

Analysis of the reviews

Reviewer 1

Dear Editor Giuseppe M.R. Manzella,

I am pleased to send the revision of the manuscript entitled “Half-hourly changes in intertidal temperature at nine wave-exposed locations along the Atlantic Canadian coast: a 5.5-year study” by Scrosati, Ellrich, and Freeman. The work is described with clarity and easily understandable. I found the results and conclusions relatively straight-forward and the manuscript as a whole in good shape. As the authors highlight, there is a great lack of this type of information in intertidal rocky areas. This long data set on spatial and temporal patterns in intertidals can be useful in a climate change scenario to predict community changes and generate advances in coastal oceanography. I therefore recommend publication following a minor revision.

We are grateful for the reviewer's overall support. The specific comments are addressed below and the applied changes are highlighted **in yellow** in the revised manuscript.

Minor revisions: L 47: Add comma after author.

Done.

L 82: I would like the authors incorporate some information of mean tidal amplitude.

We have added detailed information on this in lines 92-108.

L 138-139 and L141-143: Detail of summer and winter month and years sampled must be moved to Methods.

We believe that those brief details make sense the most when describing those results, which explains why they are included in section 3, "Main patterns in the data".

L 146: Authors could incorporate information of cold and warm nearshore currents in the study area to highlight the results showed.

We have added information about the single current that washes the studied coast in lines 82-84.

L 185: Delete “for convenience, July, August, and September”

L 196: Delete “for convenience, January, February, and March”

We believe that making those statements is important to determine unequivocally what specific months were used for those calculations, so readers can replicate the analyses.

Figure 2: Increase y-axis title size.

Done.

We appreciate the constructive comments from this reviewer, which we are stating in the revised Acknowledgements section.

Reviewer 2

The changes that we have made in our manuscript to address the reviewer's comments are discussed below and are highlighted in the revised manuscript **in green**.

Summary: This manuscript presents a 5-year record of field observations for temperature across various rocky intertidal zones along the Atlantic Canadian coast. The purpose of the dataset is to address data and knowledge gaps in temperature fluctuations in intertidal regions that are influenced by seasonal factors, daily tidal oscillations, as well as large and small scale atmospheric processes. In this way, the dataset can be used to help advance our understanding of the processes affecting the ecology rocky intertidal zones, and how these processes are influence by broader climate change.

Overall Comments: The manuscript describing this dataset is very well written. The authors do a very nice job of explaining why the data are important and relevant and how the field data were collected. I also believe the authors do a good job of interpreting their dataset to the audience. In particular, I like that the data are presented in terms of temperature variability across a range of spatial and temporal scales. For instance, for the temporal dimension, the authors use the data to show the general variation in temperature due to seasonal Earth-Sun relationships (i.e. peak temps occurring slightly after the summer solstice), and the hourly variations arising from the push and pull of the tides. Spatial variability is also highlighted by the data with regional variations due to upwelling and the small-scale effects of local weather. Furthermore, the authors use the data to highlight the broader effects of global atmospheric circulation processes (i.e. ENSO; NAO) on rocky intertidal zone temps. This adds broader impacts of the dataset in that it can help move forward modeling studies to address, for instance, the effects of climate change on these ecosystems.

I do not know of any other dataset quite like this one, so I do believe it is new. However, the methods are not necessarily novel. But, that is OK I think. The quality of the dataset are good and the links are accessible. The authors use replicate loggers and run statistics across the datasets with high correlation between sites over the study period. Figures and table look good and are appropriate.

Rating:

Uniqueness: 1 – Again, I do not know of any other dataset like this one, and I do believe that it “provides data on a variable that is supposed to reflect changes in the Earth system”.

Usefulness: 1 – I believe that this data could be used alone to compare to future trends to assess changes in the Earth system, and can also be combined with other datasets (such as those from a coastal zone observatory) to develop numerical models to predict such changes and assess the forcing mechanisms behind that change.

Completeness: 1 – data are complete and do not appear to be split across multiple manuscripts.

We appreciate to receive such a positive evaluation of our work. Thank you for capturing its value so well.

Minor (technical) considerations:

L48-49: The wording in this sentence is a bit awkward. Consider rephrasing?

We have rephrased that sentence as:

“In addition, not only average temperature is ecologically important, but its temporal variability as well”.

L97: “which is the data set on which this paper is based” I’m not sure you need to say this here? Maybe delete this statement for better flow?

We deem important to state explicitly that such data are the data specifically reported and discussed in our paper. To improve the quality of that expression, we have rephrased it as: “...which is the data set discussed in this paper, being publicly available from the figshare online repository (Scrosati and Ellrich, 2020a)”.

