

Cabot Strait Voluntary Slowdown

April 16 – June 24 + September 3 – November 15, 2025



Mariners play a crucial role in reducing North Atlantic Right Whale mortalities.

Cabot Strait is an essential migratory corridor for Right Whales to access the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where they feed and socialize.

You can help prevent a lethal collision by reducing your vessel speed to no more than 10 knots.

Between 2017 and 2019, there were 21 North Atlantic Right Whale deaths observed in Canadian waters, of which at least 7 were a result of collisions with vessels. To **help prevent a lethal collision** with these critically endangered whales, Transport Canada is asking vessels transiting through Cabot Strait to **voluntarily slow down to 10 knots** or less over the ground, when safe to do so.

Why are you being asked to slow down to 10 knots or less?

A 10 knot speed limit is designed to achieve a balance between safe navigation and reduced risk of lethal collisions with Right Whales when they are migrating through Cabot Strait.

When is the voluntary slow down in effect?

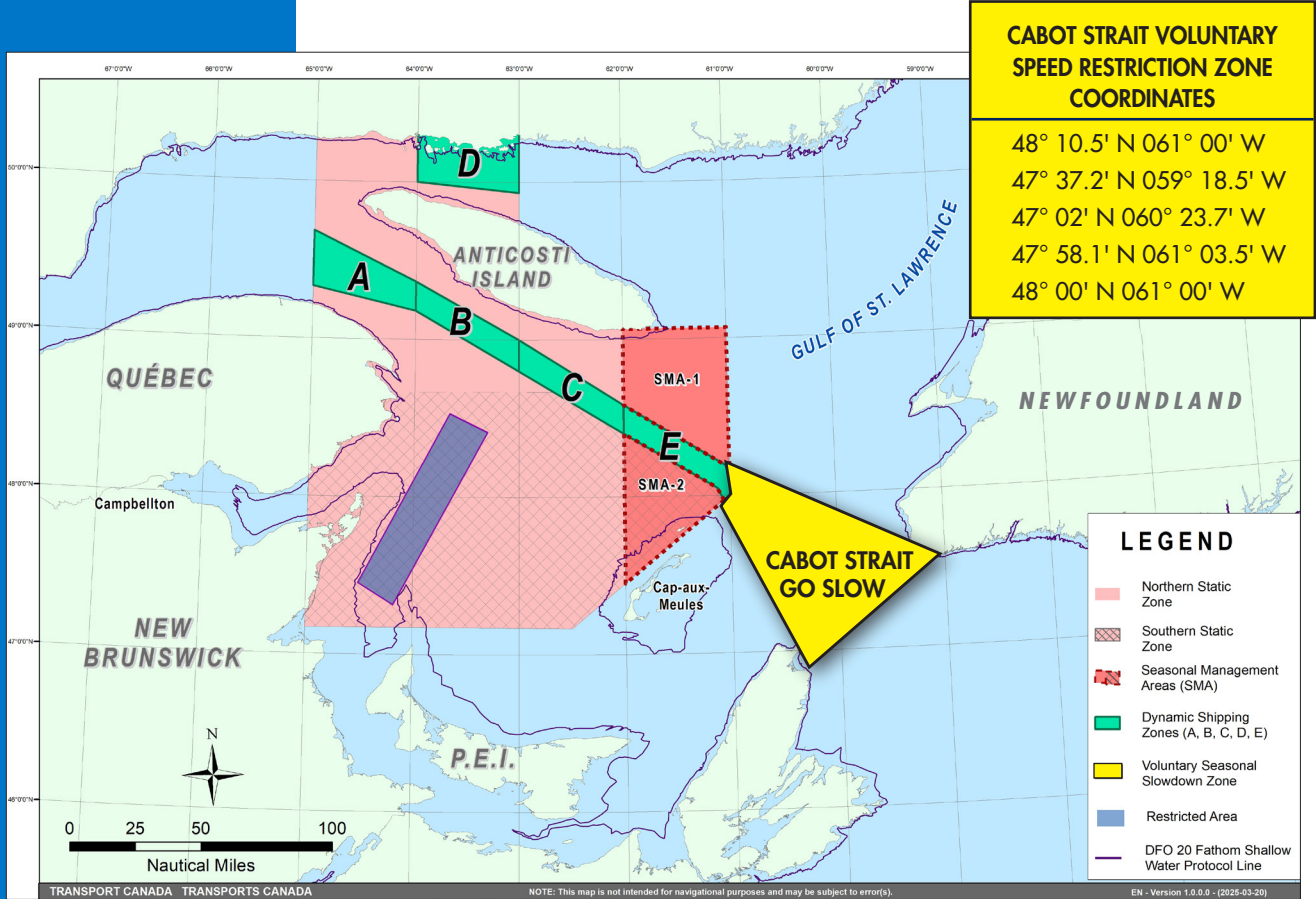
Between April 16 and June 24, and again between September 3 and November 15, which is when the majority of Right Whales likely migrate in and out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence through Cabot Strait.



