



Welcome

Port aux Basques navigation improvement project open house

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the project, review the proposed works, and share your feedback.

As you move through the displays, you will learn about:

- Why the project is being considered
- The proposed works
- Environmental considerations
- Opportunities to provide feedback

We welcome your questions and comments.

Marine Atlantic would like to respectfully acknowledge that we operate in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq Peoples, and on the island of Ktaqmkuk, the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq Peoples.

We also acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassianan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut.



Marine Atlantic
Marine Atlantique



Proponent Marine Atlantic

Marine Atlantic is a Crown Corporation committed to providing a safe, environmentally responsible ferry service between the Island of Newfoundland and the Province of Nova Scotia in a reliable, courteous and cost-effective manner.

Project consultant CBCL Limited

CBCL Limited is an employee-owned firm, committed to creating positive and lasting impact on people and planet by providing world-class multidisciplinary engineering and environmental consulting services.



Improving navigation in Port aux Basques Harbour

Project overview

Marine Atlantic is proposing improvements to navigation in Port aux Basques Harbour to enhance safety and reliability for ferry operations.

The ferry service is a critical transportation link between the Island of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

It supports:

- Provincial supply chains
- Resident and non-resident movement
- Commercial trucking industry

Current harbour conditions require challenging vessel maneuvers, especially during:

- Strong winds
- Rough waves
- Winter conditions

Key constraint:

- Vardy's Rock is a major obstruction to safe navigation in the inner harbour

The project will:

- Improve vessel maneuverability
- Reduce navigation risks
- Support long-term reliability of ferry service





Studies completed to support project planning

Marine Atlantic completed studies to understand existing conditions, inform project design, and support environmental assessment.

Navigation

How vessels use the harbour was evaluated to identify navigation constraints and develop options to improve safety, maneuverability, and operational reliability.

Coastal engineering & wave modelling

Oceanographic data and computer modelling were used to assess currents, waves, and harbour conditions and to evaluate how proposed improvements may influence harbour protection.

Geotechnical

Rock and seabed conditions were studied to support engineering design and construction planning.

Engineering design & alternatives assessment

Multiple project options were evaluated to identify a practical solution that improves navigation safety while balancing environmental, technical, and operational considerations.

Plants & wildlife

Birds, plants, and wildlife were assessed to identify environmentally sensitive features and support environmental planning.

Fish & fish habitat

Fish habitat studies were completed to assess potential effects and identify habitat compensation and enhancement opportunities.

Marine mammals & species at risk

Studies identified sensitive species and informed measures to reduce potential effects during construction.

Soil & sediment

Soil and sediment samples were collected to characterize existing conditions and support dredging and material management decisions.

Fisheries

Commercial and recreational fisheries were reviewed through consultation with local fishers and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Community & stakeholder engagement

Input from ferry captains, fishers, harbour users, government agencies, and community members helped inform project planning and environmental assessment.

Acoustic assessment

Underwater and in air sound associated with project activities was assessed to support mitigation measures for fish, wildlife, marine mammals, and the community.

Historic resources

Cultural and heritage resources were reviewed to identify and protect known historic resources.