L117 – 121: consider adding numbers to the two exceptions. It was a little hard to dig these out of the text and I think adding a number between each will help pull it out and make it clearer for the reader. For instance, “...with just two exceptions: 1) the period between 20 March and 12 April 2017 for L1 because of logger removal by drift sea ice coming from the Gulf of S. Lawrence, and 2) the period between 30 September. ...”

We have added parentheses (as shown in the revised manuscript) in convenient places in that sentence to improve the description of those two exceptions.

We thank this reviewer for the constructive evaluation of our work, which we are stating in the revised Acknowledgements section.

1 **Half-hourly changes in intertidal temperature at nine wave-exposed** 2 **locations along the Atlantic Canadian coast: a 5.5-year study**

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6 **Abstract.** Intertidal habitats are unique because they spend alternating periods of
7 submergence (at high tide) and emergence (at low tide) every day. Thus, intertidal temperature
8 is mainly driven by sea surface temperature (SST) during high tides and by air temperature
9 during low tides. Because of that, the switch from high to low tides and viceversa can determine
10 rapid changes in intertidal thermal conditions. On cold-temperate shores, which are
11 characterized by cold winters and warm summers, intertidal thermal conditions can also change
12 considerably with seasons. Despite this uniqueness, knowledge on intertidal temperature
13 dynamics is more limited than for open seas. This is especially true for wave-exposed intertidal
14 habitats, which, in addition to the unique properties described above, are also characterized by
15 wave splash being able to moderate intertidal thermal extremes during low tides. To address this
16 knowledge gap, we measured temperature every half hour during a period of 5.5 years (2014-
17 2019) at nine wave-exposed rocky intertidal locations along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia,
18 Canada. This data set is freely available from the figshare online repository (Scrosati and
19 Ellrich, 2020a; <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12462065.v1>). We summarize the main
20 properties of this data set by focusing on location-wise values of daily maximum and minimum
21 temperature and daily SST, which we make freely available as a separate data set in figshare
22 (Scrosati et al., 2020; <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12453374.v1>). Overall, this cold-
23 temperate coast exhibited a wide annual SST range, from a lowest overall value of -1.8 °C in
24 winter to a highest overall value of 22.8 °C in summer. In addition, the latitudinal SST trend
25 along this coast experienced a reversal from winter (when SST increased southwards) to
26 summer (when SST decreased southwards), seemingly driven by alongshore differences in
27 summer coastal upwelling. Daily temperature maxima and minima were more extreme, as
28 expected from their occurrence during low tides, ranging from a lowest overall value of -16.3 °C
29 in winter to a highest overall value of 41.2 °C in summer. Daily maximum temperature in
30 summer varied little along the coast, while daily minimum temperature in winter increased
31 southwards. This data set is the first of its kind for the Atlantic Canadian coast and exemplifies
32 in detail how intertidal temperature varies in wave-exposed environments on a cold-temperate
33 coast.

34 **1 Introduction**

35 Rocky intertidal habitats occur on marine rocky shores between the highest and lowest
36 elevations reached by tides. These environments are unique because they spend alternating
37 periods of submergence (during high tides) and emergence (during low tides) every day
38 (Raffaelli and Hawkins, 1999; Menge and Branch, 2001). Thus, on the one hand, intertidal
39 conditions are influenced by the seasonal changes in sea surface temperature (SST), which can
40 be pronounced on temperate shores, which display warm waters in summer but cold waters in

41 winter. On the other hand, an even greater degree of thermal variation can occur at hourly scales
42 once intertidal habitats become exposed to the air at low tide, especially on hot days in spring
43 and summer (Watt and Scrosati, 2013; Lathlean et al., 2014; Umanzor et al., 2017) and cold
44 days in winter (Scrosati and Ellrich, 2018a).

45 Temperature is a major factor influencing the distribution and abundance of species
46 (Pörtner, 2002; Körner et al., 2016; Lancaster and Humphreys, 2020). Thus, SST plays an
47 important ecological role in intertidal habitats during high tides (Sanford, 2014), while high
48 (Somero, 2007) and low (Braby, 2007) air temperatures are ecologically relevant during low
49 tides. In addition, not only average temperature is ecologically important, but its temporal
50 variability as well (Benedetti-Cecchi et al., 2006). Overall, then, having detailed temperature
51 data across periods of low and high tide is important for intertidal ecology and to make
52 biogeographic predictions based on climate change expectations (Wetthey et al., 2011).

