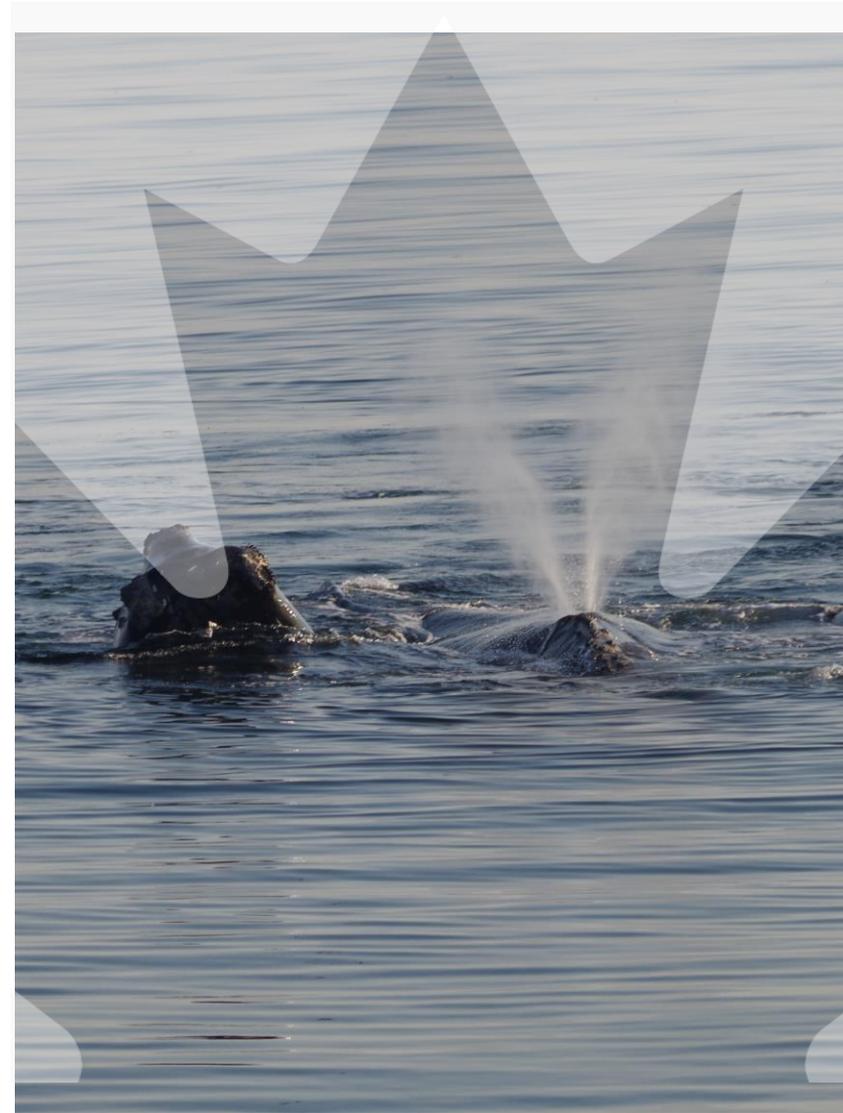




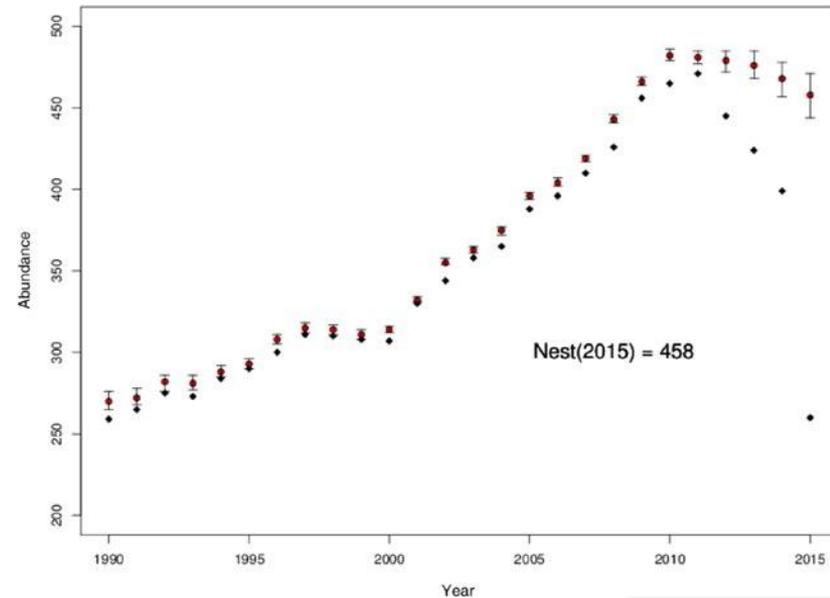
North Atlantic Right Whale

Update on discussions
concerning the
management measures
to minimize the risks of
interaction



Conservation issues

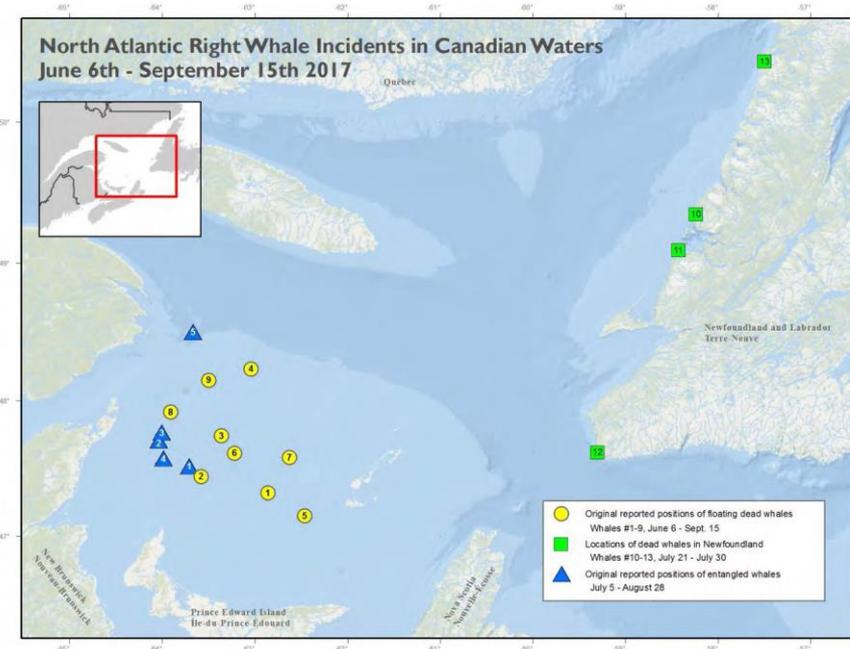
- Endangered species under the Species at Risk Act
- Estimated population of **411 individuals** (451 in 2017)
- Only 76 reproductive females
- **Access to the American market (MMPA)**: Need to demonstrate that the management measures to reduce marine mammal mortalities are comparable to the U.S. measures



Estimated abundance of North Atlantic right whales from 1990 to 2015 (Pace et al. 2017)

Summary of 2017 events

- **Increase in the number of sightings** of right whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (GSL) (over 100 individuals counted in 2017)
- **12 whales** found dead in the GSL
- **7 complete necropsies** performed (blunt trauma and chronic entanglement)
- **5 entanglements** in fishing gear



