

**A Chronicle of Events Relating to the Administration
of Machias Seal Island Bird Sanctuary**

by

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1830-32	First lighthouse on MSI. The St. Andrews, N.B., Chambers of Commerce petitioned the government of New Brunswick to build a light station on Machias Seal Island in 1830. After two years of persuasion, one was finally built (1821). In March, 1833 an act was passed at Fredericton, N.B., that every ship entering the Bay of Fundy must pay a lighthouse duty. Ref. Fundy Gulf Isle by Jack Russell
7 June, 1912	Machias Seal Island was expropriated (to clear title) for HM the King for MSI Light House. Department of the Secretary of State of Canada, Registrar's Branch, Ottawa. Deed dated 14 May, 1912, recorded in Lib. 214, fol. 144 and filed as No. 2 in Plan Book No. 1 in St. Andrews, N.B., Charlotte Co.
21 Jul. 1933	Machias Seal Island visited by Robie W. Tufts, Chief Migratory Bird Officer (Maritimes).
17 Apr. 1944	Machias Seal Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary was established by Order in Council #2678. The sanctuary officially includes the island and waters within a one mile distance around it.
19 June, 1944	Robie W. Tufts carried out a survey of the MSI bird population.
10 Nov., 1947	Oscar Hawksley, student, was issued a Canadian banding permit #3416 for MSI in 1946. Ref. Letter: O. Hawksley to H. F. Lewis (Supt. of Wildlife Protection, National Parks Bureau)
11 June, 1949	D. H. Pimlott, CWS assistant, visited MSI on 6 June to check on reports of eggging: no other info given at this time.
16 Sept., 1953	Brian C. Carter, CWS Biologist, visited MSI. He reported of college students present banding birds and that reports of tourists molesting the birds may have been mistaken.
8 Dec., 1954	The Canada Gazette (Pt. II) published Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations (including MSI).

- 1956 Proposed construction of a fence to keep visitors out of the tern colony.
Ref. Letters: B. Carter to members of D.O.T.
- March, 1957 Walkway proposed for MSI.
Ref Letters: B. Carter to members of D.O.T.
- 13 Sept., 1957 Letters of complaint concerning the removal of tern eggs from MSI.
- 13 Sept., 1957 Mr. Henry McLaughlin, Grand Manan Sanctuary Caretaker, had completed work on MSI, with respect to walkways and signs. The large sanctuary sign was made by the Grand Manan High School.
- 27 Sept., 1961 Mr. C. O. Bartlett, CWS Biologist, visited MSI on 16 Sept., 1961 to investigate reports of eggng, sanctuary conditions and to interview Vernon Bagley (Sanctuary Warden at Grand Manan).
Ref. Letter: by C. O. Bartlett on MSI.
- 20 Oct., 1961 Mr. V. Bagley to be hired to patrol MSI.
Ref. Letter: D. A. Munro, Chief Ornithologist, CWS, to C. O. Bartlett.
- 14 March, 1966 Mr. Jack Russell, MSI lightkeeper, reports of the poor condition of the signs when he came to MSI, he repaired these sanctuary signs.
Ref. Letter: Jack Russell to CWS, Ottawa.
- 15 June, 1967 Mr. Vernon Bagley checked burning incident on MSI.
- 28 June, 1967 Letter of Complaint
"Tern eggs were gathered by lightkeeper families, on 14 June the Fisheries Dept. boat "Gull Light" with several officials stopped at MSI and gathered eggs. Also on 14 June a boat "Light Hope" from Seal Cove stopped at MSI, 15 women and children landed and gathered eggs."
Ref. Letter: by Mis M. R. Shantz, Field Chairman, Lehigh Valley Bird Club, Allentown, Penn.
- 19 July, 1967 As a result of the eggng reports on MSI, the RCMP are requested to make adequate patrols to MSI.
Ref. Letter: A. G. Loughrey, Superintendent, CWS-Eastern REgion to J. A. Poitras, CWS Enforcement Co-ordinator.
- 3 August, 1967 Mr. J. A. Poitras has talked to Vernon Bagley and has gotten assistance from Cpl Keeping (Grand Manan RCMP) and Cst. Ivan Marquis, RCMP to help in visiting MSI in 1968.