Whale illustration by Scott Landry
Whale and ship photograph by Yan Guilbault New England Aquarium

Cabot Strait Voluntary Slowdown Area

April 16 – June 24 + September 3 – November 15, 2025

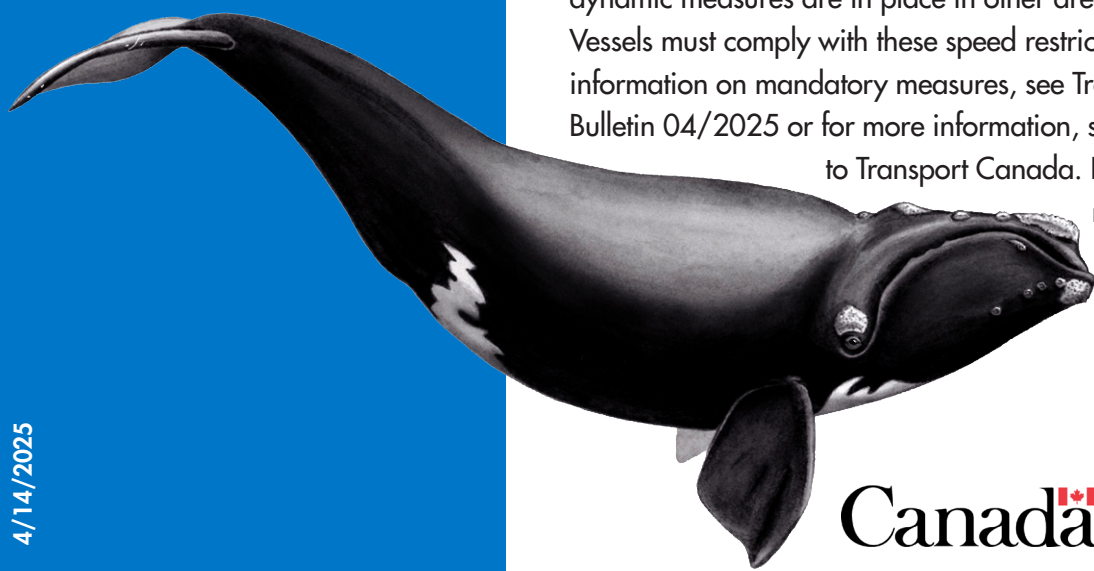


| Additional Transit Time (10 knots/70 nm) | |
|--|---|
| AVERAGE VESSEL SPEED (AVS) | AVERAGE ADD'L TIME |
| Container Ships (AVS 15 knots) | = 2.3 hours (or 3.1 hours at 18 knots) |
| Bulk Carriers (AVS 12 knots) | = 1.2 hours |
| Tankers (AVS 12 knots) | = 1.2 hours |
| RO-RO & Ferry Vessels (AVS 18 knots) | = 3.1 hours |

What else is being done to protect Right Whales in the Gulf?

Vessel strikes and fishing gear entanglement are the leading causes of death for North Atlantic Right Whales. Additional mandatory static and dynamic measures are in place in other areas of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Vessels must comply with these speed restrictions at all times. For general information on mandatory measures, see Transport Canada's Ship Safety Bulletin 04/2025 or for more information, scan this QR Code to link to Transport Canada. For the status of dynamic

measures, see Navigational Warnings (NAVWARNs).



4/14/2025



the **RIGHT TIME** to do the **RIGHT THING** for the **RIGHT WHALE**