

Canada-Quebec planning for the establishment of marine protected areas

Projects under study in the Estuary and the Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence by 2020

Liaison Committee Between Fisheries and Oceans Canada
and the Quebec Harvesting Sector
July 10, 2019

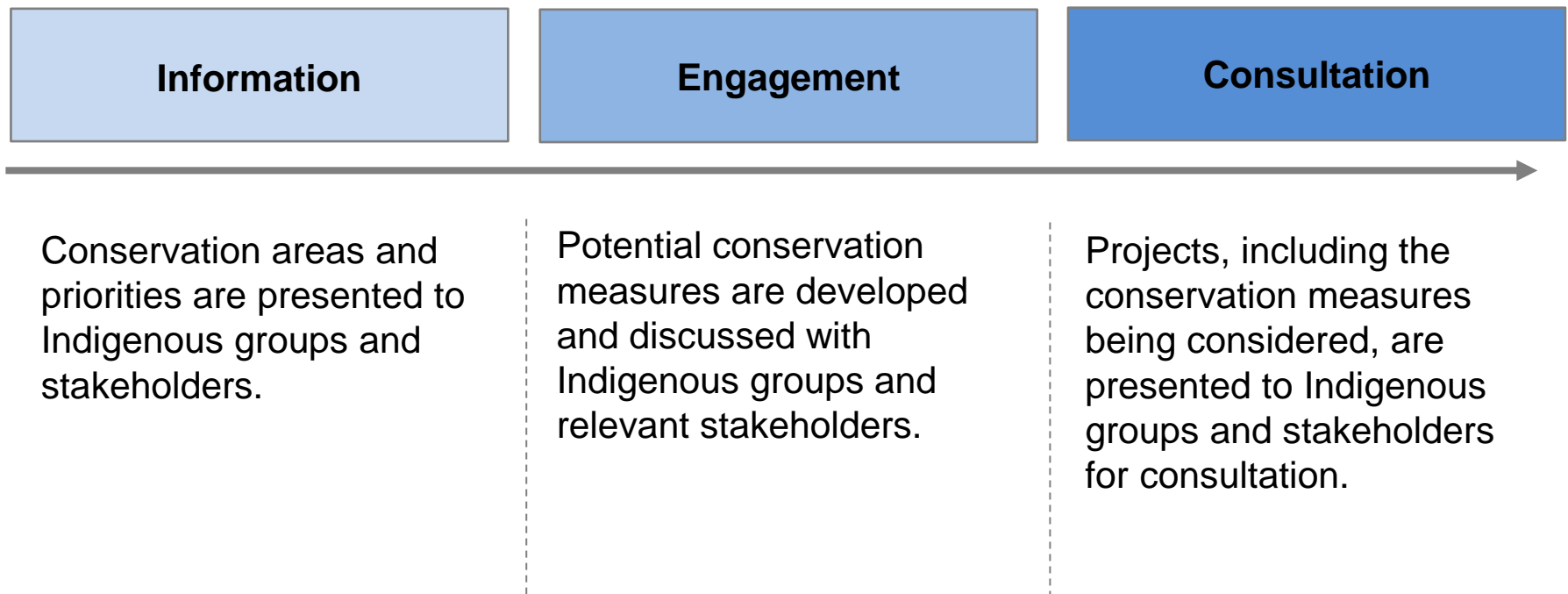
Purpose of the session

Provide a summary of the information shared at the June 19 information session which aimed to:

- Inform you about Canada-Quebec collaboration, the joint projects for marine protected areas under study and the next steps.
- Listen to you and gather your initial comments.

Session background

It is part of a multi-step process:



Presentation outline

1. Background

2. Projects under study

- Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence
- St. Lawrence Estuary

3. Next steps

Part 1. Background



Government commitments

The governments of Canada and Quebec are committed to:

- Protecting **10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020** to meet the international targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
 - ✓ Canada: establishment of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (e.g., some fisheries management measures: marine refuges).
 - ✓ Quebec: establishment of a representative network of marine protected areas.

Current situation

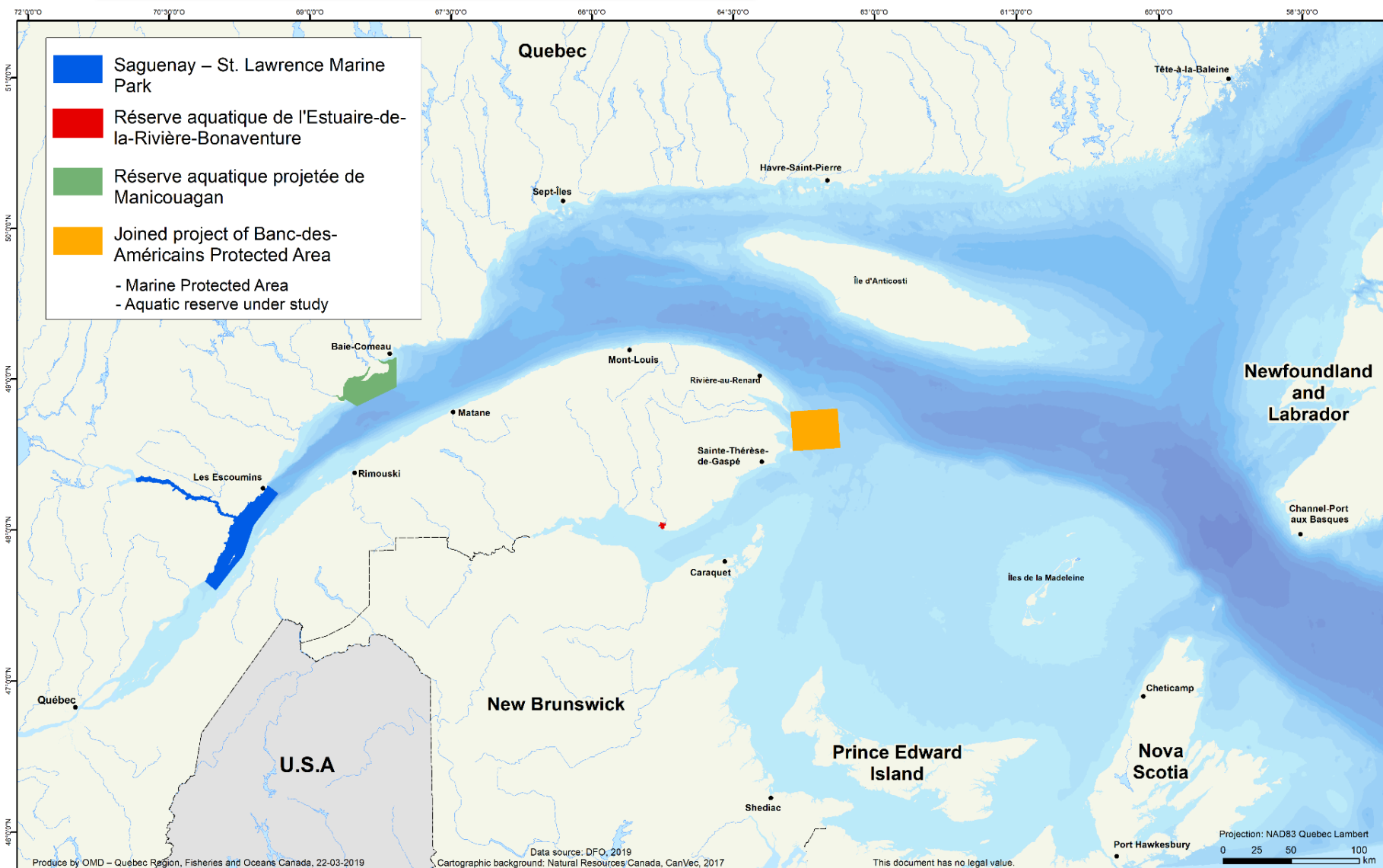
Marine protected areas in Quebec (1,3%):

- Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park (Canada-Quebec, created by “mirror” laws);
- Bonaventure River Estuary aquatic reserve;
- Proposed Manicouagan aquatic reserve.

Ongoing joint project (0,6%):

- Banc-des-Américains Marine Protected Area
 - ✓ Marine protected area
 - ✓ Aquatic reserve **under study**

Marine Protected Areas in Quebec

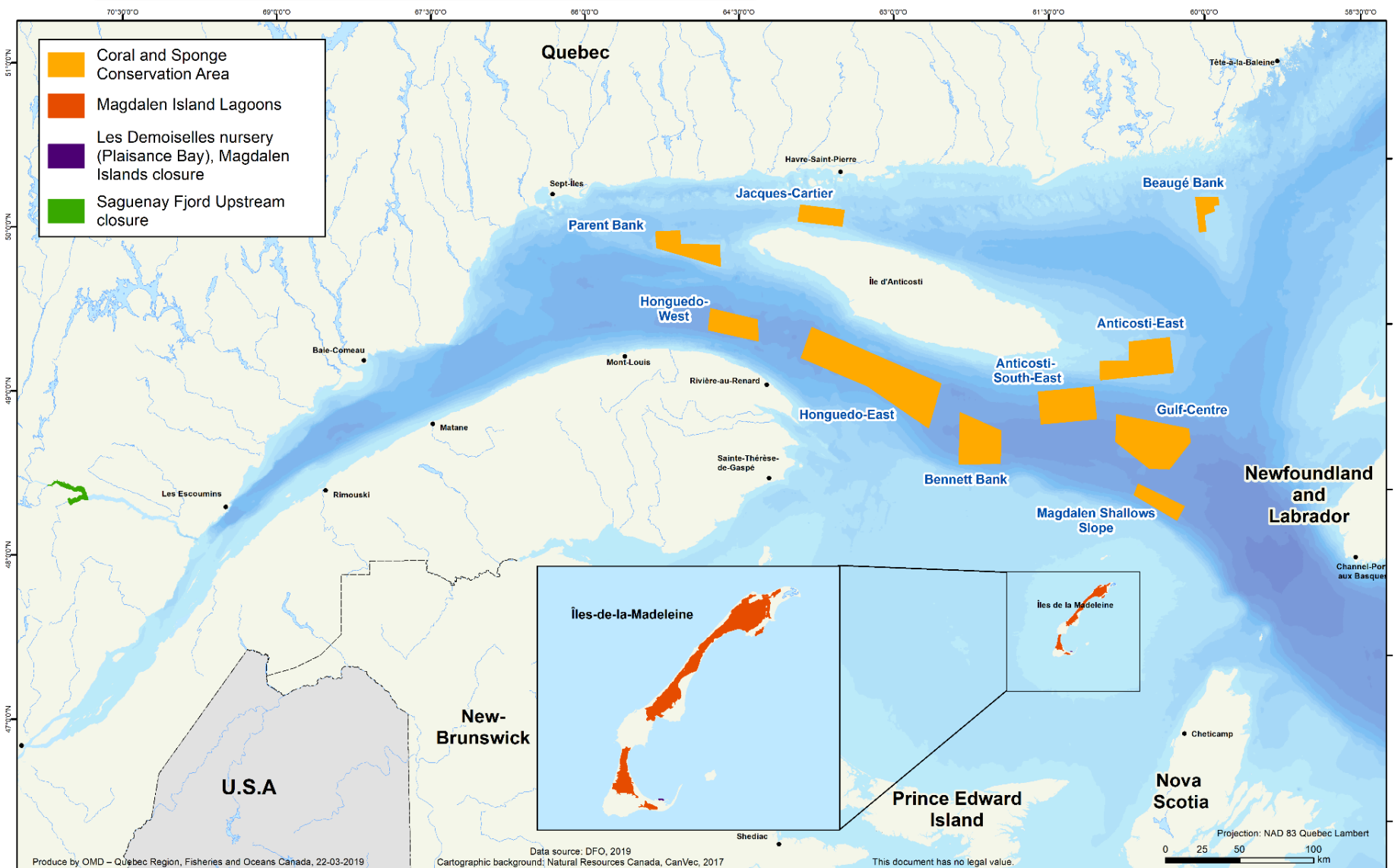


Current situation

Other effective area-based conservation measures (marine refuges):

- Coral and Sponge Conservation Areas;
- Magdalen Island Lagoons;
- Les Demoiselles nursery (Plaisance Bay), Magdalen Islands closure;
- Saguenay Fjord Upstream closure.

