

demand for some of the existing non-traditional species fisheries, such as toad and rock crab, the most likely future fishery in both UA 4Ra and the Study Area could be a re-instatement of the mobile gear (i.e., otter trawl) cod fishery, but this would require a substantial improvement in the Northern Gulf cod stock and much more scientific study and assessment by DFO.

5 15.6.5 Dowden's Point

10 Geo-referenced catch data for the past five years indicate that nearshore fishing grounds within the Study Area are used primarily for the harvest of pelagic species such as capelin, herring and mackerel. Most of the catch is capelin, nearly all of which is harvested in July and August by larger 35-64 foot vessels using mobile gear such as purse seines and tuck seines. Most of these mobile gear pelagic fishing activities occur south of the Holyrood Generating Station (DFO 1990-2009).

15 Lobster, herring and lumpfish are harvested on suitable grounds closer to shore in the area between Lance Cove and Dowden's Point. Three lobster fishers set a total of about 20 pots in 2 m water within 30 feet from shore off Dowden's Point. Herring and lumpfish are harvested with nets 250-500 m out from this location in water depths of about 10 m. Recreational fishing activities in the immediate vicinity of the proposed electrode site include the harvest of brown trout by trolling gear close to shore, and cod using handlines, usually in water depths between 32 and 36 m (Lear 2011, pers. comm.)

15.7 Tourism

20 Tourism is the temporary movement of people to destinations outside their normal places of work and residence, the activities undertaken during their stay in those destinations and the facilities created to cater to their needs (Mathieson and Wall 1982). Therefore, the tourism industry is made up of three interrelated components - the destination and its attractions and activities (i.e., supply); transportation - the mode of travel people use to reach their destination; and the markets or locations where visitors come from (i.e., demand). Statistics Canada's Canadian Tourism Satellite Account (CTSA) defines the relevant distance for tourism as a trip of more than 80 km (50 miles) in one direction. This is used to help separate regular commuting or activities within one's usual environment (Katherine Kemp and Shaila Nijhowne Consultants (KKS) 2004).

This section discusses tourism in Newfoundland and Labrador. Focus is placed on major destinations, particularly those in areas through which the transmission corridor will cross or come close to. As tourists must travel through the province to reach those destinations, focus is also placed on transportation systems by which tourists enter into and travel throughout the province.

30 The reader is also referred to Section 15.3 Community Infrastructure and services, which describes the highways, roads, parks, airports and railway within the province by region. Section 15.4 Economy, Employment and Business also describes the contribution of Tourism to the economy. Section 15.5 Land and Resource Use also describes tourist attractions such as parks and protected areas, campgrounds and recreational areas, hunting and angling and motorized recreational vehicles.

35 15.7.1 Study Area

40 The discussion of Tourism focuses initially and primarily on the four sub-regions: Central and Southeastern Labrador, Northern Peninsula, Central and Eastern Newfoundland and the Avalon Peninsula (Figure 15.7.1-1) through which the proposed Project would extend. These are discussed in relation to the various RED Board zones crossed by the transmission corridor, as well as other project related components and activities. Depending on the availability and type of data, it is presented from the perspective of the provincial tourism regions which are used for tourism marketing, evaluation and data management: Western, Central, Eastern and Avalon. Given the larger provincial dimensions of the tourism sector, the industry in Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole is also generally described in this section.

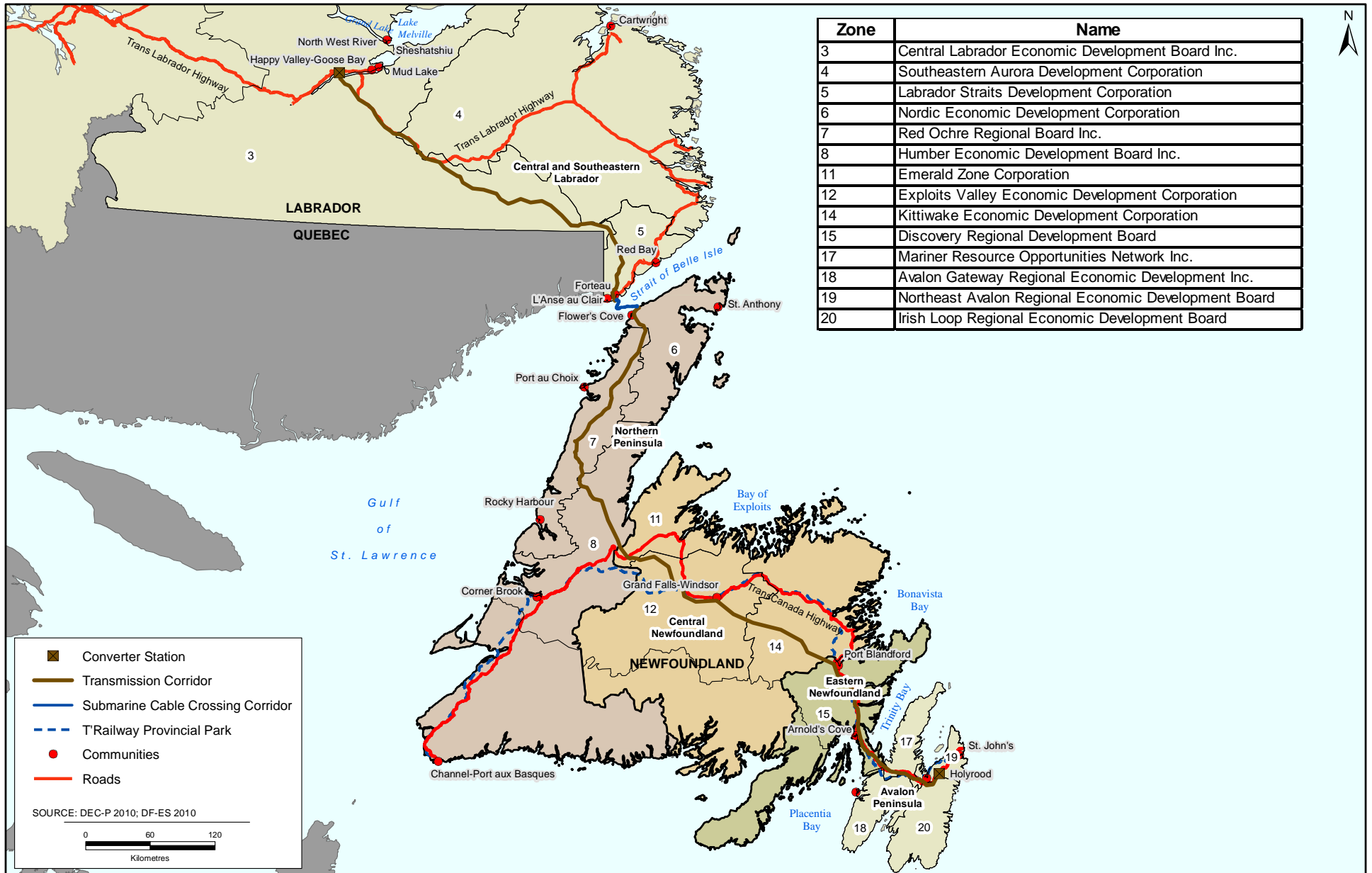


FIGURE 15.7.1-1

Tourism Study Regions



15.7.2 Information Sources and Data Collection

To gather data and information related to tourism, the study team accessed publications and web sites of tourism and transportation departments, organizations and agencies. These include:

- 5 • Government tourism departments (e.g., NL Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation; Canadian Tourism Commission; United Nations World Tourism Organization);
- Government departments that interact with tourism (e.g., NL Department of Finance, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Business, NL Department of Transportation and Works and NL Department of Environment and Conservation);
- 10 • Transportation agencies (e.g., Labrador Marine, Marine Atlantic, individual Newfoundland and Labrador airports);
- Tourism sector organizations (e.g., Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador, Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism Board, Destination Labrador, Cruise Newfoundland and Labrador, Golf Newfoundland); and
- Heritage and parks organization (e.g., Parks Canada, Battle Harbour Historic Trust, International Appalachian Trail Newfoundland and Labrador).
- 15 Other sources used include media articles, tourism publications, consultants' reports and other publications related to tourism.

20 An extensive database of information on outdoor recreation activities was developed for the Communities, Land and Resource Use, Tourism and Recreation Component Study (AMEC 2012b) and Supplementary Report (AMEC 2011). This information is used in this chapter and augmented with further data and information on: natural, cultural and recreation sites; attractions, activities, festivals and events; accommodations and transportation and updated to ensure that the latest information was included.

To prepare a current overview of tourism in Newfoundland and Labrador, the study team used the following methodology:

- 25 • conducted a literature review of global, national and provincial tourism and transportation trends; tourism administration, tourism policies and programs and tourism marketing, markets and product development;
- undertook a tourism issues scoping exercise;
- confirmed and updated information related to locations of various sites and infrastructure;
- collected statistics on accommodations occupancy rates and number of attractions and adventures, festivals and events and most visited sites in the province; and
- 30 • identified value of tourism to province by spending, employment and visitation.

15.7.3 Tourism in Newfoundland and Labrador

35 Tourism is a very important sector of the Newfoundland and Labrador economy. In 2010, tourism generated approximately \$850 million in resident and non-resident spending and employed 13,000 people in the province (NLDTCR 2011a, internet site). It brings new money into the province – non-residents spent approximately \$400 million in 2010 (NLDTCR-S 2011a, internet site). Tourism retains money in the province when residents choose not to travel elsewhere. Tourism stimulates local and external investment of financing and expertise, distributes money throughout the province and supports amenities used by local residents (e.g., theatres, attractions and recreation facilities and activities).

40 Tourism has growth potential – in 2010 (despite flat performance in the other Atlantic provinces), Newfoundland and Labrador received more than 518,000 non-resident visitors for the first time (NLDTCR

2011a, internet site). Unlike natural resource industries, tourism is widely distributed throughout the province, is environmentally sustainable, renewable and largely non-consumptive. Tourism is a priority sector for the GNL which increased its marketing budget from \$6 million dollars in 2003 to more than \$13 million in 2010 (NLDTCR 2011a, internet site).

5 The tourism market is generally divided into two segments, leisure and business. The former includes both residents and non-residents who wish to explore and experience the natural and cultural sights, events, activities, accommodations and food of a region. The latter are travelers whose main motivation is to attend an activity or event associated with their business interests including conventions or incentive travel (employee rewards programs). Of the tourism revenue of \$850 million spent in 2010, nearly \$450 million was spent by residents, an
10 important component of the tourism sector.

15.7.3.1 Transportation To and Within the Province

With the exception of Labrador West, Newfoundland and Labrador is accessed by air or sea. Overland passengers may also enter Labrador West from Québec via Route 389 or from Sept Îles via Tshiuetin Rail
15 Transportation Inc. (NLDTCR 2011b, internet site). Figure 15.7.3-1 and Figure 15.7.3-2 show transportation systems to and within the province. From Labrador West, motorists may drive to the Labrador Straits. Here a marine ferry carries vehicles and passengers to and from Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon and Newfoundland. The Labrador Straits ferry crosses between Blanc-Sablon and St. Barbe two to three times daily in each direction in ice-free seasons. Now that a permanent road link extends from the Labrador Straits to Labrador West and into Québec via Happy Valley-Goose Bay, the GNL has committed to a year-round ferry service. During winter 2010
20 and 2011 a ferry service (twice-weekly in each direction) was maintained between Blanc-Sablon and Corner Brook (NLDTW 2010b).

Demand on the Straits ferry has increased since the TLH opened in December 2009 and since the ferry service to Corner Brook was available in winter of 2009-10. An increase in vehicles using the ferry in the summer of 2010 resulted in an additional ferry run (in each direction) on Fridays and Mondays in August and September
25 (NLDTW 2010c).

Other vehicle access routes into the province include the Marine Atlantic and Relais Nordik marine ferry services. Currently, Marine Atlantic's four ferries operate daily year-round between North Sydney, Nova Scotia and Port aux Basques. In summer, one vessel is assigned to the North Sydney to Argentia route which operates twice weekly (Marine Atlantic 2011, internet site). In 2011, Marine Atlantic introduced two larger ferries, upgraded its terminal facilities and is currently rebranding the ferry service as a part of a positive tourism
30 experience (The Telegram 2011a). Relais Nordik provides service along the Québec North Shore from Rimouski to Blanc-Sablon (Relais Nordik 2011, internet site). Passengers without vehicles may also arrive in Fortune from the French Islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon from June to September (Saint Pierre and Miquelon 2011, internet site).

35 The province has an extensive highway and road network (Figure 15.7.3-1 and 15.7.3-2). In Labrador, Route 500 (the TLH) connects Labrador West to Happy Valley-Goose Bay and is currently being paved. Route 510 connects Happy Valley-Goose Bay to L'Anse au Clair by an unpaved road. The final section of Route 510 (Happy Valley-Goose Bay to Cartwright) was completed in December 2009. In Newfoundland, Route 1 or the TCH runs approximately 900 km from Port aux Basques to St. John's. Local and regional roads branch off these two main
40 routes. Transportation infrastructure is further described in Section 15.3.5.

Tourism is driven by individuals and groups learning about a geographic area, attraction, event or activity that arouses their interest sufficiently enough to merit a visit. These attractions or events may be a specific purpose destination or a geographic destination with a variety of historic attractions, cultural events and outdoor activities and a range of accommodations and food services. The following provides an overview of tourism
45 and key tourist destinations in each of the four study regions.

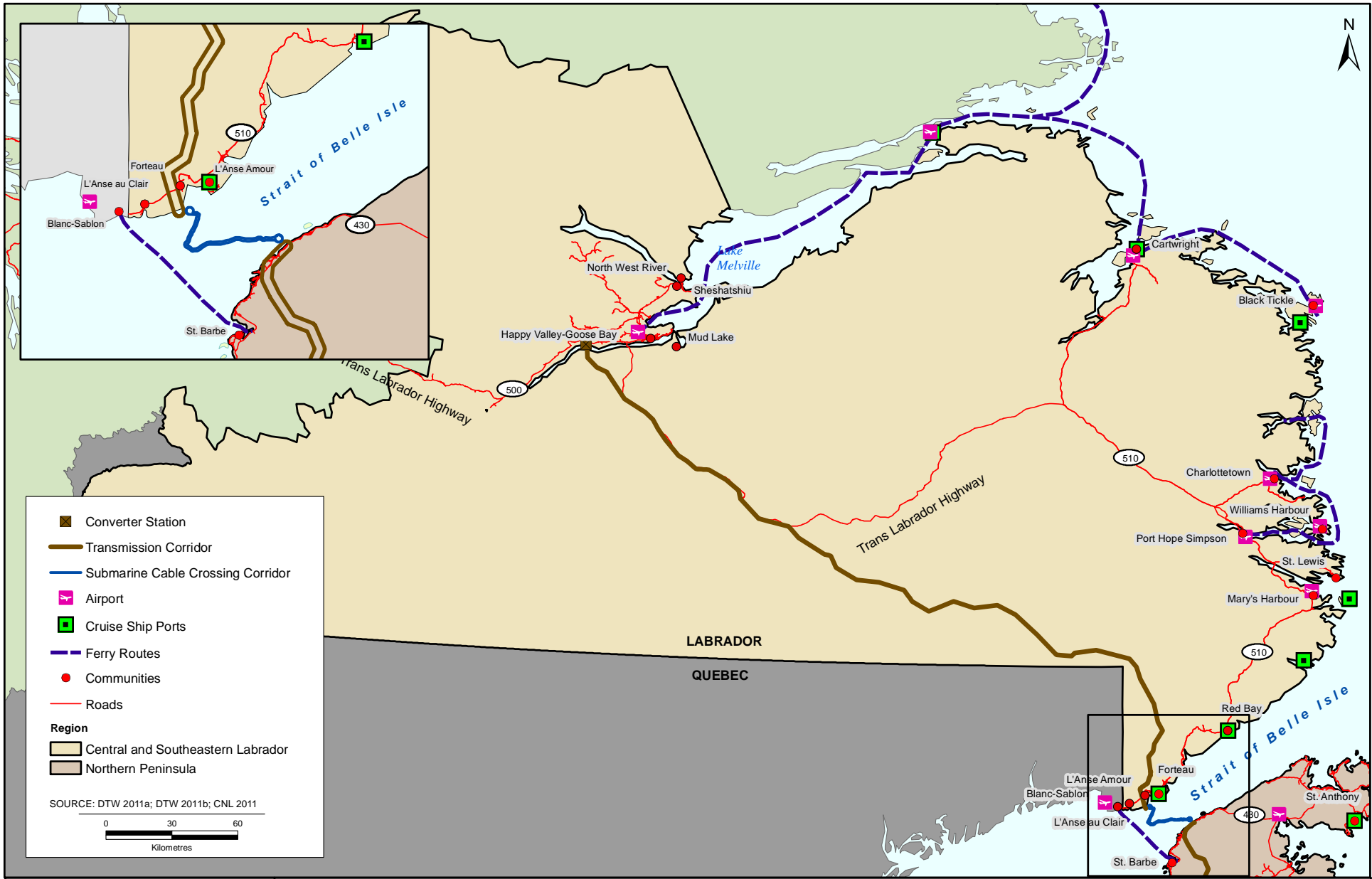


FIGURE 15.7.3-1



Tourism Access and Transportation - Labrador

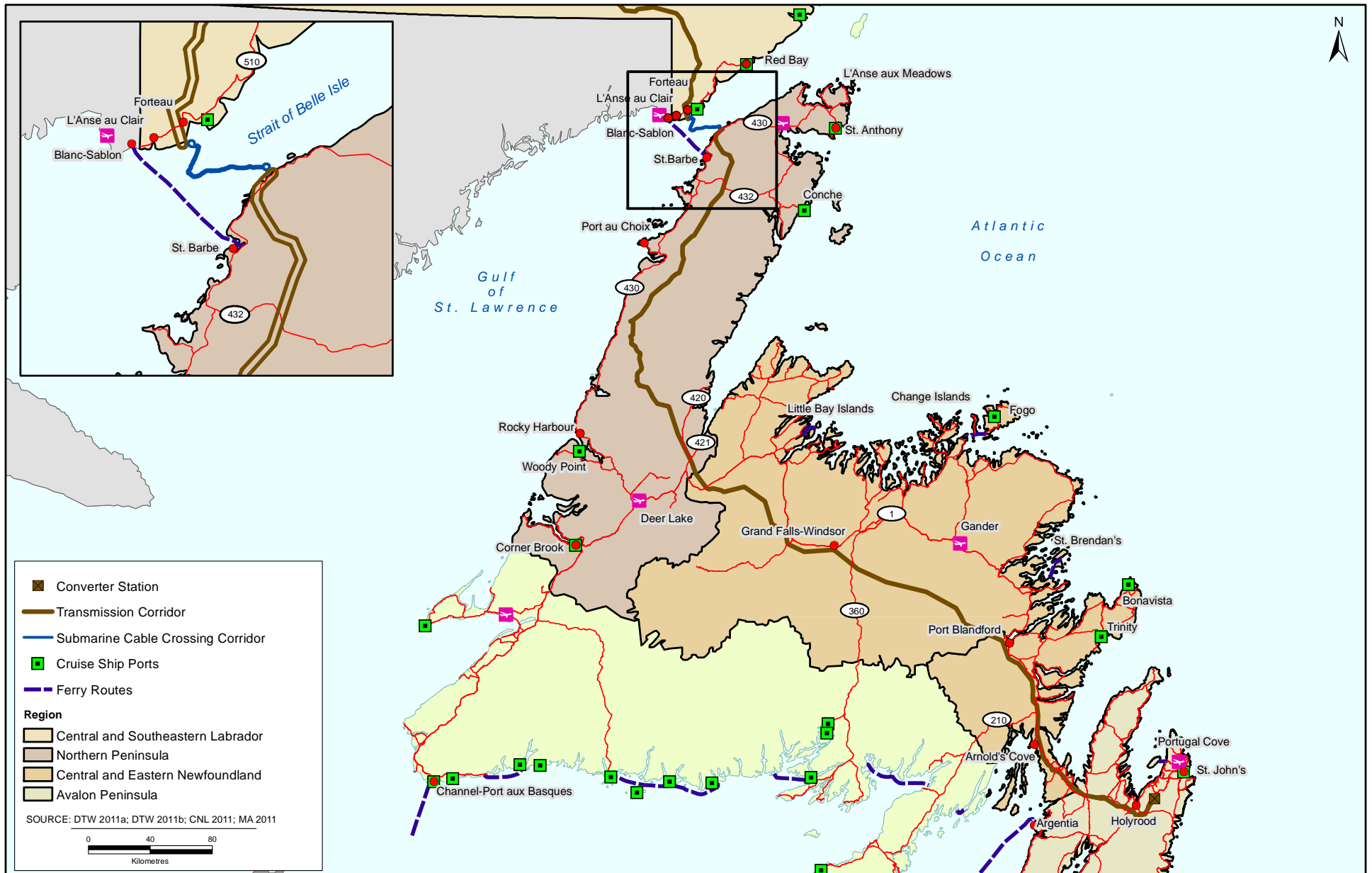


FIGURE 15.7.3-2

15.7.3.2 Central and Southeastern Labrador

5 This region has large wilderness areas that are used mainly for local recreational and subsistence activities. Most tourism activity relates to outfitting, and more specifically salmon fishing. Two large parks proposed for the area, Mealy Mountains National Park and Eagle River Waterway Provincial Park, will increase tourism and recreational opportunities (NLDEC 2010). Top provincial destinations are Red Bay and Battle Harbour (Figure 15.7.3-3).

