

2021 Changes to Halifax Harbour Buoys

5th March, 2021



The port of Halifax has seen an increase in the size of ships that make use of their facilities and anticipate that this will continue. At the top end of the scale ships become so big that the regular shipping channel from Chebucto Head to the container terminals, travelling along the eastern side of the harbour, is not deep enough. There is an alternate, deep water channel, on the western side of the harbour that ships use but it's not clearly marked. This winter the Canadian Coast Guard has added buoyage to delineate this channel in order to stay ahead of potential problems.

Basically the changed buoyage clarifies the main shipping channel on the eastern side of the harbour and outlines the shallow areas associated with Middle Ground, Outer Middle Ground and Mars Rock. The buoys have been placed on the 20m depth contour so ships following standard buoyage rules will have no problem staying in the deep water. There are plans to add leading lights in Point Pleasant Park to assist in staying in the channel.

This change has a couple of repercussions for members of the Squadron. Firstly all our charts are out of date. As of this writing there have been no chart updates issued but they are on their way. Navigational warnings with the details of the changes are available on the Canadian Coast Guard website (<https://nis.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/public/rest/messages/en/search>, chart 4202 between Dec 2020 and Feb 2021). Once the chart updates have been issued we're all going to have to make changes to our paper charts or buy new ones (chart #4202) and also update all the electronic charts in our plotters and GPS units.

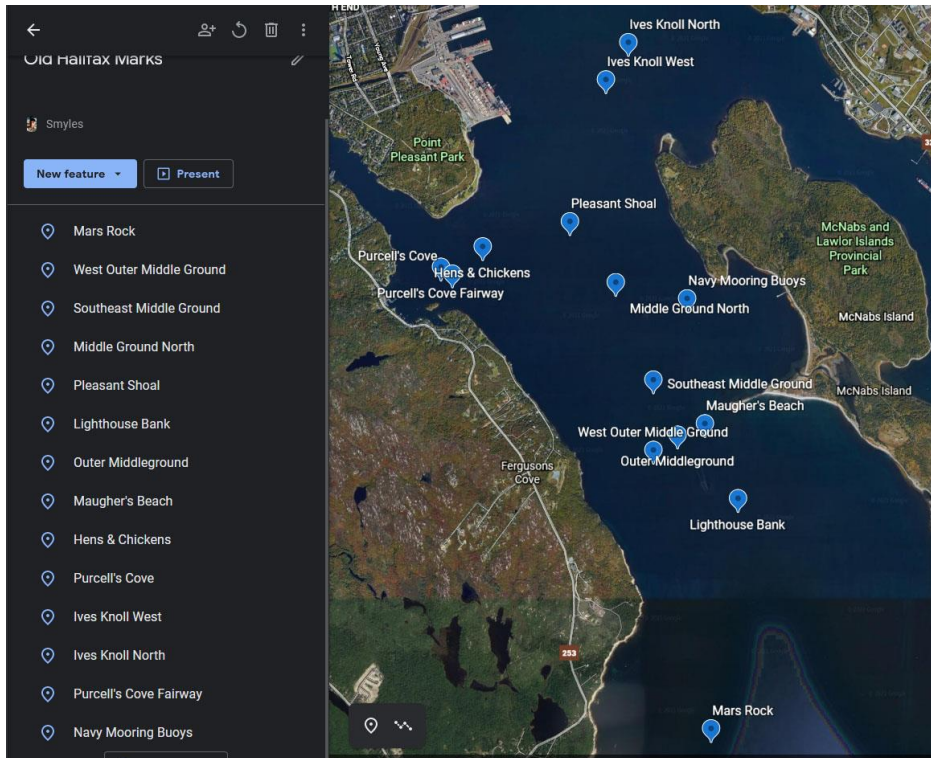
Secondly we need to be aware that we're going to start seeing ships, and big ones at that, on the western shore. The harbour pilots (Atlantic Pilotage Authority) don't anticipate any significant change in the shipping patterns for at least a year so we have time to adapt but in the future the big ships will be coming along new lanes.

Lastly, for the racers, the Sail Nova Scotia course card that we all use to indicate race courses is now hopelessly out of date. A new course card is forthcoming, contingent on the release of the chart corrections, and when that happens we're going to have to adapt to the new layout. What an exciting time to be sailing in the harbour!