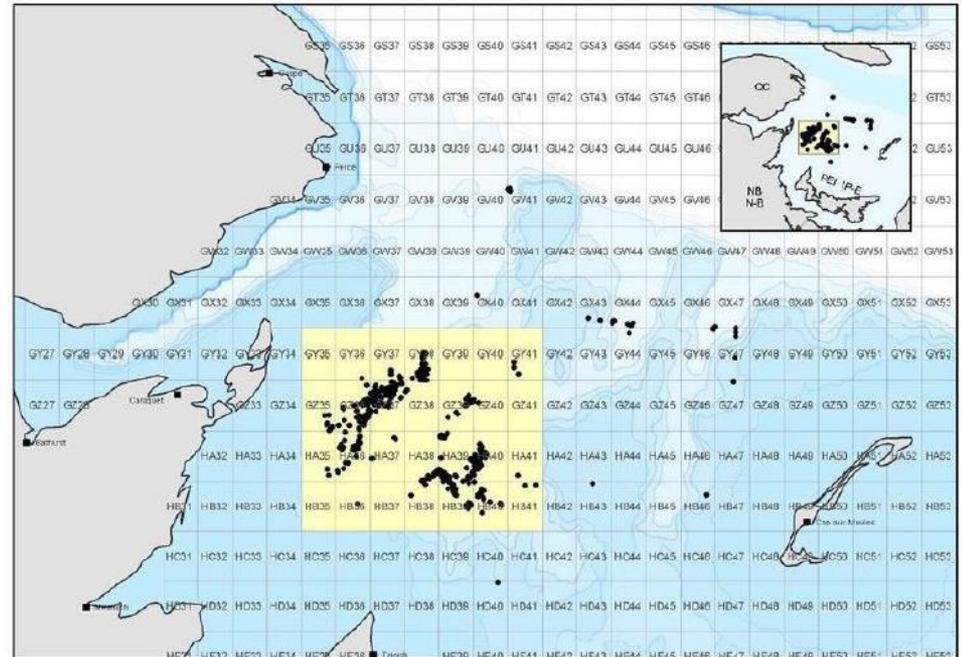
Daoust et al. 2017

Implementation of additional management measures to reduce mortality risks in 2018 (DFO-TC)

Fishing areas management protocol

Static closure

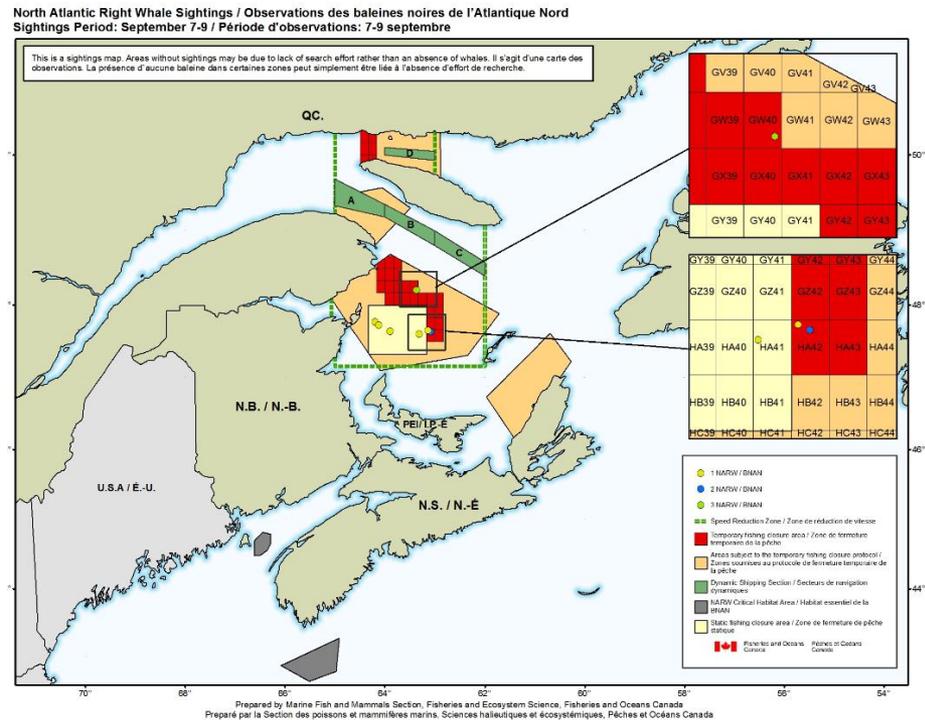
- Effective April 28
- 6,490 km²
- Applies to all fisheries with unmonitored fixed gear
- Area where 90% of the 2017 sightings occurred



Fishing areas management protocol

Temporary closures of grids

- Potential feeding areas
- Closure of 9 grids (3x3)
- Reopening after 15 days if no right whales are observed during at least two surveillance flights



