

Protecting North Atlantic Right Whales

Canada's fishing measures by year launched

- Introduced a static and dynamic fishery area closures
- Introduced case-by-case measures to address sightings of three or more whales or a mother and calf anywhere in Atlantic Canada and Quebec
- Introduced new mandatory requirements for harvesters to report lost gear and all marine mammal interactions.
- Introduced new measures to reduce rope and to better track buoys
- Introduced new gear marking requirements for harvesters in Crab Fishing Area 12
- Changed the *Marine Mammal Regulations* to ensure vessels stay at least 100 m from whales
- Invested in new whale detection technologies and new acoustic technologies, through the Oceans Protection Plan
- Supported industry-led pilot projects on new gear modifications to prevent entanglements
- Invested **\$1 million** per year (permanent) to support marine mammal response activities
- Logged 2,500 flight hours

2018

2020

- 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.
- Authorizing rope-less gear trials in closed areas
- Created a **\$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 of ghost gear in Atlantic Canada.
- Logged over 2,500 flight hours

2019

- Amended the static fishery closure to cover an area where 90% of right whales were spotted in 2017
- Expanded the dynamic fishery closure area to cover the entire Gulf of St. Lawrence
- Introduced new temporary fishery closure restrictions in shallow waters (less than 20 fathoms)
- Organized a gear retrieval operation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which removed over 100 traps and almost 10km (six miles) of rope.
- Invested an **additional \$1.2 million over four years** to support Marine Mammal Response activities
- Increased surveillance via aircraft, drones, and underwater gliders and acoustic devices.
- Logged 3,000 flight hours

2021 and beyond

- Modified closure protocols for greater certainty on the continued presence of whales in closed areas
- Established a new technical working group for harvesters, right whale experts, and departmental officials
- Will work with harvesters, fishery by fishery, throughout 2021 and 2022 to:
 - Implement weak rope or weak breaking points by the end of 2022.
 - Implement requirements for maximum rope diameters, sinking rope between pots and traps, and reductions in vertical and floating rope after 2022.

