

G2T3M NEWSLETTER

February 2022

Sarah Duquette/ © Parks Canada



What is the G2T3M?

The **Working Group on Marine Traffic and Protection of Marine Mammals (G2T3M)**, established in 2011, is composed of **organizations in the academic, governmental, marine conservation and protection, and commercial shipping sectors**. It is co-chaired by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Parks Canada and has the mission to propose solutions **to reduce the risks associated with marine traffic for marine mammals in the St. Lawrence Estuary**.

These solutions must account for the operational constraints of commercial shipping and not compromise maritime safety.

G2T3M operates on the basis of stakeholder consultation, consensus, knowledge building and sharing, innovation, awareness, engagement, and the use of the most recent scientific data available.

Studying threats

Despite the various protection measures implemented over the past 30 years to protect the St. Lawrence and its marine mammals, a number of threats persist.

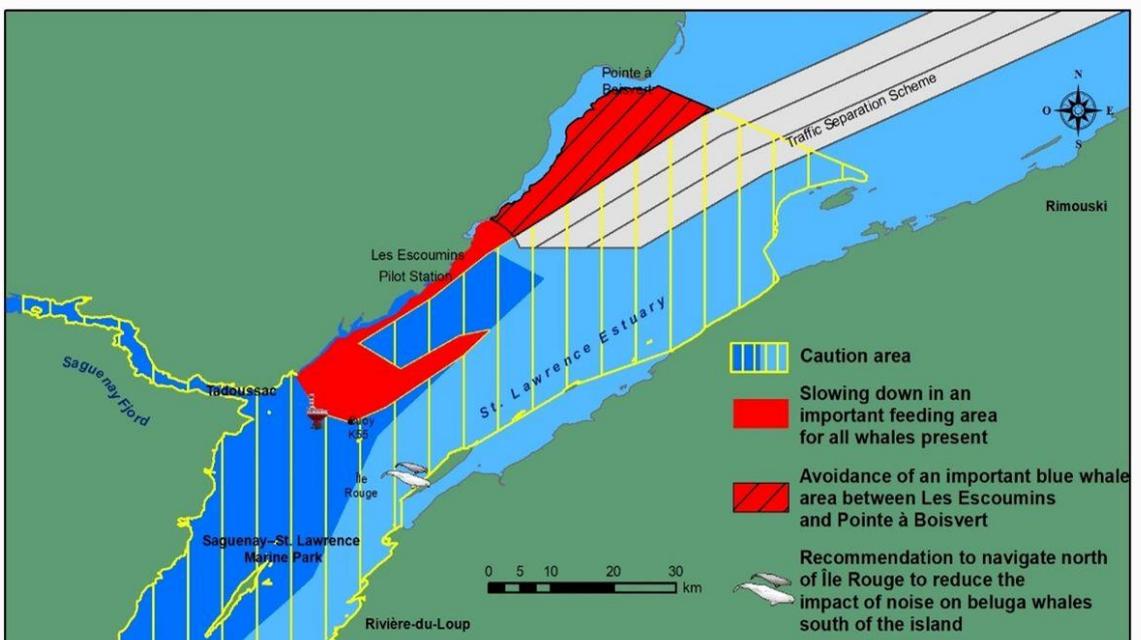
Many of the whales observed have ship strike marks from all types of boats.

Scientific studies show that the risk and probability of lethal ship strikes increase with the size and speed of a vessel.

The issue of anthropogenic noise is currently being studied by many scientists and is part of the ongoing work at G2T3M.

Achievements since 2013

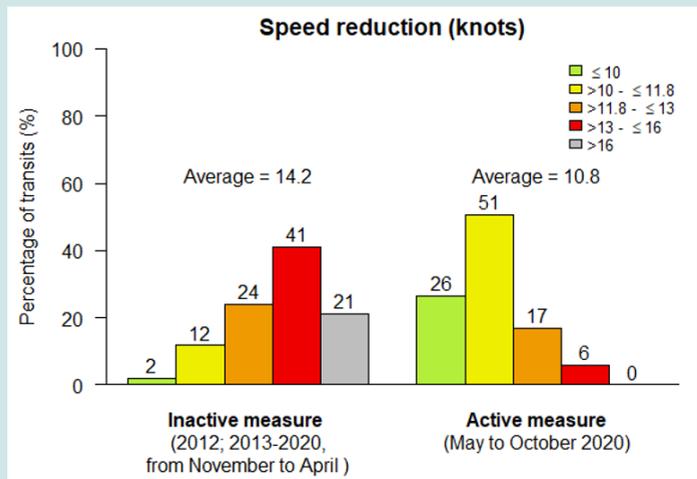
Four voluntary measures to reduce the risk of ship strikes with whales and minimize the impact of noise on belugas. *Measures in effect from May 1 to October 31.*



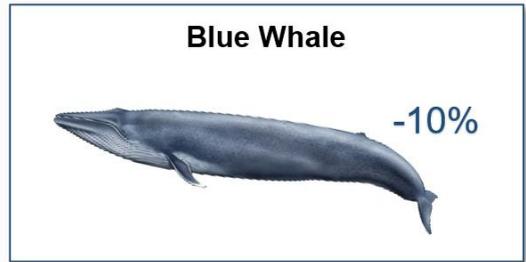
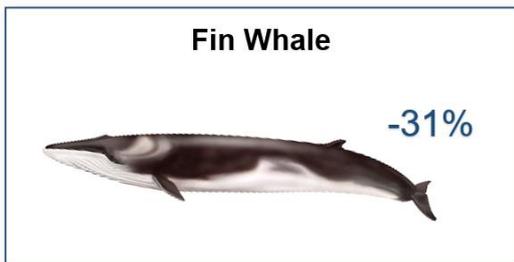
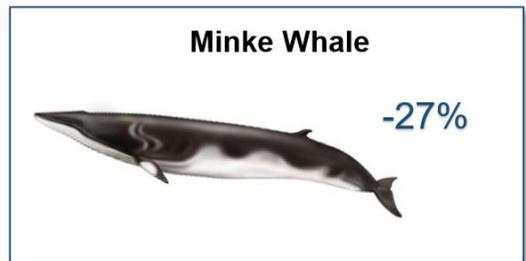
Measurable gains for whales

According to a 2019 survey, the majority of pilots support the measure to slow down to 10 knots.

Because shipowners and pilots have strongly adopted this voluntary measure since 2013, the average speed of transits has decreased from **14.2 knots** when the measure is inactive to **10.8 knots** when it is active in 2020, i.e., at peak whale abundance in the St. Lawrence Estuary.



Since the implementation of the measures, the risk of lethal ship strikes in the area is estimated to have decreased. The maximum gains evaluated between 2014 and 2016 for these species are as follows:



Scientific reference: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0202560>

Partners



Pour nous joindre

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