



## Release Criteria Checklist - Open Government Canada

This form is a tool to ensure that an analysis of legal and policy requirements has been completed prior to the release of data to the public and internally. It also documents the approvals required for the release of the resource on open.canada.ca (Open Data, and Open Maps - OGP Open Government Portal available to the public) or Federal Geospatial Platform (FGP) only for spatial records, internal to GC.

Metadata/Resource Name	Description	Release Platform
Data Supporting: Artificial Oyster Reefs Facilitate the Recovery of Lost Ecosystem Function in Declining Seagrass Habitat  ef03af28-f23c-11f0-9a71-9d7a8e45cc15	Seagrass populations often decline when environmental stress exceeds tolerance thresholds. In such instances, seagrass restoration can be successful if stressors are alleviated; however, many stressors cannot be addressed at local scale, leading to unsuccessful restoration initiatives. This study tested whether artificial oyster reefs, which are comparatively more resilient to many stressors, could restore lost ecosystem functions within bare sediment patches of a fragmented eelgrass ( <i>Zostera marina</i> ) meadow in Prince Edward Island. From 2021 to 2023, artificial oyster reefs constructed of concrete blocks were installed and monitored for biodiversity and environmental effects. By 2023, 45 taxa had colonized the reefs, with rapid oyster ( <i>Crassostrea virginica</i> ) recruitment driving subsequent increases in richness and biomass. Fish diversity and use were higher around older reefs compared to bare patches. Reefs also locally improved water quality compared to bare patches. These findings indicate that artificial oyster reefs can help recover ecosystem services in declining eelgrass habitats, offering an alternative when 1:1 habitat replacement is unlikely to succeed. This project was co-developed with Lennox Island First Nation in close collaboration with Tim Bernard, with the goal of providing accessible tools to support restoration of culturally and ecologically significant habitats in their traditional territory. We gratefully acknowledge the many partners who contributed to this work, including Angela Douglas-Banks, Randy Angus, Dr. Scott Roloson, Jillian Hunt, staff at the Bideford Shellfish Hatchery, Dr. Barrett Kurylyk and students at Dalhousie University, Chyann Kirby, and Bruce Moore. Project concepts were developed by Jeff Clements, Michael Coffin, and Luke Poirier; methodology was designed by Jeff Clements, Michael Coffin, Luke Poirier, Andre Nadeau, John Davidson, and Kyle Knysh; and data collection and analysis were completed by Jeff Clements, Andre Nadeau, and Kyle Knysh.	OGP

# Release Criteria Checklist - Mandatory that all answers are YES to publish!

## Legal / Licensing / Copyright

1. There are no known legal, licensing, or copyright restrictions to prevent the data or information from being released by the department or agency under the terms of the [Open Government Licence - Canada](#).

## Authority to Release

2. Does DFO/CCG have the departmental mandate, legislative authority or permission from a third party provider to publish the data or information resource under the [Open Government Licence - Canada](#).

## Access to Information and Privacy

3. Has the data/information been reviewed to ensure it is not subject to any exemptions or exclusions under the [Access to Information Act](#)?

4. Has the data/information been reviewed to ensure it does not contain any personal or confidential information? For further ATIP or privacy related guidance, please refer to the [Guidelines for the Informal Release of Information](#).

## Security

5. Has the data/information to be released been reviewed and determined to be unclassified?

Note: Protected A, B, confidential, secret data/information cannot be posted on the Open Government Portal.

For further guidance on security categories, please refer to the following documents: [Information Security Guide](#) and the [TBS Directive on Security Management - Appendix J: Standard on Security Categorization](#).

## Cost

5. Is the data/information being released without a fee to the public?

## Format

7. Is the data/information provided in machine-readable/machine processable format?

8. Is the data/information provided in an open and non-proprietary format?

For further guidance on open and non-proprietary format, please refer to the [Standard on Web Accessibility](#).

## Metadata

9. Is the metadata for the data/information consistent with the Government of Canada metadata standard? For further guidance on metadata, please refer to the [TBS Standard on Metadata](#).

## Official Languages

10. Are the metadata and data both being provided in English and French as per the [Official Languages Act](#)?

## Associated Publications

Is this dataset associated with a publication? If yes, please provide details:

This dataset has no associated publications.

I, Jeffery Clements, answer YES to all the above questions and hereby authorize the release of the above dataset and related metadata on the Government of Canada's [Open Government Portal](#), to be freely available under the terms and conditions of the [Open Government Licence - Canada](#).

Furthermore, I confirm that this dataset and any future updates, meet and will meet the mandatory Release Criteria Checklist outlined above.

**NOTE:** the remaining approvals must be completed in the Enterprise Data Hub.

### Data Contributor:

Title:	Jeffery Clements, Aquatic Science Biologist	Digitally approved by Jeffery Clements on Jan. 15, 2026, 4:10 p.m.
Sector:	Ecosystems & Oceans Science (Gulf)	

### Data Steward:

Title:	Amélie Robichaud, Senior Program Officer / Administrateur de programme principal	Digitally approved by Amélie Robichaud on Feb. 2, 2026, 8:40 a.m.
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