10 Other important sites are included in Table 15.7.3-1. The Gannet Island Ecological Reserve is located off the coast of Cartwright. Battle Harbour National Historic Site, Red Bay National Historic Site and Point Amour Lighthouse Provincial Historic Site are located along the coast. Pinware River Provincial Park offers camping facilities (Battle Harbour Historic Trust 2011, internet site; NLDEC-P 2011, internet site; NLDTCR 2011a, internet site; PC 2011, internet site). Red Bay and Battle Harbour have been identified as top destinations in the province.

Table 15.7.3-1 Other Central and Southeastern Labrador Tourism Destinations

Destinations	Description
Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve (proposed)	Encompasses ecologically significant and culturally important areas of Labrador, is home to a threatened caribou herd and will be the largest proposed national park in Eastern Canada
Eagle River Waterway Provincial Park Reserve (proposed)	Encompasses almost the entire length of the Eagle River and a significant portion of its headwaters and is well known for fishing and canoeing opportunities
Gannet Island Ecological Reserve	Protects the largest razorbill colony in North America and the third largest Atlantic puffin breeding colony
Point Amour Lighthouse Provincial Historic Site	Is the tallest lighthouse in Atlantic Canada and the second highest in Canada
L’Anse Amour Burial Ground National Historic Site	Identified as the burial mound of a Maritime Archaic adolescent who is believed to have received a ceremonial burial about 7,5000 years ago
Pinware River Provincial Park	Encompasses diverse terrain and vegetation and offers camping, picnicking, fishing and hiking opportunities

Source: NLDEC-P 2011, internet site; GNL 2009; Labrador Coastal Drive 2011, internet site; LSHDC 2011, internet site.

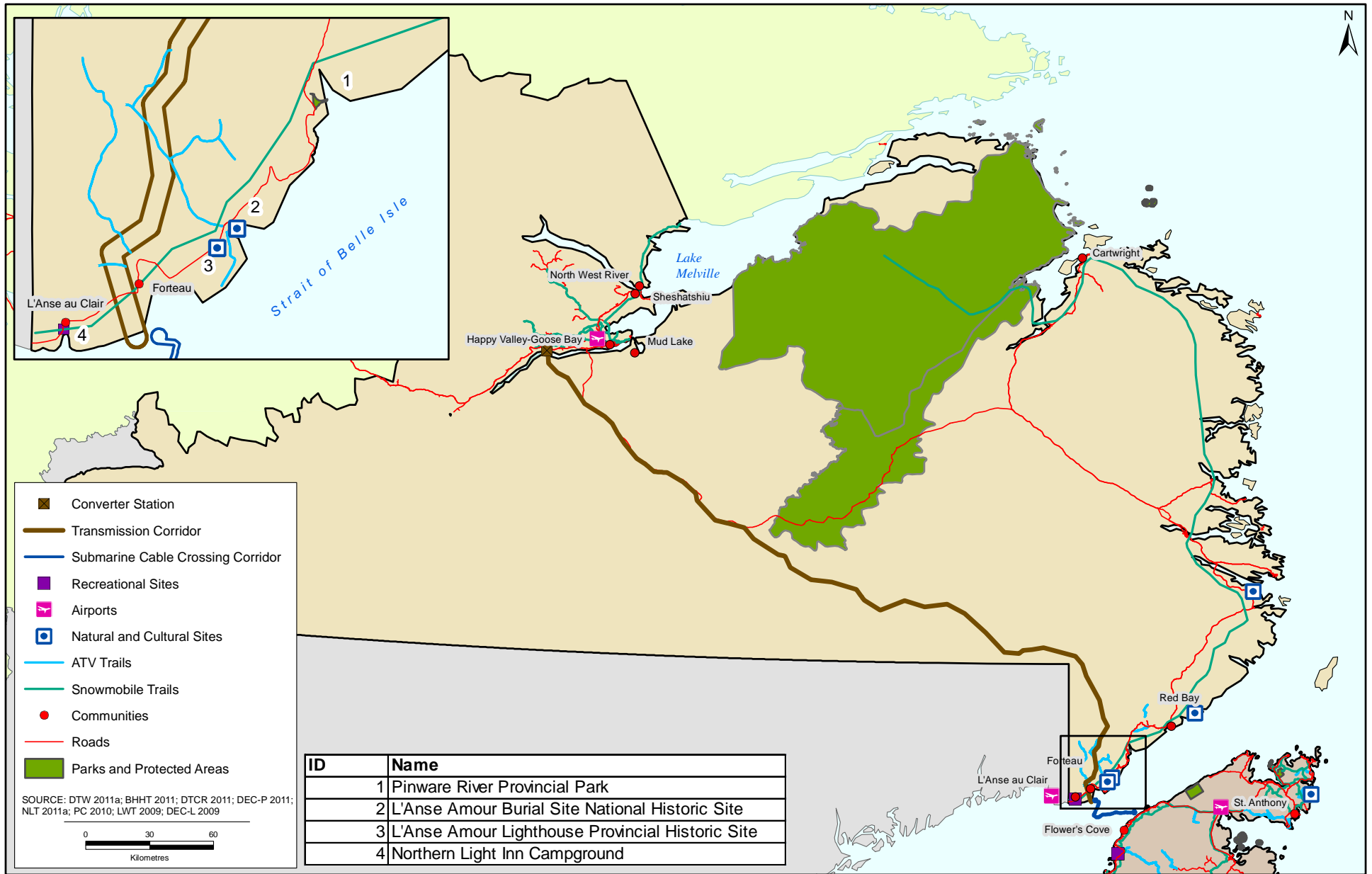


FIGURE 15.7.3-3

Table 15.7.3-2 shows the number of attractions and adventures within the Central and Southeastern Labrador region by RED zone as listed in the 2011 provincial tourist guide (NLDTCR 2011b, internet site). Most attractions and adventures in the region are historic or cultural and include the important destinations of Red Bay and Battle Harbour.

5 **Table 15.7.3-2 Central and Southeastern Labrador Attractions and Adventures, 2011**

Attractions and Adventures	Zone 3: Happy Valley-Goose Bay, North West River	Zone 4: Mary's Harbour to Cartwright	Zone 5: Labrador Straits (L'Anse au Clair to Red Bay)	Total
Adventure Tours	0	1	0	1
Boat Tours	1	0	0	1
Family Attractions and Recreation	0	0	0	0
Guided Tours	0	0	0	0
Golf	1	0	0	1
Hiking and Walking	0	0	0	0
Historical and Cultural Attractions	2	2	4	8
Nature / Scenic	0	1	0	1
Parks, Gardens and Reserves	0	1	0	1
Skiing	1	0	0	1
Snowmobile Tours	1	1	0	2
Other	1	0	0	1
Total	7	6	4	17

Source: NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

Table 15.7.3-3 shows the number and season of festivals and events that occur within Central and Southeastern Labrador (NLDTCR 2011b, internet site). Most festivals and events occur in the summer. Happy Valley-Goose Bay hosts the highest number of events.

10 **Table 15.7.3-3 Central and Southeastern Labrador Festivals and Events, 2011**

Festivals and Events	Zone 3: Happy Valley-Goose Bay, North West River	Zone 4: Mary's Harbour to Cartwright	Zone 5: Labrador Straits (L'Anse aux Clair to Red Bay)	Total
Winter (November to March)	4	0	0	4
Spring (April to May)	1	0	0	1
Summer (June to August)	2	5	1	8
Fall (September to November)	2	0	1	3
Total	9	5	2	16

Source: NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

Table 15.7.3-4 outlines the types and number of accommodations facilities in the Central and Southeastern Labrador. The region has a mixture of accommodations types in bed and breakfast, cottage, inn and hotel / motel facilities. There are also several campgrounds.

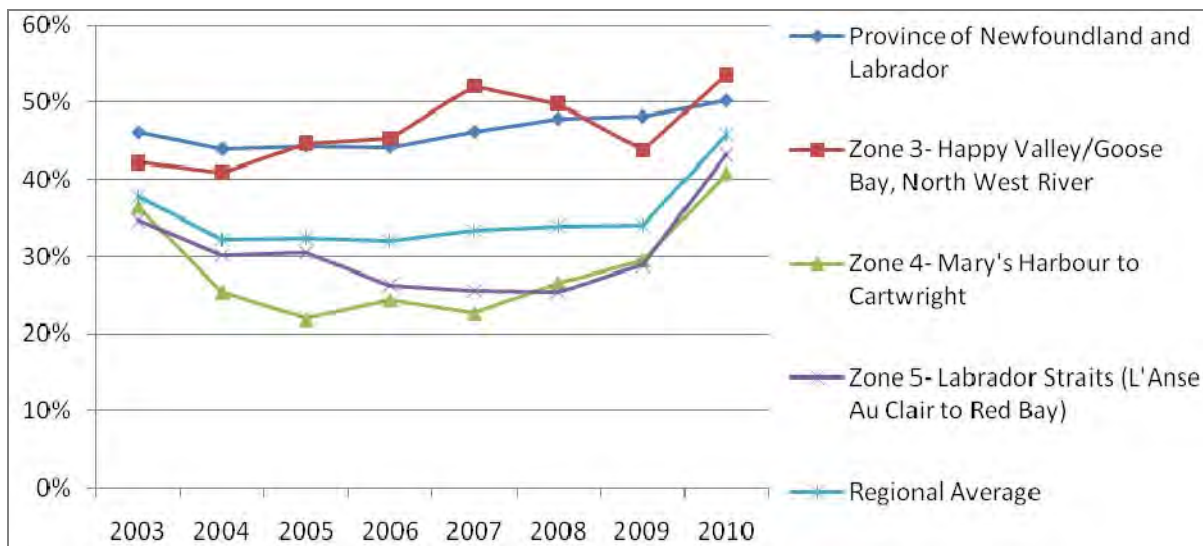
Table 15.7.3-4 Central and Southeastern Labrador Accommodations, 2011

Accommodations	Zone 3: Happy Valley-Goose Bay, North West River	Zone 4: Mary's Harbour to Cartwright	Zone 5: Labrador Straits (L'Anse au Clair to Red Bay)	Total
Bed and Breakfasts	1	1	5	7
Cottages	1	0	2	3
Inns	1	0	1	2
Hotels / Motels	3	4	0	7
Total Facilities	6	5	8	19
Total Rooms Available in 2010 Peak Month	6,696 (May and July)	2,325 (July)	3,751 (August)	12,772
Total Rooms Available in 2010 Low Month	5,783 (December)	1,140 (November)	2,884 (February)	9,659
Total Campgrounds	1	0	3	4

Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site; NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

Figure 15.7.3-4 compares accommodations occupancy rates in the three zones, the Central and Southeastern Labrador region and the province from 2003 to 2010.

5 Figure 15.7.3-4 Central and Southeastern Labrador Accommodations Occupancy Rates, 2003 to 2010



Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site.

Accommodations occupancy throughout the region is inconsistent with that of the province which has risen at a steady rate. The Happy Valley-Goose Bay area occupancy rate is the strongest in the region and similar to that of the province except for a spike in 2007, a decrease in 2009 and a strong rise in 2010. Happy Valley-Goose Bay receives a large number of business travellers due to natural resource development activity, the creation of the Nunatsiavut government (2005) and the recent (2011) ratification of the Innu Nation's New Dawn Agreement. In 2009 and 2010, the entire region experienced an increase in accommodations occupancy which is likely a result of additional tourist, resident and commercial travel due to the recent road connection of Happy Valley-Goose Bay with Cartwright.

Table 15.7.3-5 shows the occupancy rates by month for accommodations in each of the zones within Central and Southeastern Labrador in 2010.

Table 15.7.3-5 Central and Southeastern Labrador Seasonal Accommodations Occupancy Rate, 2010

Month	Province of Newfoundland and Labrador (%)	Zone 3: Happy Valley / Goose Bay, North West River (%)	Zone 4: Mary's Harbour to Cartwright (%)	Zone 5: Labrador Straits (L'Anse au Clair to Red Bay) (%)
January	33	40	16	21
February	39	51	16	26
March	42	52	19	25
April	44	43	23	24
May	44	51	46	35
June	57	60	49	55
July	72	66	66	75
August	71	70	57	69
September	58	65	50	58
October	51	56	40	48
November	46	50	68	46
December	33	35	13	21
Annual Average	50	54	41	43

Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site.

Note: The shaded cells indicate those months when the accommodations occupancy rate was within a percentage point of, equal to or higher than the annual average in that particular zone.

5 Based on occupancy data, the provincial tourism season is from June to October. Happy Valley-Goose Bay occupancy rates were consistent with this. In 2010, Zones 4 and 5 experienced strong accommodations occupancy and a longer season. Happy Valley-Goose Bay experiences strong occupancy outside of tourism season. This is likely due to the road connection to year-round ferry service to / from Newfoundland, and increase of natural resource development and the creation of Aboriginal government (Inuu Nation and Nunatsiavut).

10 Visitors may access this region via Route 500 from Labrador West or Route 510 (both segments of the TLH) from the ferry that crosses the Labrador Straits from Newfoundland. All but three communities (Black Tickle-Domino, Norman Bay and Williams Harbour) in the region are now accessible by road.

15 The Labrador Straits passenger / vehicle ferry service is now available year round: from Blanc-Sablon to St. Barbe from spring to fall and to Corner Brook in winter. Seasonal passenger ferry service is provided to Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Cartwright, Black Tickle, Charlottetown, Norman Bay, Williams Harbour and Port Hope Simpson (NLDTW 2011b, internet site).

20 Goose Bay Airport provides scheduled commercial flights to locations within the province and to / from Halifax and Québec (Air Labrador 2011, internet site; Goose Bay Airport 2011, internet site; Innu Mikun Airlines 2011, internet site; NLDTW 2011c, internet site). Government landing strips provide in-province commercial flights to and from Cartwright, Black Tickle, Charlottetown, Port Hope Simpson, Williams Harbour, St. Lewis and Mary's Harbour (Air Labrador 2011, internet site). Travellers may fly to / from Southern Labrador from Blanc-Sablon, Québec which is located directly next to L'Anse au Clair (Air Labrador 2011, internet site; PAL 2011, internet site).

25 Labrador was scheduled to have 22 ports-of-call, 48 cruise ship visits and more than 5,000 passenger movements in 2011. In Central and Southern Labrador cruise ships were scheduled to visit Cartwright, Mealy

Mountains, Bateau, Battle Harbour, Red Bay and L’Anse Amour in 2011 (Cruise Newfoundland and Labrador 2011, internet site).

15.7.3.3 Northern Peninsula

5 The Northern Peninsula is best known by tourists as the location of Gros Morne National Park and L’Anse au Meadows National Historic Site which are both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Marble Mountain and the Humber River, both top recreation destinations, are located in the southern portion of the Northern Peninsula region (Figure 15.7.3-5).

The Northern Peninsula is one of the main routes to access other National Historic Sites such as L’Anse aux Meadows, Red Bay and Battle Harbour. Table 15.7.3-6 shows other key natural and cultural areas.

10 **Table 15.7.3-6 Other Northern Peninsula Tourism Destinations**

Destinations	Description
Watts Point Ecological Reserve	Provides geological and climatic conditions that foster a rare variety of arctic-alpine plants
Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve	Protects more than 300 species of plants, 30 of which are known to be rare on the Island of Newfoundland, on an elevated coastal site
Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve	Provides coastal barrens, harsh climatic and strong wind conditions that foster a unique arctic-alpine species
Table Point Ecological Reserve	Protects fossils and rocks that document changes to the continental shelf of an ancient ocean
Main River Waterway Provincial Park and National Heritage River	Is designated as the province’s first provincial waterway park with opportunities for white water paddling, rafting, angling, hunting, snowmobiling and winter trekking
International Appalachian Trail Newfoundland and Labrador	Is being developed as a long-distance trail between Port aux Basques and Crow Head along the Appalachian Mountain range that parallels the eastern coast of North America
Port au Choix National Historic Site	Highlights both rich marine resources that have drawn people to its shores for more than 5,500 years and the remains of ancient cultures who occupied this site and have been preserved in the limestone bedrock
Pistolet Bay Provincial Park	Preserves stratified rocks , which were deposited during the Cambrian and Ordovician periods, within the low lands of the Long Range Mountains with opportunities for camping and day use
The Arches Provincial Park	Derives its name from a natural arch-shaped rock formation that was created from years of wave action and now offers opportunities for picnicking and hiking
Sir Richard Squires Memorial Provincial Park	Is the oldest provincial park in Newfoundland and Labrador , is situated on the scenic Humber River and is a popular location for salmon fishing

Source: NLDEC-P 2011, internet site; NLDEC 2010; IATNL 2010, internet site; PC 2011, internet site; NLDTCR 2011a, internet site.

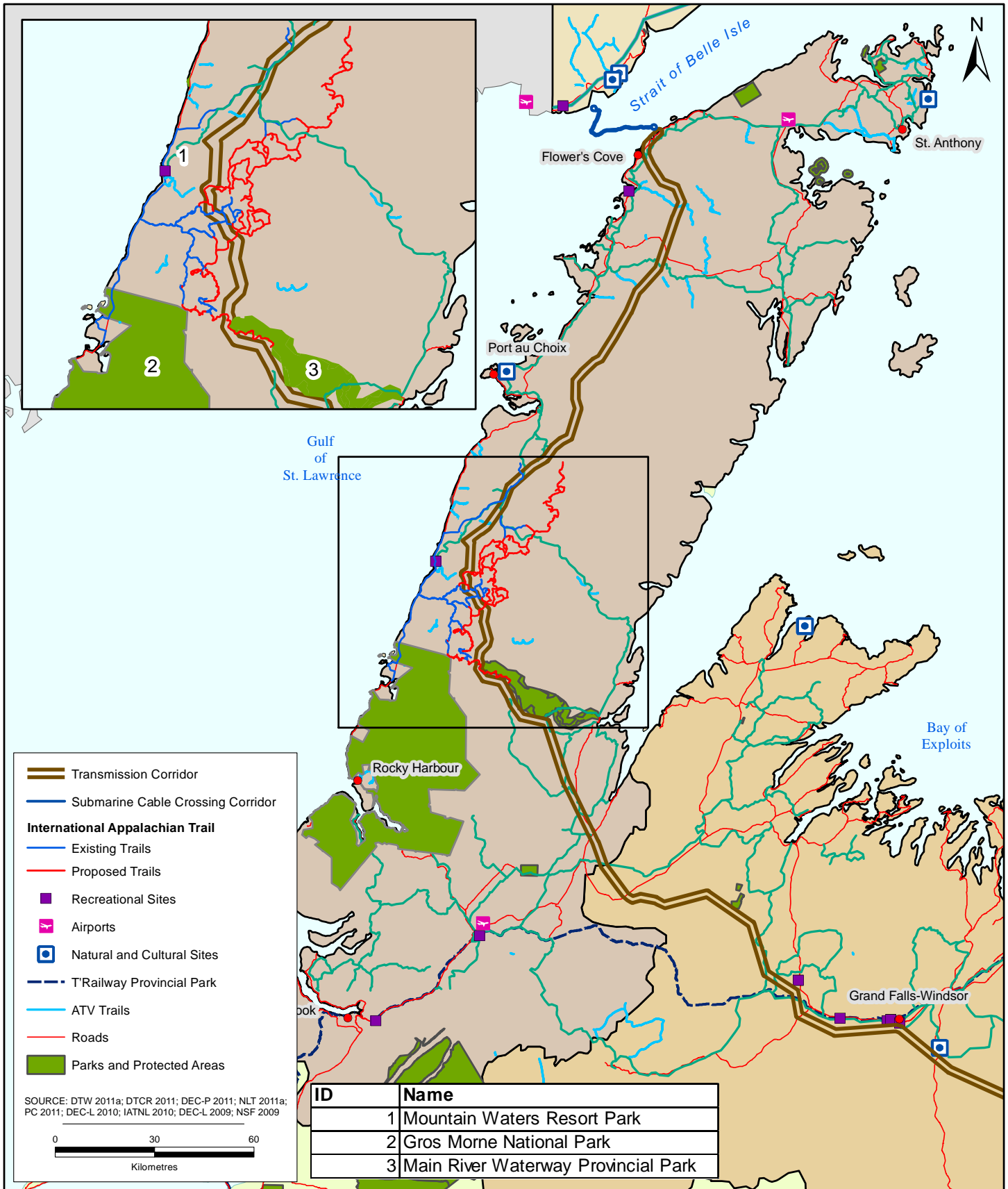


FIGURE 15.7.3-5



Select Tourism Attractions - Northern Peninsula

Arctic and alpine plants are protected at Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve, Watt’s Point Ecological Reserve and Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve. Table Point Ecological Reserve was established to protect fossils. Near Gros Morne National Park, the Main River Waterway Provincial Park Reserve limits development and activities around Main River, a National Heritage River (NLDEC-P 2011, internet site). Port au Choix National Historic Site interprets archaeological discoveries related to the Maritime Archaic Indian, Dorset and Groswater Paleoeskimo and recent Indians who have lived in the area (PC 2011, internet site).

