

# CANADIAN LOBSTER



## THE CANADIAN LOBSTER FISHERY IS...

• **...ONE OF THE MOST SUSTAINABLE IN THE WORLD.** Our ongoing mitigation strategies based on the most up-to-date science, our defined lobster seasons and trap limits as well as 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 recent years. The industry began developing its own mitigation strategies which included monitoring, self-imposed suspensions 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 requirement that all harvesters report any lost gear within 24 hours of the end of the fishing trip



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



A requirement that all harvesters respect a minimum approach distance of 100 meters for any right whale and 200 meters for a mother and calf



Dynamic management of fishery areas based on NARW location and navigation, including in shallow waters



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

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In addition to these ongoing measures, lobster harvesters in various Canadian fishing regions are testing new technologies that minimize or eliminate the risk of entanglement. Hydrophones and glider technology help detect whale locations so harvesters can adapt and relocate fishing activity. Whale-safe gear technology is being tested to see whether it can be deployed in Canada's ocean environment.

Lobster fishing areas (LFAs) with defined seasons and trap limits have historically limited any interaction with North Atlantic Right Whales. Now, as whale migration patterns change, the Canadian lobster fishery continues to take advice from whale scientists and adjust practices to continue to keep interactions to a minimum.

As an industry we are 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.



**WE MUST ALL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP THE RIGHT STRATEGIES TO ENSURE WHALE PROTECTION WHILE ENSURING CONTINUED SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FISHERIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE COASTAL COMMUNITIES.**



# CANADIAN LOBSTER INDUSTRY PROTECTION OF NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

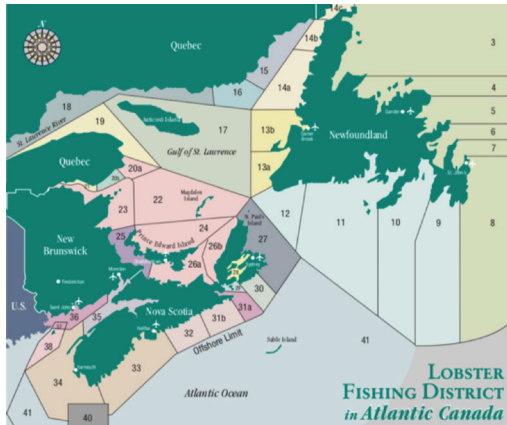
## OVERARCHING PROTECTION MEASURES



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

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

## NARW INTERACTION AND SIGHTINGS REPORTING



All harvesters are required to report all interactions with any marine mammal, including NARW, within 48 hours. They must include the identification of the marine mammal as well as location, condition and any identifying features.

## DYNAMIC MANAGEMENT AREAS

**A static closure** will be implemented in an area where the majority of NARW observations occurred to provide a large, gear-free area.

**When one NARW is observed** inside a foraging area, a maximum of 9 grids will be closed with a temporary dynamic closure to provide a buffer area to allow for whale movement.

**Dynamic closures protocol** in shallow waters were introduced in 2019.

**In order to balance harvester safety** with conservation priorities, licence holders are provided time to remove fishing gear from the zone prior to a dynamic closure.

**Dynamic closures** will be in place for a minimum of 15 days and extended by 15 days from the last NARW sighting.

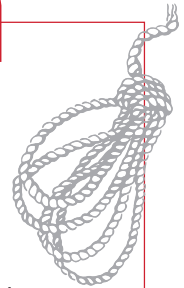
## UNIVERSAL GEAR REQUIREMENTS

**Harvesters are required** to limit the amount of vertical rope used. No surface floating rope attaching a trap to a primary buoy is permitted after a trap has been set.

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

Licence holders **must report lost gear within 24 hours** of the end of the fishing trip.

**All Canadian lobster gear is required to be clearly identified.** Traps require tags that give information of the licence holder and the buoys must be marked with the fishing vessel registration number. This allows gear to be traced back to the owner.



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



To ensure the protection of species at risk, Canada has legislation that prohibits killing, harming, harassing, or capturing an at-risk species. Furthermore, it is unlawful to possess, collect, buy, sell or trade any at-risk species.