



Canadian Right Whale Conservation Areas

Right Whales are present in Canada's east coast waters from June to November. Major concentrations have been documented in the Bay of Fundy and in the Roseway Basin.

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is responsible for ensuring the protection of right whales. The North Atlantic Right Whale is protected from disturbance and injury by the Marine Mammal Regulations of the Fisheries Act.

Disturbance includes repeated attempts to pursue, disperse and herd whales and any repeated intentional act of negligence resulting in the disruption of their normal behaviour. Disturbing Right Whales could force them away from their critical times and may cause them injury.

Guidelines (June - December)

1. Avoid these areas if possible. Due to the location of Area #1 in the main shipping channel from Saint John, New Brunswick, this may not be feasible. Area #2 can easily be by-passed to the north or south.
 2. If passage through this area cannot be avoided, decrease vessel speed, post a lookout, and steer around any marine mammal activity.
 3. If a right whale is sighted, or if a collision occurs, please report the position to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans via the nearest Coast Guard Radio Station, Fundy Traffic (VHF Channel 14), or by fax at (902) 426-8003.
- * Do not hunt, chase, follow, disperse, herd or encircle the whales.
 - * Avoid any sudden changes in course and speed.
 - * Travel parallel to the whale.
 - * The whales may come close to you. If they do, do not chase them. These animals may be calves that approach while their mothers are submerged feeding. Keep clear of the tail.
 - * If you are operating a sailing vessel with an auxiliary motor, leave it idle or turn on the echo sounder to signal your presence.
 - * If it is impossible to detour around a group of whales, slow down immediately and wait until you are more than 400 metres away before resuming speed.