Recreational opportunities such as hiking, camping and sea kayaking are available in Gros Morne National Park and throughout the region. Pistolet Bay Provincial Park offers camping near St. Anthony. The Arches Provincial Park just north of Gros Morne has day use facilities and Sir Richard Squires Memorial Provincial Park at the bottom of the Peninsula has camping, day use and other activities. The T’Railway Provincial Park begins in western Newfoundland and extends through the southern part of this region (NLDEC-P 2011, internet site).

Table 15.7.3-7 outlines attractions and adventures on the Northern Peninsula as listed in the 2011 tourism guide (NLDTCR 2011b, internet site). This area has a strong cluster of adventure tours, family recreation, hiking and walking, historical / cultural attractions and natural and scenic areas. Much of this activity is located in the Gros Morne area. Some sites including Marble Mountain Ski Resort are located in the southern part of the Northern Peninsula near Deer Lake, Humber Valley and Corner Book.

Table 15.7.3-7 Northern Peninsula Attractions and Adventures, 2011

Attractions and Adventures	Zone 6: Viking Trail, St. Anthony South West to Plum Point, East to Roddickton / Englee	Zone 7: Gros Morne Area, Viking Trail North to and including Plum Point	Zone 8: Deer Lake / Humber Area / Corner Brook	Total
Adventure Tours	1	4	3	8
Boat Tours	1	1	3	5
Family Attractions and Recreation	2	7	3	12
Guided Tours	0	0	0	0
Golf	0	1	2	3
Hiking and Walking	13	3	6	22
Historical and Cultural Attractions	16	17	3	36
Nature / Scenic	7	6	0	13
Parks, Gardens and Reserves	5	5	3	13
Skiing	0	0	1	1
Snowmobile Tours	0	3	0	3
Other	0	0	1	1
Total	45	47	25	117

Source: NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

Table 15.7.3-8 shows the number and season of festivals and events on the Northern Peninsula. Most festivals and events are held in summer and in the southern part of the region. However, the Gros Morne area has several important festivals such as the Woody Point Writers Festival which is held each summer and the Tales, Trails and Tunes Festival which starts the annual tourism season in May.

Table 15.7.3-8 Northern Peninsula Festivals and Events, 2011

Festivals and Events	Zone 6: Viking Trail, St. Anthony South West to Plum Point, East to Roddickton / Englee	Zone 7: Gros Morne Area, Viking Trail North to and including Plum Point	Zone 8: Deer Lake / Humber Area / Corner Brook	Total
Winter (November to March)	1	0	3	4
Spring (April to May)	1	2	0	3
Summer (June to August)	7	3	10	20
Fall (September to November)	1	0	2	3
Total	10	7	15	32

Source: NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

5 Table 15.7.3-9 shows the type and number of accommodations facilities in Zone 7 and Zone 8 and on the Northern Peninsula. The Gros Morne area has a large number of operators offering tourist accommodations. Most of these are cottages and bed and breakfasts. There are also a large number of hotels and campgrounds in this area compared to the southern part of the Peninsula.

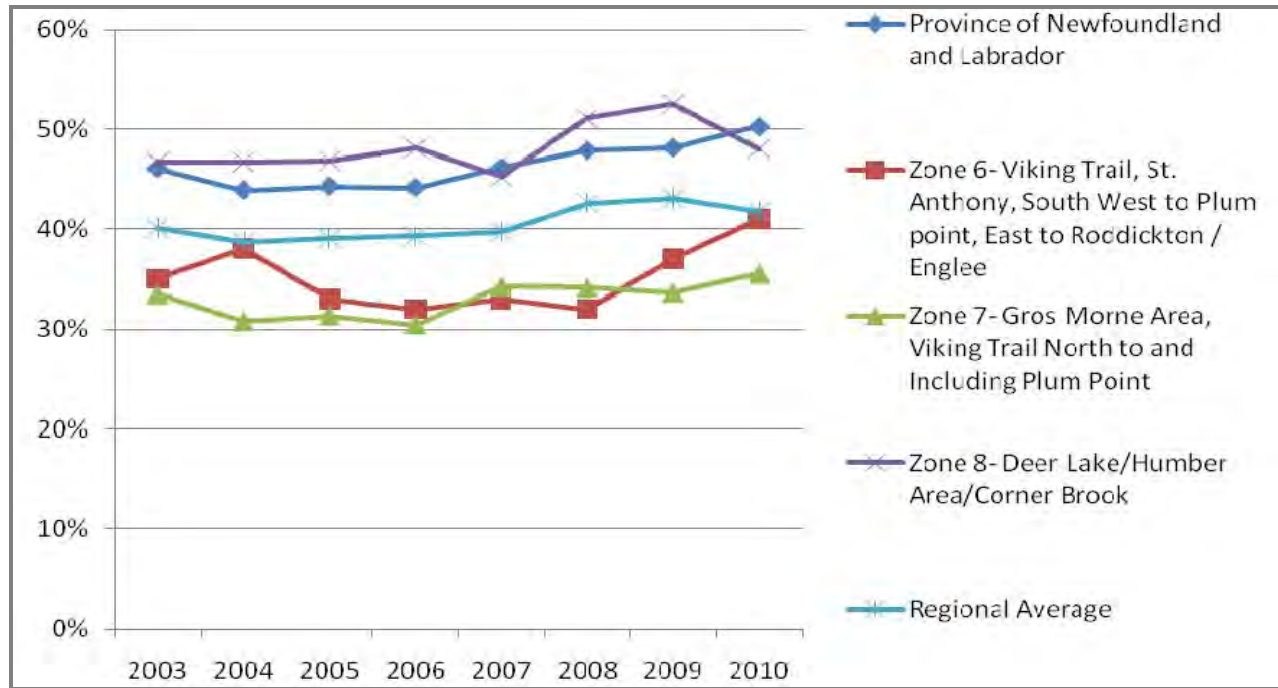
Table 15.7.3-9 Northern Peninsula Accommodations, 2011

Accommodations	Zone 6: Viking Trail, St. Anthony South West to Plum Point, East to Roddickton / Englee	Zone 7: Gros Morne Area, Viking Trail North to and including Plum Point	Zone 8: Deer Lake / Humber Area / Corner Brook	Total
Bed and Breakfasts	14	40	2	56
Cottages	5	46	12	63
Inns	5	2	0	7
Hotels / Motels	6	20	4	30
Total Facilities	30	127	21	178
Total Rooms Available in 2010 Peak Month	7,561 (July)	20,433 (August)	24,764 (July)	52,758
Total Rooms Available in 2010 Low Month	3,623 (December)	9,638 (February)	18,141 (February)	30,802
Total Campgrounds	4	19	3	22

Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site; NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

10 Figure 15.7.3-6 shows 2010 occupancy rates for the province, the Northern Peninsula region and the economic zones from 2003 to 2010. Annual accommodations occupancy has been fairly consistent with the patterns seen in the province as a whole. However, occupancy rates are lowest in the Gros Morne area, which is likely because the area has mainly summer tourists rather than year long business travellers as does the Corner Brook area.

Figure 15.7.3-6 Northern Peninsula Accommodations Occupancy Rate, 2003 to 2010



Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site.

5 Table 15.7.3-10 shows 2010 occupancy rates by month for accommodations in each of the zones within the Northern Peninsula. Seasonal tourism occupancy is fairly consistent with that of the province except that the season is shorter in the Northern Peninsula. Also, Marble Mountain attracts skiers in the winter months.

Table 15.7.3-10 Northern Peninsula Seasonal Accommodations Occupancy Rate, 2010

Month	Province of Newfoundland and Labrador (%)	Zone 6: Viking Trail, St. Anthony South West to Plum Point, East to Roddickton / Englee	Zone 7: Gros Morne Area, Viking Trail North to and Including Plum Point (%)	Zone 8: Deer Lake / Humber Area / Corner Brook (%)
January	33	15	11	31
February	39	16	16	52
March	42	22	14	51
April	44	24	13	44
May	44	30	19	43
June	57	54	42	51
July	72	78	78	63
August	71	75	74	65
September	58	51	47	53
October	51	34	22	46
November	46	26	15	43
December	33	22	9	30
Annual Average	50	41	36	48

Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site.

Note: The shaded cells indicate those months in which occupancy rates were within a percentage point, equal to or above the annual average in that zone.

Gros Morne National Park is well recognized as an important tourist destination within the province, nationally and internationally. As noted in the tourist guide “It took Mother Nature 485,000,000 years to mould this UNESCO World Heritage Site into the geological and visual wonder we know today” (NLDTCR 2011b, internet site). Table 15.7.3-11 compares the number of tourism amenities in Zone 7 to the number in the Gros Morne area.

Table 15.7.3-11 Tourism Amenities in Gros Morne Area Compared with Zone 7, 2011

Tourism Amenities	Total Zone 7: Gros Morne Area, Viking Trail North to and including Plum Point	Gros Morne Area Only
Fixed Roof Accommodations	108	63
Campgrounds	19	13
Attractions	47	34
Festivals	7	7

Source: NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

On the Northern Peninsula between half and three quarters of fixed-roof accommodations, campgrounds and attractions and all of the festivals occur within the Gros Morne area. This gives additional evidence of Gros Morne as a destination that drives tourism on the Northern Peninsula.

Gros Morne National Park surveyed visitors in 2009. Preliminary results indicate that the Park received 174,000 visitors in that year, an increase of 16,000 over the last survey in 2004. The survey also indicates that these tourists spent \$37.6 million in the area, which is \$2.3 million more than 2004 (The Telegram 2010b, internet site).

On the Northern Peninsula, tourism generally occurs within a four month period (June to September) with the peak months being July and August. The exceptions are business and convention travel in the Corner Brook area and Marble Mountain Ski Resort. Gros Morne is a “must see” for visitors. Whether they travel by air, boat or car to the province or are visiting from within the province, tourists (except for some cruise ship passengers) use the TLH, Route 430 and / or the TCH to visit the region.

Route 430 is the main highway between St. Anthony / Goose Cove and Deer Lake. Route 432 runs east to west across the Peninsula from Plum Point to Main Brook and connects to St. Anthony, Roddickton and Englee. On the eastern side and base of the Northern Peninsula, Routes 420 and 421 connect White Bay communities to the TCH.

Airports are located at St. Anthony and Deer Lake. St. Anthony has regularly scheduled flights within the province and to Blanc-Sablon. Along with in-province flights, Deer Lake Airport has regularly scheduled flights to Halifax and Toronto, seasonal flights to Montreal and Toronto and charters to international sun destinations (Air Labrador 2011, internet site; Deer Lake Airport 2011, internet site; NLDTW 2011c, internet site; PAL 2011, internet site).

In the western part of Newfoundland, buses travel between Corner Brook and Baie Verte, Burgeo, Stephenville, Port aux Basques, Bonne Bay and Roddickton (NLDTW 2011a; NLDTW 2011c, internet site). No data is available on tourist usage of public buses but some may use the services to access destinations when rental vehicles are not available.

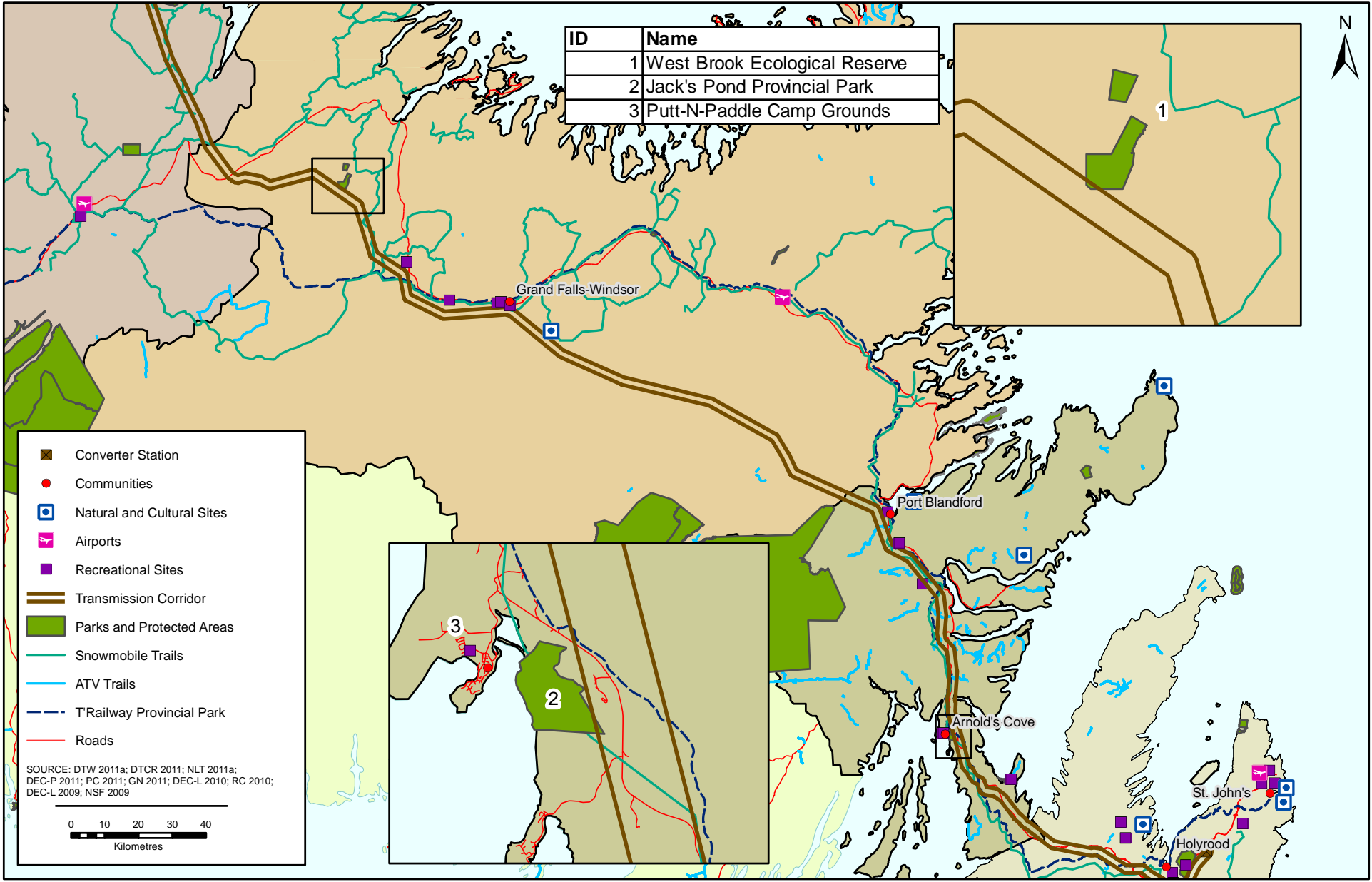
Cruise ships regularly visit the west coast of Newfoundland and the Northern Peninsula. In 2011, cruise ships were scheduled to visit Conche, St. Anthony, L’Anse aux Meadows, Gros Morne National Park, Woody Point and Corner Brook (Cruise Newfoundland and Labrador 2011, internet site). These ships may be part of a Newfoundland circumnavigation tour or a Newfoundland and Labrador route.

15.7.3.4 Central and Eastern Newfoundland

5 Central and Eastern Newfoundland is a large area that encompasses the RED zones that occupy the central and north coastal parts of Newfoundland from White Bay to Long Harbour. This region does not include the southwest, south coast, Connaigre Peninsula or Burin Peninsula and these areas are not discussed further. Top tourism destinations include Twillingate, Fogo and Change Islands, Terra Nova National Park, Bonavista, Trinity and White Hills Ski Resort (Figure 15.7.3-7).

10 Other parks and ecological reserves are located in the region (Table 15.7.3-12). These include Flatwater Pond Provincial Park Reserve on the Baie Verte Peninsula and West Brook Ecological Reserve which is inland near Buchans. The Funk Island Ecological Reserve is located off the northeast coast of Newfoundland, about 60 km east of Fogo Island. There is no public access to the island; visits are for scientific research only. The Bay du Nord Wilderness Reserve, located in the eastern part of the region just south of Terra Nova National Park, protects natural areas and provides recreational opportunities (NLDEC-P 2011, internet site; PC 2011, internet site).

ID	Name
1	West Brook Ecological Reserve
2	Jack's Pond Provincial Park
3	Putt-N-Paddle Camp Grounds



SOURCE: DTW 2011a; DTCR 2011; NLT 2011a;
 DEC-P 2011; PC 2011; GN 2011; DEC-L 2010; RC 2010;
 DEC-L 2009; NSF 2009

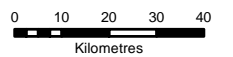


FIGURE 15.7.3-7



Select Tourism Attractions - Central and Eastern Newfoundland

Table 15.7.3-12 Other Central and Eastern Newfoundland Tourism Destinations

Destinations	Description
The T’Railway Provincial Park	Stretches across Newfoundland along the main line of the old abandoned Canadian National rail bed
Flatwater Pond Provincial Park Reserve	Is established to protect an example of a delta / marsh complex on the Baie Verte Peninsula
West Brook Ecological Reserve	Created to protect some of the largest natural stands of red pine remaining in Newfoundland
Funk Island Ecological Reserve	Protects a nesting ground for multiple types of sea birds and preserve former nesting ground for the now extinct Great Auk
Bay du Nord Wilderness Reserve	Provides a wilderness area with no facilities, amenities, trail markers, or public buildings but offers opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, wilderness camping, angling, hunting, bird and wildlife watching, and outdoor photography
Boyd’s Cove Beothuk Interpretation Centre	Provides an exhibit and artifacts display at the site of a former Beothuk settlement
Cape Bonavista Lighthouse Provincial Historic Site	Displays a rare 19 th century catoptric light apparatus
Mockbeggar Plantation Provincial Historic Site	Belonged formly to F. Gordon Bradley, a politician who worked with Joey Smallwood to lead Newfoundland from a nation to a province and is one of the oldest fish plantations in the province with buildings dating back to the 1730s
Ryan Premises National Historic Site	Showcases inshore fishery, general merchandising and other economic pursuits typical of large-scale outport merchants throughout Newfoundland in the former headquarter of James Ryan Ltd.
Hiscock House Provincial Historic Site	Preserves the restored home of Emma Hiscock who, widowed and left with 5 children in 1893, supported her family by turning the home into a post office and shop
Trinity Visitor Centre and the Mercantile Building Provincial Historic Site	Provides an interactive exhibit that orients visitors to Trinity and is housed in a Mercantile Building that allows visitors to experience the communities as a thriving 1800s seaport
Notre Dame Provincial Park	Borders Junction Pond and offers camping, day use, interpretation, swimming, winter recreation, and concessions
Lockston Path Provincial Park	Includes sheltered campsites and a freshwater beach with modern washrooms, hot showers and laundry facilities and a sewage disposal station
Dildo Run Provincial Park	Is located on New World Island within a short driving distance of Twillingate, Moretons Harbour and other small communities within the historic area
Deadman’s Bay Provincial Park	Provides viewing opportunities of icebergs – a day use park
The Dungeon Provincial Park	Derives its name from a distinctive rock formation known as “the Dungeon” – a day use park
Jonathan’s Pond Provincial Park Reserve	Preserves a stand of white birch in central Newfoundland
Windmill Bight Provincial Park Reserve	Provides protection for a plateau bog
Jack’s Pond Provincial Park Reserve	Conserves some of the province’s most rare plants and contains an area of high habitat diversity including barren vegetation, wetlands and a forested stream valley
Bellevue Beach Provincial Park Reserve	Separates the sea from a placid barachois with a sandy beach complex, saltmarsh and habitat for migrating shorebirds

Source: NLDEC-P 2011, internet site, NLDEC 2010, internet site; PC 2011, internet site; NLDCR 2011c, internet site.

Historic and cultural sites are found throughout the region .Cultural interpretation of Beothuk Indian history is provided at Boyd’s Cove Beothuk Interpretation Centre. Cape Bonavista Lighthouse Provincial Historic Site, Mockbeggar Plantation Provincial Historic Site and the Ryan Premises National Historic Site are located in Bonavista. Trinity has several historical sites: Hiscock House, Trinity Visitor Centre and the Mercantile Building (NLDTCR 2011c, internet site).

Provincial parks and provincial park reserves are located throughout the region. These are primarily for recreational purposes such as camping, swimming, hiking and picnicking. Camping and other activities are available at Notre Dame Provincial Park east of Lewisporte and Lockston Path Provincial Park at Port Rexton. Day use facilities are located at Dildo Run Provincial Park near Twillingate, Deadman’s Bay Provincial Park near Lumsden and the Dungeon Provincial Park near Bonavista. The T’Railway Provincial Park is located in parts of the entire region (NLDEC-P 2011, internet site).

Provincial park reserves are located at Jonathan’s Pond near Gander, Windmill Bight on the Bonavista Peninsula, Jack’s Pond near Arnold’s Cove and Bellevue Beach on the Isthmus of the Avalon Peninsula (NLDEC-P 2011, internet site).

Table 15.7.3-13 shows the type and number of Central and Eastern Newfoundland attractions and adventures (NLDTCR 2011b, internet site). The Gander / Twillingate East to Terra Nova Area (Zone 14) has nearly twice as many attractions and activities as any other RED zone in this region. It is followed by the Clarenville / Bonavista Peninsula Area (Zone 15). Most of these attractions and activities are walking / hiking and historical / cultural in nature. These two areas encompass the Twillingate, Fogo and Change Islands area and the Trinity and Bonavista areas which have strong tourism activity.

