

# Site Report

<b>Site Number:</b>	AQ#8012		
<b>Location:</b>	Salt Bay, Yarmouth County	<b>Size:</b>	24.14 HA

<b>Species and Methods of Cultivation Eligible for Consideration</b>		
<b>Species Type:</b>	<b>Common Species Name(s):</b>	<b>Method(s) of Cultivation:</b>
Shellfish	American oyster, Giant sea scallop, Bay scallop. Other species native to this water body are eligible but must be specified in a proposal	Suspended Cultivation
Marine Plants	Sugar kelp. Other species native to this water body are eligible but must be specified in a proposal	Suspended Cultivation

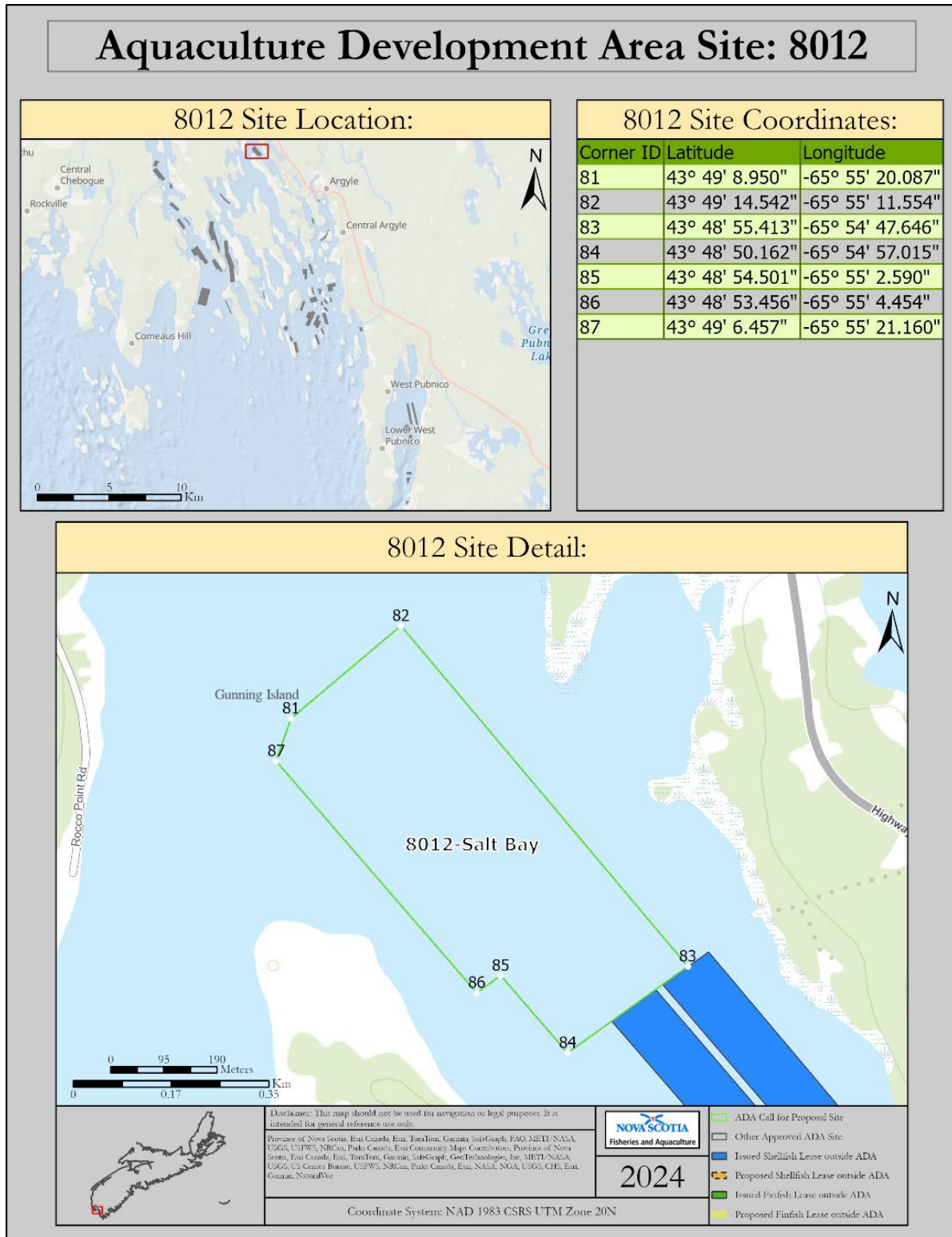


Figure 1. Vicinity map

**Location:**

Approximate centre coordinates: N 43° 49' 02.0536", W 65° 55' 05.2396"