Marine refuges in Quebec



Canada-Quebec collaboration

In order to work together and in a complementary manner, the governments have signed the *Canada-Quebec Collaborative Agreement for the establishment of a marine protected areas network in Quebec* (March 2018).

This agreement:

- provides a collaborative framework for identifying, planning, establishing and monitoring marine protected areas on a joint basis;
- makes it possible to coordinate information, consultation and consultation processes;
- formalizes the Canada-Quebec Bilateral Group on Marine Protected Areas (GBAMP).

Joint planning

The governments of Quebec and Canada have developed a joint planning in order to reach their respective conservation targets:

Two new joint marine protected area projects are under study in the St. Lawrence, **one in the northern Gulf** and **one in the Estuary**.

The Îles-de-la-Madeleine project is the focus of a feasibility study and will be part of a separate information, engagement and consultation process.

Canada's new standards

In any new federal MPA, certain activities will be prohibited from the outset:

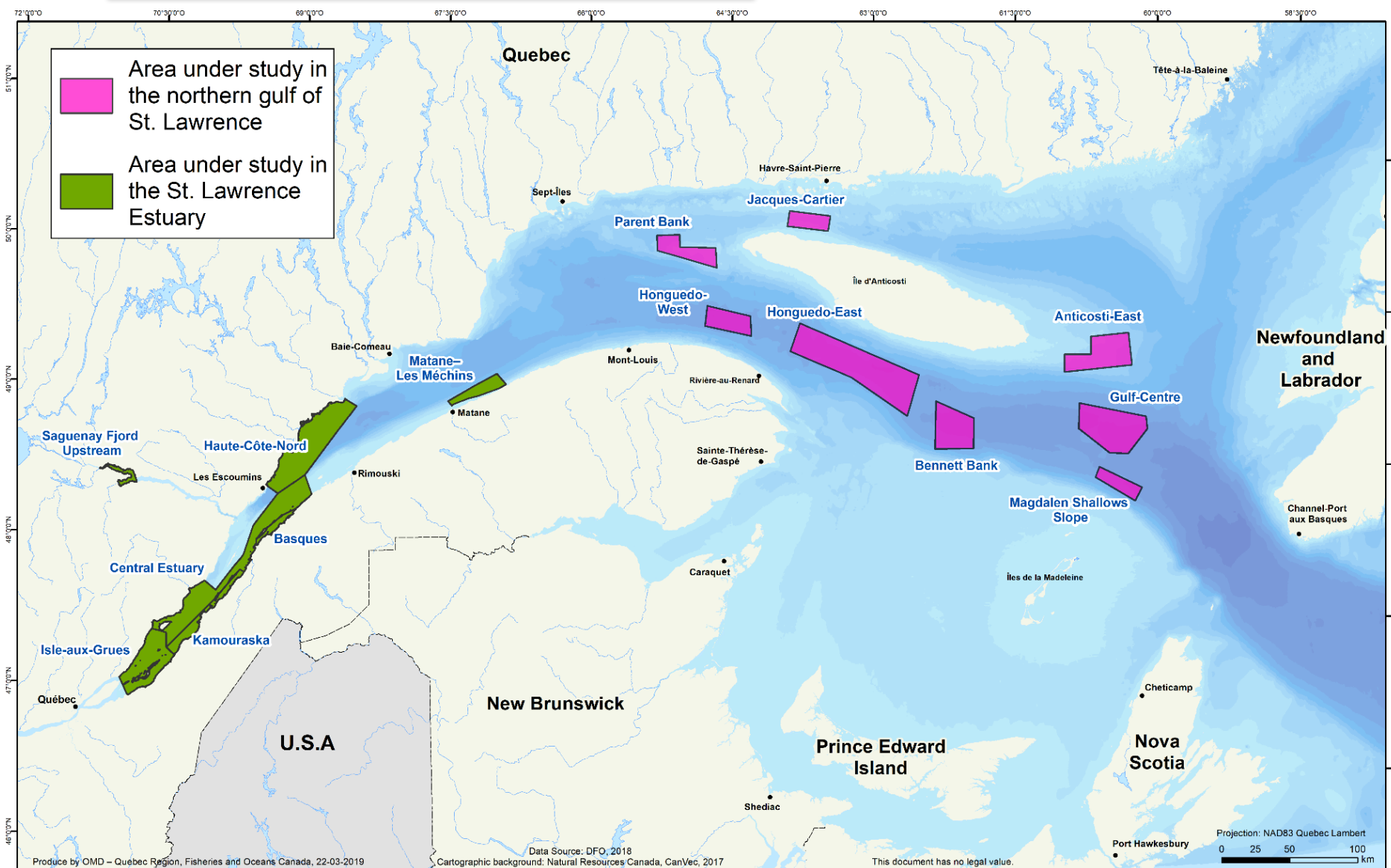
- oil and gas activities,
- mining,
- dumping,
- bottom trawling.

Other activities will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, based on the risk of these activities to the conservation priorities of the MPA.

Part 2. Projects under study



Projects under study



Projects under study

The two projects under study :

- Are the result of spatial analyses of important biological components in view of the conservation priorities determined by the GBAMP.
- Take into account the representativeness of the different habitat types found in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Completed and upcoming steps

- ✓ Determine **conservation priorities** and **areas of interest**
- Establish the **overview of human activities** and assess their **impacts** on conservation priorities;
- Define **geographical boundaries**;
- Develop potential **conservation measures** and assess their **socio-economic impacts**;
- Meet with **Indigenous groups** and **relevant stakeholders** to discuss project boundaries and potential conservation measures;
- **Consult** Indigenous groups and stakeholders on the overall project (boundaries, conservation priorities and conservation measures).

Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence Project

Conservation priorities

The project aims to increase the protection of **cold-water corals and sponges** and the **ecosystems** that support them, in some of the marine refuges established in December 2017.



