | -130.682 | Historical observation |
| Port Clements | BC | 53.697 | -132.173 | Multiple observations |
| Powell River | BC | 49.850 | -124.529 | Restored |
| Pruth Bay | BC | 51.645 | -128.119 | Multiple observations |
| Quadra | BC | 50.060 | -125.224 | Multiple observations |
| Queen Charlotte City, Skidegate, 2 kilometers south of Skidegate mission at the Haida museum, 0.5 kilometers north of Image Point | BC | 53.250 | -132.000 | Historical observation |
| Rassier Point | BC | 49.184 | -125.939 | Historical observation |
| Reynard Point | BC | 48.730 | -123.331 | Single observation |
| Robber Passage | BC | 48.893 | -125.119 | Single observation |
| Roberts Bank | BC | 49.030 | -123.130 | Historical observation |
| Roberts Bank | BC | 49.019 | -123.106 | Multiple observations |
| Roberts Point | BC | 49.217 | -125.931 | Multiple observations |
| Roquefeuil Bay | BC | 48.863 | -125.106 | Single observation |
| South of Myrmidon Point | BC | 50.060 | -124.804 | Historical observation |
| Salt Spring | BC | 48.775 | -123.370 | Historical observation |
| Saturna Beach | BC | 48.783 | -123.203 | Single observation |
| Sedgwick Bay, Lyell Island | BC | 52.633 | -131.567 | Historical observation |
| Selby Cove | BC | 48.833 | -123.397 | Single observation |

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Sharp | BC | 49.193 | -125.862 | Multiple observations |
| Sidney | BC | 48.653 | -123.396 | Multiple observations |
| Sidney | BC | 48.649 | -123.393 | Restored |
| Sidney Island | BC | 48.618 | -123.302 | Multiple observations |
| Sidney Island North | BC | 48.642 | -123.338 | Historical observation |
| Sidney Spit | BC | 48.630 | -123.331 | Single observation |
| Sooke | BC | 48.378 | -123.691 | Historical observation |
| South Bay | BC | 49.126 | -125.811 | Historical observation |
| Southern Clayoquot Sound | BC | 49.139 | -125.867 | Multiple observations |
| Steamer Cove | BC | 49.375 | -126.193 | Single observation |
| Stubbs | BC | 49.160 | -125.925 | Historical observation |
| Sushi bar | BC | 49.155 | -125.906 | Historical observation |
| Tsawwassen | BC | 49.056 | -123.123 | Historical observation |
| Taylor Bay | BC | 48.887 | -123.327 | Restored |
| Thors Cove | BC | 50.058 | -124.707 | Historical observation |
| Tip of Coode Pen | BC | 50.006 | -124.723 | Historical observation |
| Tofino | BC | 49.154 | -125.912 | Historical observation |
| Tofino | BC | 49.154 | -125.911 | Restored |
| Tofino, Frank Island, Cox Bay | BC | 49.108 | -125.900 | Historical observation |
| Triquet Bay | BC | 51.809 | -128.236 | Multiple observations |
| Triquet North | BC | 51.809 | -128.247 | Multiple observations |
| Trout Bay | BC | 52.591 | -128.523 | Restored |
| Tumbo East | BC | 48.794 | -123.057 | Single observation |
| Turret | BC | 48.899 | -125.343 | Multiple observations |
| West of Beulah Island | BC | 50.057 | -124.796 | Historical observation |
| West Trevenen Bay | BC | 50.016 | -124.737 | Historical observation |
| West government dock | BC | 48.829 | -125.140 | Historical observation |
| Whaler Bay | BC | 48.885 | -123.327 | Multiple observations |
| Wizard | BC | 48.864 | -125.361 | Historical observation |
| Wouwer | BC | 48.861 | -125.359 | Multiple observations |
| Aldouane | NB | 46.710 | -64.897 | Multiple observations |
| Baie de Bouctouche | NB | 46.500 | -64.677 | Multiple observations |
| Baie de Lamèque | NB | 47.796 | -64.675 | Multiple observations |
| Baie Sainte-Anne | NB | 47.054 | -64.956 | Historical observation |
| Baie St. Simon Sud (Saint-Simon) | NB | 47.786 | -64.778 | Multiple observations |