This site is part of a designated Aquaculture Development Area (**Figure 1**) and is situated within Salt Bay, between Rocco Point on the West and Lower Eel Brook (and Highway 3) on the East. The shape resembles an irregular rectangle oriented in an approximate northwest to southeast fashion, which is likely how the gear would be best oriented.

There is an existing aquaculture site with an issued licence and lease directly adjacent to this site, AQ#1400 which is currently authorized for the suspended cultivation of American oyster. AQ#1400 is located southeast of this site.

There is an access ramp visible to the east of this site, which is assumed to be privately owned. While there is a wharf or small craft harbour located 400m west (at Rocco Point), there does not appear to be any existing navigation channel or route from this site. Marine access to this site will likely be a challenge for those that are not familiar with the Salt Bay and surrounding area. Proponents interested in this site should first visit the area to determine how they will access the marine waters and include their results in any proposal.

**Bottom Characteristics:**

In August, 2023, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture scientists collected underwater video baseline footage of the area using a submersible drop camera (**Figure 2**). The overall depth of the site ranged from 0m to 12m relative to Chart Datum (Lowest Low Tide). There was no indication of eelgrass meadows within the site, and it was rare to see free-floating strands of eelgrass. Bottom type observations within the site consisted of hard-packed, fine sand sediment at most stations. Areas dominated by larger cobble and boulder sized rocks were observed at stations near the deepest area in the southeastern region of the site (Video stations 1D, 2C and 2D).