53 Temperature data are available for surface ocean waters worldwide (Fay and McKinley,
54 2014; Banzon et al., 2016; Freeman and Lovenduski, 2016; Aulicino et al., 2018; Yun et al.,
55 2019). However, data on intertidal temperature are considerably less common, both in terms of
56 spatial and temporal coverage (Lathlean et al., 2014; Umanzor et al., 2017; Scrosati and Ellrich,
57 2018a). This is especially true for wave-exposed intertidal habitats, as remote sensing methods
58 that are commonly used for open waters (e.g., satellites) cannot capture the quick, localized
59 temperature changes caused by tides and waves on exposed shores. Waves can also damage
60 equipment deployed in-situ to measure intertidal temperature. For wave-exposed intertidal
61 habitats, temperature data between consecutive low and high tides can also be used to infer
62 physical aspects of the environment such as wave action itself (Harley and Helmuth, 2003).

63 Wave-exposed rocky intertidal habitats are common along the Canadian coast in Nova
64 Scotia, as this coast faces the open Atlantic Ocean. Several studies have investigated the ecology
65 of these environments (Minchinton and Scheibling, 1991; Hunt and Scheibling, 1998, 2001;
66 Scrosati and Heaven, 2007; Arribas et al., 2014; Molis et al., 2015; Ellrich and Scrosati, 2016;
67 Scrosati and Ellrich, 2018b, 2019; Scrosati, 2020a,b). However, because of their research goals,
68 intertidal temperature was either not measured or analyzed for a few locations or for limited
69 time periods. Therefore, there is a knowledge gap on broad spatio-temporal patterns in intertidal
70 temperature for wave-exposed environments along this coast. To address this gap, this paper
71 provides and discusses a data set consisting of intertidal temperature values measured every half
72 hour at nine wave-exposed locations along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia spanning a period
73 of 5.5 years.

74 **2 Methods**

75 We monitored intertidal temperature at nine locations that span the full extent of the open
76 Atlantic coast of mainland Nova Scotia, nearly 415 km (Fig. 1). For simplicity, these locations
77 are hereafter referred to as L1 to L9, from north to south. Their names and coordinates are
78 provided in Table 1. The substrate of these intertidal locations is stable bedrock. All of them
79 face the open Atlantic Ocean without physical obstructions, so they are wave-exposed. Values
80 of daily maximum water velocity (an indication of wave exposure) measured with
81 dynamometers (see design in Bell and Denny, 1994) in wave-exposed intertidal habitats from
82 this coast range between 6-12 m s⁻¹ (Hunt and Scheibling, 2001; Scrosati and Heaven, 2007;
83 Ellrich and Scrosati, 2017). This coast is washed by the Nova Scotia Current, which is a

84 nearshore cool current that flows southwestward from the Cabot Strait to the Gulf of Maine and
85 is more prevalent in winter than in summer (Han et al., 1997).

86 We started to monitor intertidal temperature in April-May 2014 at L2-L9 and in April 2015
87 at L1 (see the precise dates in Scrosati and Ellrich, 2020a). We measured temperature with
88 submersible loggers (HOBO Pendant logger, Onset Computer, Bourne, MA, USA) that were
89 kept attached to the intertidal substrate with plastic cable ties secured to eye screws drilled into
90 the substrate, allowing almost no contact between the loggers and the substrate. We kept the
91 substrate around the loggers always free of macroalgal canopies and sessile invertebrates. To
92 have a continuous temperature record during the 5.5 years of this study, we replaced the loggers
93 periodically. At each location, we installed replicate loggers several meters apart from one
94 another at the same elevation (just above the mid-intertidal zone). As tidal amplitude increases
95 by 33 % from 1.8 m at L1 to 2.4 m at L9 (Tide-Forecast, 2020) and as wave exposure could
96 change along the coast (and thus wave splash up the shore at low tides) even though all
97 locations face the open ocean, we had to carefully determine the elevation of installation of the
98 loggers at each location to have all loggers installed at the same relative elevation along the
99 coast in terms of exposure to aerial conditions during low tides. To achieve this, for each
100 location, we considered the intertidal range to be the vertical distance between chart datum (0 m
101 in elevation, or lowest normal tide in Canada) and the highest elevation where sessile perennial
102 organisms (the barnacle *Semibalanus balanoides*) occurred on the substrate outside of crevices,
103 as such a high boundary summarizes differences in tidal amplitude and wave exposure along the
104 coast (Scrosati and Heaven, 2007). Then, we divided the resulting intertidal range for each
105 location by three and installed the loggers just above the bottom boundary of the upper third of
106 the intertidal range. Following this method, loggers were installed at an elevation (in m above
107 chart datum, with the high barnacle boundary stated in parenthesis) of 1.17 m at L1 (1.75 m),
108 1.13 m at L2 (1.69 m), 1.30 m at L3 (1.95 m), 1.57 m at L4 (2.36 m), 1.08 m at L5 (1.62 m),
109 1.49 m at L6 (2.24 m), 1.49 m at L7 (2.24 m), 1.41 m at L8 (2.11 m), and 1.63 m at L9 (2.44 m).
110 We set all loggers to record temperature every 30 min. We stopped recording temperature in
111 November 2018 at L1 and L3 and in August-October 2019 at L2 and L4-L9 (see the precise
112 dates in Scrosati and Ellrich, 2020a). For each location, temperature was highly correlated
113 between the replicate loggers during the study period (mean $r = 0.97$). Thus, we averaged the
114 corresponding half-hourly values to generate one time series of half-hourly temperature data for
115 each location for the studied period, which is the data set discussed in this paper, being publicly
116 available from the figshare online repository (Scrosati and Ellrich, 2020a).