Concentrations significatives d'éponges et de plumes de mer

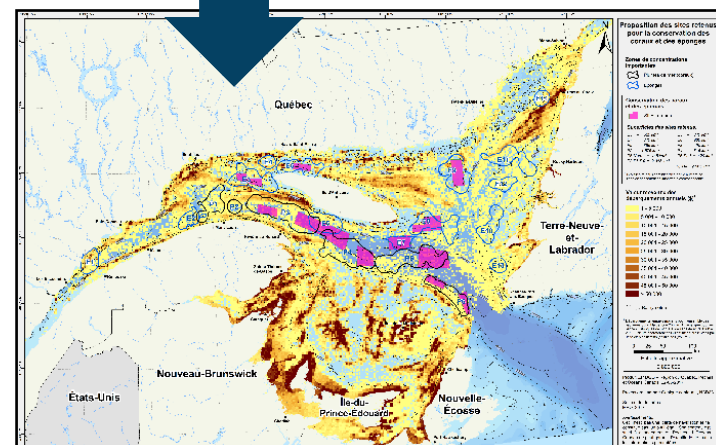
Superficie (km²)
plumes de

Superficie (km²)	plumes de
P1 1520	P4 0002
P2 0001	P5 1001
P3 3802	P6 1003

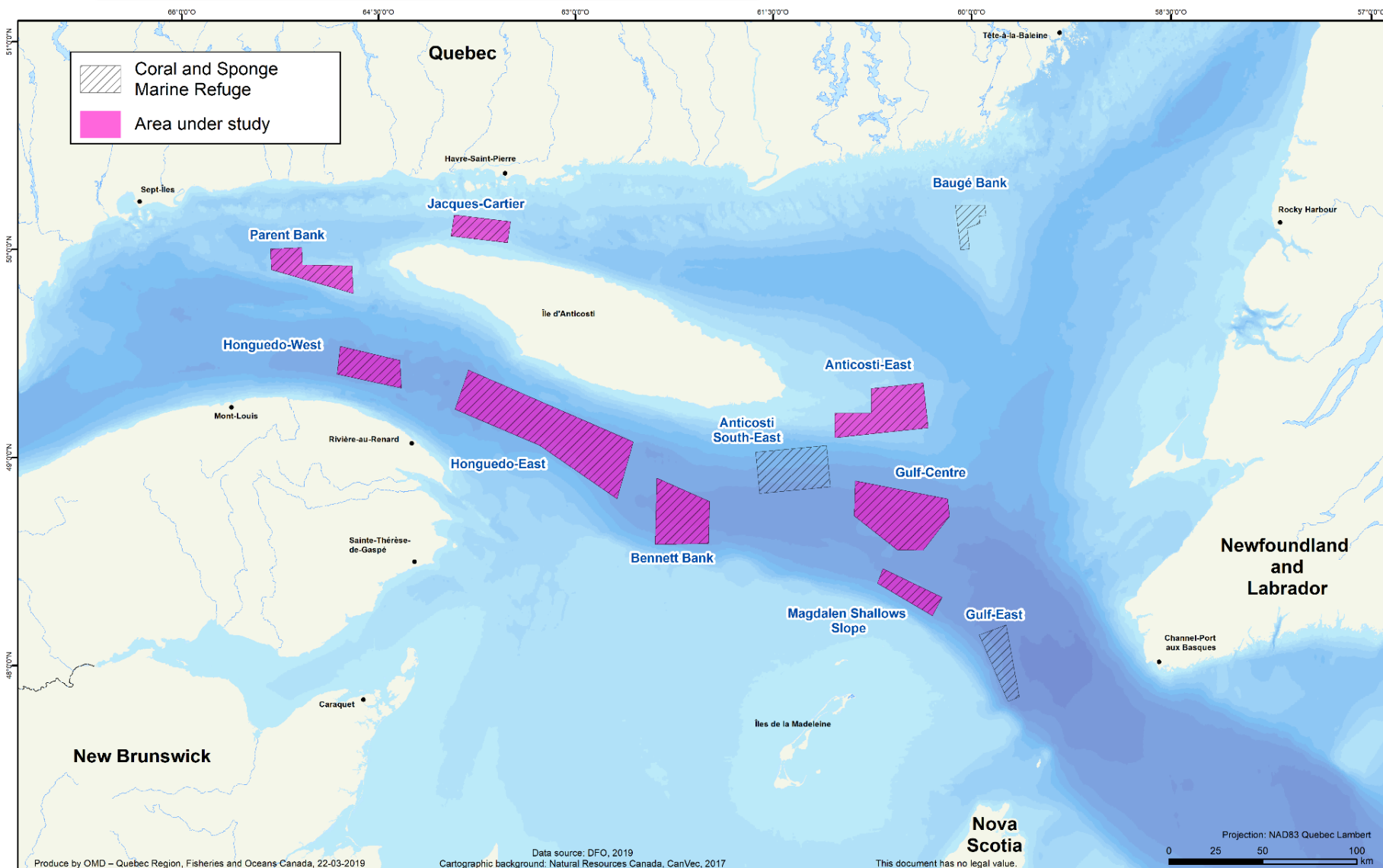
Eponges

E1 0005	E8 2147
E2 0001 <td>E9 0001</td>	E9 0001
E3 2354 <td>E10 1451</td>	E10 1451
E4 4400 <td>E11 1000</td>	E11 1000
E5 1000 <td>E12 0001</td>	E12 0001
E6 0001 <td>E13 0001</td>	E13 0001
E7 0001 <td>E14 0001</td>	E14 0001
E8 0001 <td>E15 0001</td>	E15 0001
E9 0001 <td>E16 0001</td>	E16 0001
E10 0001 <td>E17 0001</td>	E17 0001
E11 0001 <td>E18 0001</td>	E18 0001
E12 0001 <td>E19 0001</td>	E19 0001
E13 0001 <td>E20 0001</td>	E20 0001
E14 0001 <td>E21 0001</td>	E21 0001
E15 0001 <td>E22 0001</td>	E22 0001
E16 0001 <td>E23 0001</td>	E23 0001
E17 0001 <td>E24 0001</td>	E24 0001
E18 0001 <td>E25 0001</td>	E25 0001
E19 0001 <td>E26 0001</td>	E26 0001
E20 0001 <td>E27 0001</td>	E27 0001
E21 0001 <td>E28 0001</td>	E28 0001
E22 0001 <td>E29 0001</td>	E29 0001
E23 0001 <td>E30 0001</td>	E30 0001
E24 0001 <td>E31 0001</td>	E31 0001
E25 0001 <td>E32 0001</td>	E32 0001
E26 0001 <td>E33 0001</td>	E33 0001
E27 0001 <td>E34 0001</td>	E34 0001
E28 0001 <td>E35 0001</td>	E35 0001
E29 0001 <td>E36 0001</td>	E36 0001
E30 0001 <td>E37 0001</td>	E37 0001
E31 0001 <td>E38 0001</td>	E38 0001
E32 0001 <td>E39 0001</td>	E39 0001
E33 0001 <td>E40 0001</td>	E40 0001
E34 0001 <td>E41 0001</td>	E41 0001
E35 0001 <td>E42 0001</td>	E42 0001
E36 0001 <td>E43 0001</td>	E43 0001
E37 0001 <td>E44 0001</td>	E44 0001
E38 0001 <td>E45 0001</td>	E45 0001
E39 0001 <td>E46 0001</td>	E46 0001
E40 0001 <td>E47 0001</td>	E47 0001
E41 0001 <td>E48 0001</td>	E48 0001
E42 0001 <td>E49 0001</td>	E49 0001
E43 0001 <td>E50 0001</td>	E50 0001
E44 0001 <td>E51 0001</td>	E51 0001
E45 0001 <td>E52 0001</td>	E52 0001
E46 0001 <td>E53 0001</td>	E53 0001
E47 0001 <td>E54 0001</td>	E54 0001
E48 0001 <td>E55 0001</td>	E55 0001
E49 0001 <td>E56 0001</td>	E56 0001
E50 0001 <td>E57 0001</td>	E57 0001
E51 0001 <td>E58 0001</td>	E58 0001
E52 0001 <td>E59 0001</td>	E59 0001
E53 0001 <td>E60 0001</td>	E60 0001
E54 0001 <td>E61 0001</td>	E61 0001
E55 0001 <td>E62 0001</td>	E62 0001
