

# Cabot Strait Voluntary Slowdown

April 28 – June 29 + September 29 – November 15, 2021



***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.***

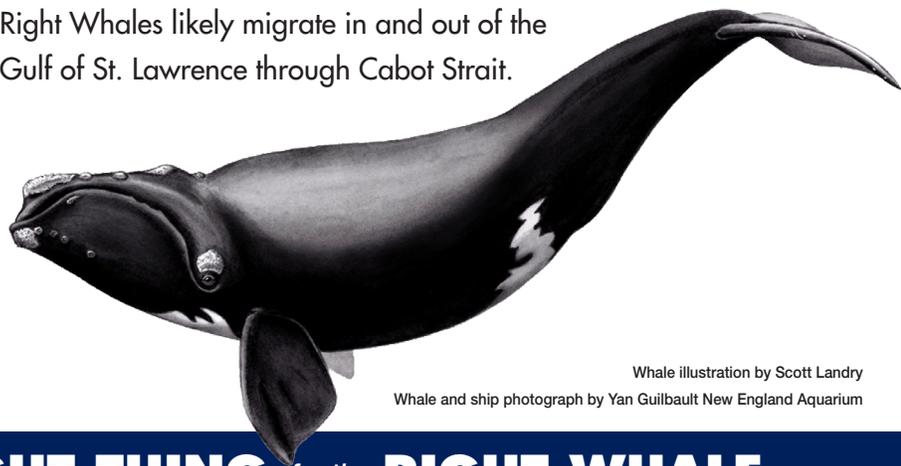
Between 2017 and 2020, there were 21 North Atlantic Right Whale deaths in Canadian waters, of which at least 7 were a result of collisions with vessels. To **help prevent a lethal collision** with these critically endangered whales, Transport Canada is asking vessels transiting through Cabot Strait **to 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 28 and June 29, and again between September 29 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.