Overview of proposed works

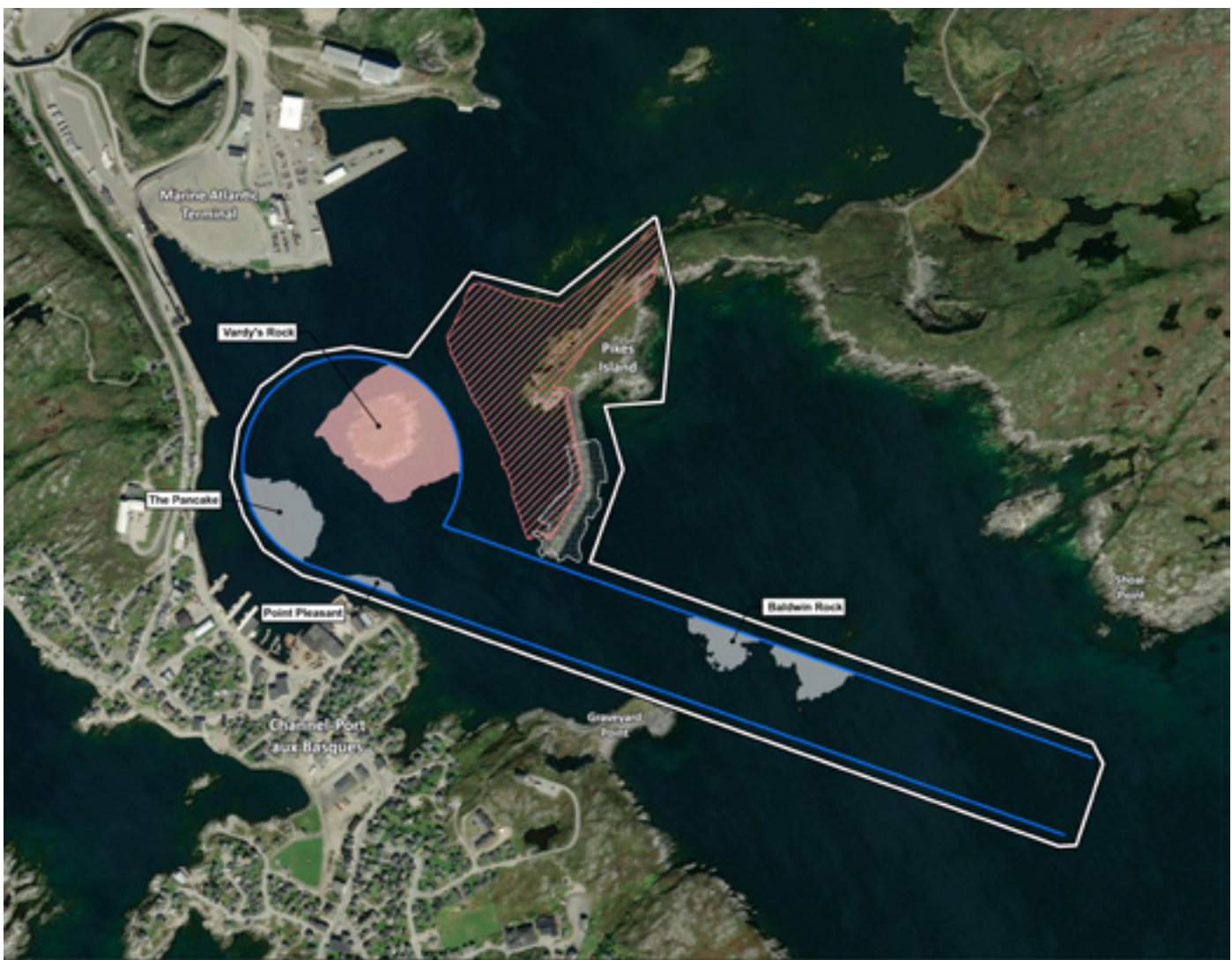
Primary works

- Removal of Vardy's Rock
- Pikes Island infill

Potential future navigation improvements

Subject to funding availability and project priorities, additional navigation improvements may be considered, including:

- Widening the navigation channel
- Deepening the channel
- Expanding the turning basin
- Repairing Pikes Island breakwater



