

Your Role in Preserving Our Heritage

Sea farmers can play a crucial role in preserving archaeological sites and contributing to the responsible use of marine resources. Collaboration between sea farmers, archaeologists, First Nations, and regulatory authorities is essential for the sustainable coexistence of aquaculture activities and cultural heritage preservation.

Become familiarized with the potential presence of archaeological sites in your operating area. Consult with local archaeologists or heritage authorities to identify known sites or areas with archaeological potential and/or sensitivity. Stay updated on regulations related to archaeology. Ensure compliance with these regulations and obtain necessary permits before conducting sea farming activities in areas with archaeological sensitivity.

All palaeontology and archaeology sites in Nova Scotia, known and unknown, on land and underwater, are protected under the Special Places Protection Act (SPPA) which enables government to designate and protect outstanding heritage sites.

By understanding, respecting, and minimizing impacts on archaeological sites, sea farmers contribute to the protection of submerged cultural sites. Simple actions like respecting archaeological site boundaries, reporting artifact discoveries, and supporting preservation efforts can make a significant difference.

Archaeology and Heritage Contacts

cch.novascotia.ca	nsarchaeology.com	museum.novascotia.ca
Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage	Nova Scotia Archaeology Society (NSAS)	Nova Scotia Museum Archaeology Office

What To Do if You Find Artifacts

If artifacts or submerged structures are encountered during sea farming activities, immediately cease the activity that interacts with the artifact or structure and report the findings to the Special Places Program.

- 1 Leave the artifact or fossil where you found it**
Please do not pick it up, move it, or bury it. If the object is under immediate threat of damage or permanent loss and if it is safe to do so, collect the object. Try to document as accurately as possible the context in which the object was found.
- 2 Document the location**
Note where you are. Record the GPS coordinates and take a picture of the artifact where you found it. Step back and photograph the artifact with a landmark. Please do not post pictures on social media.
- 3 Report items of suspected heritage value**
Contact Special Places at Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage. They will provide prompt guidance about the next steps. EMAIL: spp@novascotia.ca CALL: 902-424-6450

The heritage value of artifacts is often connected to the setting in which they are found. It is important to record the location and context in which they were discovered. This context helps establish meaning in the artifact and assists in determining what may have been taking place around the artifact many years ago. Once a site is disturbed, our chance to know a part of our history may be lost forever.



Aquaculture and Underwater Heritage Preservation



What is Archaeology

Archaeology is the study of human history through the excavation and analysis of artifacts, structures, and other physical remains. It provides insights into our ancestors' lives, cultures, and achievements.

Archaeological sites and their cultural resources represent important parts of our collective heritage and provide valuable insight into our shared human history. It's important to preserve artifacts from historical events and time periods so we can remember, learn about, and honor those who came before us. When artifacts are collected or recorded, it preserves a tangible piece of history for generations to come.

The Maritime Region c. 8000 BP. Note how much more green dry land surrounded Nova Scotia's coastline than the white current-day coastline. (From Shaw, et al, 2006).

What to Look for

Aquaculture activities have the potential to impact archaeological sites, depending on the context and practices involved. Nova Scotians need to strike a balance between sustainable aquaculture practices and safeguarding archaeological sites.

Thousands of years ago, much of Nova Scotia's present-day coastal waters were above sea level. These now submerged lands are known as the "palaeoshoreline" and may hold a higher potential for archaeological sites, features, and artifacts. Most marine-based aquaculture operations are located within this palaeoshoreline environment.

Nova Scotia's nearshore is also home to many shipwreck sites protected as archaeological sites under the Special Places Protection Act.

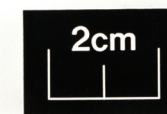
Many Mi'kmaw stone tools and European materials are discovered in submerged or underwater areas or found along shores or beaches exposed during low tide.



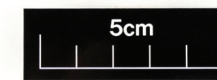
A maritime archaeologist cleans marine growth from the stern of a shipwreck (BcCw-12) in Lower Prospect, Nova Scotia (Image: J. Kyte 2022)

Artifact Examples

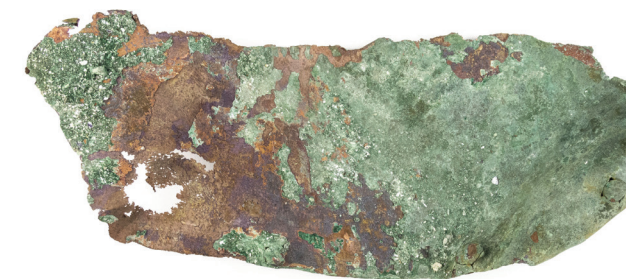
Indigenous and Historic Artifacts from Submerged & Coastal Areas in Mi'kma'ki



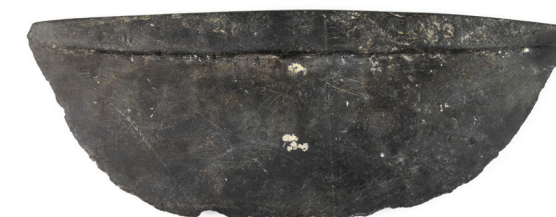
Chert Corner-Notched Point
LOWER PROSPECT



Lead Sounding Weight
LE CHAMEAU LOUISBOURG



Copper Sheathing
LE CHAMEAU, LOUISBOURG



Slate Ulu
DIGBY NECK