117 Due to its high temporal resolution, this data set could be used in the future for a variety of
118 purposes. To summarize its main properties here, we extracted values that are commonly used in
119 intertidal ecology and coastal oceanography and that therefore could be of immediate interest:
120 daily maximum and minimum temperature (MaxT and MinT, respectively) and daily SST. As
121 the Nova Scotia coast is cold-temperate, we expected SST to be often considerably lower than
122 MaxT in spring and summer, as MaxT is then reached during low tides when intertidal
123 environments are usually exposed to high air temperatures. Conversely, we expected SST and
124 MaxT to be more similar or even the same in winter, as low tides then often expose intertidal
125 habitats to negative air temperatures below the freezing point of seawater. For these same
126 reasons, we also expected SST to be typically higher than MinT in winter, as MinT is then
127 generally reached during low tides, but more similar to MinT in spring and summer. For each
128 location, we extracted the values of daily MaxT, MinT, and SST from the corresponding set of
129 half-hourly data on intertidal temperature (Scrosati and Ellrich, 2020a). We considered daily

130 SST as the temperature recorded closest to the time of the highest tide of each day, as the
131 loggers were then fully submerged in seawater. We determined the time of such tides using
132 information (Tide and Current Predictor, 2020) for the tide reference stations that are closest to
133 our intertidal locations (Table 1).

134 **3 Main patterns in the data and relevance to future research**

135 We obtained half-hourly temperature data during the monitoring period specified above for
136 each location with just two exceptions: the period between 20 March and 12 April 2017 for L1
137 (because of logger removal by drift sea ice coming from the Gulf of St. Lawrence) and the
138 period between 30 September 2014 and 26 April 2015 for L9 (because of logger loss caused by
139 wave action). Continued monitoring after both such periods was possible after installing new
140 loggers. This data set is available online (Scrosati and Ellrich, 2020a).

141 The temporal changes in daily MaxT, MinT, and SST during the studied period at each
142 location are shown in Fig. 2. For convenience, all of these daily values are also available from
143 the figshare online repository (Scrosati et al., 2020). The highest and lowest values of SST for
144 each location (Table 2) reveal that this cold-temperate coast has a wide seasonal range of SST
145 (see worldwide SST ranges in figure 6.3 in Stewart, 2008). The highest location-wise values of
146 SST occurred in summer and ranged between 20 °C and 22.8 °C, while the lowest location-wise
147 SST values occurred in winter and were near the freezing point of seawater, between -0.9 °C
148 and -1.8 °C (Table 2, Fig. 2). We note that, unlike the nearby Gulf of St. Lawrence (Fig. 1;
149 Saucier et al., 2003) or wave-sheltered coves along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, open
150 waters washing wave-exposed habitats along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia do not freeze in
151 winter (Canadian Ice Service, 2020). Overall, for the studied period, the location-wise difference
152 between the highest and lowest SST values ranged between 21.1 °C and 24.6 °C. Although there
153 was some patchiness in this seasonal SST range along the coast, it was lowest in two southern
154 locations (L7 and L9) driven by lower values of maximum summer SST there (Table 2).

155 The occurrence of the lowest location-wise values of maximum summer SST at two
156 southern locations (L7 and L9) is related to a broader alongshore pattern. Based on the data for
157 the summer months (for convenience, July, August, and September) for the years when SST was
158 measured at all locations in those months (2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018), mean location-wise
159 SST in summer decreased from north to south, from 17.5 °C at L1 to 13.2 °C at L9 (Table 2). In
160 contrast, an equivalent analysis done for winter months (for convenience, January, February,
161 and March) for the years when SST was measured at all locations in those months (2016, 2017,
162 and 2018) revealed that mean location-wise SST in winter actually increased from north to
163 south, from 0.8 °C at L1 to 3.0 °C at L9 (Table 2). In other words, a summer-to-winter reversal
164 in the latitudinal trend in intertidal SST takes place on this coast, as waters are warmer in
165 summer and colder in winter in northern locations than in southern locations.