Phase 1 Project Components

- Pikes Island Infill Area
- Phase 1 Dredge Area

Phase 2 Project Components

- Pikes Island Breakwater Repairs
- Phase 2 Dredge Areas

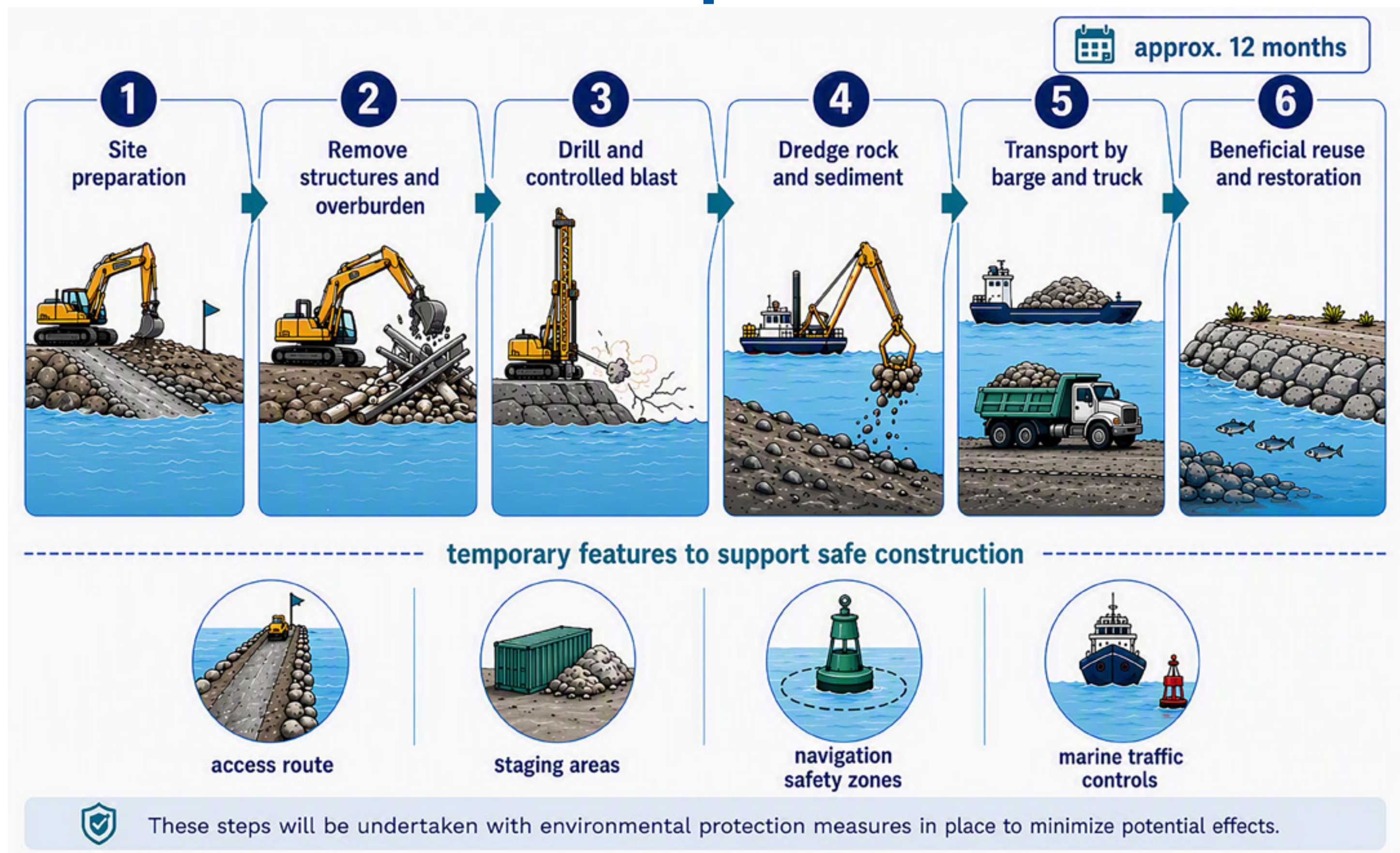


Existing



Proposed

How will the work be completed?



Construction will start with site preparation:

- Establishment of access routes and staging areas
- Removal of existing structures from Vardy's Rock
- Removal of soil overburden from Vardy's Rock

Construction will involve:

- Drilling and controlled blasting to break up rock
- Dredging (removal of rock and sediment)
- Transporting rock using barges and trucks
- Placement of material at designated locations for beneficial reuse
- Restoration of temporary construction areas

Dredged rock will be reused:

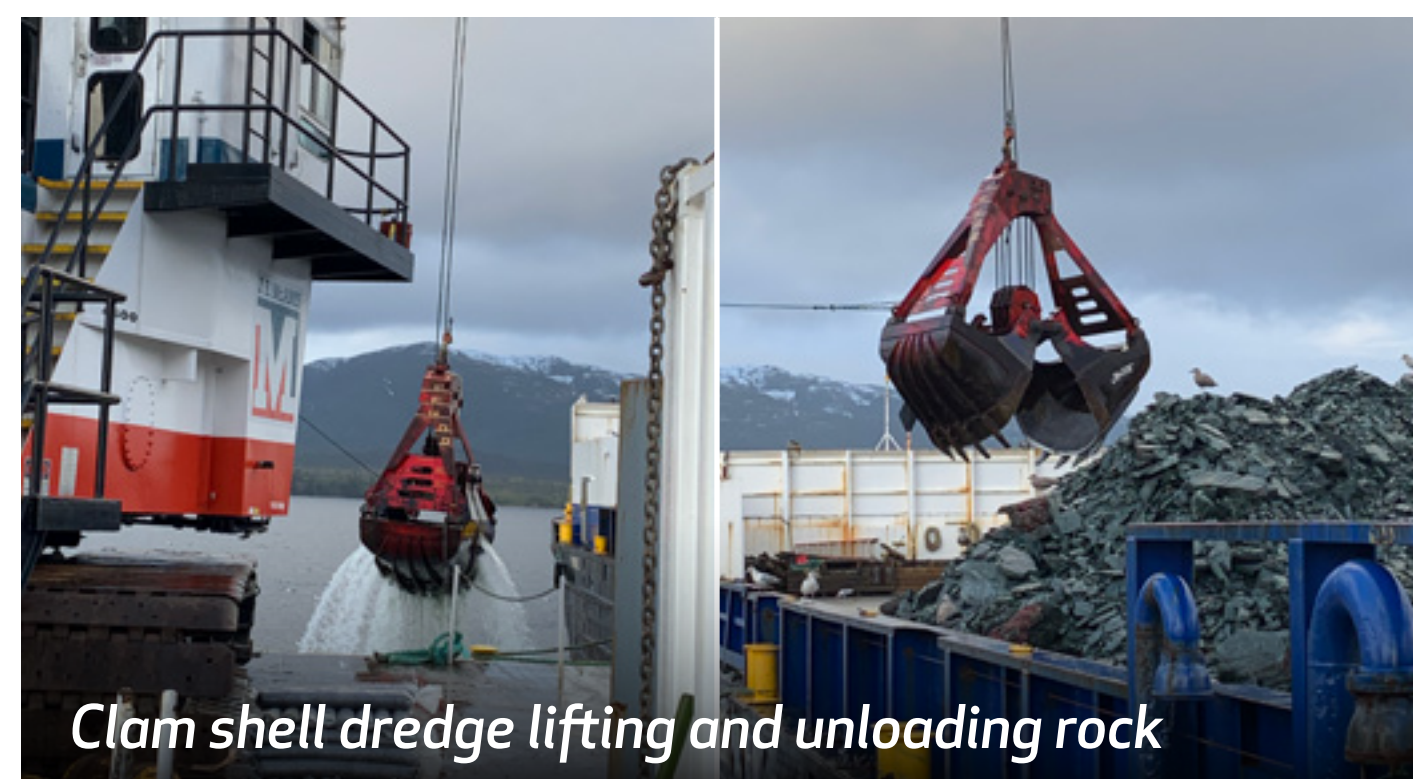
- Pikes Island infill for harbour protection
- Fish habitat creation

Timeline:

- Approx. 12 months of construction

Temporary features:

- Temporary access roads
- Staging areas
- Navigation safety zones
- Temporary marine traffic controls



Environmental considerations

What changes may occur?