| Baie Verte | NB | 46.019 | -64.060 | Historical observation |
| Bedec | NB | 46.682 | -64.774 | Multiple observations |
| Bouctouche | NB | 46.500 | -64.650 | Single observation |
| Bras d'Or | NB | 46.064 | -60.891 | Single observation |
| Caraquet Harbour | NB | 47.804 | -64.966 | Single observation |
| Charlo Estuary | NB | 47.986 | -66.278 | Historical observation |
| Cocagne Harbour | NB | 46.339 | -64.574 | Multiple observations |

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Jaquet River | NB | 47.922 | -66.024 | Historical observation |
| Kouchibouguac Bay | NB | 46.842 | -64.938 | Multiple observations |
| Kouchibouguac National Park | NB | 46.751 | -64.865 | Single observation |
| Kouchibouguacis Estuary | NB | 46.779 | -64.895 | Historical observation |
| Miscou | NB | 47.900 | -64.550 | Single observation |
| Neguac | NB | 47.250 | -65.030 | Single observation |
| Richibucto | NB | 46.700 | -64.800 | Single observation |
| Shediac | NB | 46.259 | -64.552 | Single observation |
| Shediac Bay | NB | 46.269 | -64.528 | Single observation |
| Shippagan | NB | 47.741 | -64.840 | Single observation |
| Tabusintac | NB | 47.319 | -64.944 | Single observation |
| Tabusintac Bay | NB | 47.370 | -64.940 | Multiple observations |
| Tracadie North | NB | 47.550 | -64.890 | Single observation |
| Tracadie South | NB | 47.469 | -64.888 | Single observation |
| Beach Cove | NL | 48.651 | -53.918 | Single observation |
| Bellevue | NL | 47.637 | -53.744 | Historical observation |
| Big Brook | NL | 48.551 | -53.965 | Multiple observations |
| Big Cold East | NL | 48.571 | -53.832 | Single observation |
| Bread Cove | NL | 48.480 | -53.923 | Single observation |
| Bridgeport | NL | 49.555 | -54.828 | Historical observation |
| Broad Cove | NL | 48.651 | -53.896 | Single observation |
| Broad Lake-Bellevue | NL | 47.631 | -53.759 | Historical observation |
| Buckley Cove | NL | 48.590 | -53.915 | Multiple observations |
| Cannings Cove | NL | 48.570 | -53.922 | Multiple observations |
| Cannings Cove/Long Tom Cove | NL | 48.445 | -53.847 | Historical observation |
| Champney's Cove | NL | 48.390 | -53.298 | Historical observation |
| Clarenville | NL | 48.186 | -53.973 | Historical observation |
| Clay Cove | NL | 48.586 | -53.783 | Single observation |
| Davidsville, Notre Dame Bay | NL | 49.350 | -54.430 | Historical observation |
| Deep Bight | NL | 48.098 | -53.944 | Historical observation |
| Deer Harbour | NL | 47.904 | -53.814 | Historical observation |
| Dockside | NL | 48.559 | -53.964 | Multiple observations |
| Dumpling Cove | NL | 48.484 | -53.903 | Single observation |
| Flat Bay | NL | 48.408 | -58.579 | Historical observation |
| Fortune Harbour (Fox Cove 2) | NL | 49.522 | -55.275 | Multiple observations |
| Fortune Harbour (northwest bottom) | NL | 49.528 | -55.283 | Historical observation |
| Fortune Harbour (southeast bottom) | NL | 49.500 | -55.217 | Multiple observations |
| Fortune Harbour (southwest bottom) | NL | 49.508 | -55.267 | Historical observation |
| Fox Island | NL | 49.405 | -54.478 | Historical observation |
| Glenburnie | NL | 49.439 | -57.887 | Historical observation |
| Goose Arm | NL | 49.172 | -57.860 | Historical observation |
| Goose Bay | NL | 48.373 | -53.852 | Single observation |

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Goose Cove | NL | 48.368 | -53.475 | Historical observation |
| Grassy Island | NL | 49.402 | -54.413 | Historical observation |
| Green's Harbour | NL | 47.640 | -53.508 | Historical observation |
| Half Island | NL | 47.185 | -53.532 | Historical observation |
