

CANADIAN LOBSTER



THE CANADIAN LOBSTER FISHERY IS...

• **ONE OF THE MOST SUSTAINABLE IN THE WORLD.** Our ongoing mitigation strategies as well as newly introduced regulations all help to mitigate the risk to the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW).

• **COMMITTED TO NARW PROTECTION** and has been taking steps long before the devastating mortality rate in 2017. The industry began developing its own mitigation strategies which included harvester-driven self monitoring and gear tracking as early as 2006.

The Canadian lobster fishery has implemented many mitigation measures to protect the NARW.

These include:



A reduction in the amount of rope floating on the surface of the water



A newly implemented requirement that all harvesters report any lost gear



Implementation of seasonal speed restrictions in static zones, dynamic shipping zones, seasonal management areas, a trial voluntary speed restriction zone and a restricted area



A comprehensive sighting/interaction policy including a whale hotline number and ongoing aerial monitoring



Defined zones with defined seasons



Daily oversight of regulatory compliance by the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans



Governing protocols as set out by Canada's Species At Risk Act

CANADIAN LOBSTER

Lobster harvesters are adhering to new dynamic and static closure measures that have been implemented by the Government of Canada.

In addition to these ongoing measures, lobster harvesters in a number of Canadian fishing regions have been testing various technologies to aid in NARW protection. As well, several harvesters have trained with whale rescue teams on whale disentanglement.

The Canadian lobster fishery also differs from others in the number of traps and lines that we are able to have in the water at any given time.

As an industry we are very committed to continue to work with regulators on both sides of the Canada/US border to ensure that we are doing all we can to implement proven mitigation tactics that will have a real impact on the long-term sustainability of the NARW.

Vessel traffic management measures are adjusted annually to more efficiently target risks to NARW from vessel traffic, especially as they migrate in and out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the spring and fall.



WE MUST ALL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP THE RIGHT STRATEGIES TO PROTECT THE NARW WHILE ENSURING CONTINUED SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FISHERY AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES.



CANADIAN LOBSTER INDUSTRY PROTECTION OF NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

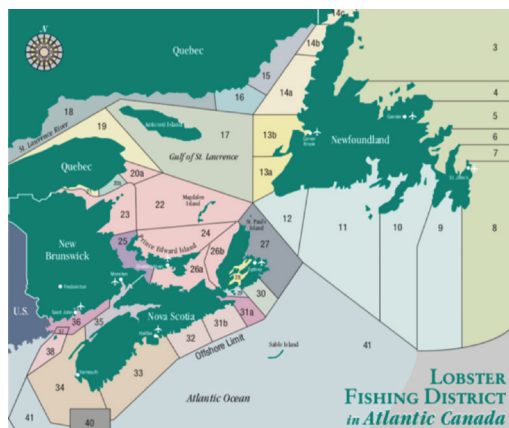
OVERARCHING PROTECTION MEASURES



Daily oversight of regulatory compliance by the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans

DEFINED LOBSTER SEASONS

The defined lobster seasons have historically limited contact with NARW.



Seasons

3-6 April 20 – July 15	17 June 5 – August 5	27 May 15 – July 15	33-34 Last Monday in November – May 31
9-12 April 20 – July 30	18 May 20 – July 31	28 May 9 – July 9	35 Last day Feb – July 31 and October 14 – December 31
13a-13b April 20 – July 5	19/21 May 9 – July 9	29 May 10 – July 10	36-37 March 31 – June 29 and 2nd Tuesday in November – January 14
14a-14b-14c May 5 – July 10	20a/22/23/24/26/26b April 30 – June 30	30 May 19 – July 20	38 2nd Tuesday in November – June 23
15 June 1 – August 12	20b May 8 – July 7	31a April 29 – June 30	40 Closed to inshore-offshore lobster fishing
16 May 20 – August 10	25 August 9 – October 10	31b-32 April 19 – June 20	41 Area open all year

NARW INTERACTION AND SIGHTINGS REPORTING



As part of compliance with the US Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA) harvesters will report all interactions with NARWs and their condition within 48 hours

As well, all sightings with NARW and their condition must be reported to DFO

1-844-800-8568

All interaction must be reported in the Species at Risk Logbook



DYNAMIC MANAGEMENT AREAS

Season-long Closure protocols in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (GSL) applies to areas in the Dynamic Zone where whales are detected (visually or acoustically) more than once in

15 days

and includes special Shallow Water protocols.

To balance harvester safety

with conservation priorities, license holders are provided time to remove fishing gear from the zone prior to a dynamic closure.

If a single NARW is detected, Dynamic closure of a contiguous series of

9 grids

will be in place for a minimum of 15 days.

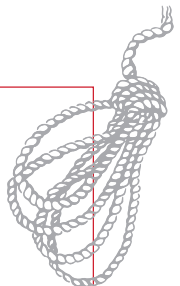
In the GSL, if a whale is detected again in a closed area during days 9-15, a season-long closure will be implemented, and the area will remain closed until November 15th of that year. Dynamic closures apply to the entire GSL, Bay of Fundy and Roseway Basin.

UNIVERSAL GEAR REQUIREMENTS

No surface floating rope attaching a trap to a primary buoy is permitted after trap has been set

No surface floating rope attaching a trap to another trap is permitted after a trap has been set

In the GSL, if fishing with a primary and secondary buoy a maximum of **3.7 meters of rope** shall be used when attaching a primary buoy to a secondary buoy



All Canadian lobster gear is required to be clearly identified. Mandatory gear marking measures are in place for all non-tended, fixed gear fisheries in Atlantic Canada and Quebec. The gear marking requirements identify country, region, fishery and, for lobster and snow crab fisheries only, the specific fishing area.

License holders must report lost gear within **72 hours of discovery**





CANADIAN LOBSTER INDUSTRY PROTECTION OF NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

GOVERNING PROTOCOLS AS SET OUT BY CANADA'S SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA)

To ensure the protection of species at risk, SARA contains general prohibitions that make it an offence to:

- kill, harm, harass, capture, or take an individual of a species listed in Schedule 1 of SARA as endangered, threatened or extirpated;
- possess, collect, buy, sell or trade an individual of a species listed in Schedule 1 of SARA as endangered, threatened or extirpated;
- damage or destroy the residence (e.g. nest or den) of one or more individuals of a species listed in Schedule 1 of SARA as endangered, threatened or extirpated (if a recovery strategy has recommended the reintroduction of that extirpated species into the wild in Canada).



VESSEL MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Mandatory speed restrictions to a maximum of 10 knots throughout much of the Gulf of St. Lawrence with special measures in place around Anticosti Island and through the Cabot Strait, two seasonal management areas around dynamic shipping area E and a mandatory restricted area where whales have been known to gather in recent years in and near the Shediac Valley.

The presence of NARW in the shipping lanes is monitored using the **National Aerial Surveillance** Program along with Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (drones) and Underwater Gliders.