- 14 August, 1967 Mr. W. R. Whitman, CWS Biologist and Cst. Ivan Marquis, RCMP met Vernon Bagley on Grand Manan and discussed egging problems.
- 27 May, 1968 J. A. Poitras, CWS Enforcement Co-ordinator and RCMP Cst. Ivan Marquis: Helicopter patrol to MSI.
Checked egging reports, interviewed caretaker and erected sanctuary signs. They reported that Jack Russell was most co-operative.
- 7 June, 1968 Mr. Vernon Bagley, Grand Manan Sanctuary Caretaker, investigated egging report and general sanctuary conditions.
- 9 Aug., 1968 Maine Audubon Society recommends that Jack Russell, or someone else, be appointed caretaker (Warden) on MSI as the tourists are walking on the eggs.
Oil dump on MSI is trapping and killing Puffins. Ref. Letter: W. A. Bechtel, Director, Portland Society of Natural History, to J. A. Poitras.
- 15 Aug., 1968 Mr. J. A. Poitras suggests that Jack Russell be made caretaker (warden) on MSI.
- October, 1968 Mr. W. R. Whitman, CWS Biologist, interviewed sanctuary caretaker and inspected sanctuary conditions.
- 16 April, 1969 A problem of too many "tourists" on MSI with an excess of 500 in 1968. A need to contact DOT and work together. Ref. Letter: J. A. Poitras to W. R. Miller, Director, Eastern Region.
- 28 May, 1969 Mr. J. A. Poitras reports that Jack Russell has a business going by catering to tourists on MSI. He is supplying rooms, meals, etc.
- 24 June, 1969 J. A. Poitras and P. Dean, CWS Biologist, wish to visit MSI. Tentative date of visit, 16 or 17 July.
Also, W. R. Whitman wants to visit MSI on 20 June, 1969 via DOT Helicopter. Ref. Letter: 8 June, 1969.
- 4 June, 1971 Miss Susan Merrill and Mr. Roger Meserry, students of D.H. Baldwin (Canadian Audubon Society) did census work on MSI.
- 17 Sept., 1971 Question as to the Sovereignty issue of MSI. Ref. Letter: J. E. Bryant, CWS Regional Director to A. D. Smith, CWS Biologist.

- 18 Feb., 1972 Problems with plans to re-introduce puffins to Maine Islands. Ref. Letter: D. N. Nettleship, CWS Biologist, to Stephen Kress, Asst. Director, Antioch College.
- 18 Feb., 1972 Discussion on the possible transfer of MSI from MOT and the possibility of obtaining a (the) building on Machias. Also a short discussion on the Garrish House Society. Ref. Letter: A. D. Smith, CWS Biologist to W. R. Miller, CWS Enforcement Co-ordinator.
- 10 April, 1972 A. D. Smith; proposed visit to MSI around 4-5 June, 1972.
- 5 June, 1972 W. R. Miller, CWS Enforcement Co-ordinator, refuses overnight stays on MSI.
- 4-6 June, 1972 W. R. Miller, D. Paul and J. Stoner, CWS Enforcement officers, and V. Bagley, Sanctuary Warden, visited Grand Manan Sanctuary, Kent Is. and MSI.
- 24 July, 1972 On 5 July, 1972 a "patrol" visit was made to MSI by D. Paul. While he was there he reported - C. Huntington (from Kent Is.) was banding, a film crew was present as well as two boats of tourists. D. Paul also notes that Jack Russell was accommodating tourists on MSI. Ref. Memorandum: D. Paul to W. R. Miller.
- 1972 New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists propose that Machias Seal Island should be an International Sanctuary. Ref. Note in 1981 file.
- 5 March, 1973 Report on the confrontations of fishing vessels of MSI. Ref. Letter: CWS-Atlantic Region to J. E. Bryant, Director, CWS Eastern Region.
- 21 March, 1973 A discussion on the sovereignty of MSI and propose change of MSI from MOT to CWS. Ref. Letter: J. E. Bryant to J. G. Carton, Director of Legal Services.
- 4 May, 1973 D. Paul gives reference that a Richard J. Parker will be the CWS summer caretaker on MSI.
- 20 June, 1973 D. Paul visited MSI by DOT helicopter for a general sanctuary inspection.
- 23 June, 1973 F. G. Cooch, CWS, authorized a Banding Permit for C. E. Huntington to band birds on MSI.
- May-Aug, 1973 Summer reports by R. Parker. He reported 824 visitors to MSI, 79% chartered from Maine, 13% from New Brunswick and 8% were from private yachts. Parker was of the opinion that burning the grass on MSI in March was a must.