Table 15.7.3-13 Central and Eastern Newfoundland Attractions and Adventures, 2011

Attractions and Adventures	Zone 11: Baie Verte / La Scie / Green Bay	Zone 12: Grand Falls-Windsor Area	Zone 14: Gander / Twillingate East to Terra Nova Area	Zone 15: Clarenville / Bonavista Peninsula Area	Total
Adventure Tours	3	5	6	4	18
Boat Tours	1	0	6	4	11
Family Attractions and Recreation	2	4	6	1	13
Guided Tours	0	0	0	2	2
Golf		1	1	3	5
Hiking and Walking	9	6	35	5	55
Historical and Cultural Attractions	7	11	31	27	76
Nature / Scenic	8	3	5	2	18
Parks, Gardens and Reserves	1	2	5	1	9
Skiing	0	1	1	1	3
Snowmobile Tours	1	1	0	0	2
Other	0	0	1	1	2
Total	32	34	97	51	214

Source: NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

Table 15.7.3-14 shows 2011 the number and season of scheduled festivals and events as listed in the tourism guide (NLDTCR 2011b, internet site). There are few festivals and events outside of the summer season and Zone 14 has twice as many events as any of the other zones.

Table 15.7.3-14 Central and Eastern Newfoundland Festivals and Events, 2011

Festivals and Events	Zone 11: Baie Verte / La Scie / Green Bay	Zone 12: Grand Falls-Windsor Area	Zone 14: Gander / Twillingate East to Terra Nova Area	Zone 15: Clarenville / Bonavista Peninsula Area	Total
Winter (November to March)	0	2	0	1	3
Spring (April to May)	0	0	0	0	0
Summer (June to August)	9	11	24	9	53
Fall (September to November)	1	1	4	1	7
Total	10	14	28	11	63

5 Source: NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

Table 15.7.3-15 shows the type and number of accommodations available in the RED zones and the region. The majority of accommodations facilities are located in Zone 14 and Zone 15. These zones include Gander and Clarenville which have strong activity in business, meetings and conventions. These zones also include the popular tourism destinations of Twillingate, Fogo and Change Islands, Trinity Bight and Bonavista Peninsula.

10 **Table 15.7.3-15 Central and Eastern Newfoundland Accommodations, 2011**

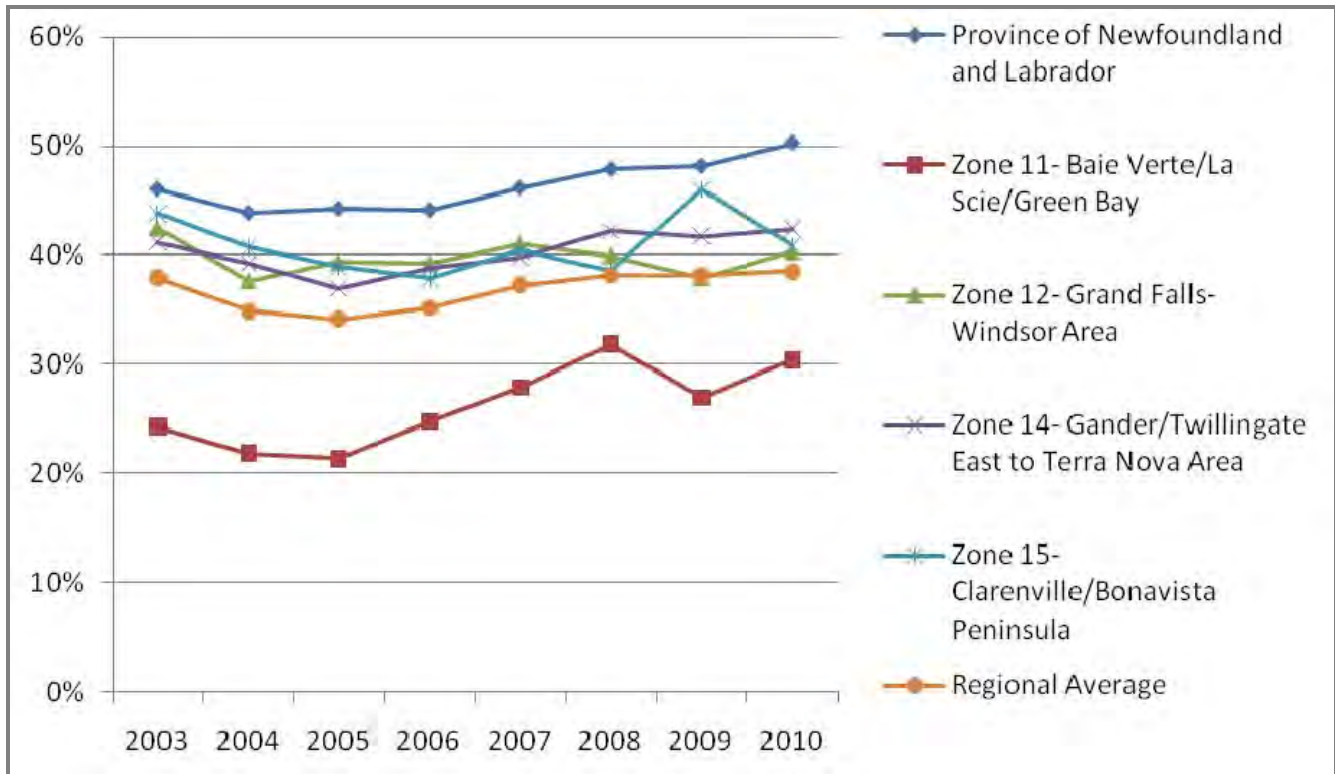
Accommodations	Zone 11: Baie Verte / La Scie / Green Bay	Zone 12: Grand Falls-Windsor Area	Zone 14: Gander / Twillingate East to Terra Nova Area	Zone 15: Clarenville / Bonavista Peninsula Area	Total
Bed and Breakfasts	7	8	38	26	79
Cottages	7	3	37	45	92
Inns	2	1	14	5	22
Hotels / Motels	5	6	14	7	32
Total Facilities	24	26	113	87	250
Total Rooms Available in 2010 Peak Month	5,171 (July)	9,052 (July and August)	30,599 (August)	20,502 (August)	65,255
Total Rooms Available in 2010 Low Month	4,032 (February)	7,249 (December)	19,766 (February)	9,856 (February)	40,903
Total Campgrounds	3	8	10	4	25

Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site; NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

Figure 15.7.3-8 shows annual occupancy rates from 2003 to 2010. The annual regional average accommodations occupancy rate and the Zone 14 rate are consistent with that of the province which is rising steadily (NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site). Most areas had a lower occupancy rate in 2005 but have recovered and have since experienced increases.

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Figure 15.7.3-8 Central and Eastern Newfoundland Accommodations Occupancy Rates, 2003 to 2010



Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site.

5 Table 15.7.3-16 shows the occupancy rates by month for accommodations in each of the zones within Central and Eastern Newfoundland in 2010.

Accommodations occupancy rates in 2010 for the Baie Verte and Bonavista Peninsula areas were consistent with the province’s high season (June to October). The season was shorter in the Grand Falls-Windsor and Gander to Terra Nova areas.

10 The Central and Eastern Newfoundland region includes Twillingate, Fogo and Change Islands, Terra Nova National Park, White Hills Ski Resort, Trinity and Bonavista, which are listed in the 2011 tourism guide as top destinations. “Fogo and Change Islands boast some of the most beautiful and culturally rich communities found off Newfoundland’s vast coastline (NLDTCR 2011b, internet site). Twillingate, one of the most picturesque communities in Newfoundland and Labrador, boasts unrivalled iceberg and whale sightings” (NLDTCR 2011a, internet site). Table 15.7.3-17 outlines tourism amenities for this area.

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Table 15.7.3-16 Central and Eastern Newfoundland Seasonal Accommodations Occupancy, 2010

Month	Province of Newfoundland and Labrador (%)	Zone 11: Baie Verte / La Scie / Green Bay (%)	Zone 12: Grand Falls-Windsor Area (%)	Zone 14: Gander / Twillingate East to Terra Nova Area (%)	Zone 15: Clarenville / Bonavista Peninsula Area (%)
January	33	16	29	28	22
February	39	16	33	28	25
March	42	24	40	40	32
April	44	27	37	37	26
May	44	24	31	37	24
June	57	31	45	45	41
July	72	54	61	60	67
August	71	43	58	66	69
September	58	35	46	48	49
October	51	34	36	40	41
November	46	28	37	34	32
December	33	23	23	25	22
Annual Average	50	30	40	42	41

Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site.

Note: The shaded cells indicate those months for which the occupancy rate was near or above the annual average in the relevant zone.

5 Table 15.7.3-17 Tourism Amenities in Twillingate / Fogo / Change Islands Area Compared with Zone 14

Tourism Amenities	Total Zone 14: Gander / Twillingate East to Terra Nova Area	Twillingate	Fogo and Change Islands
Fixed Roof Accommodations	103	26	8
Campgrounds	10	2	0
Attractions	97	15	12
Festivals	28	3	6

Source: NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

10 Twillingate, Fogo and Change Islands are increasingly becoming well known tourism destinations. Twillingate, a scenic traditional outpost, is a reliable location to view icebergs. The Shorefast Foundation’s work in creating an artists’ retreat and high end tourism facilities on Fogo Island is resulting in much acclaim and increased levels of interest in the area. “Trinity Bight allows one to step back in time in this culturally rich ocean side region containing beautifully restored fishing rooms and saltbox houses surrounded by a lovely natural environment” (NLDTCR 2011a, internet site). Table 15.7.3-18 outlines tourism amenities in the Trinity Bight area which is located within Zone 15.

Table 15.7.3-18 Tourism Amenities in the Trinity Bight Area Compared with Zone 15, 2011

Tourism Facilities	Total Zone 15: Clarenville / Bonavista Peninsula Area	Trinity Bight Only
Fixed Roof Accommodations	83	29
Campgrounds	3	0
Attractions	51	26
Festivals	11	3

Source: NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

Trinity Bight has a cluster of attractions and accommodations. The area features the Town of Trinity which is the location of the Summer in the Bight Theatre Festival and also has historic sites and hiking trails in the vicinity. High quality accommodations and restaurants are located in Trinity and in the surrounding communities.

The tourism industry is active year round in larger communities such as Gander and Clarenville. Destinations like Twillingate, Fogo Island, Change Islands and Trinity Bight are generally active in the summer months from June to September with the greatest activity in July and August. White Hills Ski Resort in Clarenville provides opportunities for activity in the winter months. The clusters of amenities identified in Table 15.7.3-17 and Table 15.7.3-18 and the other destinations are what motivate tourists. These tourism destinations are accessed by ferry and / or from the TCH.

The TCH is the main route through Central and Eastern Newfoundland. From the TCH other highways branch off to the Baie Verte Peninsula, Notre Dame Bay, the Connaigre Peninsula, Bay of Exploits, Twillingate Islands, Bonavista Bay, Eastport Peninsula, Bonavista Peninsula, Burin Peninsula, Trinity Bay and Placentia Bay. Ferries take passengers and vehicles to Little Bay Islands, Long Island, Change Islands, Fogo Island and St. Brendan’s (NLDTW 2011b, internet site).

Gander International Airport has flights to and from St. John’s, Goose Bay and Halifax. Air Canada is also offering direct summer flights to Toronto. A charter company provides air service from Gander to sun destinations (GIAAI 2011b, internet site; NLDTW 2011c, internet site).

In Central and Eastern Newfoundland, local buses provide transportation between regional service centres such as Grand Falls-Windsor and St. John’s. These services operate from Bay d’Espoir, the Bonavista Peninsula, the Burin Peninsula and Trinity Bay (NLDTCR 2011a, b, internet sites). Some tourists use these services.

Cruise ships will visit several Central and Eastern Newfoundland coastal areas in 2011. These include Fogo Island, Bonavista and Trinity (Cruise Newfoundland and Labrador 2011, internet site).

15.7.3.5 Avalon Peninsula

The Avalon Peninsula is the eastern most part of Newfoundland and the location of the City of St. John’s. Top natural and cultural destinations (e.g., Cape St. Mary’s, Cupids, Brigus, Ferryland, St. John’s and George Street) are located in Conception Bay, Placentia Bay, on the Southern Shore and in St. John’s) (Figure 15.7.3-9).

Natural attractions include ecological reserves at Cape St. Mary’s, Baccalieu Island, Hawke Hill and Witless Bay. The region also encompasses the large Avalon Wilderness Ecological Reserve. Salmonier Nature Park is also located on the Avalon Peninsula (Table 15.7.3-19).

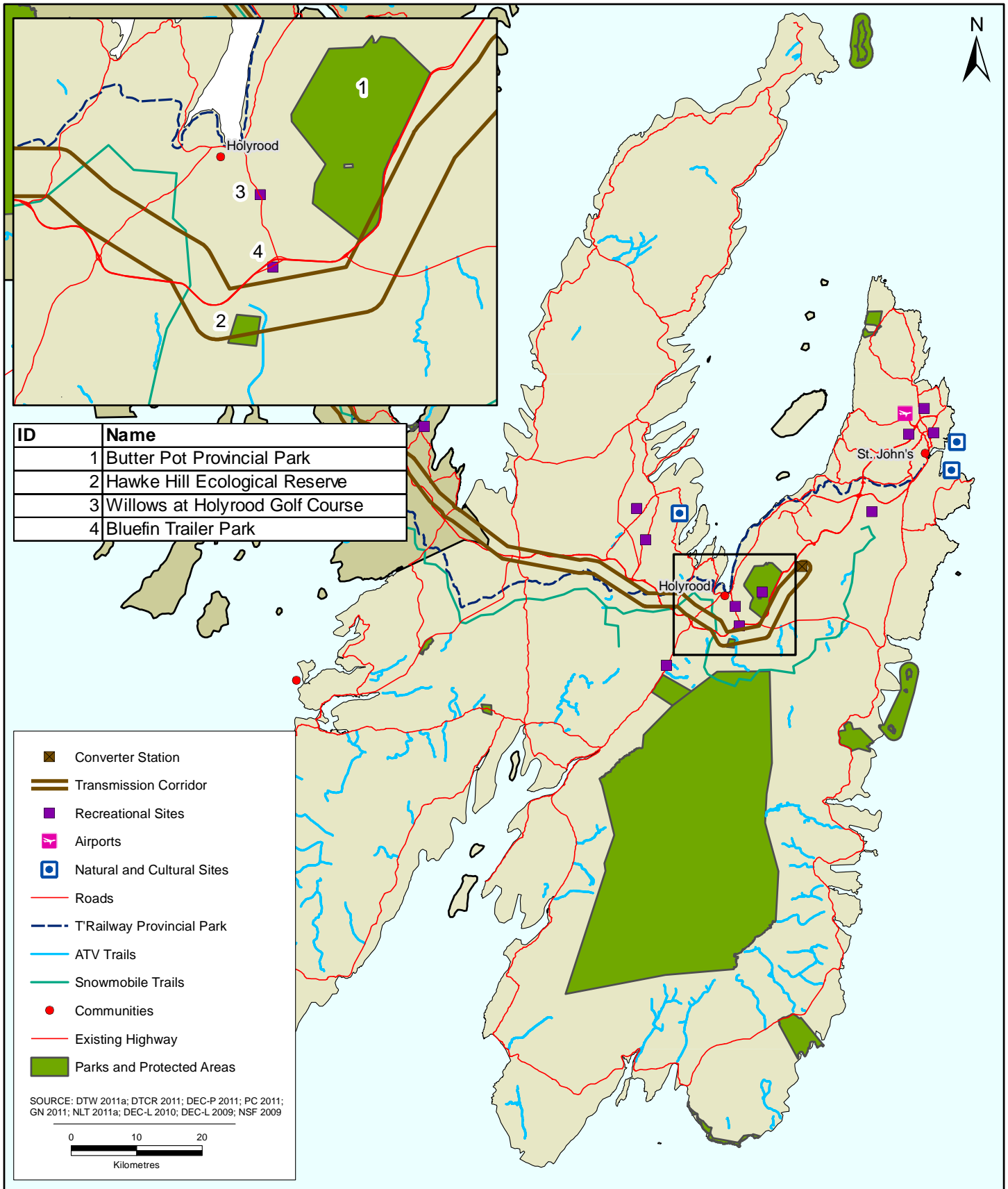


FIGURE 15.7.3-9

Table 15.7.3-19 Other Avalon Peninsula Tourism Destinations

Destinations	Description
Baccalieu Island Ecological Reserve	Protects the largest seabird island in Newfoundland and Labrador which, during summer, has more types of breeding seabirds than any other seabird colony in the province
Hawke Hill Ecological Reserve	Contains the most easterly alpine barrens in North America and protects a variety of rare North American arctic-alpine plants
Witless Bay Ecological Reserve	Is home to North America’s largest Atlantic puffin colony who nest on four islands: Gull, Green, Great and Pee Pee
Avalon Wilderness Ecological Reserve	Protects barrens and forest ecosystems that are home to the Avalon woodland caribou herd, the most southerly such herd in Canada
Salmonier Nature Park	Offers wildlife rehabilitation, research and environmental monitoring programs at its environmental education centre
Heart’s Content Provincial Historic Site	Describes how the first (1870) trans-Atlantic cable office changed outport life
Castle Hill National Historic Site	Interprets the ruins of France’s 17th century fortress that are the only infrastructure remains of the French presence in Newfoundland
Hawthorne Cottage National Historic Site	Preserves the home of famous Arctic explorer , Captain Bob Bartlett, including many artifacts and memorabilia from his voyages
Cupids Cove Plantation Provincial Historic Site	Preserves the archaeological site of a former colony which was the first attempt at a permanent English settlement in North America
Cape Spear Lighthouse	Is located on the easterly most point of land in North America, is the oldest surviving lighthouse in the province and is restored to its 1830 appearance to show the lifestyle of the then light keeper and his family
Signal Hill National Historic Site	Celebrates the communications and military history of Signal Hill which was the reception point of the first transatlantic wireless signal by Guglielmo Marconi in 1901 and the site of harbour defences for St. John’s from the 18th century to the end of World War II
Commissariat House Provincial Historic Site	Was built between 1818-1820 as the home and offices of the Assistant Commissary General, the supply officer for British forces in Newfoundland
Newman’s Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site	Includes ancient wine vaults where Newman’s celebrated port was aged
Quidi Vidi Battery Provincial Historic Site	Recreates the day-to-day lives of soldiers posted to the gun battery on the edge of the Atlantic in the 1800s
Colonial Building Provincial Historic Site	Is home to the longest continuously-operated seat of government in Newfoundland and Labrador and the principal focus of political activity from 1850 to 1933
Butter Pot Provincial Park	Encompasses varied terrain and vegetation including forests, bogs, heaths and ponds and provides camping, hiking, and cross-country skiing opportunities
Marine Drive Provincial Park Reserve	Represents the northeastern barrens subregion and is the newest park reserve in the province

Source: NLDEC-P 2011, internet site; NLDEC 2010, internet site; PC 2011, internet site; NLDTCR 2011c, internet site.

5 Cultural sites are located throughout the Avalon Peninsula and include Heart’s Content Provincial Historic Site in Trinity Bay and Castle Hill National Historic Site near Placentia. Hawthorne Cottage National Historic Site and Cupids Cove Plantation Provincial Historic Site are located in the Cupids and Brigus area. The remaining national and provincial sites are located in St. John’s and include Cape Spear Lighthouse and Signal Hill National Historic Sites and provincial historic sites at Commissariat House, Newman’s Wine Vaults, Quidi Vidi Battery and the Colonial Building (NLDTCR 2011c, internet site; PC 2011, internet site).

Recreational opportunities (e.g., camping, hiking and cross-country skiing) are available at Butter Pot Provincial Park and the T’Railway Provincial Park. Marine Drive Provincial Park Reserve is located on the Atlantic coast north of St. John’s (NLDEC-P 2011, internet site).

5 Table 15.7.3-20 shows the number of attractions and adventures on the Avalon Peninsula by the appropriate RED zones. The Northeast Avalon which includes St. John’s has nearly twice as many attractions and adventures as the Northwest Avalon. The majority of attractions in either of these zones are historic and cultural.

Table 15.7.3-20 Avalon Peninsula Attractions and Adventures, 2011

Attractions and Adventures	Zone 17: North West Avalon	Zone 19: North East Avalon / St. John’s	Total
Adventure Tours	0	6	6
Boat Tours	1	1	2
Family Attractions and Recreation	2	6	8
Guided Tours	3	9	12
Golf	1	4	5
Hiking and Walking	4	8	12
Historical and Cultural Attractions	40	43	83
Nature / Scenic	0	6	6
Parks, Gardens and Reserves	1	4	5
Skiing	0	1	1
Snowmobile Tours	0	0	1
Other	0	9	9
Total	52	97	149

Source: NLDTCR 2011a, internet site.

10 Table 15.7.3-21 shows the number and season of festivals and events for 2011 (NLDTCR 2011a, internet site). The St. John’s area has the majority of festivals and events and also some of the largest. These are mainly held from June to August. They include the annual Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival, the George Street Festival, the Wreckhouse Jazz and Blues Festival, the Tuckamore Chamber Music Festival and the Royal St. John’s Regatta. In 2011, St. John’s hosted national and international cultural events such as Festival 500
15 International Choral Festival and the International Council for Traditional Music 2011 World Conference.

