

Fw: Request to add topic to the next council session: Tusket Islands Wilderness Area and the NS Wilderness Act

From Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>
Date Tue 1/20/2026 9:57 AM
To Chantalle Newell <cnewell@munargyle.com>

 1 attachment (5 MB)

Tusket Islands Wilderness Area.pdf;

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From: Smith, Craig <Craig.Smith2@novascotia.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 3:27:47 PM
To: Nicole Albright <nalbright@munargyle.com>; Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>
Cc: Hancock, Bruce H <Bruce.Hancock@novascotia.ca>; MacKinnon, Janet <Janet.MacKinnon@novascotia.ca>
Subject: RE: Request to add topic to the next council session: Tusket Islands Wilderness Area and the NS Wilderness Act

Hello Warden Albright, Deputy Warden Saulnier:

Thanks for reaching out in regards to the location of the Tusket Islands Wilderness Area as it pertains to Aquaculture Developments areas in Lobster Bay. I am Director of Protected Areas with Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change.

Aquaculture Development Area (ADA) locations in Lobster Bay do not overlap with the Tusket Islands wilderness area. The wilderness area remains protected.

The aquaculture development is in marine water (the ocean) while the wilderness area is made up of multiple parcels of land (on islands) that are spread throughout Lobster Bay. As with other provincially designated wilderness areas, the boundaries terminate at or near the ordinary high-water mark. Portions of salt marshes may occur above this. The wilderness area does not include marine waters.

Attached is the designation plan depicting the location of lands that are part of Tusket Islands Wilderness Area.

I will be sharing this information with Minister LeBlanc and anyone who reaches out directly to me.

Regards,

Craig

Craig Smith (he/him)

Director, Protected Areas and Ecosystems
Nova Scotia Environment & Climate Change
Cell: 782.409.3075
Craig.Smith2@novascotia.ca

-

From: Hancock, Bruce H <Bruce.Hancock@novascotia.ca>

Sent: January 14, 2026 3:24 PM

To: Nicole Albright <nalbright@munargyle.com>; Smith, Craig <Craig.Smith2@novascotia.ca>

Subject: FW: Request to add topic to the next council session: Tusket Islands Wilderness Area and the NS Wilderness Act

Hello Warden Albright,

I am forwarding this information to Craig Smith, Director of Protected Areas and Ecosystems (also copied on this email).

Thank you for sharing.

Best regards,
Bruce

Bruce Hancock
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
902-875-7842

From: Nicole Albright <NAIbright@munargyle.com>

Sent: January 14, 2026 2:22 PM

To: Hancock, Bruce H <Bruce.Hancock@novascotia.ca>

Subject: Fw: Request to add topic to the next council session: Tusket Islands Wilderness Area and the NS Wilderness Act

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Good afternoon Bruce,

I am sending along questions regarding the Tusket Island Wilderness Protection Area as it relates to aquaculture. Could I please ask that this be forwarded to the appropriate contact in the Department of Environment or any other provincial contacts who may be able to provide clarification to residents. We have received the same questions from 2 other residents but out of a need for redundancy, I am only

forwarding this email.

Thank you for your help on this matter.

Nicole

Nicole Albright

Warden

Municipality of Argyle

Councillor District 5



5 Rue J.E. Hatfield Court / PO Box 10
Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0

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From: Dale Pothier <dale.pothier@icloud.com>

