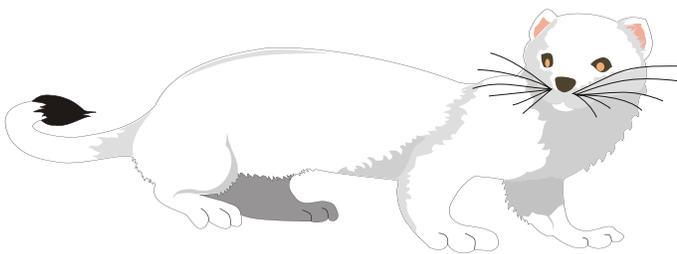


Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada Pronounced “KOOSH-e-boo-gwack”

Climate

Kouchibouguac has a humid continental type of climate. The gulf has a strong influence on this climate, contributing to fairly uniform precipitation patterns throughout the year, warm summers, and cold winters. The average daily temperatures for January and July are -9.1°C and 19.1°C respectively. Average annual precipitation is 979 mm. Cold Labrador air causes ice to form on the gulf waters, which slows the warming-up of spring air.

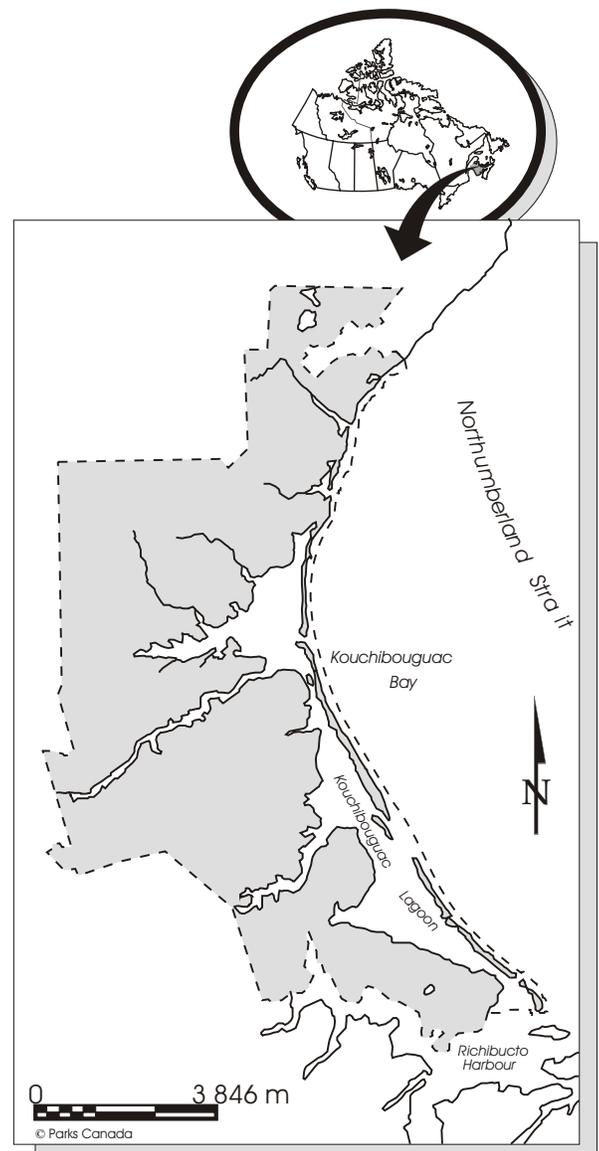


Geology

The bedrock of the park consists mainly of sandstone and shale. Some 15 000 years ago glaciers were retreating to the north, leaving behind an assortment of deposits that were reworked into complex patterns by the sea. Sloping gently to the coast, the land is generally flat, with small knolls separating river basins. Today there are dunes, shallow coastal lagoons and estuaries, salt marshes, forests, small rivers and streams, and vast open peat lands.

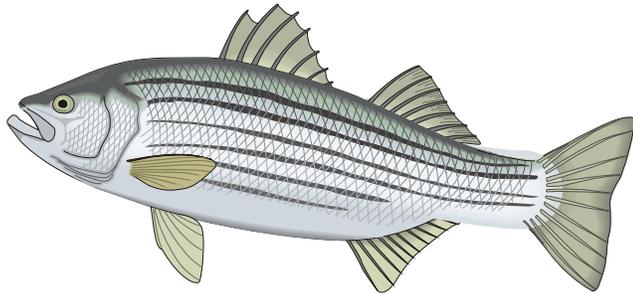
Location

Kouchibouguac National Park was established in 1969 on the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence in New Brunswick. The park is about 100 km north of Moncton, and protects 239 km² of Canada's Maritime Plain Natural Region. This Region is also represented by Prince Edward Island National Park. Kouchibouguac protects a sample of the New Brunswick Lowlands section of this Region. Kouchibouguac is located in the Atlantic Maritime Ecozone.



Vegetation

The park contains two distinct vegetation communities: shoreline and Acadian forest. These forests are predominantly coniferous, with black spruce, red spruce, balsam fir and cedar. Small pockets of deciduous forest contain aspens, grey birch, and red maple. All together some 1 600 species, including 619 vascular plants, 178 lichens, and over 30 mosses are known to grow here. The park has 29 orchid species including the ragged fringed orchis, white fringed orchis, large purple fringed orchis, and one of the rarest species on the continent, the southern twayblade. This species occurs on only eight sites in Canada, with Kouchibouguac being the only national park, and the only provincial location, among those sites. Other plant communities include salt marshes, peat bogs, and fens.



Wildlife

Among the park's larger land mammals are moose, black bear, white-tailed deer, and coyote. Smaller animals include beaver, mink, weasel, river otter, red fox, raccoons, six different bats, and four different squirrels. The surrounding waters contain seven species of whales and two types of seals. The park's 223 different birds include the endangered piping plover and one of the largest colonies of common tern in North America. The colony is estimated to contain about 7 000 nests. The park's main fish species include salmon, eels, trout, striped bass, and smelt.

Activities

Visitors to the park can enjoy camping at the park's 219-site campground, a group camp, or a number of wilderness sites. Besides camping, visitors can hike the park's numerous trails, or go swimming, canoeing, cycling, and paddleboating. Winter offers opportunities for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, and an annual ski marathon.

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