Table 15.7.3-21 Avalon Peninsula Festivals and Events, 2011

Festivals and Events	Zone 17: North West Avalon	Zone 19: North East Avalon / St. John's	Total
Winter (November to March)	2	8	10
Spring (April to May)	1	3	4
Summer (June to August)	14	40	54
Fall (September to November)	1	9	10
Total	18	60	78

Source: NLDTCR 2011a, internet site.

5 Table 15.7.3-22 shows the types and number of accommodations on the Avalon Peninsula. The St. John's area has about twice as many accommodations facilities as the North West Avalon. The most common type is bed and breakfasts. However, St. John's has a number of hotel chains and the largest hotels in the province.

Table 15.7.3-22 Avalon Peninsula Accommodations, 2011

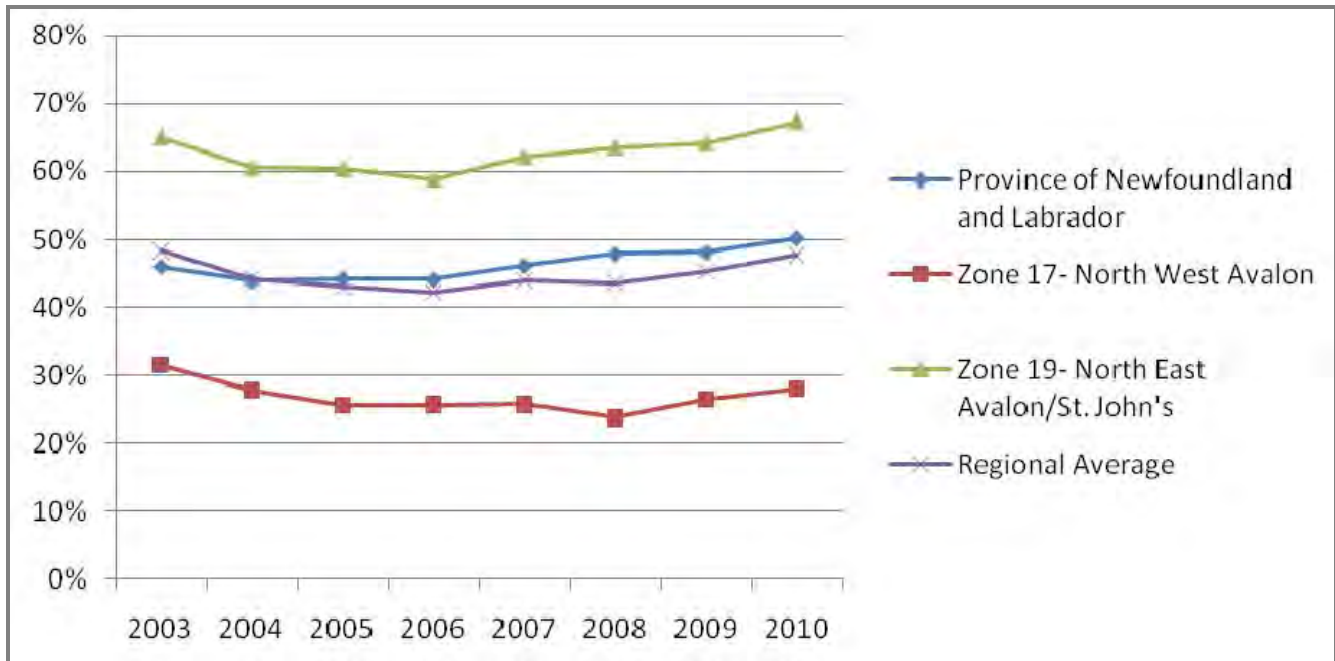
Accommodations	Zone 17: North West Avalon	Zone 19: North East Avalon / St. John's	Total
Bed and Breakfasts	19	45	64
Cottages	14	10	24
Inns	0	2	2
Hotels / Motels	4	19	23
Total Facilities	41	80	121
Total Rooms Available in 2010 Peak Month	7,240 (July)	77,054 (August)	83,891
Total Rooms Available in 2010 Low Month	4,443 (February)	67,732 (February)	72,175
Total Campgrounds	4	4	8

Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site; NLDTCR 2011b, internet site.

10 Figure 15.7.3-10 shows accommodations occupancy trends from 2003 to 2010 on the Avalon Peninsula. Accommodations occupancy is consistent with the province and within the region. However, the North West Avalon has lower occupancy rates. The St. John's area has a strong year-round tourism industry which is in part based on business, meetings and convention travel.

15 Table 15.7.3-23 shows occupancy rates by month for accommodations in each of the zones within the Avalon Peninsula in 2010. The shaded cells indicate those months for which the occupancy rate was near or above the annual average for that zone. Consistent with the province but also enhanced by business and convention travel, the Northeast Avalon tourism high season lasts from May to November.

Figure 15.7.3-10 Avalon Peninsula Accommodations Occupancy Rate, 2003 to 2010



Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site.

Table 15.7.3-23 Avalon Peninsula Seasonal Accommodations Occupancy, 2010

Month	Province of Newfoundland and Labrador (%)	Zone 17: North West Avalon (%)	Zone 15: North East Avalon / St. John's (%)
January	33	16	47
February	39	16	54
March	42	21	54
April	44	19	65
May	44	20	68
June	57	32	83
July	72	51	89
August	71	55	82
September	58	36	77
October	51	18	74
November	46	14	66
December	33	13	47
Annual Average	50	28	67

5 Source: NLDTCR-S 2011b, internet site.

Note: The shaded cells indicate those months for which the occupancy rate was near or above the annual average in the relevant zone.

The main highway route on the Avalon Peninsula is the TCH. A number of other highways branch off to communities in Trinity Bay, Placentia Bay, St. Mary's Bay, Conception Bay and the greater St. John's area.

In summer, the Marine Atlantic ferry service carries passengers and vehicles to and from Argentia (Marine Atlantic 2011, internet site). The Department of Transportation and Works provides passenger and vehicle service from Portugal Cove to Bell Island which is the only Avalon Peninsula community connected by ferry (NLDTW 2011b, internet site).

St. John's International Airport offers flights throughout the province with local and national carriers. Commercial airlines provide direct air services and connecting flights within Canada, to the United States and seasonally to London's Heathrow Airport. Regularly scheduled flights connect to Saint Pierre and Miquelon and charters are available to sun destinations (PAL 2011, internet site; SJIAA 2011a, internet site). In 2010, St. John's Airport broke its previous record with more than 1.3 million passengers (SJIAA 2011b, internet site).

On the Avalon Peninsula, bus services are provided between Conception Bay North, Placentia, the Southern Shore and St. John's (NLDTCR 2011a, internet site; NLDTW 2011c, internet site). No data is available but some tourists use these services to reach a desired destination when rental cars are not available.

The only Avalon Peninsula port scheduled to have cruise visits in the summer of 2011 is St. John's (Cruise Newfoundland and Labrador 2011, internet site). St. John's receives the greatest number of cruise ships and the largest cruise ships that come to the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

15.7.3.6 Summary

Tourism is an important economic activity throughout Newfoundland and Labrador and it retains money in, and brings new money into, the province. While tourism in other Atlantic provinces is not growing, strong increases in non-resident visitation and spending are evident in Newfoundland and Labrador. The local sector offers a wide variety of tourism experiences in natural areas, cultural attractions and outdoor adventures. Newfoundland and Labrador as a tourism destination along with individual destinations within the province are receiving high profile attention nationally and internationally.

Those economic development zones with top destinations, several destinations and / or a larger number of attractions, events and accommodations (e.g., Zone 7: Gros Morne area, Zone 14: Twillingate, Fogo Island and Change Islands, Zone 15: Trinity and Bonavista and Zone 19: St. John's) have the strongest tourism activity. While tourism occurs year round on the Northeast Avalon Peninsula, visitation to other individual destinations and clusters occurs generally within a four month period (June to September) with the high months being July and August. The exception is the two skiing destinations, Marble Mountain Resort in Zone 8 at the southern part of the Northern Peninsula and White Hills Ski Resort near Clarenville in Zone 15, which provide activities in the winter months.

Economic Zones 7, 14, 15 and 19 include purpose destinations for tourists whether they travel by air, ferry or car to the province or are visiting from within the province. For the most part, all tourists regardless of place of origin use the TCH and the TLH as the main travel routes to visit these destinations (Section 15.3.5).

15.8 Visual Aesthetics

Visual aesthetics of the pre-Project scene is determined by the scenic quality of the landscape and the responses of viewers to that landscape. All landscapes have scenic quality, which varies according to the elements within but the perception of the landscape can vary greatly depending on the type of user viewing the landscape.

In this chapter the visual aesthetics of the existing landscape along the Project corridor are classified using a modified version of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Visual Resource Management System (USDI 1984). Twelve key observation points (KOP) were selected along the Project corridor and classified. Visual inventory classes (Classes I to IV) are determined by a scenic quality evaluation and a sensitivity level analysis. The scenic

The main highway route on the Avalon Peninsula is the TCH. A number of other highways branch off to communities in Trinity Bay, Placentia Bay, St. Mary's Bay, Conception Bay and the greater St. John's area.

In summer, the Marine Atlantic ferry service carries passengers and vehicles to and from Argentia (Marine Atlantic 2011, internet site). The Department of Transportation and Works provides passenger and vehicle service from Portugal Cove to Bell Island which is the only Avalon Peninsula community connected by ferry (NLDTW 2011b, internet site).

St. John's International Airport offers flights throughout the province with local and national carriers. Commercial airlines provide direct air services and connecting flights within Canada, to the United States and seasonally to London's Heathrow Airport. Regularly scheduled flights connect to Saint Pierre and Miquelon and charters are available to sun destinations (PAL 2011, internet site; SJIAA 2011a, internet site). In 2010, St. John's Airport broke its previous record with more than 1.3 million passengers (SJIAA 2011b, internet site).

On the Avalon Peninsula, bus services are provided between Conception Bay North, Placentia, the Southern Shore and St. John's (NLDTW 2011a, internet site; NLDTW 2011c, internet site). No data is available but some tourists use these services to reach a desired destination when rental cars are not available.

The only Avalon Peninsula port scheduled to have cruise visits in the summer of 2011 is St. John's (Cruise Newfoundland and Labrador 2011, internet site). St. John's receives the greatest number of cruise ships and the largest cruise ships that come to the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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quality rating is determined by evaluating scenic factors such as landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications that measures visual appeal of a tract of land. The sensitivity levels are the measure of public concern for scenic quality by analyzing sensitivity factors such as type of user, amount of use, public interest, adjacent land uses, and special areas. Once these are complete a classification rating is given to the existing landscapes, which indicates the appropriate level of alteration that the landscape can accommodate (USDI 1984).

Nalcor also used the results of viewshed modelling completed for the Viewscapes Component Study (Stantec 2011c) to understand the potential effects of the Project on the visual aesthetics.

This approach incorporates consideration of landscapes, landscape integrity, aesthetics and wilderness values as requested in Section 4.4.4.4 of the Guidelines. This also considers the avoidance of sensitive areas (e.g., Gros Morne National Park, the Highlands of St. John and the Soufflets Main River) during routing of the corridor, to the extent practical.

15.8.1 Study Area

The discussion of existing baseline conditions for Visual Aesthetics is focused primarily in relation to the transmission corridor from Central Labrador to the Island of Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula, as well as considering the location of other Project related components and activities. The Study Area is a variable width buffer extending from the Project components to focus on the views from selected KOPs (Figure 15.8.1-1) and considers the 15 km wide corridor along the transmission corridor presented in the Viewscapes Component Study (Stantec 2011c).

15.8.2 Information Sources and Data Collection

The information sources used to determine the existing environment for Visual Aesthetics (i.e., before the Project) included the following:

- The United States Department of Interior (USDI), BLM Visual Resource Management (USDI 1984). The BLM Manual Handbook was the source for the information on the existing environment visual analysis technique.
- The Visual Quality Assessment Interior to Lower Mainland Transmission Project (Golder 2008) was a source for the information on the classification percentage alteration and their objectives.
- Stantec Consulting Ltd. stitched some of the images together to provide a more inclusive view of the KOP.
- The Labrador – Island Transmission Link: Viewscapes Component Study: Conceptual Illustrations and Viewshed Modelling (Stantec 2011c) provided conceptual illustrations of the Project, site-specific photosimulations, and viewshed modelling (i.e., potential number of transmission towers visible, and visual exposure).
- The Labrador – Island Transmission Link Environmental Assessment Registration Project Description report (Nalcor 2009b) was used to understand the scope of the Project.
- The Labrador – Island Transmission Link Ecological Land Classification Final Report (Stantec 2010c) provided the information on the ecological land classification.
- Labrador – Island Transmission Link: Vegetation Supplementary Report (Stantec 2011d) also provided information on the ecological land classification.
- The Labrador – Island Transmission Link: Environmental Impact Statement, Alternative Transmission Corridor Segments for Consideration in the EIS (Chapter 2 of this EIS) was used for information regarding alternative segments of the transmission corridor and alternative KOPs.
- The Labrador – Island Transmission Link: Environmental Impact Statement, Additional Environmental Questions / Issues Identified during EA open houses in April – May 2010 (Nalcor 2010a) and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS were used to identify issues raised with respect to the Project.



FIGURE 15.8.1-1



Key Observation Point Locations and View Orientation

- Government Maps and Data Sets: Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) road survey data provided by Works Services in five districts including Labrador (Morrisey 2010, pers. comm.). Itemized lines of data identified by exit numbers or similar were useful to correlate Project transmission corridor - roadway-intersections (Morrisey 2011, pers. comm.).
- 5 • The Labrador – Island Transmission Link: Socioeconomic Environment - Communities, Land and Resource Use, Tourism and Recreation (AMEC 2010b) document was used for information related to those components from a visual perspective, including the location of habitations and to pinpoint location coordinates (e.g., latitude and longitude of outfitter camps). Similarly precise locations of highways intersecting the transmission corridor were obtained from these data. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) queries and internet searches were conducted to confirm business names (Integrated Informatics Inc. 10 2011).
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency (NLDEC-L 2010b) provided information on the location of Crown Land and land allocation.
- 15 • The Department of Environment, Lands Division’s provincial Land Use Atlas (NLDEC-L 2009) was the source of information for the location of the boundary of the Town of Chapel Arm.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (NLDTCR 2011e, internet site; NLDTCR 2009b) provided information on outfitter destination locations.
- The IATNL (IATNL 2010, internet site) was searched for trail maps; in addition, the IATNL provided information to Nalcor through discussions and consultations.
- 20 • Existing stakeholder’s (e.g., Riverfront Chalets (2010, internet site); Four Ponds Outfitting (2010, internet site)) information was collected from websites and / or publications (Riverfront Chalets 2010, internet site; Four Ponds Outfitting 2010, internet site).

Fieldwork was conducted at each of the KOPs with images collected of the existing views. Most viewpoints were photographed using a Ricoh 500SE digital camera accessorized with a digital Global Positioning System (GPS) module to record geographic coordinates. To standardize all photographs, the lens focal length was set at 50 mm (or 55 mm). Either focal length approximates the view perceived by the human eye (and is the equivalent of 35 mm film) (BCMF 2001). The camera was mounted on a sturdy, rotating tripod adjusted to 1.5 m height – matching the average adult North American eye level (Humanscale™ Henry Dreyfus Associates 1973). The entire landform image was captured at each KOP by rotating the camera through a 360° panoramic sequence. A digital compass Ricoh module was used to record horizontal view directions. For quality assurance, the team duplicated the record using a handheld GPS and made paper notes on camera latitudes and longitudes. Some images were captured using a Nikon D60 SLR digital camera, with the focal length of 50 mm and a handheld GPS was used to record location.

15.8.3 Visual Aesthetics Analysis Method

- 35 The purpose of a visual aesthetics analytical study is to pre-classify scenic landscapes in terms of their vulnerability to visual disruptions. By using a modified version of the Visual Resource Management System (USDI 1984) it is possible to classify the landscape. This describes the relative value of the visual aesthetics of the existing landscape and provides information on levels of disruption to the scenery that are likely to be acceptable. Visual classification objectives are discussed below (USDI 1984):
- 40 • Class I: The objective is to preserve the existing landscape character providing for natural ecological evolution.
 - Class II: The objective is to retain existing landscape character. The level of change should be minimal and should not attract attention.
 - 45 • Class III: The objective is to partially retain landscape character. The level of change to the landscape character may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view.

- Class IV: The objective is to allow for major modifications to landscape character. The level of change may dominate the view.

5 Once the classification of the landscape is determined this informs the analysis about the percent of alteration or disruption that is likely to be unacceptable (Table 15.8.3-1). The percent alteration can then be calculated by measuring the amount of alteration imposed on the existing landscape character. Depending of the classification of the land the amount of alteration likely to be acceptable will vary (BCMF 2001).

Table 15.8.3-1 Classification of Existing Environments

Classification	Objective	Objective Level of Disruption	Percent Alteration ^(a)
Class I	Preservation	Natural evolutions	0.0%
Class II	Retention	Minor changes	Up to 1.5%
Class III	Partial Retention	Moderate changes	Up to 7.0%
Class IV	Modification	Major changes	Up to 30.0% (not above)

Source: Modified from BCMF 2001.

^(a) Percent Alteration: Percent of alteration that is likely to be acceptable (as adapted from BCMF 2001).

10 Visual inventory classes are represented as Class I through Class IV. Class I is assigned to areas where decisions have been made to maintain a natural landscape such as national parks, historic plaque areas, wilderness and ecological reserves and other designated areas. Classifications II, III, and IV, are assigned using a combination of scenic quality evaluation and a sensitivity level analysis (USDI 1984).

15 To augment this approach, Nalcor used the results of viewshed modelling completed for the Viewscapes Component Study (Stantec 2011c) to determine the potential effects of the Project on the visual aesthetics. Computer modelling (details provided in Stantec 2011c) was used to generate maps showing the potential number of transmission towers visible from a given location, and the visual exposure (i.e., figures that present the likely visibility of the proposed transmission towers). The conceptual illustrations of Project components in different regions, presented for ground level and elevated views, were also used to inform the assessment.

20 **15.8.3.1 Scenic Quality Evaluation**

25 Scenic quality evaluation is a measure of the visual appeal of a tract of land. This determines the relative worth of the landscape from a visual perception point of view. Although assigning values to visual aesthetics is considered a subjective process, researchers in scenic quality have found a consistent level of agreement among individuals that evaluate scenic quality when using basic design elements to describe and evaluate landscapes. These basic elements of form, line, colour, and texture are incorporated into the scenic quality evaluation to lend consistency to the process (USDI 1984).

30 In this evaluation existing landscapes are given a rating of A: highest scenic quality, B: moderate scenic quality or C: lowest scenic quality. This rating is determined by evaluating seven key factors: landform, vegetation, water, colour, adjacent scenery, rarity, and cultural modifications using basic design elements (USDI 1984). Key factors for the scenic quality evaluation are described below.

- **Landform:** Landforms may have minuscule or extreme differences in topography. Landforms have many forms such as cliffs with high vertical reliefs, or landscapes with interesting erosional patterns in the land or even a flat marshland. This key scenic quality factor considers the variation in size and shape of landforms.

- **Vegetation:** Plant life within the landscape can create patterns, express form and texture within the landscape. Vegetation may have recurring and spectacular displays or have interesting details such as a wind beaten tree line. This key scenic factor considers the variety of plant life that may or may not create high levels of contrast in the landscape.
- 5 • **Water:** Water may or may not add movement to a scene and may have a sense of scale. Water in a landscape can range from a large still waterbody or a flowing cascading waterfall to a small stream that is inconspicuous. This key factor considers the dominance of water in the landscape.
- **Colour:** This refers to the colour of the basic components of the landscape (e.g., water, rock, foliage, cultural interventions, etc.). Colour may be represented as intense rich colours of greens of deciduous foliage or as grey tones of rocky outcrops. This key factor considers the variety and intensity of colour in the landscape.
- 10 • **Adjacent Scenery:** The adjacent or backdrop scenery may enhance or detract from the overall impression of the view. A scenic mountain range may have a positive effect on a view whereas an industrial area may have an adverse effect. This key factor considers whether the adjacent landscape enhances or detracts from the landscape.
- 15 • **Rarity:** Rarity provides added importance to scenic features that appear to be relatively unique within a region. Rarity may refer to a landscape feature that is unique to the area and that is memorable. The level of rarity depends on the commonality of the feature throughout the region. This key factor considers how distinctive and rare landscape features are within the landscape.
- 20 • **Cultural Modifications:** Cultural modifications or manmade forms may enhance or detract from the landscape. This key factor considers whether the cultural modification adds favourably to the visual variety that promotes visual harmony in the landscape.

Once the scenic features have been placed into the seven key factors, they are then placed into one of 3 sub categories for each of the key factors. The 3 sub-categories represent high, moderate and low scenic quality of that particular key factor. Each key factor is then given a score, the higher the score the better the scenic quality of the quality factors. These scores are then added together to give the scenic quality rating. A scenic quality rating of A is the highest rating with a score of 19 or more, meaning the scenic quality is favourable. A scenic quality rating of B is a moderate rating with a score from 12 to 18, meaning the scenic quality is moderately favourable. A scenic quality rating of C is the lowest rating with a score of 11 or less, meaning the scenic quality is not favourable. These scores were taken from the rating criteria used by the USDI (1984). Table 15.8.3-2 provides the specific scores for each key factor and the rating criteria.