166 The southward decrease of intertidal SST in summer is likely influenced by alongshore
167 differences in coastal upwelling. On the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, upwelling-favourable
168 winds are more common in summer than in winter (Garrett and Loucks, 1976; Dever et al.,
169 2018). Although possible alongshore differences in upwelling have not been studied in detail,
170 they seem to exist. For example, Petrie et al. (1987) reported that seawater temperature at 6-20
171 m of depth decreased from June to July 1984 near L6–L7 because of wind-driven upwelling,
172 while temperature at those depths increased north of that coastal range during that period. More
173 recently, Shan et al. (2016) have also referred to wind-driven upwelling on the southeastern

174 Nova Scotia coast. A detailed analysis of daily changes in intertidal SST is beyond the
175 objectives of this paper. However, Fig. 2 reveals basic differences in summer cooling between
176 northern and southern locations. Summer cooling events were generally marked in southern
177 locations, especially at L6 and L7, where SST could drop by 10 °C in 5-10 days, in some cases
178 reaching values below 5 °C (Fig. 2). An analysis of coastal winds at L6 and L7 indicated that
179 wind-driven upwelling explained the cooling observed at those locations in July 2014 (Scrosati
180 and Ellrich, 2020b). Although persistent, the summer cooling signal that was often pronounced
181 at L6 and L7 (Fig. 2) weakened progressively towards northern locations, especially at L1 and
182 L2. In fact, at L1, SST never dropped below 10 °C in summer months (Fig. 2). These
183 considerations could orient future research to unravel the drivers of the latitudinal changes in
184 summer SST revealed by this study.

185 The southward increase of intertidal SST observed in winter could be a result of latitudinal
186 changes in heat flux from the atmosphere (Stewart, 2008; Deser et al., 2010; Shan et al., 2016),
187 although other processes are also generally at play in coastal environments (Hebert et al., 2016;
188 Larouche and Galbraith, 2016). For example, for the studied coast, the abundant sea ice formed
189 across the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Fig. 1) every winter (Saucier et al., 2003) may contribute to
190 keep intertidal SST low at our northern locations, as the waters that leave this gulf flow
191 southwards following the coast of mainland Nova Scotia (Han et al., 1997; Hebert et al., 2016;
192 Dever et al., 2018), reaching our northern locations first before they warm up on their way
193 south.

194 As expected from the warm summers and cold winters that characterize eastern Canada
195 (Government of Canada, 2020), MaxT was often considerably higher than SST in spring and
196 summer and MinT was often lower than SST in fall and winter (Fig. 2), as MaxT and MinT
197 typically take place at low tide during those respective seasons. The highest location-wise values
198 of MaxT almost doubled those of SST, as they ranged between 36.1 °C and 41.2 °C. The lowest
199 location-wise values of MinT ranged between -9.1 °C and -16.3 °C. Therefore, the location-wise
200 difference between the highest and lowest daily temperatures, which ranged between 46.1 °C
201 and 54.4 °C, generally more than doubled the location-wise difference between the highest and
202 lowest daily SST values (Table 2).

203 The highest value of MaxT differed little among locations (Table 2). Based on the data for
204 the summer months (for convenience, July, August, and September) for the years when SST was
205 measured at all locations in those months (2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018), mean location-wise
206 MaxT in summer exhibited patchiness along the coast without any clear latitudinal trend (Table
207 2). As MaxT in summer generally occurs during aerial exposure at low tides, both climatic and
208 oceanographic influences may interact to determine its alongshore pattern. For instance, summer
209 values of MaxT might simply be expected to increase southwards following warmer air
210 temperatures on land (Government of Canada, 2020). However, the SST drops due to coastal
211 upwelling in southern locations in summer might actually temper air temperatures right on the
212 coast, thus limiting MaxT. In the end, climate and oceanography might together be responsible
213 for the patchy alongshore MaxT pattern, which seems dependent on local conditions.
214 Researching these possibilities could thus be of interest. In contrast, the data for winter months
215 (for convenience, January, February, and March) for the years when MinT was measured at all
216 locations in those months (2016, 2017, and 2018) revealed that mean location-wise MinT in
217 winter generally increased from north to south, the lowest such average (-2.7 °C) registered at
218 L1 and the highest one (0.2 °C) at L9 (Table 2). Thus, the alongshore pattern of winter MinT

219 may more clearly respond to typical latitudinal changes in winter air temperatures and perhaps
220 also to influences of Gulf of St. Lawrence sea ice (see above) on northern locations.