| Hawks Bay | NL | 50.611 | -57.171 | Historical observation |
| Hefferns Cove | NL | 48.563 | -53.891 | Multiple observations |
| Hurloc Head Cove | NL | 48.563 | -53.729 | Single observation |
| Indian Bay | NL | 49.013 | -53.777 | Historical observation |
| Julies Harbour | NL | 49.447 | -55.710 | Historical observation |
| Lark Harbour | NL | 49.100 | -58.382 | Single observation |
| Little Cold East | NL | 48.573 | -53.818 | Single observation |
| Little Heart's Ease | NL | 48.019 | -53.683 | Historical observation |
| Little Mosquito | NL | 47.841 | -53.899 | Historical observation |
| Little Mosquito Cove | NL | 47.842 | -53.898 | Multiple observations |
| Little Port Harmon | NL | 48.514 | -58.537 | Single observation |
| Little South Broad Cove | NL | 48.571 | -53.871 | Single observation |
| Lockston's Arm | NL | 48.392 | -53.372 | Multiple observations |
| Lower Wolfe Cove | NL | 49.492 | -56.065 | Historical observation |
| Luke's Arm | NL | 49.522 | -54.815 | Historical observation |
| Man Point | NL | 48.428 | -53.850 | Historical observation |
| Manual's | NL | 49.126 | -57.928 | Single observation |
| Mill Cove | NL | 48.657 | -53.932 | Single observation |
| Milton | NL | 48.224 | -53.958 | Historical observation |
| Minchin Cove | NL | 48.564 | -53.878 | Multiple observations |
| Mistaken Cove | NL | 48.587 | -53.918 | Multiple observations |
| Mount Stamford | NL | 48.571 | -53.910 | Multiple observations |
| Musgravetown, Bonavista Bay | NL | 48.400 | -53.880 | Historical observation |
| Near Hillview | NL | 48.202 | -53.923 | Historical observation |
| Near Trinity | NL | 48.379 | -53.380 | Historical observation |
| New Bridge Cove | NL | 48.582 | -53.929 | Multiple observations |
| New Harbour | NL | 47.586 | -53.543 | Historical observation |
| North Harbour (bottom) | NL | 47.160 | -53.648 | Historical observation |
| Old Shop | NL | 47.525 | -53.573 | Historical observation |
| Overs Islands | NL | 48.529 | -53.752 | Single observation |
| Park Harbour | NL | 48.534 | -53.802 | Single observation |
| Parson's Pond | NL | 50.026 | -57.708 | Historical observation |
| Piccadilly | NL | 48.577 | -58.904 | Single observation |
| Placentia Bay | NL | 47.343 | -53.934 | Multiple observations |
| Platter Island | NL | 48.454 | -53.947 | Single observation |
| Plum Point/St. Genevieve | NL | 51.235 | -56.871 | Historical observation |
| Port Au Port | NL | 48.564 | -58.893 | Historical observation |
| Seal Island | NL | 49.433 | -54.468 | Historical observation |

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Ship Cove | NL | 48.570 | -53.802 | Single observation |
| Shoal Harbour | NL | 48.202 | -53.959 | Historical observation |
| Simmonds Cove | NL | 48.601 | -53.763 | Single observation |
| South Broad Cove | NL | 48.558 | -53.857 | Multiple observations |
| Southwest Arm | NL | 48.624 | -53.964 | Single observation |
| Southwest Brook | NL | 48.508 | -58.288 | Single observation |
| Spread Eagle Bay | NL | 47.536 | -53.596 | Historical observation |
| St. Andrew's | NL | 47.758 | -59.302 | Historical observation |
| St. Chads | NL | 48.661 | -53.757 | Single observation |
| St. Paul's inner gut | NL | 49.857 | -57.797 | Single observation |
| St. Paul's outer gut | NL | 49.857 | -57.804 | Single observation |
| Sunnyside | NL | 47.864 | -53.937 | Historical observation |
| Sunnyside, Trinity Bay | NL | 47.850 | -53.900 | Historical observation |
| Sweet Bay | NL | 48.436 | -53.655 | Single observation |
| Terra Nova Visitor Center | NL | 48.580 | -53.946 | Single observation |