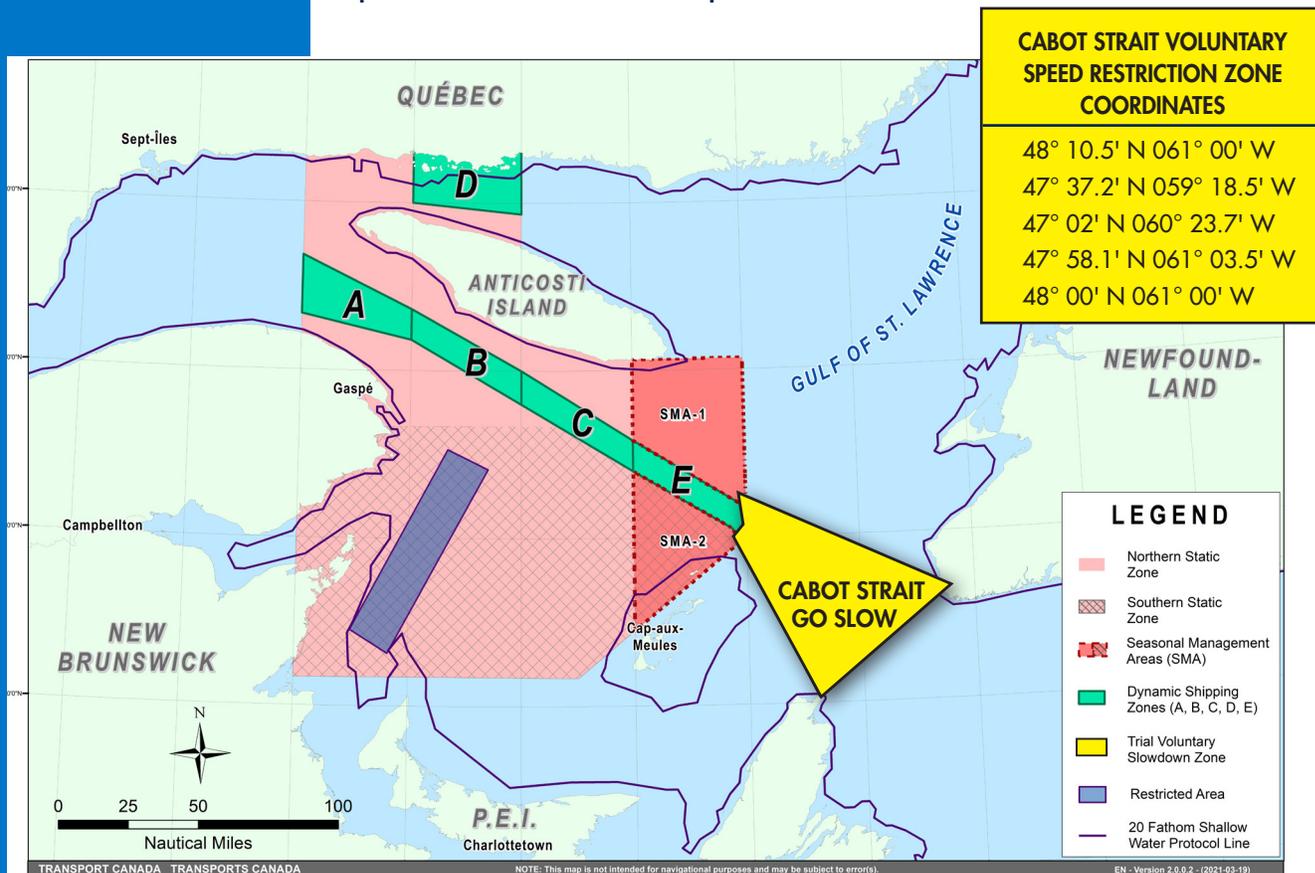


Whale illustration by Scott Landry  
Whale and ship photograph by Yan Guilbault New England Aquarium

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

# Cabot Strait Voluntary Slowdown Area

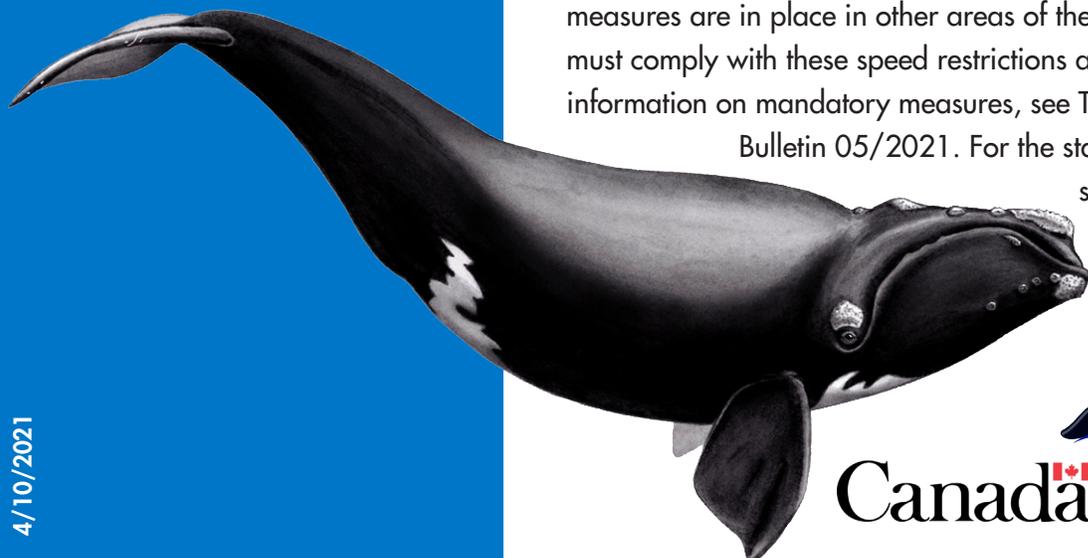
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Additional Transit Time (10 knots/70 nm)	
AVERAGE VESSEL SPEED (AVS)	AVERAGE ADD'L TIME
Container Ships (AVS 15 knots)	= 2.3 hours (or 3.1 hours at 18 knots)
Bulk Carriers (AVS 12 knots)	= 1.2 hours
Tankers (AVS 12 knots)	= 1.2 hours
RO-RO & Ferry 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 05/2021. For the status of dynamic measures, see Navigational Warnings (NAVWARNs).



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