221 Another salient property of our data is that the daily changes in MaxT in spring and
222 summer and MinT in fall and winter were much larger than the corresponding daily changes in
223 SST (Fig. 2). Such a high day-to-day variability in MaxT and MinT likely reflects daily changes
224 in weather conditions, which affect intertidal habitats at low tides, as well as wave exposure, as
225 wave-generated splash during low tides on wavy days keep intertidal habitats wet and, thus,
226 often cooler than the air in summer and warmer than the air in winter. Thus, the interaction
227 between weather and wave action as a determinant of intertidal thermal extremes is another
228 research area deserving attention in the future. Ultimately, given the prominent role of extreme
229 abiotic events in ecology (Denny et al., 2009; Smith, 2011; Nowicki et al., 2019), the marked
230 daily changes in MaxT and MinT during those seasons highlight the potentially critical role of
231 low tides for the survival of intertidal organisms on these environmentally variable habitats.

232 Another interesting characteristic of our data set is that the daily average between MaxT
233 and MinT was generally higher than SST in spring and summer but generally lower than SST in
234 fall and winter (Fig. 2). In other words, the average intertidal temperature measured during low
235 tides increased faster from winter to summer and decreased faster from summer to winter than
236 SST. This difference likely reflects the difference in heat capacity between air and water, which
237 makes SST follow air temperatures throughout seasons with a delay (Stewart, 2008).

238 Our data set could also be useful to investigate climatic drivers of interannual differences in
239 intertidal temperature. For example, a marked difference in upwelling-driven coastal cooling at
240 L6 and L7 between July 2014 (strong) and July 2015 (weak) was related to a normal (2014)
241 versus El Niño (2015) conditions (Scrosati and Ellrich, 2020b). Although El Niño (ENSO) is
242 predominantly a Pacific phenomenon (Timmermann et al., 2018), it is also related to interannual
243 weather changes in North America through climatic teleconnections (George and Wolfe 2009;
244 Wu and Lin 2012; Whan and Zwiers 2017; Dai and Tan, 2019). Another large-scale climate
245 phenomenon, the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), influences weather patterns mainly in the
246 North Atlantic basin (Hanna and Cropper, 2017). It would thus be interesting to study whether
247 NAO and ENSO might interact (Wu and Lin, 2012; Nalley et al., 2019) to affect winds,
248 upwelling, and ultimately intertidal temperature along the Nova Scotia coast.

249 **4 Conclusions**

250 This is a unique data set because it describes intertidal temperature with a high temporal
251 resolution during a period of 5.5 years at nine wave-exposed locations spanning the full extent
252 of the Atlantic coast of mainland Nova Scotia. The main patterns described above have revealed
253 previously unknown latitudinal and seasonal trends in intertidal temperature on this coast. The
254 above considerations on the possible mechanisms underlying these patterns should help orient
255 future research on the drivers of thermal variation in these intertidal environments. Because of
256 the temporal and spatial scales of this data set, future research using these data could lead to
257 theoretical advances in coastal oceanography and intertidal thermal ecology. Ultimately, this
258 data set represents a detailed baseline on which to study the influence of climatic and
259 oceanographic change on intertidal temperature variation on this cold-temperate coast.

260 **Data availability**

261 The full data set on half-hourly temperature measured at the nine intertidal locations
 262 between 2014 and 2019 is available from the figshare online repository (Scrosati and Ellrich,
 263 2020a; <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12462065.v1>). The daily values of MaxT, MinT, and
 264 SST for these locations during this time period are also available from the figshare online
 265 repository (Scrosati et al., 2020; <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12453374.v1>).

266 **Author contributions**

267 RAS designed the study and wrote the manuscript. RAS and JAE led field work and JAE
 268 and MJF data curation. JAE and MJF reviewed the manuscript before submission.

269 **Competing interests**

270 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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- 438

438 **Table 1.** Basic information about the nine wave-exposed intertidal locations surveyed for this
 439 study.
 440