- 11 Sept., 1973 Inspection visit by D. Paul to MSI.
- 20 March, 1974 One of the blinds on MSI was destroyed during storms. Reported by Jack Russell.
- 12 June, 1974 Enforcement visit by D. Paul. Jack Russell had eleven domestic ducks on MSI that were reported to have eaten tern eggs.
- 10 July, 1974 A. D. Smith and P. A. Pearce, CWS Biologist, conducted an inventory of island bird life and interviewed the CWS warden-caretaker R. Parker.
- May-Aug., 1974 Summer reports by R. Parker. He reported 795 visitors to MSI, 62% chartered from Maine, 28% from New Brunswick and 10% were from private yachts. During this year R. Parker completed the first complete tern census for MSI.
- R. Parker reported to D. Paul that 50% of MSI was burned on 21 May, 1974. D. Christie, Curator N.B. Museum, contacted A. D. Smith and discussed the burning and possible effects on Leach's Petrel. D. Paul indicated to W. R. Miller that Jack Russell had been telling tourists about the "disastrous blaze" in mid May.
- 15-16 Aug./74 D. Paul and Cpl. John Massey, RCMP, visited MSI via a chartered fishing boat from Seal Cove. They conducted a general sanctuary inspection.
- October, 1974 Newspaper clippings and reports indicate that the U.S. was preparing a challenge, legally for MSI. Ref. Letter: A. D. Smith to J. E. Bryant, Regional Director CWS.
- 6 Dec., 1974 D. Paul reported that he visited MSI: once in 1972, twice in 1973, once (June) 1974. He also reported that the 1971 estimate of the tern population by D. H. Baldwin may be wrong.
- May-Aug., 1975 Summer reports by Richard Blacquiere. He reported 486 visitors to MSI, 60% chartered from Maine, 32% from New Brunswick and 8% were from private yachts.
- 1 August, 1975 D. Paul visited MSI via DOT helicopter for general sanctuary inspection.
- May-Aug., 1976 Summer reports by David Godbout. He reported 487 visitors to MSI, 60% chartered from Maine, 35% from New Brunswick and 5% were from private yachts. Mr. Godbout left MSI early, prior to 26 August?

- 28 June, 1976 The 1956 Grand Manan High School graduating class staked out a mining claim on MSI during its 20th annual reunion. Class president Basil Small said it was done to proclaim to the U.S. that the island belonged to Grand Manan. Ref. Newspaper Article: Halifax 11 September, 1976.
- 3 April, 1977 Plans proposed for a new observation blind on MSI. Ref. Letter: Mary Majka to A. D. Smith.
- 26 April, 1977 H. P. Barkhouse, CWS Biologist, plans to visit MSI with new student, Pauline Crouch, in May. Ref. Letter: H. P. Barkhouse to Mary Majka.
- 17 May, 1977 Discussion concerning the transfer of the old house on MSI to CWS. Ref. Letter: H. P. Barkhouse to MOT (Coastguard).
- 21 May, 1977 H. P. Barkhouse conducted an inspection of the DOT housing and interviewed the summer student on MSI. Travel via DOT helicopter.
- May-Aug., 1977 Summer reports by Pauline Crouch, CWS warden-caretaker. She reported 658 visitors to MSI, 67% chartered from Maine, 28% from New Brunswick and 5% were from private yachts.
- 5 July, 1977 CWS was informed the MSI was expropriated by Ottawa in 1912. Ref. Letter: M. D. Copithorne, Legal Affairs to H. Boyd, Director of Migratory Birds, CWS.
- 21 July, 1977 Request that the vacant staff house on MSI be transferred from MOT to CWS (DOE).
- 28 July, 1977 Student warden-caretaker, P. Crouch, is not getting along with the MSI lightkeepers. She recommends that they (CWS) must get rid of a dog on the island. Ref. Letter: P. Crouch to H. P. Barkhouse.
- 20 Sept. 1977 W. R. Barrow, CWS Technician, completed repairs to house on MSI, 13-15 September. A full list of repairs are included. Ref. Memo: W. R. Barrow to H. P. Barkhouse.
- 5 Jan., 1978 As of 1 January, 1978 the old house on MSI is CWS responsibility. Ref. Letter: Regional Director MOT to H. P. Barkhouse.
- 30 Jan., 1978 Information and request on needed repairs and other important matters concerning MSI. Ref. Memo: H. P. Barkhouse to A. J. Erskine.
- June, 1978 A Mr. Kosmin requested overnight privileges for MSI and he was refused. This gentleman raised a bit of a fuss over this issue. In a letter dated 20 June, 1978

