

# BENTHIC MARINE DEBRIS IN THE BAY OF FUNDY, EASTERN CANADA: SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND CATEGORIZATION USING SEAFLOOR VIDEO FOOTAGE



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***This paper provides insight into the state of plastics and debris pollution in the Bay of Fundy. This research is useful for government and fishing stakeholders when assisting the state of pollution in Eastern Canadian waters.***

## **APPROACH:**

Using underwater video footage, this study collected information regarding the type and locations of debris in the Bay of Fundy.

## **MAIN FINDINGS:**

- This study estimates there is potentially 1.8 million pieces of litter on the ocean floor of the Bay of Fundy. Of this litter:
  - 51% was plastic,
  - 28% was fishing gear and
  - 21% was other man-made materials.
- Future marine debris removal programs are unlikely to be successful due to the highly dynamic nature of the marine environment. Future problem-solving initiatives would be better off creating better policies and enforcement mechanisms for eliminating single-use plastic items and to improve education among fishers to reduce illegal dumping of fishing gear and waste.