

Protecting North Atlantic Right Whales

Canada's fishing measures by year launched

2018

- 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, and significant resources through the Whales Initiative to expand whale detection capacity and establish a dedicated research program on North Atlantic right whales
- Supported industry-led pilot projects on new gear modifications to prevent entanglements
- Invested **\$4.5 million over four years** to support Marine Mammal Response capacity, such as safety equipment and training across Canada
- Invested an additional **\$1 million per year** (permanent) to support marine mammal response organizations in Canada
- Logged 2,500 flight hours to detect right whales

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.
- Increased surveillance via aircraft, drones, and underwater gliders and acoustic devices
- Logged 3,000 flight hours

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
- Started 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.
- Logged over 2,500 flight hours

2021

- 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
- Invested an **additional \$8.4 million** in the Ghost Gear Fund, with a focus on ghost gear retrieval in the Gulf of St. Lawrence
- Invested an **additional \$8 million** over 2 years through Nature Legacy to increase capacity to detect North Atlantic right whales in near real-time
- Launched the **\$20 million** Whale Safe Gear Adoption Fund to help harvesters transition to whalesafe gear (i.e. weak breaking points or links) by 2023. This fund also supports ropeless/rope-on-demand technologies.
- Logged over 2,800 flight hours

2022

- Maintaining 2021 closure protocols
- Working with harvesters, fishery by fishery, to implement mandatory whalesafe gear requirements by 2023
- Increasing the number of near real-time acoustic devices for monitoring and detection