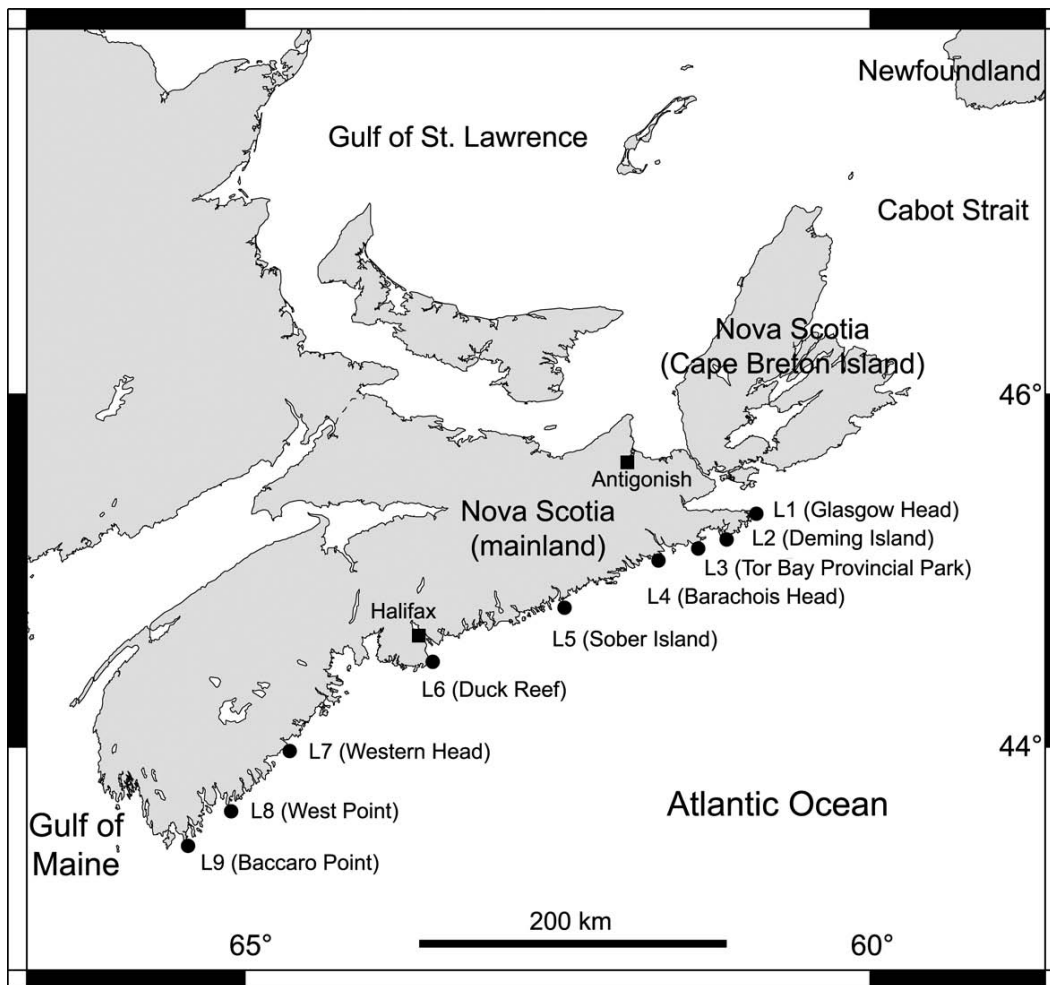
Location code	Name of studied intertidal location (geographic coordinates)	Closest tide reference station (geographic coordinates)
L1	Glasgow Head (45.3203° N, 60.9592° W)	Canso (45.3500° N, 61.0000° W)
L2	Deming Island (45.2121° N, 61.1738° W)	Whitehead (45.2333° N, 61.1833° W)
L3	Tor Bay Provincial Park (45.1823° N, 61.3553° W)	Larry's River (45.2167° N, 61.3833° W)
L4	Barachois Head (45.0890° N, 61.6933° W)	Port Bickerton (45.1000° N, 61.7333° W)
L5	Sober Island (44.8223° N, 62.4573° W)	Port Bickerton (45.1000° N, 61.7333° W)
L6	Duck Reef (44.4913° N, 63.5270° W)	Sambro (44.4833° N, 63.6000° W)
L7	Western Head (43.9896° N, 64.6607° W)	Liverpool (44.0500° N, 64.7167° W)
L8	West Point (43.6533° N, 65.1309° W)	Lockport (43.7000° N, 65.1167° W)
L9	Baccaro Point (43.4496° N, 65.4697° W)	Ingomar (43.5667° N, 65.3333° W)

441

441 **Table 2.** Summary values of daily MaxT, MinT, and SST (°C) for the nine wave-exposed
 442 intertidal locations (L1 to L9, from north to south) surveyed between 2014 and 2019 along the
 443 Atlantic Canadian coast (see Methods for details on how each row of values was determined).
 444

	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9
Highest daily MaxT	38.1	38.3	37.9	36.1	41.2	36.5	37.1	37.2	38.5
Lowest daily MinT	-16.3	-10.8	-11.0	-10.0	-12.2	-15.5	-13.0	-9.1	-11.6
Highest temperature range	54.4	49.1	48.9	46.1	53.4	52.0	50.1	46.3	50.1
Summer mean MaxT	25.1	22.9	22.6	20.7	25.5	23.5	22.8	23.2	21.8
Winter mean MinT	-2.7	-1.4	-1.3	-0.4	-2.2	-1.2	-0.3	0.02	0.2
Highest daily SST	22.5	21.5	21.8	22.8	22.2	21.9	20.3	22.1	20.0
Lowest daily SST	-1.7	-1.7	-1.4	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-0.9	-1.7	-1.7
Highest SST range	24.2	23.2	23.2	24.6	24.0	23.7	21.1	23.7	21.7
Summer mean SST	17.5	16.4	16.1	16.1	15.8	15.2	13.3	14.2	13.2
Winter mean SST	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.6	2.2	2.7	2.8	3.0

