

**BRANCH NOTE**  
**Owls Head Provincial Park Reserve**

**ISSUE:** Removal of Owls Head from the Parks and Protected Area Plan

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**CURRENT SITUATION:**

- DNR has been approached by a developer to develop the land for a use other than a park.
- During the Parks and Protected Area Plan (PAPA) process the area was assigned to the parks program as part of the provinces commitment to develop the Eastern Shore Seaside Park System.
- Area has been identified by the NS Department of Environment as lands that could contribute to the provinces protection goal.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Owls Head Provincial Park Reserve is in Halifax County along the eastern shore. It is undesignated and approximately 267 Ha in size, while undesignated it is currently being managed as a supporting park.
- Values being protected include a variety of coastal barrens and wetlands, exceptional bedrock-ridged topography, a significant sand beach (partially within proposed area and partially on private land) where piping plover nest.
- Education values of the property include regionally significant interpretive themes, which include coastal processes and habitat
- Future tourism & outdoor recreation opportunities on the property include hiking, beach access and kayaking.
- A portion of the property containing Camp Atibreagh was transferred to NS Department of Community Services in 2009
- Owls Head was never official designated with an order in council (OIC) as a park reserve, however departmental policy has been for any crown land identified as a park reserve, to be managed under the parks program pending future designation.
- To remove the lands from the PAPA a Memorandum to Executive Council (MEC) would be required

**RECOMMENDATION/ADVICE:**

Redacted

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**DATE:** May 2, 2017

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