| Trepassey | NL | 47.752 | -53.365 | Historical observation |
| Trinity | NL | 48.396 | -53.373 | Historical observation |
| Two Guts Pond | NL | 48.645 | -58.655 | Single observation |
| White Rock | NL | 48.565 | -53.960 | Multiple observations |
| Woodford Arm (bottom)/Miles Cove #3 | NL | 49.492 | -55.065 | Multiple observations |
| Woodford Arm (outcrops)/Miles Cove #1 | NL | 49.520 | -55.853 | Multiple observations |
| Antigonish Harbour | NS | 45.716 | -61.898 | Historical observation |
| Aspy Bay | NS | 46.921 | -60.481 | Single observation |
| Benoit Cove, Tracadie Harbour | NS | 45.632 | -61.628 | Historical observation |
| Boat Harbour | NS | 45.685 | -62.668 | Single observation |
| Cable Island | NS | 44.747 | -62.793 | Single observation |
| Canso | NS | 45.315 | -60.981 | Single observation |
| Cape LaHave Island | NS | 44.222 | -64.381 | Single observation |
| Captain's Island | NS | 45.686 | -61.899 | Historical observation |
| Caribou | NS | 45.769 | -62.728 | Historical observation |
| Carters Beach – Port Mouton Bay | NS | 43.908 | -64.819 | Single observation |
| Cheticamp | NS | 46.626 | -61.018 | Single observation |
| Chezzetcook Inlet | NS | 44.703 | -63.241 | Single observation |
| Clam Harbour | NS | 44.719 | -62.884 | Single observation |
| Cole Harbour | NS | 44.657 | -63.433 | Single observation |
| Cow Bay | NS | 44.607 | -63.434 | Single observation |
| Crescent Beach | NS | 44.238 | -64.406 | Multiple observations |
| Croucher Island | NS | 44.642 | -63.957 | Single observation |
| East Petpeswick | NS | 44.712 | -63.166 | Single observation |
| False Passage | NS | 44.744 | -62.797 | Multiple observations |
| Franks George | NS | 44.593 | -63.944 | Multiple observations |
| Gegogan Harbour | NS | 45.050 | -61.950 | Single observation |

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Gooseberry Island, Antigonish | NS | 44.760 | -62.660 | Historical observation |
| Halifax (Inner Harbour) | NS | 44.627 | -63.529 | Historical observation |
| Inner Sambro Island | NS | 44.455 | -63.588 | Multiple observations |
| Jackies Island – Port Mouton Bay | NS | 43.901 | -64.781 | Single observation |
| Jordan Bay – Green Bay | NS | 43.718 | -65.166 | Single observation |
| Kejimikujik National Park Seaside, Little Port Joli | NS | 43.872 | -64.823 | Multiple observations |
| Lawrencetown | NS | 44.667 | -63.410 | Single observation |
| Little Harbour | NS | 45.654 | -62.539 | Single observation |
| Lobster Bay | NS | 43.688 | -65.879 | Single observation |
| Lobster Bay, Yarmouth County | NS | 43.680 | -65.820 | Historical observation |
| Lockeport | NS | 43.700 | -65.055 | Single observation |
| Lower Three Fathom Harbour | NS | 44.635 | -63.294 | Multiple observations |
| Mabou | NS | 46.082 | -61.460 | Single observation |
| Mahone Bay | NS | 44.450 | -64.379 | Single observation |
| Mason's Island | NS | 44.391 | -64.279 | Single observation |
| Merigomish | NS | 45.632 | -62.448 | Historical observation |
| Merigomish | NS | 45.644 | -62.414 | Single observation |
| Miramichi | NS | 47.061 | -65.428 | Single observation |
| Morien Bay | NS | 46.134 | -59.852 | Single observation |
| Musquodoboit Harbour | NS | 44.705 | -63.092 | Historical observation |
| Negro Harbour | NS | 43.562 | -65.427 | Single observation |
| Old Wharf – Port Mouton Bay | NS | 43.927 | -64.846 | Single observation |
| Petpeswick | NS | 44.690 | -63.138 | Historical observation |
| Pomquet | NS | 45.639 | -61.833 | Historical observation |
| Port Joli muddy | NS | 43.876 | -64.901 | Multiple observations |
| Port Joli sandy | NS | 43.872 | -64.895 | Single observation |