E56 0001 <td>E63 0001</td>	E63 0001
E57 0001 <td>E64 0001</td>	E64 0001
E58 0001 <td>E65 0001</td>	E65 0001
E59 0001 <td>E66 0001</td>	E66 0001
E60 0001 <td>E67 0001</td>	E67 0001
E61 0001 <td>E68 0001</td>	E68 0001
E62 0001 <td>E69 0001</td>	E69 0001
E63 0001 <td>E70 0001</td>	E70 0001
E64 0001 <td>E71 0001</td>	E71 0001
E65 0001 <td>E72 0001</td>	E72 0001
E66 0001 <td>E73 0001</td>	E73 0001
E67 0001 <td>E74 0001</td>	E74 0001
E68 0001 <td>E75 0001</td>	E75 0001
E69 0001 <td>E76 0001</td>	E76 0001
E70 0001 <td>E77 0001</td>	E77 0001
E71 0001 <td>E78 0001</td>	E78 0001
E72 0001 <td>E79 0001</td>	E79 0001
E73 0001 <td>E80 0001</td>	E80 0001
E74 0001 <td>E81 0001</td>	E81 0001
E75 0001 <td>E82 0001</td>	E82 0001
E76 0001 <td>E83 0001</td>	E83 0001
E77 0001 <td>E84 0001</td>	E84 0001
E78 0001 <td>E85 0001</td>	E85 0001
E79 0001 <td>E86 0001</td>	E86 0001
E80 0001 <td>E87 0001</td>	E87 0001
E81 0001 <td>E88 0001</td>	E88 0001
E82 0001 <td>E89 0001</td>	E89 0001
E83 0001 <td>E90 0001</td>	E90 0001
E84 0001 <td>E91 0001</td>	E91 0001
E85 0001 <td>E92 0001</td>	E92 0001
E86 0001 <td>E93 0001</td>	E93 0001
E87 0001 <td>E94 0001</td>	E94 0001
E88 0001 <td>E95 0001</td>	E95 0001
E89 0001 <td>E96 0001</td>	E96 0001
E90 0001 <td>E97 0001</td>	E97 0001
E91 0001 <td>E98 0001</td>	E98 0001
E92 0001 <td>E99 0001</td>	E99 0001
E93 0001 <td>E100 0001</td>	E100 0001
E94 0001 <td>E101 0001</td>	E101 0001
E95 0001 <td>E102 0001</td>	E102 0001
E96 0001 <td>E103 0001</td>	E103 0001
E97 0001 <td>E104 0001</td>	E104 0001
E98 0001 <td>E105 0001</td>	E105 0001
E99 0001 <td>E106 0001</td>	E106 0001
E100 0001 <td>E107 0001</td>	E107 0001
E101 0001 <td>E108 0001</td>	E108 0001
E102 0001 <td>E109 0001</td>	E109 0001
E103 0001 <td>E110 0001</td>	E110 0001
E104 0001 <td>E111 0001</td>	E111 0001
E105 0001 <td>E112 0001</td>	E112 0001
E106 0001 <td>E113 0001</td>	E113 0001
E107 0001 <td>E114 0001</td>	E114 0001
E108 0001 <td>E115 0001</td>	E115 0001
E109 0001 <td>E116 0001</td>	E116 0001
E110 0001 <td>E117 0001</td>	E117 0001
E111 0001 <td>E118 0001</td>	E118 0001
E112 0001 <td>E119 0001</td>	E119 0001
E113 0001 <td>E120 0001</td>	E120 0001
E114 0001 <td>E121 0001</td>	E121 0001
E115 0001	