**Figure 2. Map displaying baseline video sampling station locations**

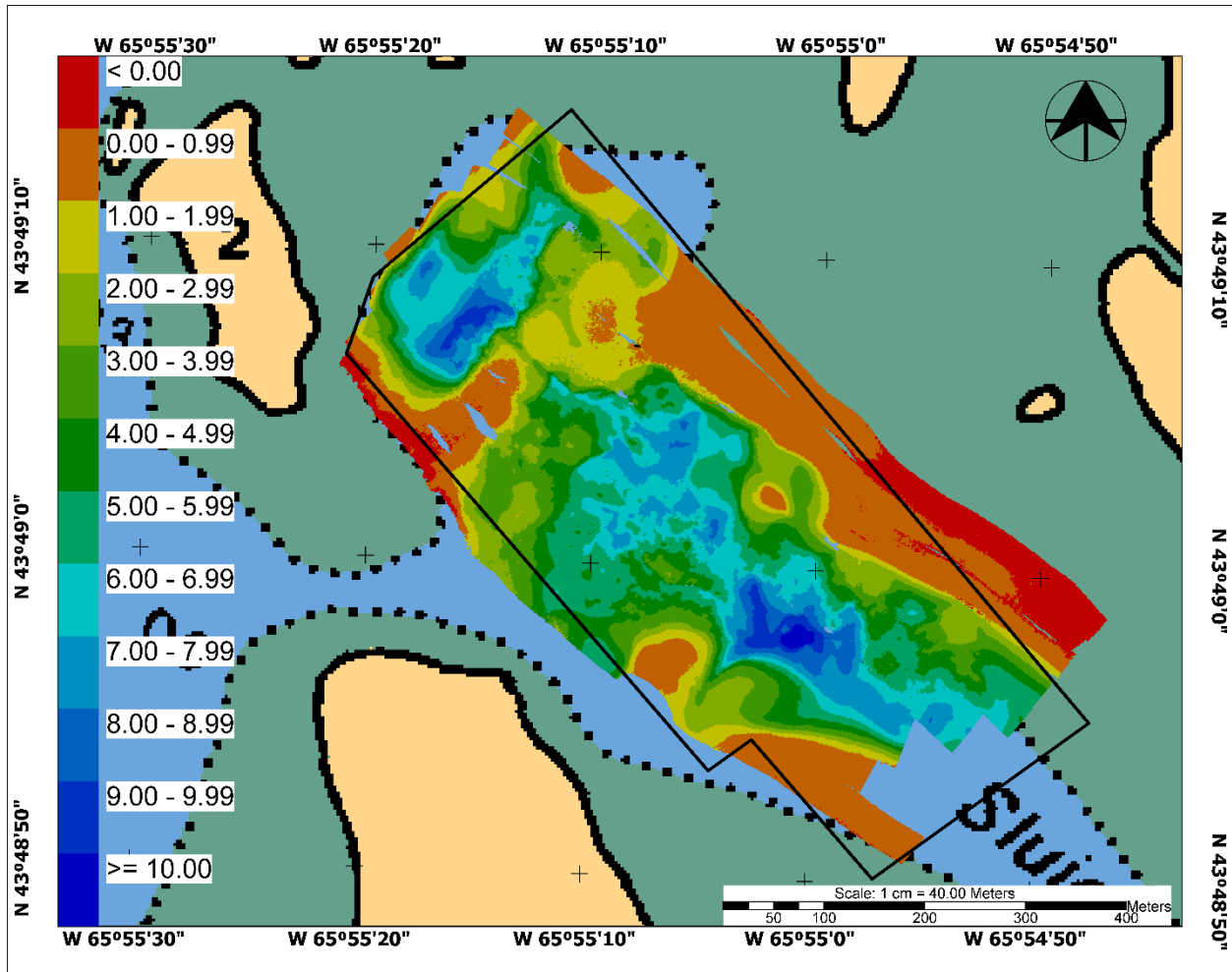
**Eelgrass:**

Eelgrass is an ‘Ecologically Significant Species’ (ESS) and is present along the marine coast of Nova Scotia at varying degrees of abundance, with many factors contributing to its growth, survival and reproduction. The type and spacing of suspended aquaculture gear can influence the amount of light reaching the water column and the sea floor where eelgrass is present. Proponents are expected to include plans on how to eliminate or mitigate the impact of their aquacultural operation on any eelgrass present within and near to the site, where applicable. In addition, rows of gear should be spaced at least 3 metres apart.

**Water Quality:**

This site is located within an area classified as “approved” for harvesting of all species of bivalve mollusks by the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program as of March 31, 2024. Proponents are expected to check with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada for the most current classification status (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/shellfish-mollusques/cssp-map-eng.htm>).

**Water Depth:**



**Figure 3.** Site map with depth

In August, 2023, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture scientists collected bathymetry data throughout the prospective area using a 3D side-scan sonar system. **Figure 3** displays a representation of the resulting depth data collected, corrected to chart datum (depth at lowest low water during large tide). Based on data collected, the site is deepest in the centre of the area and in the northern portion of the area, at approximately 12m and becomes shallower moving outward where minimum depths reach 0m. According to predictions from nearby CHS tide stations, depths in this area will vary by as much as 4m or more between high and low tides. In general, shallow areas and areas with lower current speeds can expect seasonal ice build-up and ice movement. Proponents should include plans on how to mitigate the impact of ice on their aquaculture operation where applicable, within their proposal.

#### **Wildlife:**

A saltmarsh habitat exists in the surrounding area outside of the site. Special consideration should be given in how the Proponent intends to ensure any aquaculture operation would avoid disturbing local wildlife. Migratory bird colonies have previously been observed approximately 1.5km north of this site, where Eel Lake drains out to Salt Bay.

There is conservation land approximately 1.7km east of this site, on the opposite side of Highway 103. Glenwood Provincial Park is located approximately 2.2km southeast of this site which is bordered by the

shoreline of Rickers Lake and Highway 103. These protected lands are situated far enough from the site that mitigation measures are not anticipated to be required.

**Accuracy and Currency of Data:**

The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture strives to provide accurate and up-to-date information in this report. However, this report is not a peer-reviewed scientific publication and is instead intended to be a summary representing the general conditions regarding the site’s suitability for the type of aquaculture under consideration by a Proponent interested in responding to a call for proposals (and subsequent application for an aquaculture licence and lease) for this site.

The Department does not make any guarantees as to whether or not an aquacultural operation would be successful at this site, nor does it absolve a person from ensuring that they obtain any additional necessary permits, approvals or licenses from the relevant Municipality, Provincial or Federal agency prior to conducting aquaculture.

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	Name / Title	Signature / Date