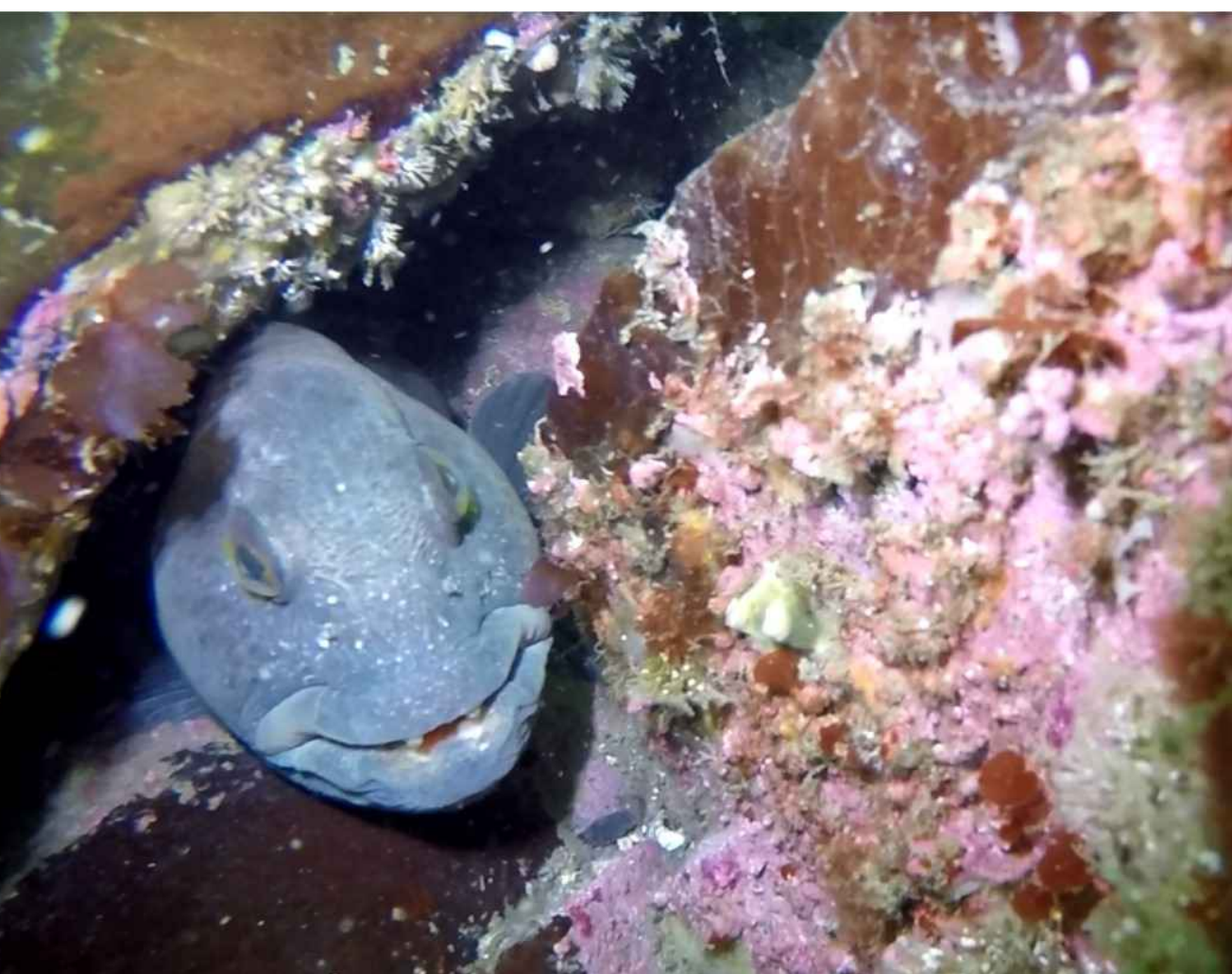




Environmental Observatory for the bay of Sept-Îles

GENERAL CONCLUSION



Human activities since the first trading post in 1661 and more intensively since 1927 with the construction of the airport, then 1949 with the arrival of the mining industry, have inevitably led to higher concentrations of certain potential parameters of concern than those found in nature, i.e., compared to areas that have not seen any human activity. This major study allowed us to collect up-to-date data on the quality of the environment.

In general:

- ☞ Based on two water quality indices, overall water quality in the Bay of Sept-Îles is classified as B, i.e., water of satisfactory quality that is suitable for most uses, with concentrations that rarely deviate from natural or desirable levels.
- ☞ For sediment quality, assessments of the samples collected ranged from “no action required” to “avoid the presence of new sources of contamination” at some sampling stations. These assessments were based on the criteria in effect at the time of writing for sediments with a different geology than that of the study area. The highest values for specific parameters were observed primarily in industrial sectors. This was to be expected given that industrial operations have existed at or near these sampling sites for over 65 years.



In conclusion, the overall quality of the environment is good based on the team’s knowledge at the time this report was written and the:

- ☞ Portrait of the benthic community
- ☞ Characterization of eelgrass beds
- ☞ Overview of the macroalgae community in the subtidal zone
- ☞ Marine mammal survey and monitoring program
- ☞ Survey of fish, seabirds, crustaceans, and other species
- ☞ Results from the water and sediment quality studies



However, to maintain environmental and ecosystem quality going forward, it will be *crucial* for managers, leaders, government representatives, and the broader community to draw on this report, particularly its recommendations, in order to implement a sustainable development approach that preserves and protects the Bay of Sept-Îles for future generations.



PHOTO CREDIT

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Underwater photos: Claudy Deschênes
Header photos: Port of Sept-Îles

