



Notice to Fish Harvesters

June 2, 2018

NOTICE OF FISHERIES CLOSURES : PRESENCE OF NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) – Gulf Region is providing a notice of new temporary fisheries closures of a fishing area due to the presence of North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW).

The following new grids will be closed: **GW35, GW36, GX35, GX36, GX37**. The closures will take effect on **June 6, 2018 at 17:00** Atlantic Daylight Time (ADT). DFO is extending the delay of closure by 24 hours due to the predicted high winds and providing a 96 hours advanced notice to licence holders to retrieve gear from the areas that will be closing. All gear must be removed from the closed area before the time of closure. Refer to the Gulf Region variation orders 2018-033 for crab and 2018-034 for lobster and Quebec Region variation order 2018Q041 for groundfish.

Please note that grids GU37 (portion), GU38 (portion), GU39 (portion), GU40 (portion), GV37, GV38, GV39, GV40 (portion), GW37, GW38, GW39, GW40, GW41, GX38, GX39, GX40 and GX41 also remain closed.

The closures will remain in effect until further notice. In the event that areas are reopened, DFO will inform industry prior to their reopening.

The closures will be in effect for the following fisheries where the fishing seasons are currently opened: snow crab, toad crab, rock crab, lobster and whelk. Closures will also be in effect for winter flounder (fixed gear), Atlantic halibut (fixed gear) and Greenland halibut (fixed gear) when gear is left unattended.

DFO would like to ask licence holders to be vigilant during fishing activities concerning the arrival of North Atlantic Right Whales. Furthermore, it is reminded that it is the responsibility of the licence holder to take into account the marine safety notices issued, among others, by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Transport Canada, as well as the standards and best practices in marine safety, and to take all measures to ensure a safe fishery.

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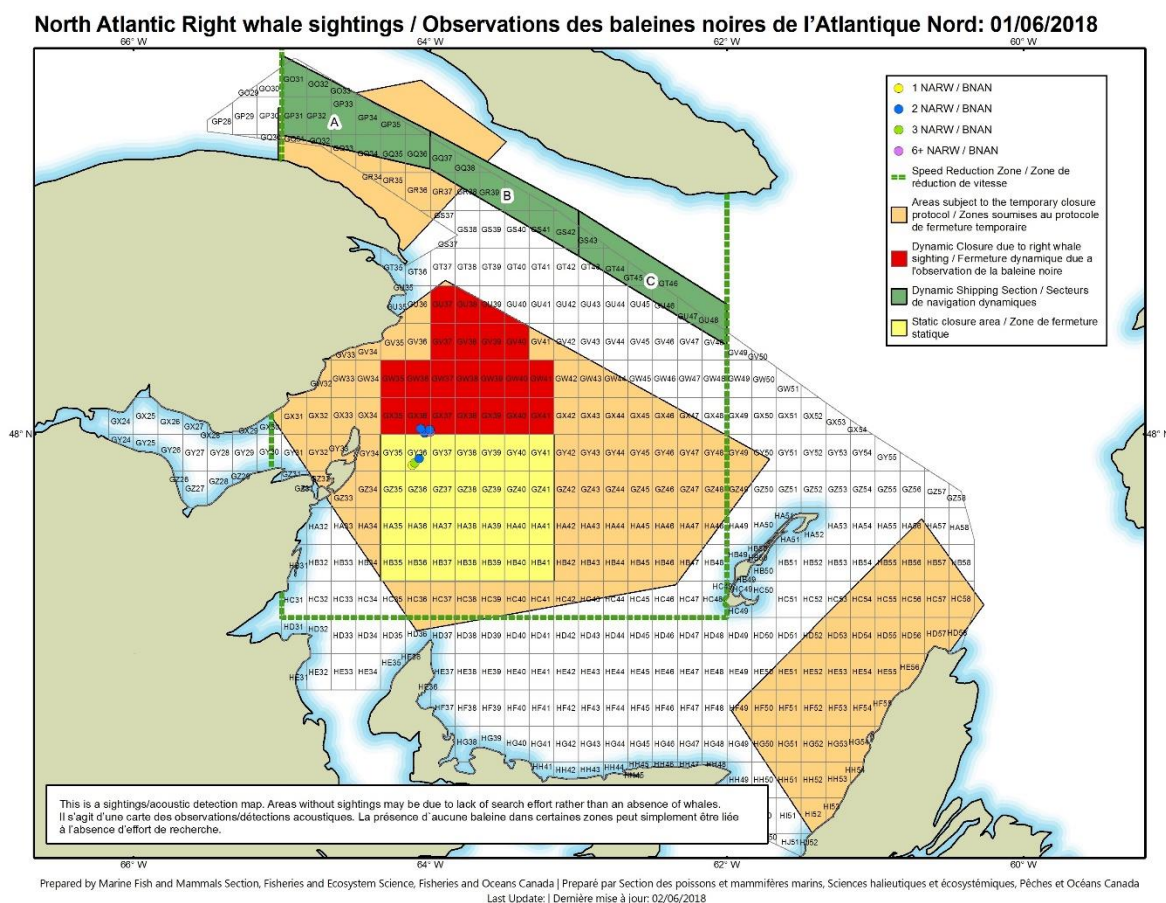
The coordinates representing the contour of the new closed area are listed below:

Points	Positions	
	Lat. North	Long. West
1	48° 20' 00" N	64° 20' 00" W
2	48° 20' 00" N	64° 00' 00" W
3	48° 10' 00" N	64° 00' 00" W
4	48° 10' 00" N	63° 50' 00" W
5	48° 00' 00" N	63° 50' 00" W
6	48° 00' 00" N	64° 20' 00" W
7	48° 20' 00" N	64° 20' 00" W

Point references are based on the geodesic system North American Datum 1983 (NAD83).

Positions are expressed in degrees, minutes and seconds.

Map identifying the grid closures in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence due to the presence of NARW.



For more information:

Regular updates and maps indicating sightings will be posted at the following address:

<http://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/mammals-mammiferes/narightwhale-baleinenoirean/alert-alerte/index-eng.html>.