Table 15.8.3-2 Scenic Quality Evaluation Rating Criteria and Score

Quality Factors	Rating Criteria and Score		
Landform	Variation in size and shape of landforms with extreme changes in topography Score: 5 or 4	Variation in size and shape of landforms with noticeable changes in topography Score: 3 or 2	Little or no variation of size or shape of landforms with little or no change in topography Score: 1 or 0
Vegetation	A variety of types with contrasting form, texture and pattern Score: 5 or 4	Some variety and contrast in form, texture and pattern Score: 3 or 2	Little or no variety or contrast in form, texture and pattern Score: 1 or 0

Table 15.8.3-2 Scenic Quality Evaluation Rating Criteria and Score (continued)

Quality Factors	Rating Criteria and Score		
Water	Flowing or still, which is a dominant feature Score: 5 or 4	Flowing or still, but not a dominant feature Score: 3 or 2	Absent or present, not a noticeable feature Score: 1 or 0
Colour	Rich colour combination, variety or vivid colour Score: 5 or 4	Some intensity or variety in colours Score: 3 or 2	Subtle muted tones Score: 1 or 0
Influence of Adjacent Scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly contributes to overall visual quality Score: 5 or 4	Adjacent scenery moderately contributes to overall visual quality Score: 3 or 2	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on overall visual quality Score: 1 or 0
Rarity	Distinctive and very rare within region Score: 5+^(a) or 4	Distinctive but similar to others within the region Score: 3 or 2	Common within the region Score: 1 or 0
Cultural Modifications	Modifications promoting visual harmony Score: 2 or 1	Modifications promoting neither visual harmony nor disharmony Score: 0 or -1^(b)	Modifications promoting visual disharmony Score: -2 to -4^(b)

Source: USDI 1984.

^(a) A rating of greater than 5 in Rarity may be given but requires exceptional justification.

^(b) Quality Rating for Cultural Modifications is scored plus or minus.

15.8.3.2 Sensitivity Level Analysis

5 Sensitivity levels are a measure of public concern for scenic quality. Existing landscapes are given a rating of highly sensitive, moderately sensitive or low level of sensitivity. There are five key factors considered when measuring the level of public concern: type of user, amount of use, public interest, adjacent land uses and special areas. Key factors for the sensitivity level analysis are described below (USDI 1984):

- 10 • **Type of Users:** Visual sensitivity will vary with the type of user. Recreational sightseers and indigenous populations may be highly sensitive to any disruptions in natural scenery, whereas commuters / shoppers who travel a road to and from a municipal service centre regularly may take no notice of changes in the landscape along the commuter route. This key factor considers the level of sensitivity of the user group.
- 15 • **Amount of Use:** Visual sensitivity will vary with the amount of users and frequency of use. Areas seen and used by large numbers of people have a high level of visual sensitivity as opposed to a site rarely seen by the public. This key factor considers how often the area is seen and used by the public.
- **Public Interest:** Concerns about the visual quality of the landscape may be articulated by local, regional or provincial organizations. Specific concerns are presented in public meetings, controversially described in regional newspapers, provincial magazine articles, current newsletters or regulated in land use policies. This key factor considers public issues or concern for the scenic value of the landscape.

- **Adjacent Land Uses:** The interrelationship with land uses of adjacent lands can affect the visual sensitivity of an area. For example, views from a hunting lodge may be sensitive, whereas views from land neighbouring an industrial area may not be sensitive at all. This key factor considers the visual sensitivity of the public from adjacent landscapes.
- 5 • **Special Areas:** Special areas such as parks, heritage or historic sites, scenic trails, ecological reserves may or may not necessarily be scenic but still be necessary to preserve the natural landscape setting. This key factor considers if the area is a special area.

10 Once the sensitivity levels are addressed and have been placed into the five key factors, they are then placed into one of 3 sub categories for each of the key factors. The 3 sub-categories represent high, moderate and low sensitivity rating of that particular key factor. After this has been done for all five factors an overall value is determined by the amount of low to high values. These values were taken from the rating criteria used by the USDI (1984). See table 15.8.3-3 for each key factor and rating criteria.

Table 15.8.3-3 Sensitivity Level Analysis Rating Criteria and Score

Sensitivity Factors	Sensitivity Rating Criteria		
	High	Moderate	Low
Type of Users	Highly sensitive	Moderately sensitive	Low level of sensitivity or not sensitive
Amount of Use	Often seen and used by a large number of people	Moderately seen and used by a large number of people	Not seen or used by many people
Public Interest	Major public issue	Moderate public issue	Minor public issue or no public issue
Adjacent Land Uses	Highly sensitive	Moderately sensitive	Low level of sensitivity or not sensitive
Special Areas	Special area with specific reference to visual quality	Special area with no specific reference to scenic quality	No designated special area

Source: Modified from USDI 1984.

15 **15.8.3.3 Classification of Landscapes**

20 Once the scenic quality rating and the sensitivity level have been determined each landscape can be classified, by combining both values to determine which class the landscape fits into. The scenic quality rating values of A, B, C convert to 2, 1, 0. The sensitivity analysis values of high, moderate and low are converted to 2, 1, 0 as well. These scores are added together to provide a total to determine the classification. A total of 3 or more is Class II, a total of 2 is Class III, a total of 1 or 0 is Class IV. As mentioned earlier, Class I is assigned to areas where decisions have been made to maintain a natural landscape such as national parks, historic plaque areas, wilderness and ecological reserves and other designated areas (USDI 1984). None of the KOP for this report has been assigned a Class I.

15.8.4 Analysis and Interpretation of the Pre-Project Existing Environment

25 The visual aesthetics of the Study Area are influenced by the variations in topography, vegetation composition and related colors, and waterbody / wetland characteristics (e.g., ponds, rivers, bogs). The Project, including the transmission corridor and the locations of other Project components (e.g., converter stations, access, shoreline electrode sites) cross areas of the province that are natural and remote from urban centres. Some of these areas offer pristine landscapes and noteworthy viewsapes. The Project components also cross areas of
30 the province that support communities and areas that have been disturbed for forestry, transportation and

other infrastructure, and tourism and recreational facilities; details are provided in Section 15.5, Land and Resource Use.

5 Much of the region of Labrador crossed by the Project remains in a natural condition. The area immediately along the lower Churchill River is comprised primarily of undulating, upland topography and coastal plain, with flat river terraces. The lower Churchill River valley is highly productive, with boreal plant species assemblages including large conifers such as white and black spruce and balsam fir, and associated deciduous species and understory vegetation typical of the boreal forest.

10 Moving south-east, the landscape is initially characterized by rolling terrain and broad river valleys covered by drumlins and eskers. The vegetation is comprised mostly of fairly open black spruce forests, with extensive ribbed fen and string bog complexes, and sporadic hardwoods and lichen-covered wooded areas on drier sites.

15 The Eagle River Plateau is a flat to rolling upland area comprised of large peatlands, interrupted by glacial landforms and shallow river valleys. Extensive string bogs with considerable open water are surrounded by fen vegetation dominated by sedge grasses and moss. Patches of scrub black spruce and associated plants and mosses are also interspersed throughout. Infrastructure in this region includes the TLH3 which the transmission corridor follows for approximately 100 km.

Along the coastal strip adjacent to the Strait of Belle Isle, low hills throughout the area are covered primarily with barren vegetation and pockets of scrub spruce and bog.

20 The Labrador section of the proposed transmission corridor will cross and / or be located adjacent to a number of watersheds, including the Churchill, Kenamu, Mecatina, St. Augustine, St. Paul, Pinware and Forteau rivers. Watercourse crossings range in size from small, seasonal or intermittent streams to much larger rivers, each offering a characteristic viewscape.

25 The coast along the Labrador side of the Strait of Belle Isle is steep and rises to flat-topped ridges and summits from approximately 300 to 400 metres (m) above sea level. This windswept landscape offers rugged coastline views with the waters of the Strait of Belle Isle adding contrast with blue colors and the action of the waves. In the winter, the formation of ice creates stark contrast with the water and the land. Infrastructure such as the Labrador Straits Highway is in this area, and follows the coastline. Noteworthy views within this region include the Point Amour Lighthouse. Communities also dot the coastline in this area.

The Newfoundland coast is much lower, with shorelines rising to approximately 30 m. The contrast of the coastline with the colors and the action of the water of the Strait of Belle Isle enhances the views.

30 The north-western edge of the Northern Peninsula, along the Strait of Belle Isle, is a rocky, flat coastal stretch. Calcareous bedrock is common, and the area is covered by shallow soils with extensive areas of exposed bedrock. The vegetation cover is comprised almost exclusively of barren and tundra-like assemblages, with alternating dry barrens and shallow fens. Communities are located along the coastline, as is Highway 430 which generally follows the coastline to Deer Lake.

35 Along the western side and interior portions of the Northern Peninsula, coastal, forested and barren areas are present. Much of the interior is dominated by mountainous, highland areas and plateaus associated with the Long Range Mountains, with mostly barren vegetation and shallow ribbed fen and tuckamoor dominating the landscape. Along the western edge of the Northern Peninsula, the lower portions of the Long Range Mountains are characterized by forested areas along the slopes and a flat coastal plain supporting bogs and scrub vegetation. The Highlands of St. John and the Soufflets-Main River are located in this region, as is the Gros Morne National Park, all of which were avoided during initial routing of the corridor. This region also has areas of forestry activity, including cutovers, roads and trails, as well as several outfitter camps and cottage areas.

40

5 The topography of Central and Eastern Newfoundland is predominantly low and rolling. This is also the most heavily forested and distinctly boreal of any part of Newfoundland, with pure black spruce forests, and white birch and aspen stands, as well as dwarf shrub heath. This region includes human disturbances related to highways (e.g., TCH; Highway 360), power transmission lines, the larger communities of Grand Falls-Windsor and Clarenville, forestry cutovers, roads and trails, numerous outfitter camps and cottages.

10 As the proposed transmission line corridor nears the Avalon Peninsula, it passes through an area of extensive maritime barrens. The isthmus and the western and northern portions of the Avalon Peninsula are characterized by undulating terrain with extensive areas of barren heath, small pockets of forest in sheltered valleys (particularly in the north), and bogs and shallow fens interspersed throughout. The transmission corridor in this region follows existing transmission lines and highways in several areas, and there are several small communities and cottage areas.

15 The sheltered, central portion of the Avalon Peninsula is characterized by low elevations and hilly terrain with numerous lakes and bogs. The high precipitation and frequent fog can affect the visibility in the region. The region is forested, and exhibits distinctive vegetation patterns which include pure stands of balsam fir-fern forests with a mixture of yellow birch, scrub black spruce forests with peatmoss understory and ericaceous shrubs, and convex raised bogs.

The eastern portion of the Project (e.g., transmission corridor, Soldiers Pond converter station, Dowden’s Point shoreline electrode site) lies in a more densely populated area of the province, with the associated communities, cottages, highways, roads, and power transmission lines.

20 Recognizing the diversity of the views in the Study Area, Nalcor selected the KOPs as a representative sample of these views. In this section, the landscape classification of the images taken at each of the 12 KOPs is determined. The KOPs represent a series of points along a travel route where the Project will likely be most noticeable. The KOPs were selected to represent the regions crossed by the Project, including Central and Southeastern Labrador, Northern Peninsula, Central and Eastern Newfoundland and the Avalon Peninsula.
25 Based on visibility and viewer sensitivity, the study team selected KOPs that offer the least obstructed view, most representative view, view likely to be seen by the greatest number of people and / or the worst-case scenario of the Project. Locations of the KOPs and why that location was chosen are provided in Table 15.8.4-1.

The KOPs listed are shown in Figure 15.8.1-1. The red dot on the map shows the location of where the images were taken from and the dashed lines show the direction of the image.

30 **Table 15.8.4-1 Key Observation Point and Reason for Selection**

KOP ^(a)	Location / Region	Reason for Selection
01	Kenamu River / Central and Southeastern Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kenamu River crossed by the Trans-Labrador Highway, Phase 3 (TLH3) – Recreational use – Area of interest based on consultation with stakeholders
02	Trans Labrador Highway Phase 3 (TLH3) / Central and Southeastern Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – TLH3 – Area of interest based on consultation with stakeholders
03	Forteau Point / Central and Southeastern Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Crossing area near existing highways and communities
04	Portland Creek Pond / Northern Peninsula Newfoundland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Outfitters, boating, International Appalachian Trail
05	Rack Lake / Northern Peninsula Newfoundland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Outfitters, high land, minimal tree cover

Table 15.8.4-1 Key Observation Point and Reason for Selection (continued)

KOP ^(a)	Location / Region	Reason for Selection
06	Four Ponds / Northern Peninsula Newfoundland	– Outfitters, International Appalachian Trail
07	Birchy Lake / Central and Eastern Newfoundland	– Main highway route, recreation area
08	Buchans Highway / Central and Eastern Newfoundland	– Tall tree cover, community road, Exploits River
09	Exploits River / Central and Eastern Newfoundland	– Recreational rafting, River Front Chalet, Exploits River
10	Chapel Arm / Avalon Peninsula Newfoundland	– Community entry road off Trans-Canada Highway (TCH)
11	Witless Bay Line / Avalon Peninsula Newfoundland	– Existing transmission line, silhouettes on flat expanse of land
12	Soldiers Pond / Avalon Peninsula Newfoundland	– Converter station near TCH

Source: Stantec (2011a, b).

^(a) KOP = Key Observation Point

15.8.4.1 KOP 01, Kenamu River, Central and Southeastern Labrador

5 KOP 01 is at the Kenamu River in Central and Southeastern Labrador (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-1).
 10 The view is looking south by south-west. The image is of a broad river with rapids, with black spruce forest on both sides. This area has been ecologically classified as a Low Subarctic Forest-Mecatina River Ecoregion in the Taiga Shield Ecozone. Broad river valleys and rolling hills that are covered by shallow till, drumlins and eskers are the characteristic of the region. Somewhat open black spruce forests are the dominant vegetation (Stantec 2011d; Stantec 2010c). Out of the picture to the left is a bridge for the TLH3 that crosses the river. Recreational activities (e.g., fishing, boating and hunting) occur on and in the vicinity of the Kenamu River.



Photograph 15.8.4-1 KOP 01 Kenamu River Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken June 2011, Central and Southeastern Labrador, N 52.84615 W 60.15177.

5 The image of KOP 01 reveals a rugged landscape character of a distinct band of water that cuts directly through image, flanked by dense vegetative mass. The water has two parallel edges that converge and curves into a vanishing point. The flowing water is a dominant feature with rapids creating white peaks as the water flows quickly over and around slightly protruding boulders. The water ranges in colour from deep blue to light blue to white. There is a finely textured, tan to brown mix of low vegetation running along the river’s edge. The dense trees stand perpendicular to the bank and are course in texture and uniform in shape. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 01 is provided in Table 15.8.4-2.

Table 15.8.4-2 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 01 Kenamu River

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	2	–	Some variation in landforms and changes in topography
Vegetation	–	2	–	Contrast in texture
Water	4	–	–	Flowing dominant feature
Colour	–	3	–	Some intensity and variety in colours
Adjacent Scenery	–	–	0	Adjacent scenery is not visible or has no influence
Rarity	–	3	–	Distinctive
Cultural Modifications	–	–	-2	Road and bridge promote disharmony
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>-2</i>	<i>4 + 10 + (-2) = 12</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				B

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

^(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

10
15 The landform was given a moderate score of 2 because the variation of landforms in the image are subtle and are not considered dramatic. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 2 because there is little variety. Water was given a high score of 4, as it is the dominant feature of the space. Colour was given a moderate score of 3 because the blues, browns and greens are not that varied or dramatic. Adjacent scenery was given a low score of 0 because it is similar to that in the image. Landscape rarity was given a moderate score of 3 because the scene is distinctive but similar to others in the region. Cultural modification to the area was given a low score of -2 because the bridge that crosses the river nearby (not seen in image) creates visual disharmony. The total score is 12, which results in a scenic quality rating of B (moderate) for the KOP 01 landscape.

20 The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 01 is provided in Table 15.8.4-3.

Table 15.8.4-3 Sensitivity Level Analysis for KOP 01 Kenamu River

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating
Moderate	Low	Low	High	Low	Moderate

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

25
30 The sensitivity level analysis was given an overall moderate rating. The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a moderate score as the user group is mixed with highway drivers and recreational users. The amount of use was given a low score as the AADT is 144 (Morrisey 2010, pers. comm.) which indicates that the area is not frequently visited by a large number of people. The public interest for this site was given a low score, as it was not raised as a point of concern during public consultation (Nalcor 2010a and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS). The adjacent land use was given a high score because the recreational use of the Kenamu River. The special area was given a score of low, as there is no special area designated surrounding the river. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 01 is moderate.

The landscape classification for KOP 01 is provided in Table 15.8.4-4.

Table 15.8.4-4 Classification for KOP 01 Kenamu River

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	B	1
Sensitivity Level	Moderate	1
Total		2
Classification		III

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

Note: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.

Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.

A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

5

The landscape for KOP 01, Kenamu River, is a Class III. This landscape should partially retain the existing landscape character and the level of change may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view.

15.8.4.2 KOP 02 Trans - Labrador Highway Phase 3, Central and Southeastern Labrador

10 KOP 02 along the TLH3 is located in Central and South Eastern Labrador (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-2). The view is to the south by south-east. This area has been ecologically classified a Low Subarctic Forest – Mecatina River Ecoregion transitioning into the String Bog – Eagle River Plateau Ecoregion in the Taiga Shield Ecozone. Rolling hills covered by shallow till, drumlins and eskers in a somewhat open black spruce forest are mixed with bog hummocks and peatland expanses, dominated by Labrador tea and feathermoss (Stantec 2011d; Stantec 2010c). In 2010, the opening of the final phase of the TLH completed the connection of this highway to Happy Valley - Goose Bay in Central Labrador. This image shows the new highway in the foreground and the black spruce and peatland expanse in the background.

15



Photograph 15.8.4-2 KOP 02 TLH3 Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken June 2011, Central and Southeastern Labrador, N 52.77637 W 59.94086.

The visual landscape character of KOP 02 shows a focal point of a band created by the roadway dividing the image into two contrasting spaces. The roadway crosses the image diagonally in a straight line. A course granular foreground in shades of grey butts up against the compacted smooth tan roadway and then transitions into a dense, coarse, jagged forest line. The dark vegetative mass is coarse in texture with sharp pointy edges. The vertical lines of the trees are perpendicular to the highway, in the middle ground. The jagged tips of the spruce trees silhouette against the beige backdrop of low, smooth groundcover of the peatland. The vegetation in the distance is dense but with a medium texture. The wavy horizon line has a fuzzy edge created by the trees silhouetted against the sky. A rolling landscape can be seen in the picture peaking over the edge of the ridge. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 02 is provided in Table 15.8.4-5.

10 **Table 15.8.4-5 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 02 TLH3**

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	–	1	Rolling hills are not dramatic
Vegetation	–	3	–	Some contrast in variety and texture
Water	–	–	0	Absent feature
Colour	–	3	–	Some intensity and variety in colours
Adjacent Scenery	–	–	1	Barely visible and is similar in character
Rarity	–	–	1	Common within region
Cultural Modifications	–	–	-2	Road promotes disharmony
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0 + 6 + 1 = 7</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				C

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

^(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

15 The landform was given a score of low score of 1 because the rolling represent changes in the topography but they are not dramatic. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 3 because of the variety in texture and pattern. Water was given a low score of 0 as none is visible in the image. Colour was given a moderate score of 3 because of the contrast of the cool hue of green trees against the warm hue of beige peatland and the grey rock from the roadway. Adjacent scenery was given a low score of 1 because it is barely visible and is similar in character. Rarity was given a low score of 1 because the scene is similar to others throughout the region. Cultural modification to the area was given a low score of -2 because the roadway dominates the picture and causes visual disharmony. The total score is 7, which results in a scenic quality rating of C (low) for the KOP 02 landscape.

The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 02 is provided in Table 15.8.4-6.

20 **Table 15.8.4-6 Sensitivity Level Analysis for KOP 02 TLH3**

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating
Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Source: USDI 1984.

25 The sensitivity level analysis was given an overall low rating. The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a moderate score as the user group is mixed travellers on TLH3. The amount of use was given a low score, as the daily AADT is 144 (Morrisey 2010, pers. comm.) which indicates that the area is not frequented by a large number of people. The public interest for this site was given a low score, as it has not been raised as a point of concern (Nalcor 2010a and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS). The adjacent land use was given a low score, as it is a

similar view. The special area was given a low score, as this is not a sensitive area. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 02 is low.

The landscape classification for KOP 02 is provided in Table 15.8.4-7.

Table 15.8.4-7 Classification for KOP 02 TLH3

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	C	0
Sensitivity Level	Low	0
Total		0
Classification		IV

- 5 Source: Based on USDI 1984.
- Note: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.
Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.
A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

10 The landscape for KOP 02, TLH3 is a Class IV. This landscape can accommodate major modifications (no more than 30%) to the landscape character and the level of change may dominate the view.