445

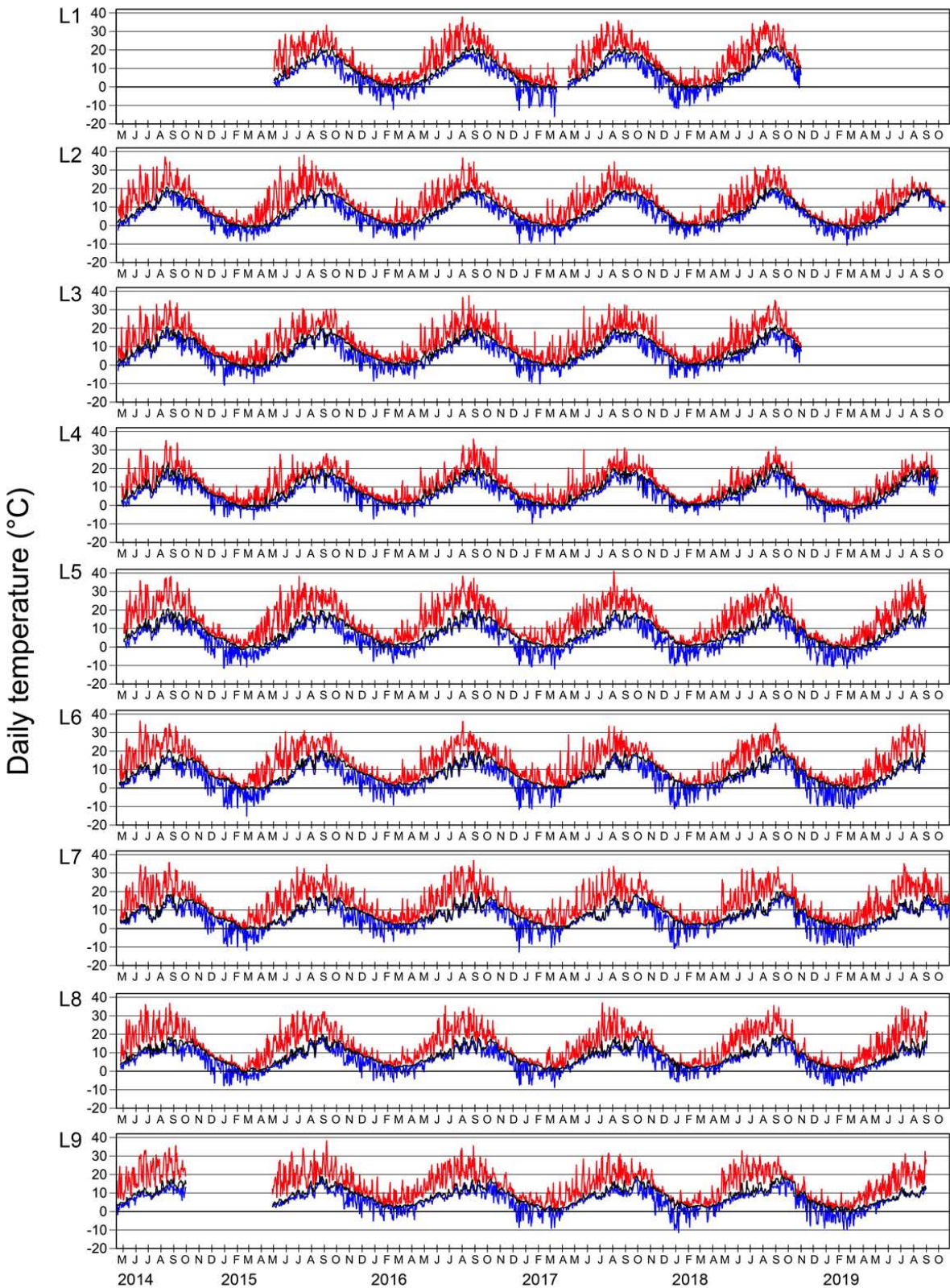


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446

447 **Figure 1.** Map indicating the position of the nine wave-exposed intertidal locations surveyed
 448 along the Atlantic coast of mainland Nova Scotia, Canada.

449



449

450

451

Figure 2. Daily MaxT (red line), MinT (blue line), and SST (black line) at the nine intertidal locations (L1 to L9, from north to south) surveyed between April 2014 and October 2019.