During construction:

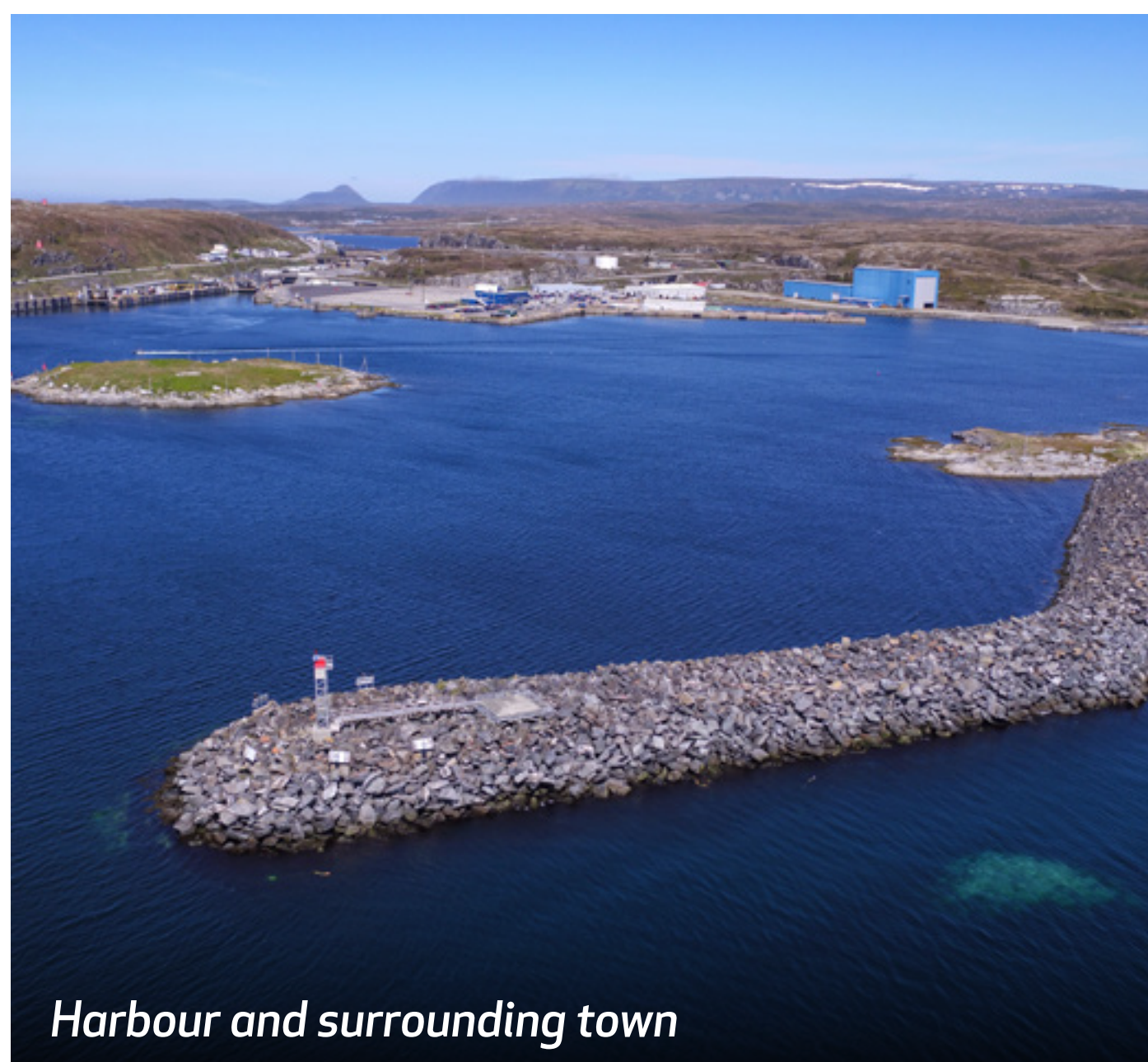
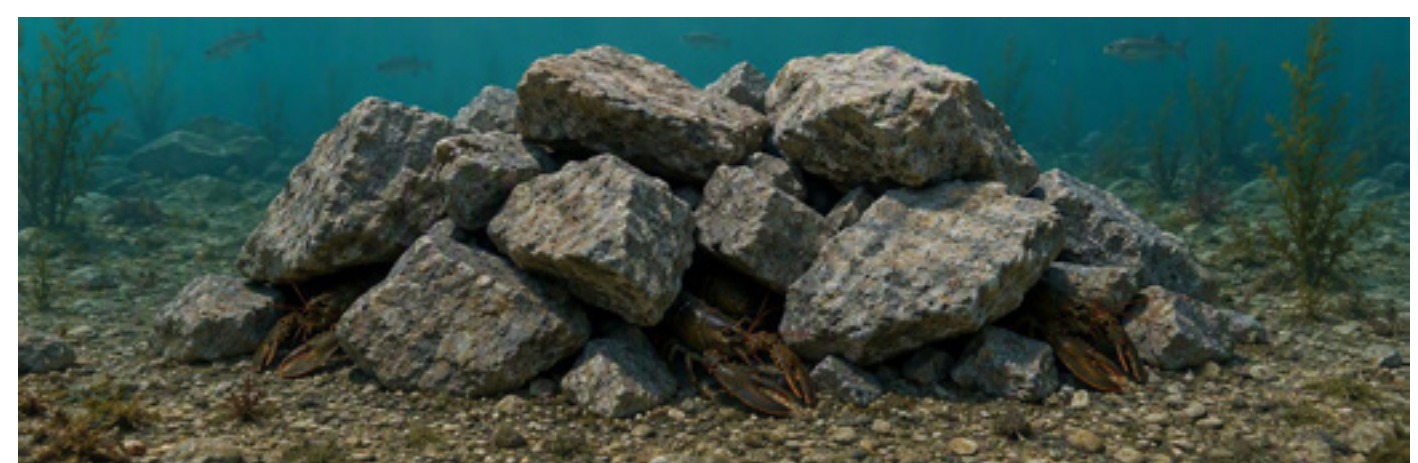
- Noise
- Disturbance to marine life and wildlife
- Temporary restrictions