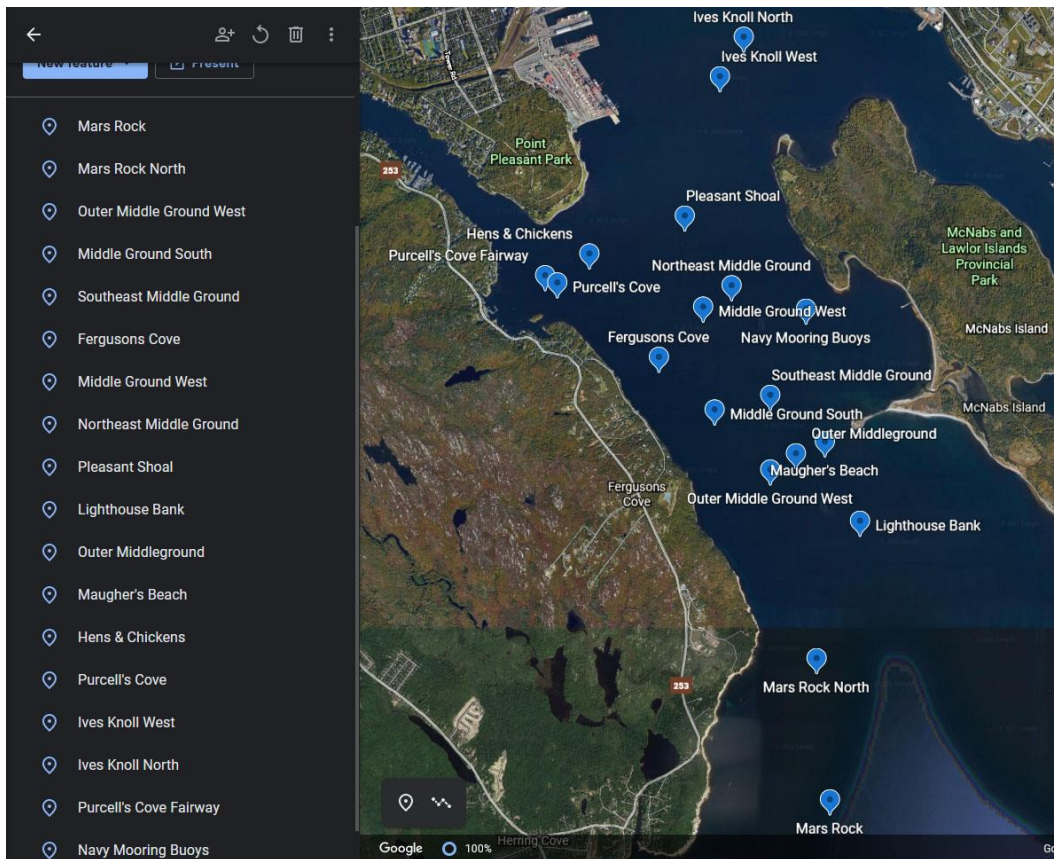
List of Buoy Changes:

<u>Buoy ID</u>	<u>Buoy Name</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Colour</u>
HAD	Middle Ground North	Replaced with	Black/Yellow
H17	Northeast Middle Ground		Green
H19	Pleasant Shoal	Moved slightly, silent	Green
HKD	Middle Ground West	New	Yellow/Black/Yellow
HK17	Fergusons Cove	New	Green
HKC	Middle Ground South	New	Yellow/Black
H15	Southeast Middle Ground	New ID (old HK5)	Green
HK4	West Outer Middle Ground	Replaced with ...	Red
HKB	Outer Middle Ground		Yellow/Black/Yellow
H11	Mars Rock North	New	Green
H9	Mars Rock	Moved slightly, silent	Green