-
- Pêches avec engins touchant le fond 2008-2012**
- Valeurs moyennes totales et B_{95%}
- Zones de concentration significatives
- (B)_{95%} au-dessus de
- Spawning
- Valeur moyenne des abaissements annuels (B_{95%})
- | |
|-----------------|
| < 0.01 |
| 0.01 - 0.75 |
| 0.75 - 1.50 |
| 1.50 - 2.50 |
| 2.50 - 3.50 |
| 3.50 - 4.50 |
| 4.50 - 5.50 |
| 5.50 - 6.50 |
| 6.50 - 7.50 |
| 7.50 - 8.50 |
| 8.50 - 9.50 |
| 9.50 - 10.50 |
| 10.50 - 11.50 |
| 11.50 - 12.50 |
| 12.50 - 13.50 |
| 13.50 - 14.50 |
| 14.50 - 15.50 |
| 15.50 - 16.50 |
| 16.50 - 17.50 |
| 17.50 - 18.50 |
| 18.50 - 19.50 |
| 19.50 - 20.50 |
| 20.50 - 21.50 |
| 21.50 - 22.50 |
| 22.50 - 23.50 |
| 23.50 - 24.50 |
| 24.50 - 25.50 |
| 25.50 - 26.50 |
| 26.50 - 27.50 |
| 27.50 - 28.50 |
| 28.50 - 29.50 |
| 29.50 - 30.50 |
| 30.50 - 31.50 |
| 31.50 - 32.50 |
| 32.50 - 33.50 |
| 33.50 - 34.50 |
| 34.50 - 35.50 |
| 35.50 - 36.50 |
| 36.50 - 37.50 |
| 37.50 - 38.50 |
| 38.50 - 39.50 |
| 39.50 - 40.50 |
| 40.50 - 41.50 |
| 41.50 - 42.50 |
| 42.50 - 43.50 |
| 43.50 - 44.50 |
| 44.50 - 45.50 |
| 45.50 - 46.50 |
| 46.50 - 47.50 |
| 47.50 - 48.50 |
| 48.50 - 49.50 |
| 49.50 - 50.50 |
| 50.50 - 51.50 |
| 51.50 - 52.50 |
| 52.50 - 53.50 |
| 53.50 - 54.50 |
| 54.50 - 55.50 |
| 55.50 - 56.50 |
| 56.50 - 57.50 |
| 57.50 - 58.50 |
| 58.50 - 59.50 |
| 59.50 - 60.50 |
| 60.50 - 61.50 |
| 61.50 - 62.50 |
| 62.50 - 63.50 |
| 63.50 - 64.50 |
| 64.50 - 65.50 |
| 65.50 - 66.50 |
| 66.50 - 67.50 |
| 67.50 - 68.50 |
| 68.50 - 69.50 |
| 69.50 - 70.50 |
| 70.50 - 71.50 |
| 71.50 - 72.50 |
| 72.50 - 73.50 |
| 73.50 - 74.50 |
| 74.50 - 75.50 |
| 75.50 - 76.50 |
| 76.50 - 77.50 |
| 77.50 - 78.50 |
| 78.50 - 79.50 |
| 79.50 - 80.50 |
| 80.50 - 81.50 |
| 81.50 - 82.50 |
| 82.50 - 83.50 |
| 83.50 - 84.50 |
| 84.50 - 85.50 |
| 85.50 - 86.50 |
| 86.50 - 87.50 |
| 87.50 - 88.50 |
| 88.50 - 89.50 |
| 89.50 - 90.50 |
| 90.50 - 91.50 |
| 91.50 - 92.50 |
| 92.50 - 93.50 |
| 93.50 - 94.50 |
| 94.50 - 95.50 |
| 95.50 - 96.50 |
| 96.50 - 97.50 |
| 97.50 - 98.50 |
| 98.50 - 99.50 |
| 99.50 - 100.50 |
| 100.50 - 101.50 |
| 101.50 - 102.50 |
| 102.50 - 103.50 |
| 103.50 - 104.50 |
| 104.50 - 105.50 |
| 105.50 - 106.50 |
| 106.50 - 107.50 |
| 107.50 - 108.50 |
| 108.50 - 109.50 |
| 109.50 - 110.50 |
| 110.50 - 111.50 |
| 111.50 - 112.50 |
| 112.50 - 113.50 |
| 113.50 - 114.50 |
| 114.50 - 115.50 |
| 115.50 - 116.50 |
| 116.50 - 117.50 |
| 117.50 - 118.50 |
| 118.50 - 119.50 |
| 119.50 - 120.50 |
| 120.50 - 121.50 |
| 121.50 - 122.50 |
| 122.50 - 123.50 |
| 123.50 - 124.50 |
| 124.50 - 125.50 |
| 125.50 - 126.50 |
| 126.50 - 127.50 |
| 127.50 - 128.50 |
| 128.50 - 129.50 |
| 129.50 - 130.50 |
| 130.50 - 131.50 |
| 131.50 - 132.50 |
| 132.50 - 133.50 |
| 133.50 - 134.50 |
| 134.50 - 135.50 |
| 135.50 - 136.50 |
| 136.50 - 137.50 |
| 137.50 - 138.50 |
| 138.50 - 139.50 |
| 139.50 - 140.50 |
| 140.50 - 141.50 |
| 141.50 - 142.50 |
| 142.50 - 143.50 |
| 143.50 - 144.50 |
| 144.50 - 145.50 |
| 145.50 - 146.50 |
| 146.50 - 147.50 |
| 147.50 - 148.50 |
| 148.50 - 149.50 |
| 149.50 - 150.50 |
| 150.50 - 151.50 |
| 151.50 - 152.50 |
| 152.50 - 153.50 |
| 153.50 - 154.50 |
| 154.50 - 155.50 |
| 155.50 - 156.50 |
| 156.50 - 157.50 |
| 157.50 - 158.50 |
| 158.50 - 159.50 |
| 159.50 - 160.50 |
| 160.50 - 161.50 |
| 161.50 - 162.50 |
| 162.50 - 163.50 |
| 163.50 - 164.50 |
| 164.50 - 165.50 |
| 165.50 - 166.50 |
| 166.50 - 167.50 |
| 167.50 - 168.50 |
| 168.50 - 169.50 |



Areas under study



Activities already prohibited

Fishing with the following gear :

- ✓ Bottom trawl
- ✓ Dredges
- ✓ Bottom seines
- ✓ Traps
- ✓ Bottom longlines
- ✓ Gillnets

These prohibitions would be maintained in a future marine protected area.