15.8.4.3 KOP 03 Highway 530 near Forteau Point, Central and Southeastern Labrador

15 KOP 03 is of Highway 530 near Forteau Point in Central and Southeastern Labrador (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-3). This view is to the north. This area has been ecologically classified as the Forteau Barrens Ecoregion in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. It is located at the southern-most tip of Labrador, near the Straight of Belle Isle. There are low hills covered in scrub spruce, crowberry barren and slope bogs (Stantec 2011d; Stantec 2010c). Tree growth is limited because of strong winds, wet soil, and a history of repeated
20 burns. This image shows that the terrain is flat, rising slightly to the north. The existing landscape is enveloped in a dense growth of low foliage and is almost treeless. An existing transmission line ROW supporting wooden power poles runs parallel to Highway 530. Highway 530 in the foreground carries all the vehicle traffic (i.e., domestic, freight and tourism) in both directions along the coast. In 2010, the opening of the final phase of the TLH completed the connection of this highway to Happy Valley-Goose Bay in Central Labrador.



Photograph 15.8.4-3 KOP 03 Highway 530 near Forteau Point Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken September 2010, Central and Southeastern Labrador, N 51.46387 W 56.97446.

5 The image of KOP 03 reveals is a landscape character consisting of a roadway and two dense vegetative blocks that are separated by the existing transmission line ROW. Landform is nearly flat and the horizon line dominates. The roadway line cuts the bottom of the view diagonally and there are five vertical line power poles. In the distance, sparse trees create a fuzzy silhouette outline against the sky. There is beige vegetation and grey pavement with yellow and white lines. The landform is uneven in texture with a smooth roadway and coarse vegetation mass broken up by fine textured vegetation. The vegetation hugs the ground and takes a form of rounded shapes of sharp dense shrubs that are separated by low, flat, dried grass patches. The vegetative horizon line undulates slightly. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 03 is provided in
10 Table 15.8.4-8.

Table 15.8.4-8 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 03 Forteau Point

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	–	1	Little variation and topography
Vegetation	–	2	–	Some contrast in variety and texture
Water	–	–	0	Absent feature
Colour	–	2	–	Some intensity and variety in colours
Adjacent Scenery	–	–	0	Moderately contributes
Rarity	–	–	1	Common within region
Cultural Modifications	–	–	-3	Promotes disharmony
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>-1</i>	<i>0 + 4 + (-1) = 3</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				C

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

5 The landform was given a low score of 1 because there is little change in topography. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 2 because there is some variety in form and pattern. Water was given a low score of 0 as none is visible in the image. Colour was given a moderate score of 2 because of the contrast of the cool hue of green shrubbery to the warm hue of the beige grasses. Adjacent scenery was given a low score of 0 because there are similar views throughout the landscape. Rarity was given a low score of 1 because the scene is common in the region. Cultural modification to the area was given a low score of -3 because the transmission poles and roadway dominate the picture and cause visual disharmony. The total score is 3, which results in a scenic quality rating of C (low) for the KOP 03 landscape.

10

The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 03 is provided in Table 15.8.4-9

Table 15.8.4-9 Sensitivity Level Analysis for KOP 03 Forteau Point

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating
Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

15 Source: Based on USDI 1984.

The sensitivity level analysis was given an overall low rating. The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a moderate score as the user group is mixed travellers on Highway 530. The amount of use was given a low score, as the daily AADT is 170 (Morrisey 2010, pers. comm.), which indicates that it is not frequently visited by a large number of people. The public interest for this site was given a low score, as it was not raised as a point of concern (Nalcor 2010a and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS). The adjacent land use was given a low score, as the adjacent land use is same as in the image. The special area was given a score of low, as this is not a sensitive area. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 03 is low.

20

The landscape classification for KOP 03 is provided in Table 15.8.4-10.

Table 15.8.4-10 Classification for KOP 03 Forteau Point

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	C	0
Sensitivity Level	Low	0
Total		0
Classification		IV

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

Note: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.

Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.

5 A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

The landscape for KOP 03, Highway 530 near Forteau Point, is a Class IV. This landscape can accommodate major modifications (no more than 30%) to the landscape character and the level of change may dominate the view.

15.8.4.4 KOP 04 Portland Creek Pond and Inner Pond, Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland

10 KOP 04 of Portland Creek Pond and Inner Pond is on the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-4). This view is to the north-east. This area has been ecologically classified as the Northern Long Range Subregion of the Long Range Barrens Ecoregion in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. This subregion encompasses a mountainous area above the tree line. Stunted larch and black spruce dominate the area. Vegetation is primarily alpine barren, dominated by arctic-alpine plants. Shallow ribbed fen and slope bogs cover extensive areas (Stantec 2010c).

15 This image was taken from the top of a cliff overlooking Portland Creek Pond (on the left, west) and Inner Pond, with the western edge of the Long Range Mountains as a backdrop. The Long Range Mountains on the horizon have eroded into rolling, rugged hills supporting a boreal forest cover. The middle ground has a series of bogs dotting the space and is surrounded by dense treed vegetation. Portland Creek Pond (on the left, west) is a notable expanse of open water that is linked by narrows to Inner Pond. There are spaces to the right (not seen in picture) around the ponds with dramatic 60 m high rock cliff edges. The naturalistic scenery appears pristine. There is no obvious sign of habitation or settlements but Hynes' Camp (non-remote hunting lodge) is more than 50 m below the foreground cliff (not seen in image).



Photograph 15.8.4-4 KOP 04 Portland Creek Pond and Inner Pond Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken June 2010, Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, N 50.16545 W 57.48345.

The image of KOP 04 shows a landscape character of waterbodies, mountains and rolling landforms. Landform in this area is a mix of asymmetrical convex bumps as the terrain rises to rounded mountains. A channel links two open water bodies with a reflective expanse of the sky. Wavy lines of the mountains mimic the wavy lines of the edge of the waterbodies. The mountains are hazy dark blue and the sky and water is pale blue. There are a variety of textures in the image with velvety vegetation, glossy smooth waterbodies and rough mountains. Medium-textured vegetative cover has small, spiky shapes with dense growth up to the water's edge. The colour is a mix of greens and some gold and blue. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 04 is provided in Table 15.8.4-11.

Table 15.8.4-11 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 04 Portland Creek Pond and Inner Pond

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	4	–	–	Variation in size and shape with extreme changes in topography
Vegetation	–	3	–	Variety of vegetation creating pattern
Water	4	–	–	Defined, large, dominant still water
Colour		3	–	Variety of colours with some contrast
Adjacent Scenery		3	–	View of ponds and mountains enhances visual quality, but is similar to the scene
Rarity	-	3	–	Similar to others in the region
Cultural Modifications	–	0	–	Nestled camp adds no visual variety
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>8 + 12 + 0 = 20</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				A

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

5 The landform was given a high score of 4 due to the variety of landforms (waterbodies, bogs, mountains) with extreme changes in topography. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 3 because there is some variety in form and pattern. Water was given a high score of 4 because the sinuous lines of the ponds dominate and enhance the visual quality of the image. Colour was given a moderate score of 3 because of the somewhat contrasting cool shades of blues against a range of greens. Adjacent scenery was given a moderate score of 3 because of its similarity. Rarity was given a moderate score of 3 because the scene is similar to others in the region. Cultural modification to the area was given a moderate score of 0 because the nestled camp does not add or detract from the visual quality of the scene. The total score is 20, which results in a scenic quality rating of A (high) for the KOP 04 landscape.

10 The sensitivity level evaluation for KOP 04 is provided in Table 15.8.4-12.

Table 15.8.4-12 Sensitivity Level Evaluation for KOP 04 Portland Creek Pond and Inner Pond

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating
High	Low	High	High	Low	Moderate

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

15 The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a high score, as the user group is many hunters and hikers. The amount of use was given a low score, as the area is not frequently visited by a large number of people as access is via trails and forest roads. The public interest was given a high score as the area was discussed in meetings with outfitters and the IATNL. The adjacent land use was given a high score as the adjacent land use is used for outfitting and hiking. The special area was given a low score, as no designated special areas are present. All together the overall sensitivity rating for KOP 04 is moderate.

The landscape classification for KOP 04 is provided in Table 15.8.4-13.

20 **Table 15.8.4-13 Classification for KOP 04 Portland Creek Pond and Inner Pond**

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	A	2
Sensitivity Level	Moderate	1
Total		3
Classification		II

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

Note: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.

Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.

A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

25 The landscape for KOP 04, Portland Creek Pond and Inner Pond, is a Class II. This landscape should retain the existing landscape character and the level of change may be minimal but should not attract attention.

15.8.4.5 KOP 05, Rack Lake, Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland

KOP 05 of Rack Lake is on the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-5). This view is to the south-west looking onto an alternate segment of the transmission corridor. This area has been ecologically classified as the Northern Long Range Subregion of the Long Range Barrens Ecoregion in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. This subregion encompasses a mountainous area above the tree line. Stunted larch and black spruce dominate the area. Vegetation is primarily alpine barren, dominated by arctic - alpine plants. Shallow ribbed fen and slope bogs cover extensive areas (Stantec 2010c).

Located on the western edge of the Long Range Mountains, this area is a rugged, rocky, windswept landscape on the flat top of mountainous terrain. Due to the high elevation tree cover is sparse, present only on the lee of slopes, in valleys and low areas, such as along the side of the lake. This area is dominated by arctic - alpine plants among bare areas of coarse, exposed bedrock. Rack Lake is a boomerang-shape of open water.



Photograph 15.8.4-5 KOP 05 Rack Lake Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken June 2010, Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, N 50.178060 W 57.28128.

The image of KOP 05 reveals a landscape character of a gentle rolling landform without peaks. The horizon line is uneven with slight dents in a slight curve. In the foreground there are views of bedrock scattered with jagged boulders on an open barren. The smooth waterbody in the middle ground has a simple, sharp, wavy edge and reflects the blue sky. The trees are spiky triangular silhouettes against the blue lake. The vegetation is coarse and uneven with spiky dwarf shrubs in the foreground and dense vegetation in the background. The bright green shrubs surround the edges of the grey rocks. Green hues flow from light green to dark green at the horizon line. The grey rocks have an uneven surface of black splotches from the lichens. The texture is coarse in the foreground with softer appearing texture in the background. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 05 is provided in Table 15.8.4-14.

Table 15.8.4-14 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 05 Rack Lake

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	3	–	Variation in shape with changes in topography
Vegetation	–	3	–	Some variety in texture
Water	–	2	–	Still waterbody, not dominant feature
Colour	–	3	–	Some variety and intensity in colour
Adjacent Scenery	–	2	–	Moderately enhances view, similar landscape
Rarity	–	2	–	Common within region
Cultural Modifications	1	–	–	Promotes visual harmony
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 + 15 + 0 = 16</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				B

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

^(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

5 The landform was given a moderate score of score of 3 because of the variety of landforms (waterbody, mountains, rock outcrops) with noticeable changes in topography. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 3 because there is some variety in form and texture and pattern. Water was given a moderate score of 2 because it does not dominate the view. Colour was given a moderate score of 3 because of the variety of muted grey rock outcrops combined with greens that transition from light to dark. Rarity was given a moderate score of 2 because the scene is similar to others in the region. Cultural modification to the area was given a high score of 1 because the nestled camp adds to the visual quality of the scene (not seen in image).
10 The total score is 16, which results in a scenic quality rating of B (moderate) for the KOP 05 landscape.

The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 05 is provided in Table 15.8.4-15.

Table 15.8.4-15 Sensitivity Level Analysis for KOP 05 Rack Lake

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating
High	Low	High	Moderate	Low	Moderate

15 Source: Based on USDI 1984.

The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a high score, as the user group is generally hunters. The amount of use was given a low score, as the area is not frequently visited by a large number of people as access is fly-in only. The public interest was given a high score as the area was discussed in meetings with outfitters (Nalcor 2010a and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS). The lodge is located at the base of the hill in the foreground; this hill would obstruct any views of the transmission line from the lodge. The adjacent land use was given a moderate score as the area is used for outfitting and boating. The special area was given a low score, as no designated special areas are present. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 05 is moderate.
20

The landscape classification for KOP 05 is presented in Table 15.8.4-16.

Table 15.8.4-16 Classification for KOP 05 Rack Lake

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	B	1
Sensitivity Level	Moderate	1
Total		2
Classification		III

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

Note: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.

Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.

A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

5

The landscape for KOP 05, Rack Lake, is Class III. This landscape should partially retain the existing landscape character and the level of change may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view.

15.8.4.6 KOP 06 Four Ponds, Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland

10 KOP 06 of Four Ponds is in the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-6). This view is to the north-west. This area has been ecologically classified as the Northern Long Range Subregion of the Long Range Barrens Ecoregion in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. This subregion encompasses a mountainous area above the tree line. Stunted larch and black spruce dominate the area. Vegetation is primarily alpine barren, dominated by arctic-alpine plants. Shallow ribbed fen and slope bogs cover extensive areas (Stantec 2010c). It is a remote mountain top area on the Long Range Mountains. The area is mainly rolling hills covered in a thick mat of vegetation. The bog is cupped by the rolling hills and is filled with a variety of alpine plants. There are pockets of water throughout the area. The Four Ponds Outfitters Lodge is outside the image. A proposed section of the IATNL crosses this area of the Long Range Mountains. The Main River Provincial Park is to the east of the KOP.

15



Photograph 15.8.4-6 KOP 06 Four Ponds Existing Environment

20 Note: Photograph taken June 2010, Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, N 49.90654 W 57.41250.

The image for KOP 06 reveals a landscape character of rolling ridges of hills separated by marshland. Landforms are rounded bulky hills with a low rolling range beyond acting as layered silhouettes. The rolling hills transition into a wide slightly undulating concave spongy bog or barren foreground. The gradation is soft between the two. There are thin slivers of water. The vegetation on the background hills is dense and the middle and foreground is filled with a variety of spongy, knee-high plants. The light green and beige in the foreground transitions to dark green and on to dark blue on the hills. The texture is medium in the foreground and rough and coarse in the background. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 06 is provided in Table 15.8.4-17.

Table 15.8.4-17 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 06 Four Ponds

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	3	–	Variation in size and shapes of landform
Vegetation	–	3	–	Variety and contrast in texture
Water	–	–	1	Present but not a noticeable feature
Colour	–	2	–	Variety in greens
Adjacent Scenery	–	2	–	Similar in character or not barely visible
Rarity	–	–	1	Common within region
Cultural Modifications	–	0	–	Lodge neither adds nor detracts from visual harmony
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10 + 2 = 12</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				B

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

^(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

The landform was given a moderate score of 3 because of noticeable changes in topography. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 3 because there is some variety in vegetation texture and pattern. Water was given a low score of 1 because it is not a noticeable feature. Colour was given a moderate score of 2 because of the variety of greens that transition from light to dark. Adjacent scenery was given a moderate score of 2 as the adjacent scenery is similar in character. Rarity was given a low score of 1 because the scene is similar to others in the region. Cultural modification to the area was given a moderate score of 0 because the lodge neither adds nor detracts from the visual harmony. The total score is 12, which results in a scenic quality rating of B (moderate) for the KOP 06 landscape.

The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 06 is provided in Table 15.8.4-18.

Table 15.8.4-18 Sensitivity Level Analysis for KOP 06 Four Ponds

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating
High	Low	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a high score, as the user groups are generally hunters and backcountry hikers. The amount of use was given a low score, as the area is not frequently visited by a large number of people, as access is fly-in only. The public interest was given a high score as the area was discussed in meetings with the Outfitters Association and the IATNL. The adjacent land use was given a moderate score as the adjacent land use of the area is used for outfitting and boating. The special area was given a moderate score due to the proximity of the Main River Provincial Park. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 06 is moderate.

The landscape classification for KOP 06 is provided in Table 15.8.4-19.

Table 15.8.4-19 Classification for KOP 06 Four Ponds

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	B	1
Sensitivity Level	Moderate	1
Total		2
Classification		III

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

Note: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.

5 Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.

A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

The landscape for KOP 06, Four Ponds, is Class III. This landscape should partially retain the landscape character and the level of change may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view.

10 **15.8.4.7 KOP 07 Birchy Lake, Central and Eastern Newfoundland**

KOP 07 of Birchy Lake is in Central and Eastern Newfoundland (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-7). The view is to the west. This area has been ecologically classified as the Northcentral Subregion of the Central Newfoundland Forest Ecoregion in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. This region has rolling topography with aspen stands and black spruce forests that dominate the area (Stantec 2010c). The image portrays a scenic drive down the TCH that is flanked by rolling hills and the elongated waterbody of Birchy Lake. The TCH parallels the lake on the south side and tapers into a curve to the west as it wraps around the end of the lake. Parallel to the roadway, on the south side (left, centre in the photograph), is an H-frame power transmission line. At the sandy beach at the lake narrows there is a campground, Fort Birchy Park and Campground (not seen in image).

15



Photograph 15.8.4-7 KOP 07 Birchy Lake Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken June 2010, Central and Eastern Newfoundland, N 49.29126 W 56.78918.

20 The image of KOP 07 reveals a landscape character of rolling mountains, a roadway, vegetation and a waterbody. The Landform transitions from curved to flat. Narrow parallel bands form the image flowing off

into the distance dividing the image into sections. From left to right a band of rolling mountains is followed by vegetation, followed by the roadway band, and then a granular band, and then vegetation, a waterbody and finally a rolling vegetation covered hill band. These lines seem to converge to a centre point drawing the eye down the lines. The image shows a pallet of blues, greens and greys. The band of the grey roadway and the band of water create sharp edges between the colour blocks. The texture of the image flows in bands as well. The rough, dark blue, hazy mountains transition to dense medium textured vegetation to the rough matte strips of the roadway that transition to a soft and fluffy bright green strip, which transitions into a smooth glossy waterbody that reflects the sky and on to a smooth strip of hills. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 07 is presented in Table 15.8.4-20.

10 **Table 15.8.4-20 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 07 Birchy Lake**

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	3	–	Noticeable changes in topography
Vegetation	–	3	–	Some variety in texture and pattern
Water	–	3	–	Waterbody is still but not a dominant feature
Colour	–	3	–	Intense greens
Adjacent Scenery	–	–	1	Little influence on visual quality
Rarity	–	3	–	Lake is distinctive but similar to others in region
Cultural Modifications	–	–	-2	Roadway dominate acting discordantly to visual variety
<i>Subtotal</i>	–	15	-1	$15 + (-1) = 14$
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				B

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

15 The landform was given a moderate score of score of 3 because the variety of landforms (waterbody, mountains) with noticeable changes in topography. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 3 because there is some variety in texture and pattern. Water was given a moderate score of 3 because it is large but does not dominate the image. Colour was given a moderate score of 3 because of the limited contrasts and intensities of the colours. Adjacent landscape was given a low score of 1 because the area is similar. Rarity was given a moderate score of 3 because the lake is distinctive but similar to others in the region. Cultural modifications to the area was given a low score of -2 because the dominant roadway does not add to the visual quality of the scene. The total is 14, which results in a scenic quality rating of B (moderate) for the KOP 07 landscape.

The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 07 is provided in Table 15.8.4-21.

25 **Table 15.8.4-21 Sensitivity Level Analysis for KOP 07 Birchy Lake**

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating
Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Low	Moderate

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

30 The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a moderate score, as the user group is a mix of highway drivers and some recreational users. The amount of use was given a moderate score, as the AADT is 3,153 users (Morrisey 2010, pers. comm.). The public interest was given a high score, as it was flagged as an issue for cabin owners during a public open house (Nalcor 2010a and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS). The adjacent land use was given a high score as the adjacent land use includes recreational camping and boating. The special area was given a low score, as there are no designated special areas present. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 07 is moderate.

The landscape classification for KOP 07 is provided in Table 15.8.4-22.

Table 15.8.4-22 Classification for KOP 07 Birchy Lake

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	B	1
Sensitivity Level	Moderate	1
Total		2
Classification		III

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

Notes: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.

5 Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.

A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

The landscape for KOP 07, Birchy Lake, is Class III. This landscape should partially retain the landscape character and the level of change may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view.

15.8.4.8 KOP 08 Buchans Highway, Central and Eastern Newfoundland

10 KOP 08 of the Buchans Highway is in Central and Eastern Newfoundland (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-8). This view is to the north by north-east. This area has been ecologically classified as the Northcentral Subregion of the Central Newfoundland Forest Ecozone in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. This region has rolling topography with aspen stands and black spruce forests that dominate the area (Stantec 2010c). The image features
15 Highway 370 and the vegetation along the roadway. This highway runs along the along the Exploits River. A mixed composition of pointed conifers and lush round deciduous trees and shrubs flank each side of the roadway screening views to the flowing Exploits River. The alder shrubs along the edge of the road are well above eye level. The topography dips from west to east towards the Exploits River.



Photograph 15.8.4-8 KOP 08 Buchans Highway Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken June 2010, Central and Eastern Newfoundland, N 48.95657 W 56.07592.

20 The image of KOP 08 reveals a landscape character, which is dominated by a band of rough roadway dividing the dense vegetation into two. The contrasting linear form of the roadway has two parallel edges that

5 converge and curve into a vanishing point in the distance. The guardrail, with timber posts and steel railing parallels the roadway. The sharp, triangular edges of the vegetation silhouette the skyline on the left, with more of a rounded form on the right. A mixed palette of patchy dark and light greens have consistent form throughout the vegetation with moments of vertical white and pale tan lines of tree trunks. The solid grey roadway has bright white and yellow lines that stand out visually. The texture is mixed, with dense, soft and fluffy vegetation and a matte, rough roadway with a granular edge. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 08 is provided in Table 15.8.4-23.