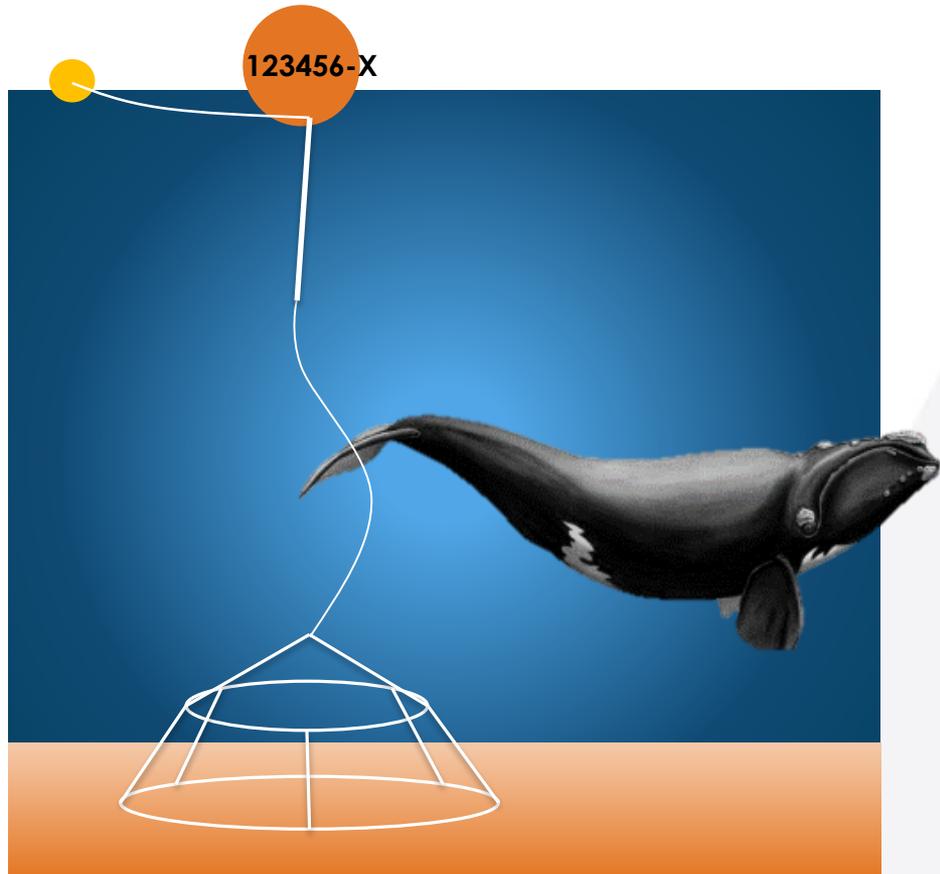
Fishing gear modifications

Minimize the amount of rope

- Maximum distance between the primary and secondary buoy
- Ban on floating rope at all times

Improved monitoring of ropes and buoys

- Sequential buoy numbering
- Rope markings
- Requirement to report lost gear



Summary of 2018 season

Incidents

	2017	2018
Canada		
Mortalities	12	0
Entanglements	5	3*
USA		
Mortalities	5	3
Entanglements	2	1**