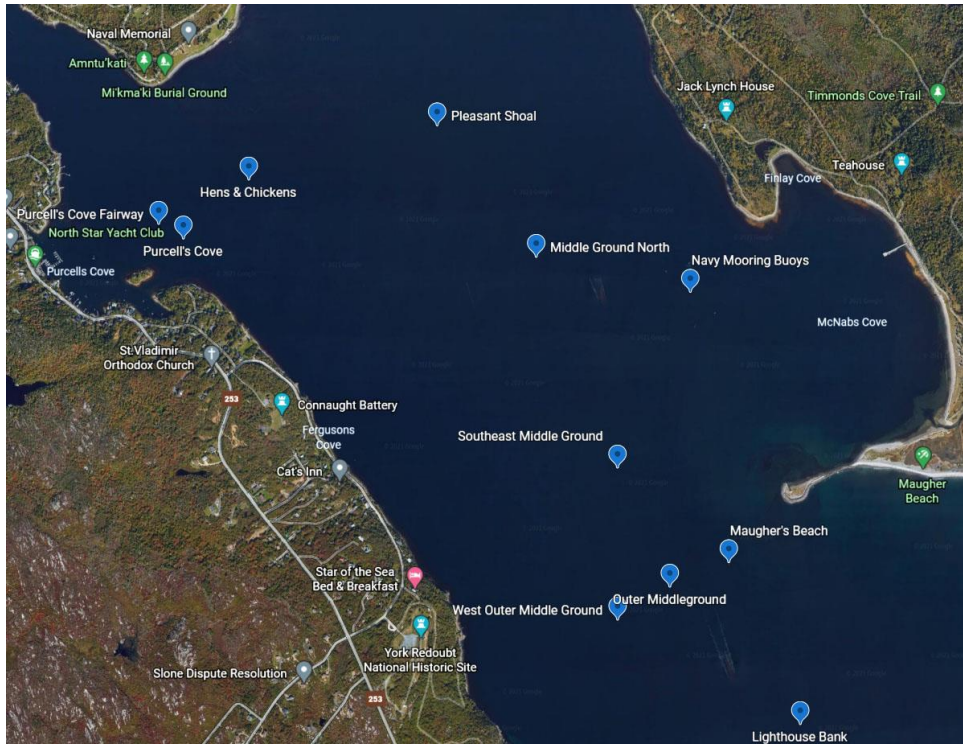
Old Buoyage



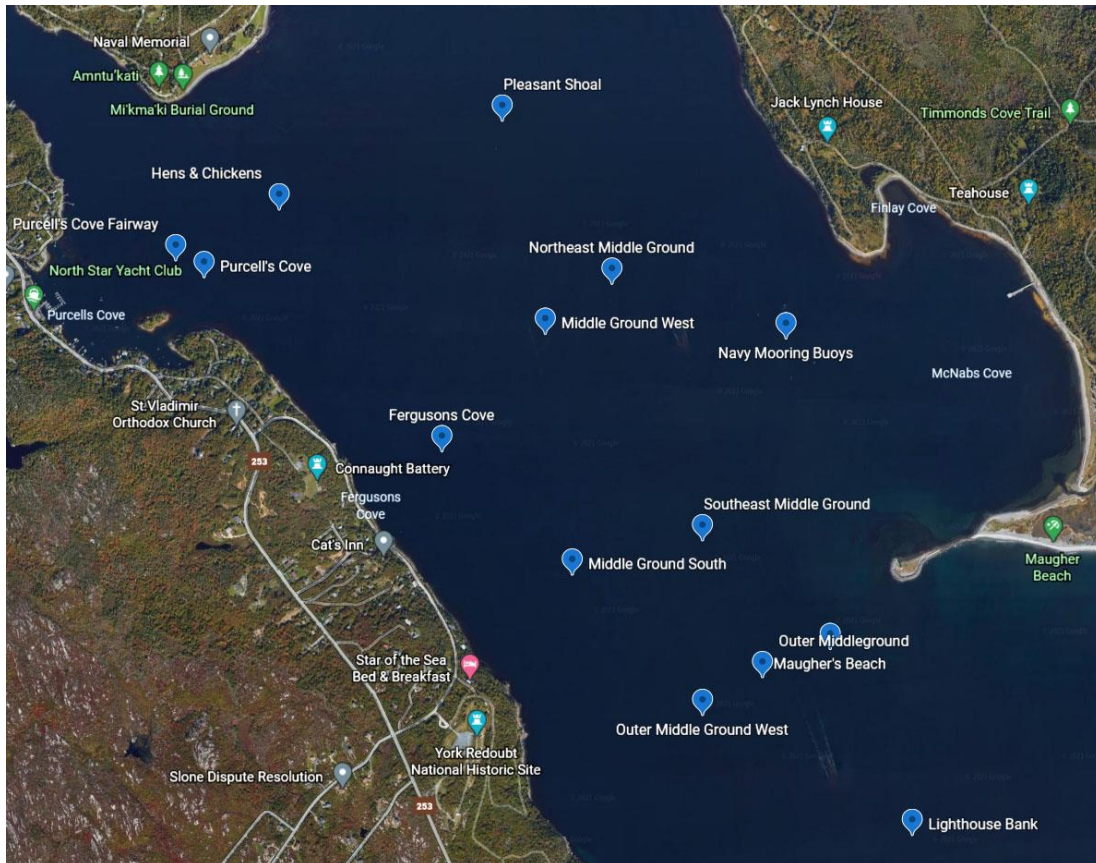
New Buoyage



Old Buoyage – Middle Harbour



New Buoyage – Middle Harbour



Harbour Shipping Routes