Activities to be prohibited or regulated

Certain activities that may harm cold water corals and sponges, as well as the ecosystems that support them, **would be prohibited :**

- ✓ Oil and gas exploration and exploitation;
- ✓ Mining;
- ✓ Dumping;
- ✓ Commercial or industrial production of electricity.

Other activities will be examined, including :

- ✓ Installation and maintenance of bottom contact structures;
- ✓ Anchoring of vessels;
- ✓ Scientific research.

St. Lawrence Estuary Project

Conservation priorities

Protecting **marine mammals at risk** and their **habitats**:

- Beluga whale
- Blue whale
- Fin whale

Protect **prey species** of these marine mammals at risk and their **habitats**:

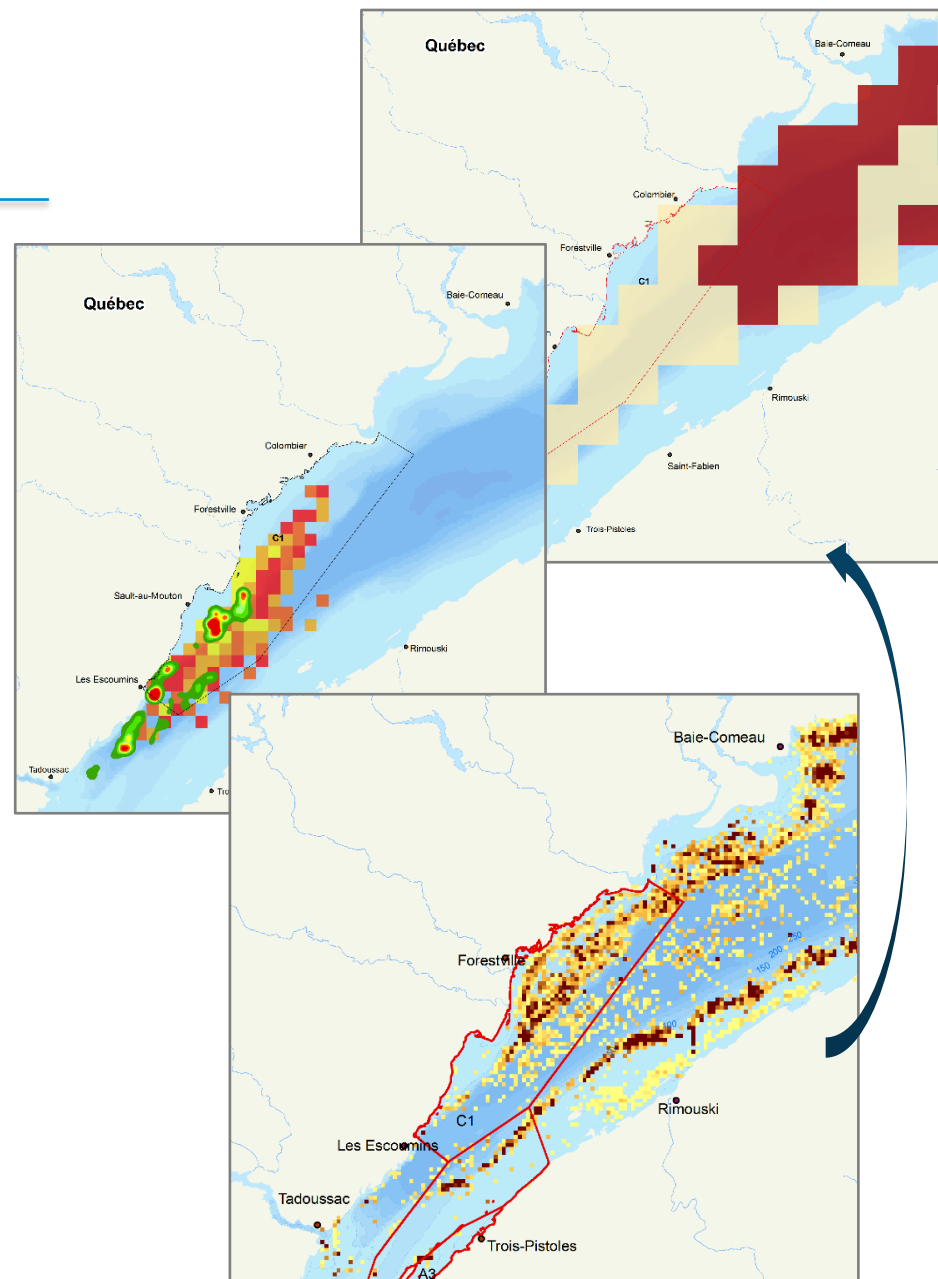
- Zooplankton: krill
- Fish: Atlantic herring, capelin, rainbow smelt, sand lance

Protecting **fish species in a precarious situation** and their **habitats**:

