

# Musquash Estuary

Musquash, New Brunswick

**Coordinates:** N45°09.210 W066°13.745

**Geocaching.com code:** GC5789N

**Type of Cache:** Traditional



More than 85% of the original salt marshes in the Bay of Fundy have been altered or destroyed by humans over the past 300 years. The Musquash Estuary, located about 20 kilometres (12 miles) southwest of Saint John, is one of only a few remaining in the region that has not been significantly impacted by human development. It is the largest undeveloped, natural estuary in the Bay of Fundy. This productive estuary and saltmarsh is home to many birds, mammals, fish, invertebrates, and marine plants. Over 290 species of birds have been spotted in the Estuary, including abundant waterfowl and shorebirds. Beaver, fox, deer, moose, muskrat, harbour seal and even the occasional porpoise can also be found in the area.

The Musquash Estuary plays an important role in the region's heritage. Aboriginal groups are thought to have established seasonal camps along its shores. French settlers and, later, United Empire Loyalists have also been associated with early settlements in the area.

In 1998 the Conservation Council of New Brunswick (CCNB), with support from the Fundy North Fishermen's Association and the local community, proposed the Musquash Estuary and surrounding intertidal area as a candidate Marine Protected Area (MPA) under the Oceans Act. In December 2006 the Musquash Estuary, including the waters, marshes, and intertidal zone, received formal designation as a protected area. The Musquash MPA and administered intertidal area are managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada in collaboration with an advisory committee composed of representatives from government, non-government organizations, First Nations, industry, and local community groups. In recognition of the importance of the area, complimentary conservation efforts by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, and the Province of New Brunswick have led to the protection of the majority of the lands surrounding the Estuary, as well as the watershed that feeds the Estuary.



Canadian Hydrographic Service

This geocache was created by the CCNB specifically for this GeoTour. A detailed description on how to find the site is available on geocaching.com.

## Learn more about this area:

[www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/marineareas-zonesmarines/mpa-zpm/atlantique-atlantique/musquash-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/marineareas-zonesmarines/mpa-zpm/atlantique-atlantique/musquash-eng.htm)  
[www.conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/fundy-baykeeper/musquash-marine-protected-area/](http://www.conservationcouncil.ca/our-programs/fundy-baykeeper/musquash-marine-protected-area/)

**Thank you to:** Matt Abbott (Conservation Council of New Brunswick), Tanya Koropatnick (Fisheries & Oceans Canada)

## Passport Question:

- What colour string is securing the cache in place?

**The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's (GOMC) 2012-2017 Action Plan** identifies goals for three broad issues that benefit significantly from regional collaboration:

1. Restore and conserve habitat
2. Environmental and human health
3. Sustainable communities

More information on the GOMC, its partners and its activities can be found at [www.gulfofmaine.org](http://www.gulfofmaine.org)



**Did You Know:** In 2004 and 2006, the Gulf of Maine Council's Habitat Restoration Program awarded grants to **Ducks Unlimited Canada** for restoration, research and monitoring within the Musquash Marsh. In 2007, the Gulf of Maine Council presented an award to the **Friends of the Musquash** for facilitating the creation of a Marine Protected Area in the Musquash Estuary, which was declared the first Marine Protected Area in New Brunswick and the Bay of Fundy.