| Port l'Hebert | NS | 43.868 | -64.963 | Multiple observations |
| Port Mouton – Carters Beach | NS | 43.909 | -64.823 | Single observation |
| Port Mouton Island – Port Mouton Bay | NS | 43.908 | -64.779 | Single observation |
| Pugwash/River Phillip | NS | 45.838 | -63.683 | Single observation |
| Ragged Harbour | NS | 44.096 | -64.557 | Single observation |
| Round Bay | NS | 43.594 | -65.349 | Single observation |
| Sacrifice Island | NS | 44.397 | -64.236 | Single observation |
| Second Peninsula | NS | 44.402 | -64.281 | Multiple observations |
| Spectacle Island – Port Mouton Bay | NS | 43.915 | -64.807 | Single observation |
| St. Catherine's River Estuary | NS | 43.848 | -64.830 | Multiple observations |
| Strawberry Island | NS | 44.648 | -63.952 | Single observation |
| Tatamagouche | NS | 45.719 | -63.296 | Historical observation |
| Taylor's Head | NS | 44.820 | -62.572 | Single observation |
| Bedeque Bay | PEI | 46.368 | -63.868 | Historical observation |
| Cascumpec | PEI | 46.753 | -64.076 | Historical observation |
| Freeland River Estuary | PEI | 46.685 | -63.938 | Historical observation |

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Hillsborough Bay | PEI | 46.160 | -63.121 | Historical observation |
| Kildare River Estuary | PEI | 46.831 | -64.048 | Historical observation |
| Malpeque Bay | PEI | 46.524 | -63.697 | Single observation |
| Midgell River Estuary | PEI | 46.420 | -62.649 | Historical observation |
| Mill River Estuary | PEI | 46.768 | -64.082 | Historical observation |
| Rustico | PEI | 46.454 | -63.295 | Historical observation |
| Southwest River Estuary | PEI | 46.480 | -63.500 | Historical observation |
| St. Mary's | PEI | 46.337 | -62.273 | Historical observation |
| Stanley-Trout River Estuary | PEI | 46.470 | -63.460 | Historical observation |
| Anse à la Cave | QC | 48.290 | -69.450 | Historical observation |
| Anse au Homard | QC | 48.830 | -64.460 | Historical observation |
| Anse aux Gascons | QC | 48.190 | -64.850 | Historical observation |
| Anse du Chafaud aux Basques | QC | 48.020 | -69.770 | Historical observation |
| Anse du Petit Mitis | QC | 48.680 | -68.030 | Historical observation |
| Anse-aux-Cousins | QC | 48.850 | -64.510 | Historical observation |
| Aylmer Sound Bay | QC | 50.600 | -59.440 | Historical observation |
| Baie aux Outardes | QC | 49.030 | -68.560 | Historical observation |
| Baie d'Escuminac, Pointe-à-la-Garde | QC | 48.070 | -66.540 | Historical observation |
| Baie de Bon-Désir | QC | 48.270 | -69.480 | Historical observation |
| Baie de Cascapédia | QC | 48.180 | -65.940 | Historical observation |
| Baie de Mille-Vaches, Petits-Escoumins | QC | 48.430 | -69.300 | Historical observation |
| Baie de Mille-Vaches, Pointe-à-Emile | QC | 48.570 | -69.200 | Historical observation |
| Baie des Belles Amours west to Blanc-Sablon | QC | 51.480 | -57.260 | Historical observation |
| Baie des Grandes Bergeronnes | QC | 48.230 | -69.550 | Historical observation |
| Baie des Homards | QC | 49.830 | -67.090 | Historical observation |
| Baie des Petites Bergeronnes | QC | 48.220 | -69.580 | Historical observation |
| Baie des Plongeurs | QC | 48.770 | -68.990 | Historical observation |
| Baie des Sept Îles | QC | 50.230 | -66.510 | Single observation |
| Baie Didier | QC | 48.770 | -69.010 | Historical observation |
| Baie Ellis, Anticosti Island | QC | 49.820 | -64.380 | Historical observation |
| Baie Laval | QC | 48.760 | -69.050 | Historical observation |
| Baie of Many Islands (Baie James) | QC | 54.136 | -79.151 | Multiple observations |
