

Most of the islands are probably uninhabited by mammals, although some have resident small rodents. Arctic and red foxes occasionally stray across the ice to the islands, but do not permanently inhabit them. The most important vertebrates in the area are not terrestrial but marine. The early Basques settlers found whales and walrus to be so abundant that their fishery was based as much on these creatures as on cod.

Seabirds were so numerous that their breeding colonies sometimes covered entire islands. Over the centuries of exploitation, the walrus were exterminated, and the whales and seabirds were reduced to remnants of their former populations.

Although the North Shore of the Gulf is not the paradise for marine fauna it once was, visitors may still thrill to the spouting whales and teeming seabirds - all in a sub-arctic setting only 400 kilometers north of the north shore of Prince Edward Island.

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The Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island Newsletter is published eight times per year. If you have seen something unusual, please share it with us. It is important to have your observations recorded where others will learn of them.

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