

# Malagawatch & Basins — Overview

**CHS Chart No:** 4279 – Bras d'Or Lake

## **Description:**

The high rolling headlands normally flanking the Bras d'Or Lakes give way in the "Malagawatch and Basins" area to low headlands and islands, interlaced with deep channels providing access to the upper reaches of North and Denys Basins. The area abounds with numerous opportunities for snug anchorages.

The few navigational aids indicate dangerous shoals and reefs.

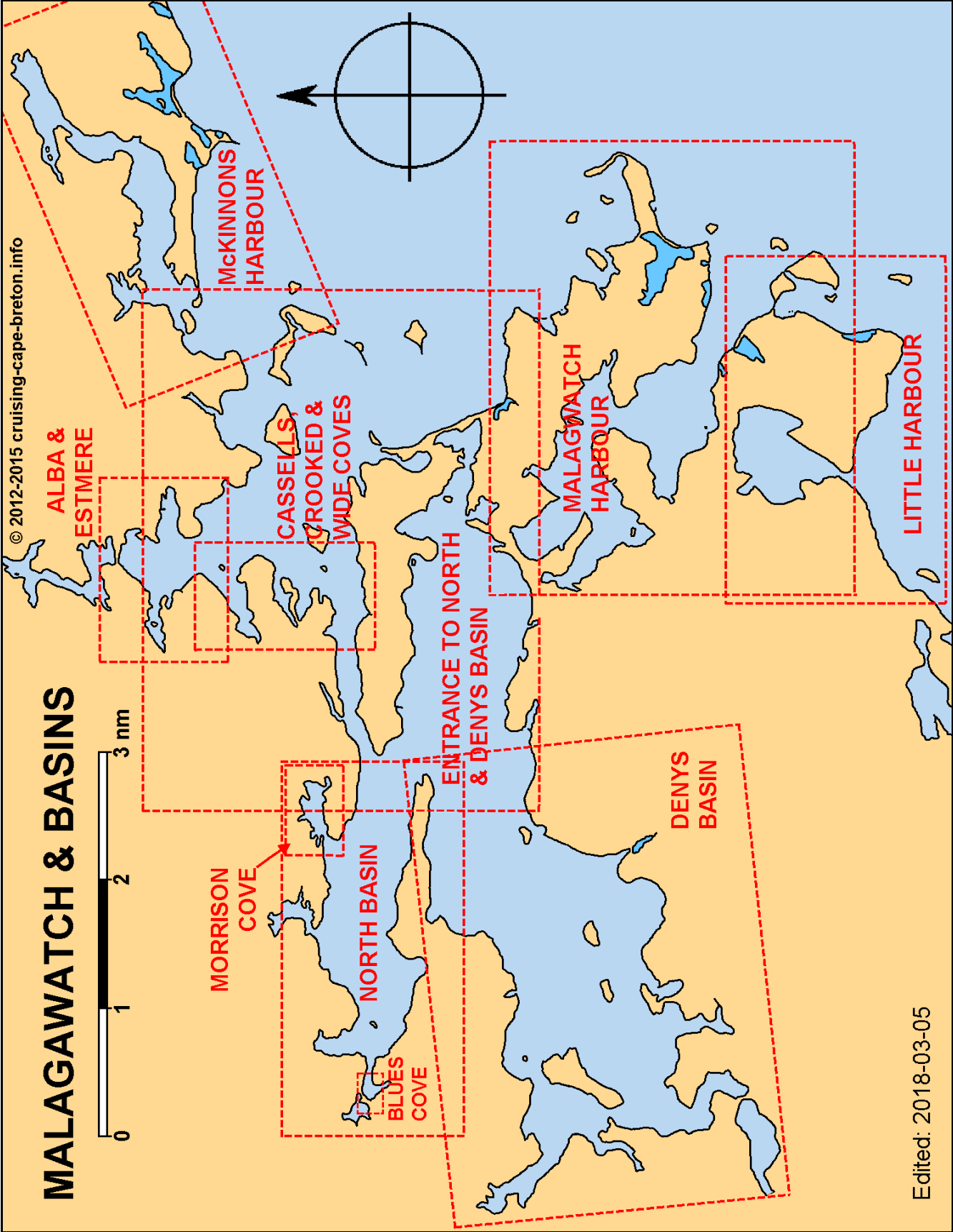
With the exception of the communities of Orangedale and River Denys at the headwaters of each basin, the shorelines are almost devoid of habitation. Only the occasional farm breaks the continuity of the forested shores and the tranquillity of the numerous bays and coves is disturbed only by the occasional freight train travelling on the main line along the Orangedale/Alba shore.

Here, Bald Eagles keep a watchful eye on your passage through their territory, Blue Herons pace along the shorelines searching for morsels and occasionally deer will be seen scampering along the sandbars and shores. If you are lucky, you may see the spectacle of a bald eagle swimming to shore with its supper.

While events of great historical significance have not been attributable to the Malagawatch and Basins area, the physical nature of the countryside, the myriads of waterways and the tenacity of the hardy early settlers combine to weave a 'yarn' of interest to cruising sailors in their journeys through the harbours and basins.

For those who may consider "Malagawatch" difficult to pronounce, it is said that the literal Mi'kmaq meaning is even more unwieldy. Try (Mal'-ag-a-watch) or "triangular piece of land formed by a river on the side and the lake or larger body of water on the third side."

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