| Baie Plate, Tête à la Baleine sector | QC | 50.690 | -59.310 | Historical observation |
| Baie St-Ludger | QC | 49.087 | -68.320 | Historical observation |
| Baie Tees (Baie James) | QC | 53.731 | -79.069 | Multiple observations |
| Barre de Sandy Beach | QC | 48.840 | -64.410 | Historical observation |
| Barre Portneuf, Ste Anne de Portneuf | QC | 48.620 | -69.090 | Historical observation |
| Bassin aux Huîtres | QC | 47.551 | -61.517 | Single observation |
| Bassin de la Rivière Nouvelle | QC | 48.100 | -66.280 | Historical observation |
| Bassin de Sud-Ouest, Havre du Gaspé | QC | 48.810 | -64.490 | Historical observation |
| Batture aux Outardes | QC | 49.040 | -68.480 | Historical observation |
| Bonaventure Barachois | QC | 48.040 | -65.530 | Historical observation |

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Cacouna (Cacouna-Sud) | QC | 47.95 | -69.480 | Single observation |
| Cap-aux-Os | QC | 48.840 | -64.350 | Historical observation |
| Cap-Chat | QC | 49.110 | -66.650 | Historical observation |
| Carleton Barachois | QC | 48.100 | -66.110 | Historical observation |
| Champlain beach | QC | 49.205 | -68.141 | Historical observation |
| Cloridorme | QC | 49.180 | -64.830 | Historical observation |
| Coves at Newport | QC | 48.265 | -64.742 | Historical observation |
| Dead Duck II (Baie James) | QC | 53.583 | -78.982 | Multiple observations |
| Fleurant | QC | 48.110 | -66.400 | Historical observation |
| Gaspé, Pointe Jacques Cartier | QC | 48.840 | -64.480 | Historical observation |
| Barachois du Grand Pabos | QC | 48.330 | -64.720 | Historical observation |
| Gros-Morne | QC | 49.250 | -65.550 | Historical observation |
| Havre Bluff | QC | 50.220 | -60.520 | Historical observation |
| Hopetown | QC | 48.060 | -65.140 | Historical observation |
| Île Crescent | QC | 50.640 | -59.390 | Historical observation |
| Îles de Mai, west of Sept-Îles | QC | 49.920 | -66.970 | Historical observation |
| Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Anse du Bassin | QC | 47.240 | -61.830 | Historical observation |
| Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Baie du Havre aux Basques | QC | 47.270 | -61.950 | Historical observation |
| Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Havre-aux-Maisons | QC | 47.440 | -61.770 | Historical observation |
| Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Lagune de la Grande Entrée | QC | 47.600 | -61.500 | Historical observation |
| Îlets Boisés | QC | 48.413 | -69.314 | Historical observation |
| Îlets Jérémis | QC | 48.890 | -68.780 | Historical observation |
| Inner barachois at Port-Daniel | QC | 48.190 | -64.970 | Historical observation |
| Kégaska sector, Anse aux Huîtres | QC | 50.190 | -61.280 | Historical observation |
| Kégaska sector, Baie aux Huîtres | QC | 50.190 | -61.297 | Historical observation |
| Kégaska sector, Baie Pepihtnahu | QC | 50.200 | -61.100 | Historical observation |
| Kégaska sector, Baie St-Augustin | QC | 51.210 | -58.610 | Historical observation |
| Kégaska sector, Baie Tertiary Shell | QC | 50.240 | -60.280 | Historical observation |
| Kégaska sector, Coacoachou, | QC | 50.250 | -60.290 | Historical observation |
| Kégaska sector, Rivière Mistassini | QC | 50.195 | -61.169 | Historical observation |
| L'Anse-Pleureuse | QC | 49.250 | -65.660 | Historical observation |
| L'Isle-Verte | QC | 48.040 | -69.340 | Historical observation |
| La Grande Anse | QC | 48.160 | -69.650 | Historical observation |
| L'Anse-McInnes | QC | 48.180 | -64.940 | Historical observation |
| Les Escoumins | QC | 48.350 | -69.390 | Historical observation |