After construction:

- Improved navigation
- Improved harbour protection
- Changes to fish habitat

How will effects be managed?

- Daytime blasting to reduce impacts to sensitive receptors
- Noise and water quality monitoring during construction
- Implementation of erosion and sediment controls
- Marine mammal observation and shutdown zones
- Scheduling work to reduce impacts
- Reuse of dredged materials for infilling and habitat creation
- Fish habitat offsetting



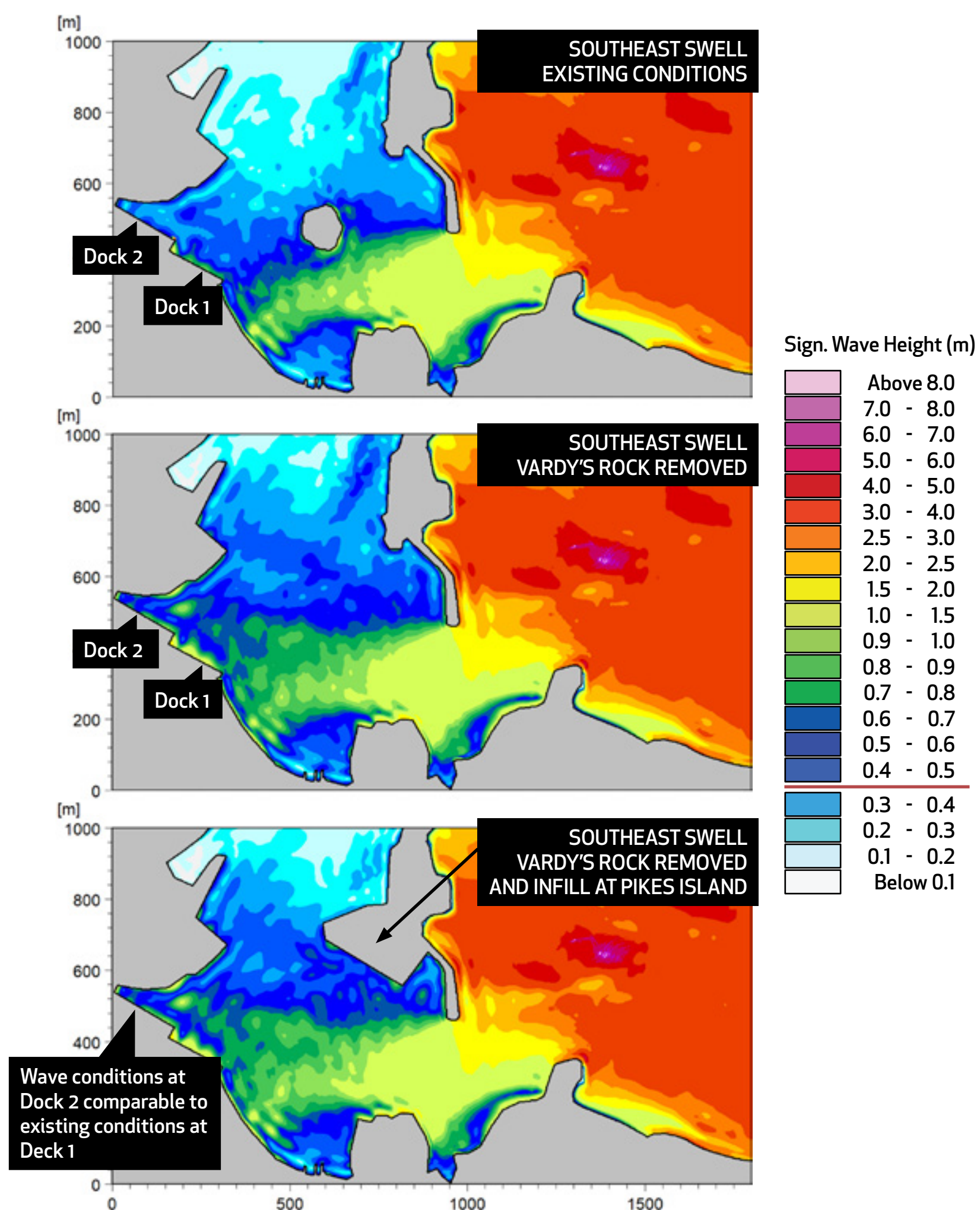
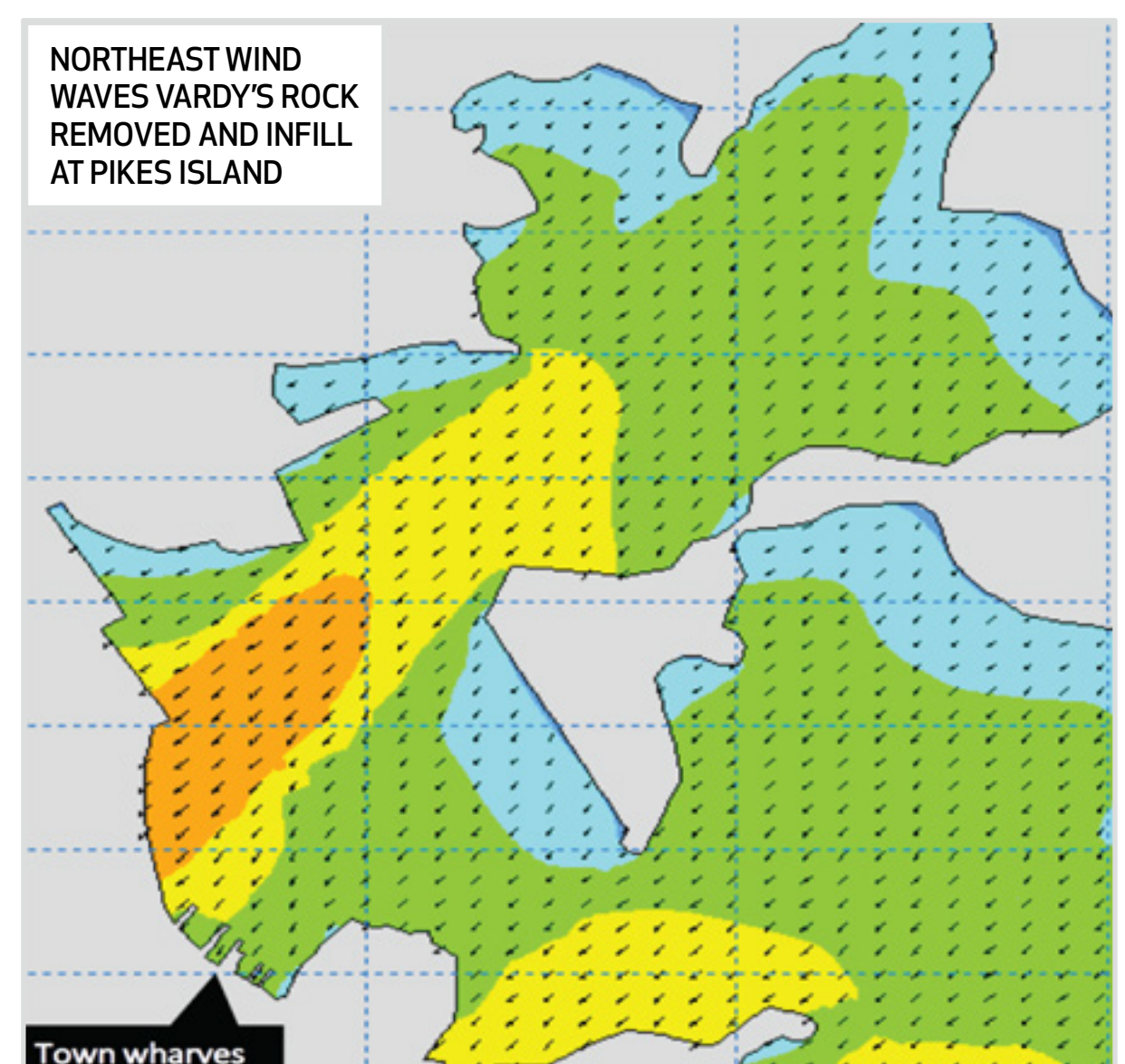
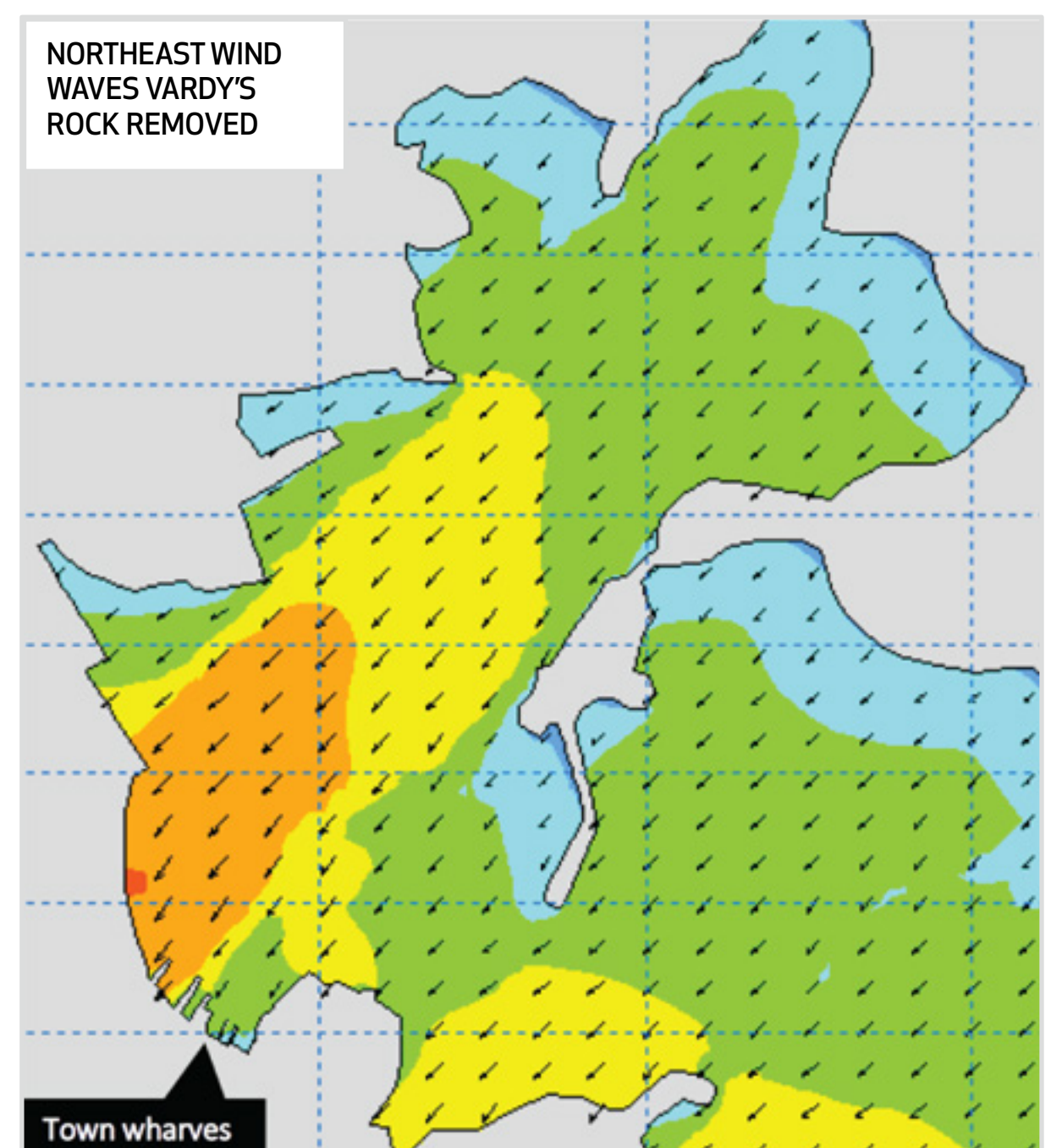
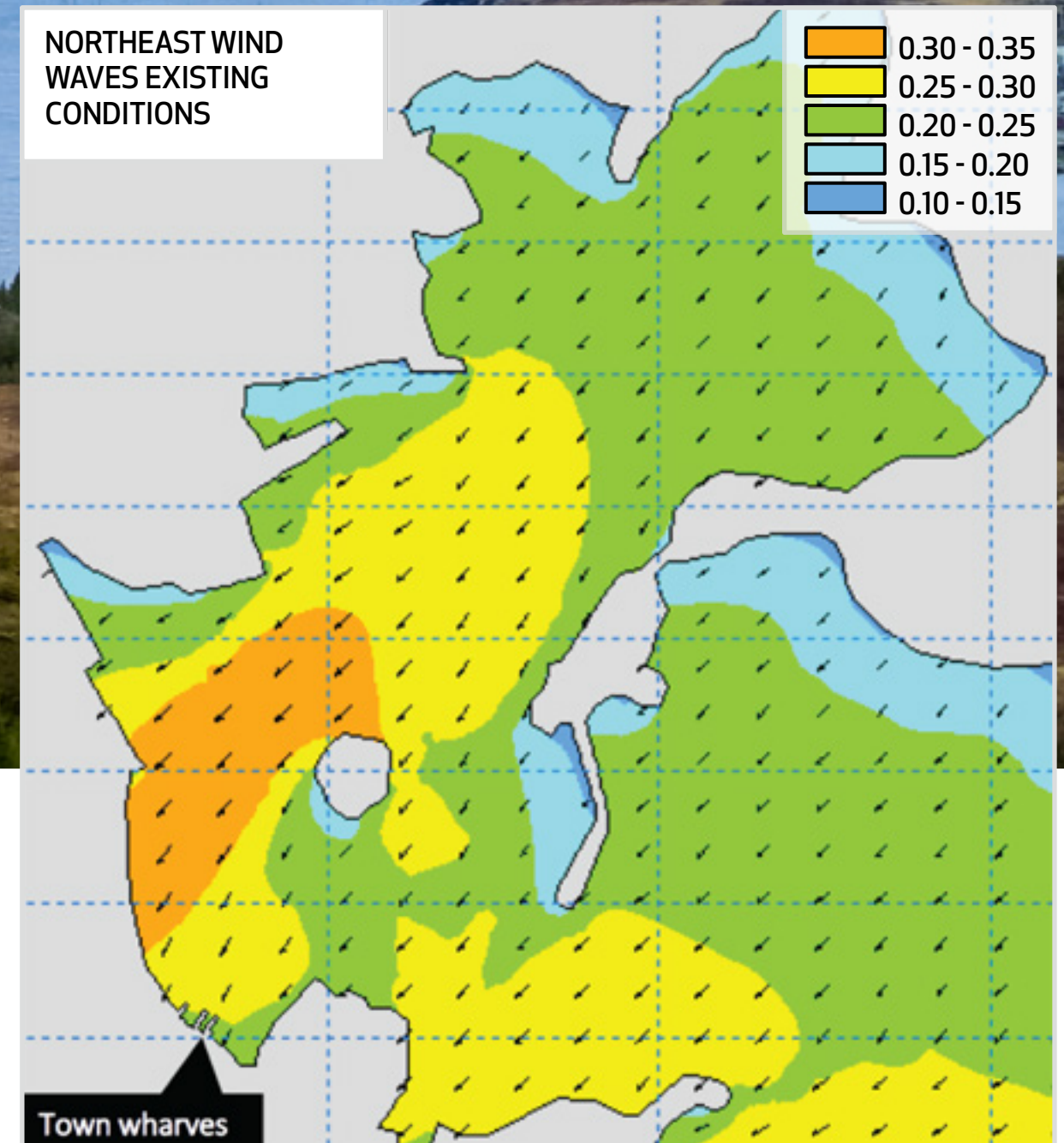
Harbour protection

