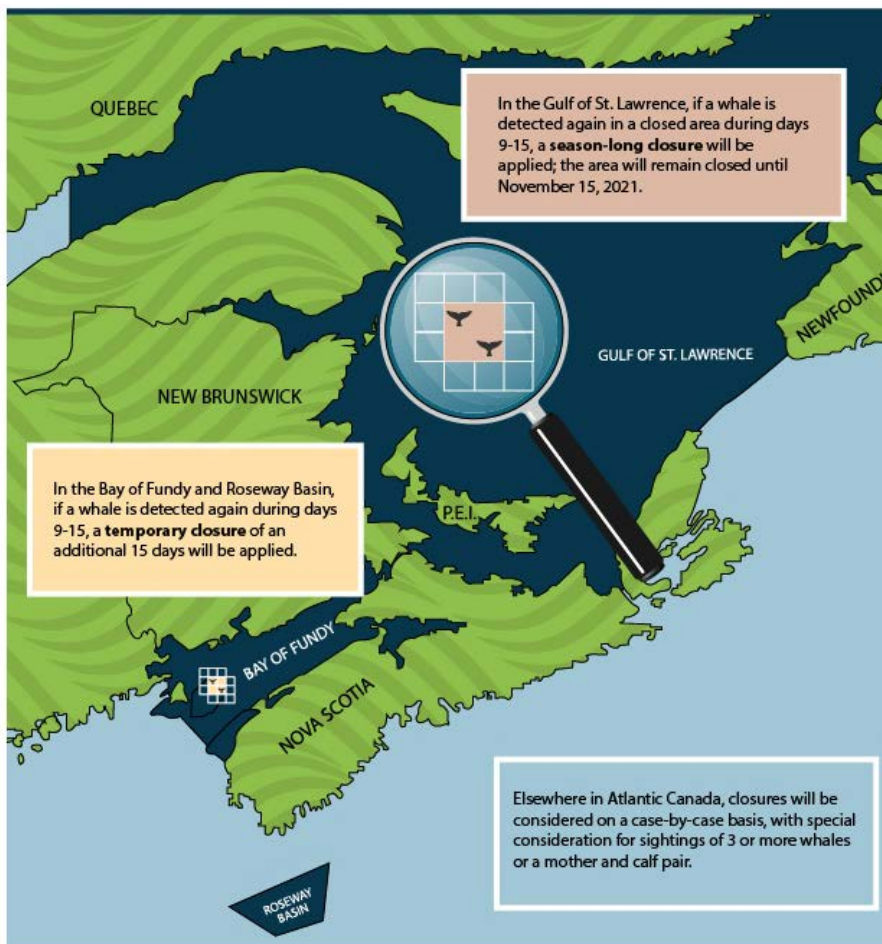


PROTECTING NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES: CANADA'S MEASURES in 2021

Canada is taking significant action to protect North Atlantic right whales from entanglement with fishing gear and collisions with vessels. Our measures are based on the best available science and input from industry, provincial governments, Indigenous communities, academia, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. Multiple agencies conduct focused surveillance on the water, under water, and in the air to detect whales and to ensure compliance with the measures.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES

FISHING AREA CLOSURES



OTHER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- All fish harvesters are required to report lost gear and interactions with marine mammals.
- Specific gear marking is required for all fixed gear fisheries (including lobster and crab) in Atlantic Canada and Quebec.
- Harvesters are authorized to conduct rope-less gear trials in closed areas.
- Throughout 2021 and 2022, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will work with industry, fishery by fishery, to identify gear solutions for preventing injury to right whales, including:
 - weak rope or weak breaking points, to become mandatory by the end of 2022; and,
 - maximum rope diameters of 5/8 inches, sinking rope between pots and traps, and reductions in vertical and floating rope, to become mandatory after 2022.

*deadlines were pushed back by one year due to COVID-19

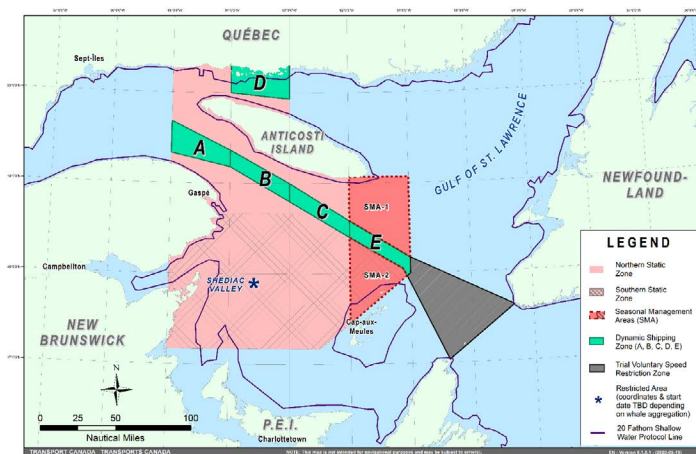
VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Continue to implement a similar suite of measures as last season, including:

- a mandatory speed restriction of 10 knots for all vessels more than 13 m (43 ft) in length in the Gulf of St. Lawrence starting on April 28.
- a mandatory speed restriction to 10 knots for 15 days when a North Atlantic right whale is detected in one of the dynamic shipping zones in the shipping lanes north and south of Anticosti Island. When no North Atlantic right whales are detected in the area, vessels are allowed to travel at safe operational speeds.
- two seasonal management areas, from April 28-June 29, where vessels must reduce speeds to 10 knots to provide more protection when larger numbers of North Atlantic right whales are expected to be migrating into the Gulf of Lawrence. From June 30 to November 15, vessels will be permitted to travel through these two areas at safe operational speeds unless a North Atlantic right whale is detected. If detected, a mandatory speed restriction of 10 knots will be put in place for 15 days.
- a trial voluntary slowdown will be in place in the Cabot Strait, from April 28 to June 29 and from September 29 to November 15, to provide additional protection during

increased whale migration activity in or out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

- a mandatory restricted area in and near the Shediac Valley in the late spring to summer months where all vessels are to avoid the area, or, if on a list of exempted vessels, reduce their speed to eight knots when travelling through it.
- fines of up to \$250,000 will be issued to vessels that are non-compliant with mandatory vessel traffic management measures – in 2020, there was a greater than 99.9% compliance rate.



IN 2020, CANADA:

- invested an additional \$1.2 million over four years to support Marine Mammal Response activities
- hosted the first ever Gear Innovation Summit to explore innovations in gear and technology to reduce whale entanglements
- introduced a new season-long closure area protocol
- expanded the dynamic fishery closure area into the Bay of Fundy
- introduced mandatory gear markings for all fix gear fisheries in Eastern Canada
- authorized rope-less gear trials in closed areas

- created an \$8.3 million Ghost Gear Fund, to assist in the retrieval and recycling of harmful ghost gear from the ocean. This program helped facilitate the removal of 63 tonnes (69 US tons) of ghost gear in Atlantic Canada.
- logged over 2,500 flight hours
- added acoustic detections to trigger actions for both fisheries and vessel traffic management measures
- incorporated a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (or drone) to monitor for right whales into its surveillance platforms for vessel traffic management measures

All amounts are in Canadian dollars



WORKING TOGETHER:

On July 22, 2019, the Campobello Whale Rescue Team successfully removed gear from entangled whale #4423 with aerial and on-the-water support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) aircraft. (Photo credit: NOAA)