Table 15.8.4-23 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 08 Buchans Highway

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	–	1	Little variation in landforms and topography
Vegetation	–	2	–	Some variety in form and texture
Water	–	2	–	Flowing water, not dominant feature (screened)
Colour	–	2	–	Some intensity and limited variety
Adjacent Scenery	–	2	–	Screened, moderately enhances overall visual quality
Rarity	–	–	1	Common within region
Cultural Modifications	1	–	–	Curved roadway adds favourably drawing the eye to a focal
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1 + 8 + 2 = 11</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				C

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

10

15 The landform was given a low score of 1 because there is no variety of landforms and no noticeable changes in topography. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 2 because there is some variety in form and texture. Water was given a moderate score of 2 because there is flowing water but it does not dominate the area (not seen in image). Colour was given a moderate score of 2 because of the variety of greens. Rarity was given a low score of 1 because the site is similar to others in the region. Cultural modifications to the area was given a high score of 1 because the winding, dominant roadway adds to the visual quality of the scene creating a focal point. The total is 11, which results in a scenic quality rating of C (low) for the KOP 08 landscape.

15

The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 08 is provided in Table 15.8.4-24.

20 **Table 15.8.4-24 Sensitivity Level Analysis KOP 08 Buchans Highway**

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating
Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

25 The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a moderate score, as the user group is a mix of highway drivers. The amount of use was given a low score, as the AADT is 484 users (Morrisey 2010, pers. comm.). The public interest was given a low score, as the area was not flagged has public concern (Nalcor 2010a and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS). The adjacent land use was given a moderate score as the river is used recreationally. The special area was given a low score, as there are no designated special areas present. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 08 is moderate.

25

The landscape classification for KOP 08 is provided in Table 15.8.4-25.

Table 15.8.4-25 Classification for KOP 08 Buchans Highway

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	C	0
Sensitivity Level	Moderate	1
Total		1
Classification		IV

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

Note: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.

Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.

5 A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

The landscape for KOP 08, Buchans Highway, is Class IV. This landscape allows for major modifications to the landscape character and the level of change can dominate the view.

15.8.4.9 KOP 09 Exploits River, Central and Eastern Newfoundland

10 KOP 09 of the Exploits River is in Central and Eastern Newfoundland (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photo 15.8.4-1). The view is to the south. This area has been ecologically classified as the Northcentral Subregion of the Central Newfoundland Forest Ecoregion in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. This region has rolling topography with aspen stands and black spruce forests that dominate the area (Stantec 2010c). This image was taken near Grand Falls-Windsor Riverfront Chalets along the TCH. The landscape view features the Exploits River and the adjacent dense forest, with the Gaff Topsails (hills) in the far (right) background. The Exploits River is a slow moving river that for several kilometres both to the east and the west runs parallel to the TCH. The Riverfront Chalet (a tourism lodge) is in this area as well (not seen in image). Barely visible on the southern horizon is an existing transmission line.



Photograph 15.8.4-9 KOP 09 Exploits River Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken June 2010, Central and Eastern Newfoundland, N 48.95 W 55.91 (approximate).

This photograph was taken from a helicopter and therefore presents an enhanced view of the horizon.

The image of KOP 09 reveals a landscape character divided into 3 sections, a band of water, a band of vegetation and a band of sky. The wide expanse of intense blue water of the Exploits River dominates the view in the foreground reflecting the sky. The middle ground is layered with alternating low and tall vegetation. The slightly wavy horizontal lines throughout the image contrasts with the vertical lines of the tree trunks in the middle ground. The horizon line, slightly undulating, is blurred with silhouettes of fuzzy foliage in the distance. The pale bark of tree trunks in the middle ground is highlighted against the dark green vegetation behind it. The green middle ground is sandwiched between the light blue sky and dark blue water. The texture of the rippling river contrasts with the soft, fuzzy texture of the dense vegetation. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 09 is provided in Table 15.8.4-26.

5 **Table 15.8.4-26 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 09 Exploits River**

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	–	1	Variation in landforms is limited
Vegetation	–	2	–	Some variety in form and pattern
Water	–	3	–	Flowing river is equal dominance to vegetative band
Colour	–	3	–	Some intensity and variety in colours
Adjacent Scenery	–	–	1	Little effect on overall quality
Rarity	–	3	–	Distinct but somewhat common within region
Cultural Modifications	–	0	–	Lodge unseen does not add or detract
<i>Subtotal</i>	–	<i>11</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>11 + 2 = 13</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				B

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

^(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

15 The landform was given a low score of 1 because of the limited variety of landforms with minimal changes in topography. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 2 because there is some variety in form and pattern. Water was given a moderate score of 3 because the flowing water is of equal dominance with the vegetation band. Colour was given a moderate score of 3 because of the intensity of blues and bright greens. Adjacent scenery was given a low score of 1 as it has little effect on overall quality. Rarity was given a moderate score of 3 because the view is distinct but similar to others in the region along the river. Cultural modifications to the area were given a moderate score of 0 because the Riverfront Chalet does not add nor detract from the visual quality of the scene. The total is 13, which results in a scenic quality rating of B (moderate) for the KOP 09 landscape.

The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 09 is provided in Table 15.8.4-27.

Table 15.8.4-27 Sensitivity Level Analysis for KOP 09 Exploits River

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating
Moderate	Low	High	High	Low	Moderate

25 Source: Based on USDI 1984.

30 The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a moderate score, as the user group is mixed, with mainly highway drivers and recreational users. The amount of use was given a low score although the AADT is high at 4,969 users (Morrissey 2010, pers. comm.), as the buffer of trees along the roadway screens views to the area. The public interest was given a high score as the area was identified as an issue during the public open house (Nalcor 2010a and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS). The adjacent land use was given a high score as the river is used recreationally for river rafting. The special area was given a low score, as there is no designated special area present. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 09 is moderate.

The landscape classification for KOP 09 is provided in Table 15.8.4-28.

Table 15.8.4-28 Classification for KOP 09 Exploits River

Classification Rating	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	B	1
Sensitivity Level	Moderate	1
Total		2
Classification		III

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

Note: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.

- 5 Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.
A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

The landscape for KOP 09, Exploits River, is Class III. This landscape should partially retain the landscape character and the level of change may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view.

15.8.4.10 KOP 10 Chapel Arm, Avalon Peninsula

- 10 KOP 10 of Chapel Arm is on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-10). The view is to the north-east. This area has been ecologically classified as the Southeastern Barrens Subregion of the Maritime Barrens in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. This area typically consists of stunted balsam fir interspersed with extensive, open barrens. The topography is typically undulating. Forest growth is restricted to long slopes of a few protected valleys. Slope and basin bogs are the most common wetland type (Stantec 2010c).
- 15 The image shows Highway 201 on the isthmus of the Avalon Peninsula. The image is the view of the highway leading into the residential community of Chapel Arm. The highway has access roads extending from it. There is a substation in this area as well (not seen in the image). There is a waterbody in the background.



Photograph 15.8.4-10 KOP 10 Chapel Arm Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken July 2010, Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland, N 47.51298 W53.68761.

The image of KOP 10 reveals a landscape character of a sloping landform that is cut by a roadway. On the left, the land moderately slopes toward the road and continues to slope slightly on the right side of the road. In the background there is a mountain range with a straight bottom edge that is defined by water. Converging edges of the road draws the eye to a waterbody in the background. The roadway and transmission lines wave slightly and meet the water and mountains in the background. The vertical transmission poles extend above the vegetation and converge towards the centre of the image. The roadway draws the eye to a series of overlaps at the centre of the image. The grey roadway is lined by green vegetation, that is lined by the light blue waterbody, that is lined by a dark blue mountain range. The cool shades of grey and blue divides the green vegetation into two portions. The treeline is jagged and pointed in the foreground, and then curves to gentle bumps in the middle / background. The horizon line has triangular shape silhouettes against the sky. There is a range of textures in the image. The vegetation is dense. The deciduous foliage is bright green and soft next to the roadway, with dark green and coarse evergreen foliage backing it. The rough roadway is patchy in two shades of grey with a granular strip of tan and grey gravel along it. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 10 is provided in Table 15.8.4-29.

15 **Table 15.8.4-29 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 10 Chapel Arm**

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	3	–	Variation in size and shape with noticeable changes in topography
Vegetation	–	2	–	Variety in form and texture
Water	–	2	–	Creates focal point but not a dominant feature
Colour	–	2	–	Variety in colour
Adjacent Scenery	–	3	–	Views moderately enhances visual quality
Rarity	–	–	1	Common within region
Cultural Modifications	–	–	-3	Roadway and transmission poles and lines promote visual disharmony
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>-2</i>	<i>0 +12+ (-2) = 10</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				C

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

20 The landform was given a moderate score of 3 because there is variety of landforms with noticeable changes in topography. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 2 because there is some variety in form and texture. Water was given a moderate score of 2; although it is a focal point it is not a dominant feature. Colour was given a moderate score of 2 because of the variety in colours. Adjacent scenery was given a moderate score of 3 because the surrounding views moderately enhance the visual quality. Rarity was given a low score of 1 because the view is common in the region. Cultural modifications was given a low score of -3 because the patchy roadway and the transmission towers promote visual disharmony. The total is 10, which results in a scenic quality rating of C (low) for the KOP 10 landscape.

The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 10 is provided in Table 15.8.4-30.

Table 15.8.4-30 Sensitivity Level Analysis for KOP 10 Chapel Arm

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating
Moderate	Moderate	Low	High	Low	Moderate

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

30 The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a moderate score, as the user group is a mix of residential and recreational users. The amount of use was given a moderate score, as the AADT is 1,461 (Morrisey 2010, pers. comm.) users through a cottage and residential area. The public interest was given a low score, as the area was not raised as an issue in public meetings (Nalcor 2010a and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS). The adjacent land use

was given a high score, as the neighbouring area is residential. The special area was given a low score, as there is no designated special area present. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 10 is moderate.

The landscape classification for KOP 10 is provided in Table 15.8.4-31.

Table 15.8.4-31 Classification for KOP 10 Chapel Arm

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	C	0
Sensitivity Level	Moderate	1
Total		1
Classification		IV

- 5 Source: Based on USDI 1984.
- Note: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.
- Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.
- A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

10 The landscape for KOP 10, Chapel Arm, Highway 202, is Class IV. This landscape allows for major modifications to the landscape character and the level of change can dominate the view.

15.8.4.11 KOP 11 Witless Bay Line, Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland

15 KOP 11 of the Witless Bay Line is on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-11). The view is to the north-west. This area has been ecologically classified as the Southeastern Barrens Subregion of the Maritime Barrens in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. This area typically consists of stunted balsam fir interspersed with extensive open barrens. The topography is typically undulating (Stantec 2010c). In this view of Highway 13, 1 km south of the TCH, there is an expanse of an open, windswept landform. The landscape, virtually treeless, has a cover of low, green shrubs. Silhouetted against the sky in the background are the towers of a power transmission line that crosses Highway 13. The far middle ground of the scene includes two bungalows and the rooflines extend above the distant horizon. A yellow gate is located in the centre of the scene, on the access road leading to the closest building.

20



Photograph 15.8.4-11 KOP 11 Witless Bay Line Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken July 2010, Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland, N 47.33768 W 53.06134.

The image of KOP 11 reveals a landscape character of a roadway and vegetated area that is simple and flat. The slightly curved, smooth horizon line intersects with the perpendicular vanishing point of the converging road lines. The roadway is a band through the landscape creating a simple sharp edge dividing the space. An access road is visible that creates a waving line off the highway. A small, still wetland reflects the vegetation growth on the edge and the sky. The vegetation is dense and low, hugging the ground. The texture of the roadway is rough, and transitions to granular on the side of the pavement and then to spongy in the vegetation. There are structures in the image that add to visual clutter. The existing transmission towers and houses are silhouettes in the sky. The yellow gateway contrasts the green and grey roadway, and stands out to become a focal point, as do the houses and the towers. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 11 is provided in Table 15.8.4-32.

Table 15.8.4-32 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 11 Witless Bay Line

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	–	1	Little change in topography
Vegetation	–	2	–	Some variety in texture
Water	–	–	1	Small pond, not dominant
Colour	–	2	–	Limited variety in colours
Adjacent Scenery	–	–	1	Similar, adds little influence to overall visual quality
Rarity	–	–	0	Common within region
Cultural Modifications	–	–	-2	Promotes some visual disharmony
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0 + 4 + 1 = 5</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				C

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

^(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

The landform was given a low score of 1 because there is no variety of landforms, with little change in topography. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 2 because there is some variety in texture. Water was given a low score of 1 because the small pond is visible but not dominant. Colour was given a moderate score of 2 because of the limited variety in colours. Adjacent scenery was given a low score of 1 as it adds little to overall visual quality. Rarity was given a low score of 0 because the view is similar to others in the region. Cultural modifications to the area was given a low score of -2 because the structures dominate the view and promote some visual disharmony. The total is 5, which results in a scenic quality rating of C (low) for the KOP 11 landscape.

The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 11 is provided in Table 15.8.4-33.

Table 15.8.4-33 Sensitivity Level Analysis for KOP 11 Witless Bay Line

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating Low
Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a moderate score, as the user group is a mix of highway drivers and recreational users. The amount of use was given a low score, as the AADT is low at 751 users (Morrissey 2010, pers. comm.). The public interest was given a low score, as the area has not been identified as an area of public concern (Nalcor 2010a and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS). The adjacent land use was given a moderate score as the area is inhabited and currently supports transmission towers. The special area was given a low score, as there is no designated special area present. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 11 is low.

The landscape classification for KOP 11 is provided in Table 15.8.4-34.

Table 15.8.4-34 Classification for KOP 11 Witless Bay Line

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	C	0
Sensitivity Level	Low	0
Total		0
Classification		IV

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

Notes: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.

5 Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.

A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

The landscape for KOP 11, Witless Bay Line, is Class IV. This landscape can accommodate major modifications (no more than 30%) to the landscape character and the level of change may dominate the view.

15.8.4.12 KOP 12 Soldiers Pond, Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland

10 KOP 12 of Soldiers Pond is on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland (Figure 15.8.1-1; Photograph 15.8.4-12). This view is to the east. This area has been ecologically classified as the Southeastern Barrens Subregion of the Maritime Barrens in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. This area typically consists of stunted balsam fir interspersed with extensive, open barrens. The topography is typically undulating (Stantec 2010c). This image is from the shoulder of the TCH and the view features a power transmission line that crosses the TCH. The primary vegetative cover is short shrubs with sparse, moderately taller trees. Soldiers Pond is the proposed location for the converter station at the eastern terminus of the Project. The TCH is heavily used by commuters and travellers.

15



Photograph 15.8.4-12 KOP 12 Soldiers Pond Existing Environment

Note: Photograph taken July 2010, Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland, N 47.41588 W 53.00123.

20 The image of KOP 12 has a landscape character that is primarily flat, and dipping into a wide shallow valley that contains water. Faint vertical lines of transmission towers are apparent as silhouettes against the sky in the distance. The exposed rock contrasts, popping out from the surrounding green foliage. The foreground and

5 middle ground are consistent in colour and texture, and filled with a variety of plant species. Short trees are sporadic in the soft foliage as the eye transitions to the background horizon line. There are a variety of colours, dark and light greens and blue in the distance. The focal points are the isolated, small trees that silhouette the sky. Grey crushed gravel, with a rough texture, is visible along the side of the TCH. The scenic quality evaluation for KOP 12 is provided in Table 15.8.4-35.

Table 15.8.4-35 Scenic Quality Evaluation for KOP 12 Soldiers Pond

Quality Factors	High	Moderate	Low	Explanation
Landform	–	2	–	Some change in topography
Vegetation	–	2	–	Some variety in texture
Water	–	–	1	Present but not a noticeable feature
Colour	–	2	–	Some variety in colours
Adjacent Scenery	–	2	–	Similar, adds little influence to overall visual quality
Rarity	–	–	1	Common within region
Cultural Modifications	–	–	-2	Transmission towers and the edge of the TCH detract from the visual harmony
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0 + 8 + 0 = 8</i>
Scenic Quality Rating^(a)				C

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

– No data necessary.

^(a) Scenic quality rating: A for a score of 19 or more; B for a score from 12 to 18; and C for a score 11 or less.

10 The landform was given a moderate score of 2 because there is some variety of landforms, with changes in topography. The vegetation was given a moderate score of 2 because there is some variety and contrast in form and texture. Water was given a low score of 1 because the small pond in the distance is not a noticeable feature. Colour was given a moderate score of 2 because of the limited variety in the greens and blues. Adjacent landscape was given a moderate score of 2 because it adds little influence to the overall visual quality. Rarity was given a low score of 1 because the view is similar to others in the region. Cultural modifications was given a low score of -2 because the structures promote disharmony. The total is 8, which results in a scenic quality rating of C (low) for the KOP 12 landscape.

The sensitivity level analysis for KOP 12 is provided in Table 15.8.4-36.

Table 15.8.4-36 Sensitivity Level Analysis for KOP 12 Soldiers Pond

Type of User	Number	Public Interest	Adjacent Land Use	Special Area	Overall Rating Low
Moderate	High	Low	Low	Low	Moderate

20 Source: Based on USDI 1984.

The level of sensitivity of type of user was given a moderate score, as the user group is a mix of commuters and tourists. The amount of use was given a high score, as the AADT is 16,033 users (Morrisey 2010, pers. comm.); this is the most travelled of all the highways within or adjacent to any of the KOPs. The public interest was given a low score, as the area was not identified as an area of concern at public meetings (Nalcor 2010a and Chapters 7 and 8 of the EIS). The adjacent land use was given a low score, as it currently supports existing transmission towers. The special area was given a low score, as there is no designated special area present. The overall sensitivity rating for KOP 12 is moderate.

The landscape classification for KOP 12 is provided in Table 15.8.4-37.

Table 15.8.4-37 Classification for KOP 12 Soldiers Pond

Classification Factors	Rating	Value
Scenic Quality	C	0
Sensitivity Level	Moderate	1
Total		1
Classification		IV

Source: Based on USDI 1984.

Notes: Quality Rating convert to values, A converts to 2, B converts to 1, C converts to 0.

Sensitivity Level values (High-Moderate-Low) are 2, 1, 0.

A total value of 3 or more is Class II; total of 2 is Class III; and total of 1 or 0 is Class IV.

5

The landscape for KOP 12, Witless Bay Line, is Class IV. This landscape can accommodate major modifications (no more than 30%) to the landscape character and the level of change may dominate view.

15.8.4.13 Summary of 12 KOP Classification and Objectives

The 12 KOP fit in Classes II, III and IV. The classification of each landscape is summarized in Table 15.8.4-38.

Table 15.8.4-38 Summary of 12 KOP Classification and Objectives

10

KOP ^(a)	Location / Region	Scenic Quality Evaluation (Score)	Sensitivity Level Analysis	Class	Comment
01	Kenamu River / Central and Southeastern Labrador	Moderate B (12)	Moderate	III	Should partially retain the existing landscape character; level of change may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view
02	TLH3 / Central and Southeastern Labrador	Low C (7)	Low	IV	Can accommodate major modifications to the landscape character; level of change may dominate the view
03	Forteau Point / Central and Southeastern Labrador	Low C (3)	Low	IV	Can accommodate major modifications to the landscape character; level of change may dominate the view
04	Portland Creek Pond / Northern Peninsula Newfoundland	High A (20)	Moderate	II	Should retain the existing landscape character; level of change may be minimal and should not attract attention
05	Rack Lake / Northern Peninsula Newfoundland	Moderate B (16)	Moderate	III	Should partially retain the existing landscape character; level of change may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view
06	Four Ponds / Northern Peninsula Newfoundland	Moderate B (12)	Moderate	III	Should partially retain the existing landscape character; level of change may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view

Table 15.8.4-38 Summary of 12 KOP Classification and Objectives (continued)

KOP^(a)	Location / Region	Scenic Quality Evaluation (Score)	Sensitivity Level Analysis	Class	Comment
07	Birchy Lake / Central and Eastern Newfoundland	Moderate B (14)	Moderate	III	Should partially retain the existing landscape character; level of change may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view
08	Buchans Highway / Central and Eastern Newfoundland	Low C (11)	Moderate	IV	Can accommodate major modifications to the landscape character; level of change may dominate the view
09	Exploits River / Central and Eastern Newfoundland	Moderate B (13)	Moderate	III	Should partially retain the existing landscape character; level of change may be moderate and could attract attention but should not dominate the view
10	Chapel Arm / Avalon Peninsula Newfoundland	Low C (10)	Moderate	IV	Can accommodate major modifications to the landscape character; level of change may dominate the view
11	Witless Bay Line / Avalon Peninsula Newfoundland	Low C (5)	Low	IV	Can accommodate major modifications to the landscape character; level of change may dominate the view
12	Soldiers Pond / Avalon Peninsula Newfoundland	Low C (8)	Moderate	IV	Can accommodate major modifications to the landscape character; level of change may dominate the view

^(a) KOP = Key Observation Point.

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