| Les Prairies | QC | 47.350 | -70.520 | Historical observation |
| Malbaie Barachois | QC | 48.610 | -64.290 | Historical observation |
| Mouth of Rivière Mitis | QC | 48.640 | -69.140 | Historical observation |
| New-Carlisle | QC | 48.000 | -65.400 | Historical observation |
| Parc des Pionniers | QC | 49.222 | -68.140 | Historical observation |
| Paspébiac | QC | 48.020 | -65.250 | Historical observation |
| Patte de Lièvre | QC | 48.710 | -69.080 | Historical observation |

| Site | Province | Latitude | Longitude | Status |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Paul Bay to Baie des Oies (Baie James) | QC | 54.010 | -79.050 | Multiple observations |
| Penouille | QC | 48.850 | -64.420 | Single observation |
| Petit-Pabos | QC | 48.370 | -64.590 | Historical observation |
| Petits-Capucins | QC | 49.060 | -66.790 | Historical observation |
| Pointe à Émile | QC | 48.596 | -69.106 | Historical observation |
| Pointe Attikuan | QC | 54.290 | -79.500 | Multiple observations |
| Pointe de Miguasha | QC | 48.070 | -66.300 | Historical observation |
| Pointe des Oblats à la rivière Conn | QC | 52.685 | -78.753 | Multiple observations |
| Pointe Kakassituq | QC | 54.196 | -79.363 | Multiple observations |
| Pointe Shave to Rivière au Phoque | QC | 54.586 | -79.605 | Multiple observations |
| Pointe-au-Père | QC | 48.510 | -68.480 | Historical observation |
| Pointe-aux-Outardes | QC | 49.060 | -68.364 | Historical observation |
| Pointe-Manicouagan | QC | 49.118 | -68.176 | Historical observation |
| Rimouski Bay | QC | 48.451 | -68.555 | Single observation |
| Rivière au Castor | QC | 53.386 | -78.975 | Multiple observations |
| Rivière Blanche Estuary | QC | 48.820 | -68.928 | Historical observation |
| Rivière du Sud-Ouest in Bic | QC | 48.370 | -68.740 | Historical observation |
| Rivière Roggan | QC | 54.449 | -79.490 | Multiple observations |
| Rivière Romaine | QC | 50.280 | -63.770 | Single observation |
| Rivière Saint-Jean | QC | 48.780 | -64.400 | Historical observation |
| Rivière-Caplan | QC | 48.100 | -65.680 | Historical observation |
| Rose-Bridge | QC | 48.860 | -64.480 | Historical observation |
| Saint-Fabien Bay | QC | 48.323 | -68.866 | Historical observation |
| Saint-Nicolas Bay | QC | 49.300 | -67.760 | Historical observation |
| Saint-Siméon | QC | 48.060 | -65.530 | Historical observation |
| Sandy Beach | QC | 48.820 | -64.430 | Historical observation |
| Sept-Îles Bay | QC | 50.170 | -66.105 | Single observation |
| Southwestern sector of the Manicouagan Peninsula | QC | 49.030 | -68.430 | Historical observation |
| Trois-Pistoles | QC | 48.110 | -69.220 | Historical observation |

Note: The eelgrass sites listed here should not be considered complete, as eelgrass is known to occur in other locations. The list is a reflection of collected and published material on eelgrass, as of March 2020. Various data sources, with different data collection dates, have been combined. Eelgrass site categories include historical sites (data more than 10 years old), single observations and multiple observations within the last ten years, and sites where restoration efforts have occurred. In addition, site designations may represent individual eelgrass beds or larger areas with multiple eelgrass beds. See [Table 1. Status of eelgrass sites](#) for more information. Additional details are available in the [detailed data table](#) (Excel/CSV; 136 KB).

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (2020).

Additional information can be obtained at:

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