How will the town wharves be protected from waves?

Wave agitation at the town wharves is expected to be comparable to existing conditions.

Coastal engineering study

- Collected baseline oceanographic data during storm conditions
- Calibrated hydrodynamic and wave models to existing conditions
- Modelled harbour hydrodynamic and wave regime for 3 scenarios



Your feedback matters

What happens next?

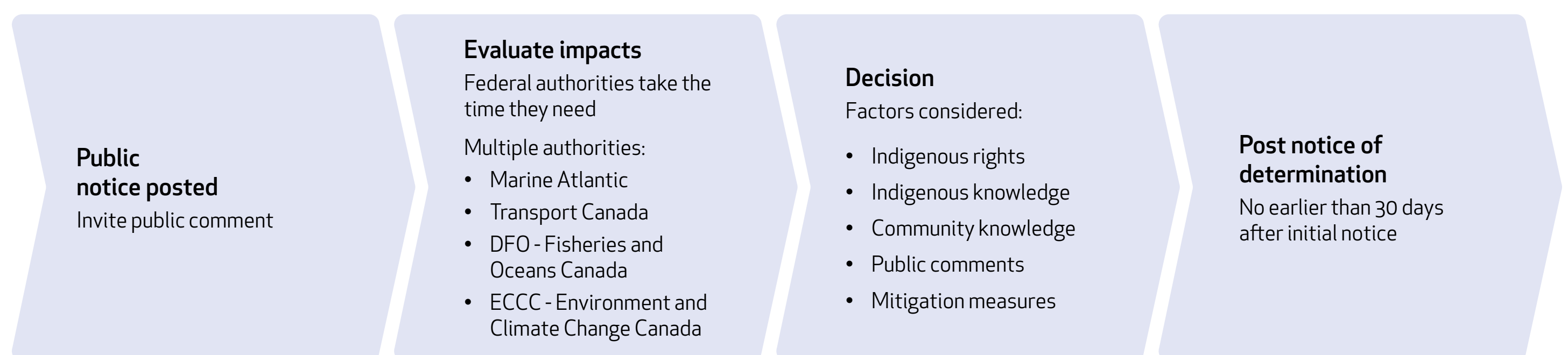
- Continued opportunities for input
- Environmental assessment review
- Project approvals
- Construction



NL environmental assessment process



Federal environmental assessment process



We want to hear from you

Please share your thoughts on:

- Navigation improvements
- Fisheries impacts
- Community concerns
- Environmental protection

How to provide input:

- Speak with the project team representatives
- Submit written comments
- Scan the QR code or visit our website at: marineatlantic.ca/pabnavigation