A. D. Smith raised the question, "perhaps Mr. Kosmin is endeavouring to test our sovereignty claims to MSI."

- May-Aug. 1978 Summer reports by Reg Newell, CWS warden-caretaker. He reported 669 visitors to MSI, 54% chartered from Maine, 33% from New Brunswick and 13% were from private yachts.
- 9 Sept., 1978 Oil spill, from tanks, on MSI results in the death of a number of puffins. Ref. Letter: Barna Norton, Charter boat Captain to H. P. Barkhouse.
- 14 March, 1979 The oil tanks on MSI were moved. Larry Ricketts, Asst. District Manger MOT stated that this was done "only" for the sake of the birds. Ref. Letter: L. Ricketts to CWS.
- May-Aug., 1979 Summer reports by Reg Newell, CWS warden-caretaker. He reported 661 visitors to MSI, 49% chartered from Maine, 38% from New Brunswick and 13% were from private yachts.
- June 13-16/77 H. P. Barkhouse, W.R. Barrow, P. C. Smith and S. Boates carried out a complete census of nesting terns on MSI.
- May-Aug., 1980 Summer reports by Reg Newell, CWS warden-caretaker. He reported 784 visitors to MSI, 41% chartered from Maine, 56% from New Brunswick and 3% were from private yachts.
- 17 Feb., 1981 H. P. Barkhouse and Marvin McAllister, Construction supervisor MOT visited MSI. Three large, fiberglass fuel tanks were installed. The two pits below the old metal fuel tanks had been mostly filled in.
- May-Aug., 1981 Summer reports by Reg Newell, CWS warden-caretaker. He reported 915 visitors on MSI, 47% chartered from Maine, 46% from New Brunswick and 7% were from private yachts.
- 15 May, 1981 Reg Newell was issued a permit to kill and scare gulls on MSI. (AS&K #13-81).
- 13-15 June/81 H. P. Barkhouse, A. J. Erskine, P. C. Smith, P. W. Hicklin and R. Simmons carried out a complete tern census on MSI.
- 27 Nov., 1981 Request regarding the use of the CWS dwelling by MOT crews. Also a note on possible co-operative work to maintain the house. Ref. Letter: H. Caines, MOT, to H. P. Barkhouse.

24 Feb., 1982 A third boat will be added to the MSI charter business. A Mr. Butch Huntley out of Lubec, Maine will be applying for a charter license. Ref. Telephone call: Norm Famous, University of Maine, Orono to A. D. Smith.

30 March, 1982 DOT cut off the power supply to the stove in the CWS building, a new stove is needed (propane or oil).

May-Aug., 1982 Summer reports by Steve Daniel, CWS warden-caretaker. He reported 1158 visitors to MSI, 52% chartered from Maine, 41% from New Brunswick and 5% were from private yachts.

15 May, 1982 Steve Daniel was issued a permit to scare and kill gulls on MSI (AS&K #18-82).

15 July, 1982 Too many people on MSI at one time, a conflict developed between B. Norton (charter boat Captain) and S. Daniel. The question of island ownership was raised by B. Norton.

1 June, 1982 There is no legal basis to issue permits and restrictions to charter boat captains. Ref. Letter: Louise Sabourin-Hébert, Council Legal Services to Jim A. Stoner, CWS Chief of Enforcement.

May-Aug., 1983 Summer reports by S.M. Daniel, CWS warden-caretaker. He reported 1309 visitors to MSI, 58% chartered from Maine, 38% from New Brunswick and 4% were from private yachts.

5 May, 1983 DOT transported the new observation blinds out to MSI. Ref. Letter: A. D. Smith to L. Ricketts (DOT).

17 May, 1983 S. Daniel travelled to MSI with CWS employees A. D. Smith, R. Hicks, D. Cormier and T. Estabrooks.

May, 1983 S. Daniel was issued a permit to kill and scare gulls (AS&K #21-83).

3 June, 1983 Mr. Ron Weiner and two others of the Maine State Police visited MSI. Ref. Letter: S. Daniel to A. D. Smith.

5-10 June/83 Having problems with lightkeepers and charter boat captains. Ref. Letters: S. Daniel to A. D. Smith.

- 1 Sept., 1983 Summary of the ^{natural} National Area's workshop, Fort Kent, Maine on 21-24 August. Ref. Memorandum: Tom Goettel, Asst. Refuge Manager Moosehorn NWR, U.S.A.
- 10 Oct., 1983 Mr. [^]Harvey Benson, past lightkeeper on MSI, relates what he remembers of the island. Ref. Letter: H. Benson to Mary Majka, President of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists.
- 20 Oct., 1983 A recent "flurry" of media interest in MSI stems from a press release out of the Canadian Nature Federation Office in Ottawa.
Ref. Memorandum: A. D. Smith to J. Inder, Regional Director, CWS.
- 8 Nov., 1983 Adverse effect on CWS and MSI as a result of the Canadian Nature Federation press release. Ref. Letter: J. Inder to Gregg Sheehy. Canadian Nature Federation.
- 22 Feb., 1984 A meeting was organized to get all of the charter boat Captains together (B. Huntley, B. Wilcox and B. Norton) to discuss the recent problems at MSI.
- May-Aug./84 Summer reports by S. Daniel; CWS warden-caretaker. He reported 1142 visitors to MSI, 59% chartered from Maine, 31% from New Brunswick and 8% were from private yachts.
- 4 May, 1984 Steve Daniel (c/o A.D. Smith) was issued a permit to use DRC 1339 Gull Toxicant on MSI. Research Permit No. 51-RP-84.
- 5 May, 1984 S. Daniel was issued a permit to scare and kill gulls (AS&K #17-84).