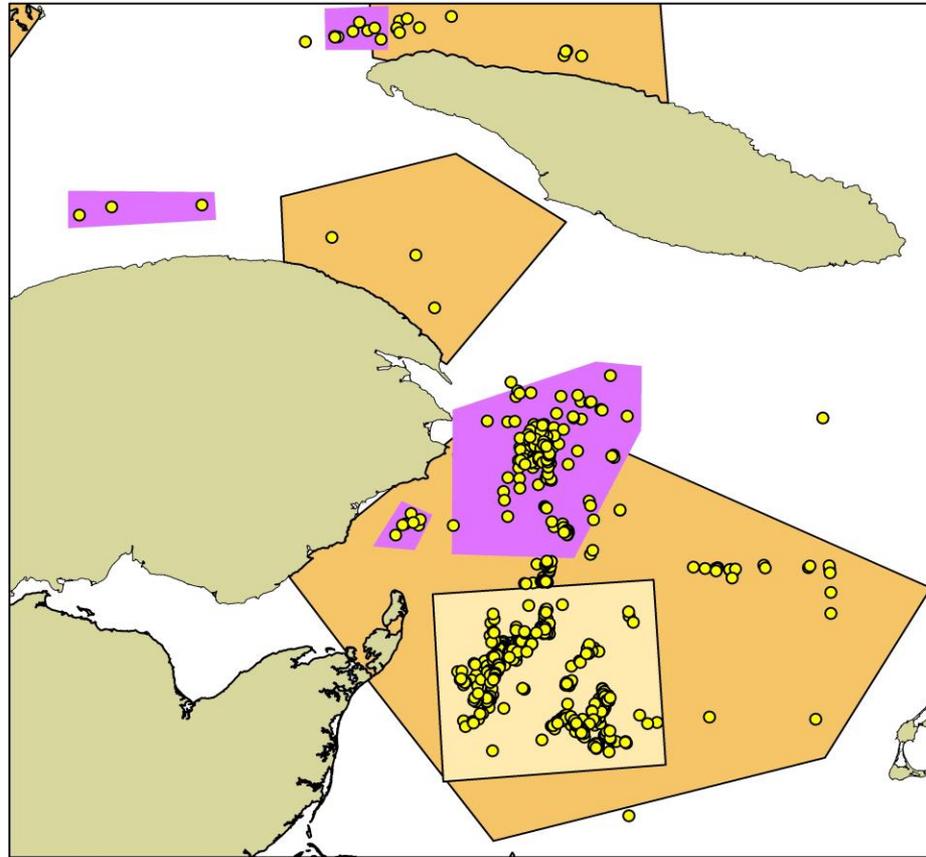
Figure provided by C&P King Air, DFO

- * Plus 2 NARWs with fresh entanglement marks
- ** Plus a previous entanglement observed again (Kleenex)