Sent: January 12, 2026 11:53 AM

To: Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>

Cc: Mike Ramona Scott <jsrm@outlook.com>; Nicole Albright <NAlbright@munargyle.com>; Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfooster@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>; Glenn Diggdon <gddiggdon@munargyle.com>; a.lorde@juno.com <a.lorde@juno.com>; abrivergirl@gmail.com <abrivergirl@gmail.com>; Alice Wagg <Alice@waggfamily.com>; Andre Surette <andresurette1975@hotmail.com>; Betty Easton <babeaston@gmail.com>; Chef@argyler.com <Chef@argyler.com>; Cher Bourque <cherbourque@hotmail.com>; Chris Kenney <ckenney351@gmail.com>; ddeon@ns.aliantzinc.ca <ddeon@ns.aliantzinc.ca>; donnagaudet1@gmail.com <donnagaudet1@gmail.com>; geowhite1952@gmail.com <geowhite1952@gmail.com>; Gisele Vacon <giselevacon10@gmail.com>; Guy Surette <guy@surette.ca>; Hannah Thibedeau <hannahthibedeau@me.com>; jacquardarthur3@gmail.com <jacquardarthur3@gmail.com>; janinemuisse52@gmail.com <janinemuisse52@gmail.com>; Jeff Nickerson <jmnick978@gmail.com>; johngsurette@hotmail.com <johngsurette@hotmail.com>; karlaleblanc2010@gmail.com <karlaleblanc2010@gmail.com>; Katelynn Ngiglio <katelynnngiglio@gmail.com>; katrenapritchett@gmail.com <katrenapritchett@gmail.com>; lindarandall@eastlink.ca <lindarandall@eastlink.ca>; Lorelei.in.argyle@gmail.com <Lorelei.in.argyle@gmail.com>; Michel Surette <michel@deonboatbuilding.com>; Mike Scott Plymouth <michael.e.scott1153@gmail.com>; mlpothier@hotmail.ca <mlpothier@hotmail.ca>; peggyboudreau4@gmail.com <peggyboudreau4@gmail.com>; phils@eastlink.ca <phils@eastlink.ca>; rsurette48@gmail.com <rsurette48@gmail.com>; Shawn Doucette

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Subject: Re: Request to add topic to the next council session: Tusket Islands Wilderness Area and the NS Wilderness Act

Sent from my iPad

Good morning Malcolm,

In relation to the Tusket Islands Wilderness Area (TIWA) and the NS Wilderness Act, Mike Scott from Plymouth has shared his letter to Council with me, (please see attached). I fully support Mike's request and respectfully ask that you channel the same request to council from District 1 on my behalf. I understand through local conversations that you are receiving similar requests from others from the district 1 on this string (cc'd).

It is my opinion that a meaningful and robust discussion is required at council on this matter as it has been overlooked to date. I am requesting council (as our local representation) to discuss and deliberate on the intent of TIWA, with a motion to support the integrity of the NS Wilderness Act. Any policy clarifications should be directed to the NS Department of Environment and Climate Change, not to the NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Any referral to NS DFA is the wrong action, nor is it being requested.

Key aspects from the NS Wilderness Act that council needs to discuss/consider:

1. The Wilderness Areas Protection Act establishes a process and conditions for altering boundaries and/or designating additional lands. The Act clearly states the use of TIWA is for recreational purposes only. It is not intended for commercial purposes. Does Council agree/disagree?
2. Per section 16, many residents are landowners of private property adjacent to or affecting wilderness areas, and the act encourages these owners to participate in voluntary stewardship in a manner consistent with wilderness area objectives. It is my opinion that my district is adjacent to the TIWA, and we are stewards seeking to manage District 1 in a manner that is consistent with TIWA. Will council support this request and intent from their constituents? (Public Consultation would have offered this insight and aspect).
3. Per Sec 11, boundaries can only be used or altered if public notice/consultation has been provided. Does Council agree/disagree?
4. Per Section 5, where there is a conflict between a provision of this Act and any other Act, this Act prevails. Does Council agree/disagree?
5. Per section 15.4, the Act requires a socio-economic analysis for new uses of a wilderness area. Has this been performed for Argyle? If not, will it be performed? Further, per section 11, any alterations or new usage of a

Wilderness Area requires Public Consultation. Will this be performed? The Act (section 10 and 39) also states that any new development of policies, programs, new regulations, guidelines, objectives, plans, codes of practice, directives and approvals, require Public Consultation. Does Council agree/disagree?

6. Prohibited Activities: Section 17 dictates that commercial resource development (for example, mining, forestry, aquaculture, dams, pipelines, etc.) is absolutely prohibited. Does Council agree/disagree?

We have we not seen any documented evidence to confirm that public consultation has taken place. Please consider this our formal request for public consultation. Will Council support this?

We therefore request that these 6 numbered topics above be discussed at the next council meeting with a motion to support the integrity of the NS Wilderness Act. If it is agreed to add this topic to the next council session, I'm expecting my email and attachments to be provided as a briefing to each councillor. If I am required to submit this request as a formal letter, please advise and I will do so upon request.

Sincerely,
Dale Pothier
6663 Hwy. 3
Lr. Eel Brook,
NS

B0W 2X 0

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