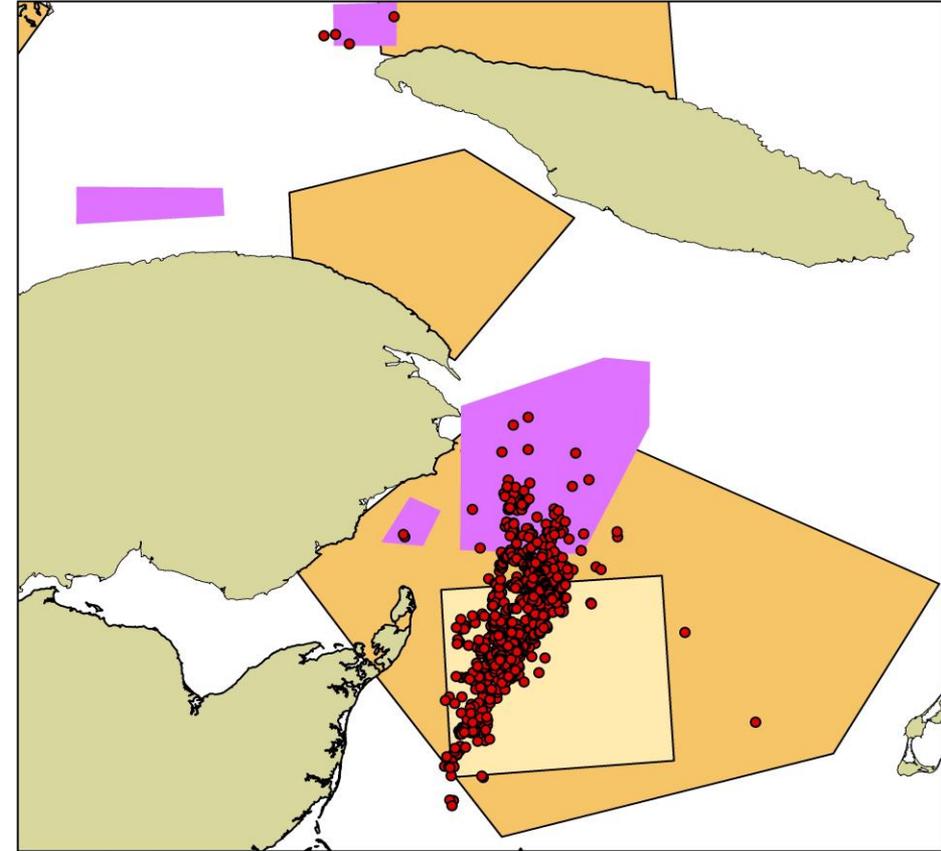
Summary of 2018 season



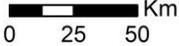
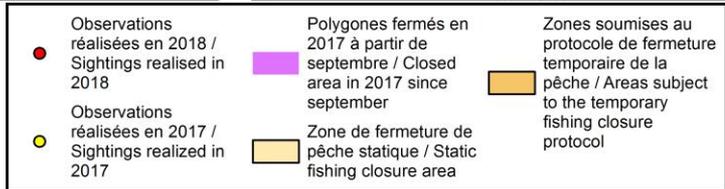
Observations de la baleine noire de l'Atlantique réalisées en 2017



Observations de la baleine noire de l'Atlantique réalisées en 2018 jusqu'au 20 août 2018



Produit par Gestion des Pêches | Prepared by Fisheries management directorate – Région du Québec |
 Quebec region, Pêches et Océans Canada | Fisheries and Ocean Canada |
 Dernière mise à jour: | Last Update: 2018-08-23



Discussion forums (QC)

- 8 face-to-face meetings
- 3 marine sectors involved
- 61 stakeholders consulted
- 91 issues raised
- 7 discussion topics

Meetings

August 1, 2018:	RPPSG
August 27, 2018:	RPPNG, Crabbers 17 FN fisheries coordinator, MAPAQ
August 28, 2018:	ACG, AMTG, AMG, ACPG, MMAFMA, FN fisheries coordinators, MAPAQ
August 29, 2018:	RPPIM, RPPUM
September 4, 2018:	AMIK, ITUM, SHIPEK, RPPHMCN, Crabbers 16, FN fisheries coordinators, MAPAQ
September 5, 2018:	LNSFA
September 7, 2018:	RPPCI, Crabbers 12, 12F
September 11, 2018:	APPIM

General comments

Issues	Industry proposals
Fisheries realities vary according to region and fleets	Adapt measures and protocols to take fleet specifics and constraints into consideration
The measures implemented in 2018 have had global economic impacts, some of which have gone beyond the fishing industry	Order an overall economic impact assessment and consider the economic impacts when implementing measures

Fishing gear

Issues	Industry proposals
Vertical lines represent the main risk of entanglement	Assess solutions to reduce the number of vertical lines (prohibit single trap fishing), require use of weighted core lines
Technological innovations as solutions	Assess the risks associated with new technologies, develop aid funds to pay for gear acquisition and modification

Static closure area

Issues	Industry proposals
Implemented too early (April 28)	Specify and put off the static area implementation date based on actual right whale sightings in the static area
Displace fishing effort	Assess impacts on stocks If a static area must be maintained early in the season, allowing fleets with ice-free harbours to use it before whales are sighted is proposed
Several grids in the static area remained closed throughout the fishing season although no whales were sighted	Manage fishing areas only dynamically to prevent the closure of grids where no whales were sighted

Temporary closure protocol

Issues	Industry proposals
Excessive size of closed areas and duration of closure White crab grids poorly suited to whale management	Assess the possibility of reducing the size of the temporary closure areas and the duration of the temporary closures
Closure as far as the coast	Specify the boundaries of potential foraging areas Consider the possibility of adapting the closure protocol for coastal fisheries (buffer zones in shallow waters, for example, <10 fathoms)
Triggering closures through the sighting of a single whale	Adjust the protocol to trigger a closure when a minimum of three right whales or one whale and its calf are sighted
Trap displacement required a lot of extra effort in too short a timeframe	Confirm the reasonable timeframe for temporarily closing grids while guaranteeing crew safety

Science review (Nov. 26–30)

Assessment of the presence of the North Atlantic right whale and the risk of interactions with fishing gear and collisions with vessels

Objectives:

- Determine, to the extent possible and using the available data, the spatial and temporal distribution of the NARW in Canadian waters
- Identify the NARW's risks of entanglement in fishing gear in the Gulf of St. Lawrence
- Identify the risks of collision with vessels the NARW is exposed to in the Gulf of St. Lawrence

Thank you