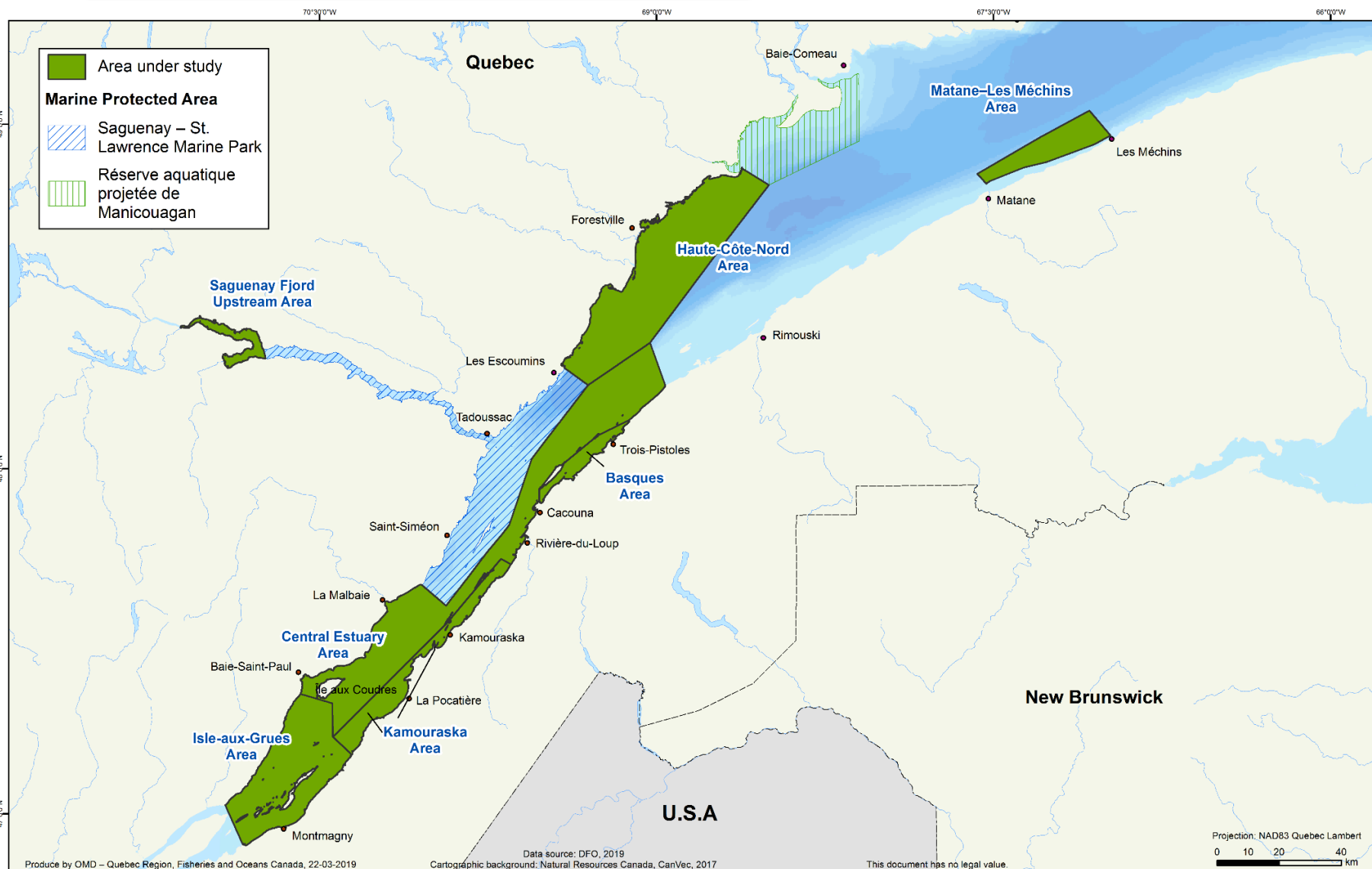
- Striped bass
- American shad
- Lake sturgeon
- Atlantic sturgeon

Choice of areas

- **Areas of ecological interest** were identified through an analysis of biological data (e.g. krill concentration area and blue whale sightings).
- The **analysis of human activities** (impacts and value) **is to be completed** and will be used to define the project.

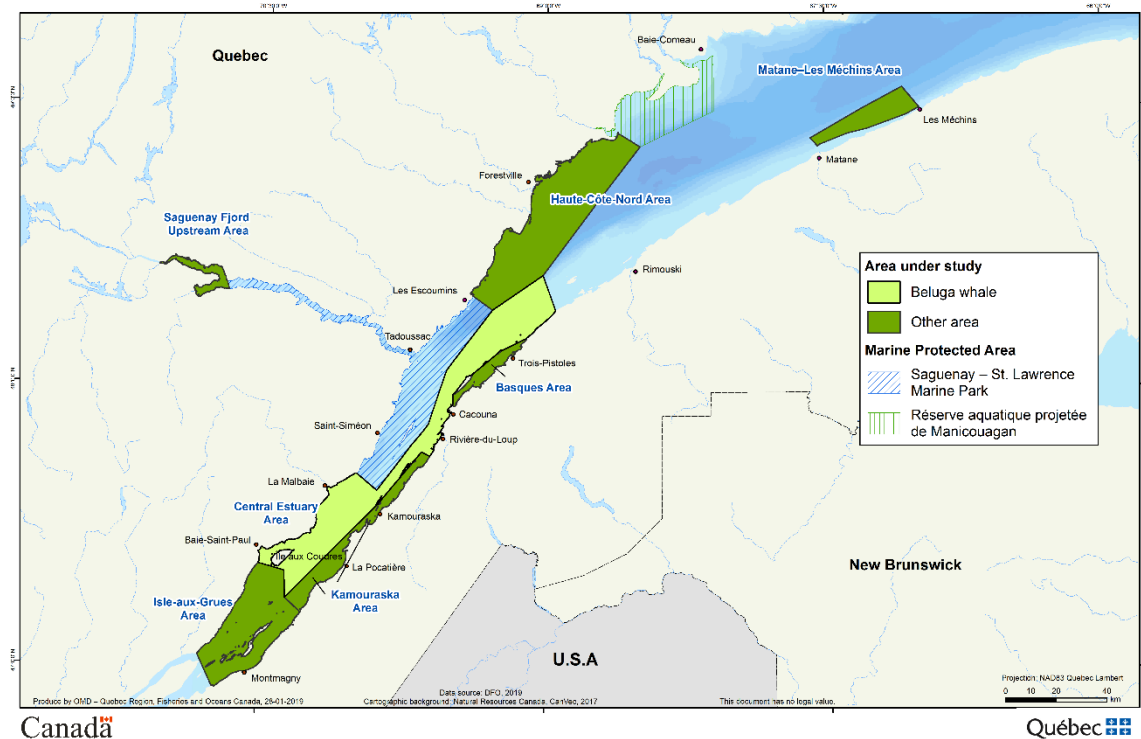


Areas under study



Central Estuary Area

Conservation priorities :
to protect
the beluga
whale and
beluga prey
species

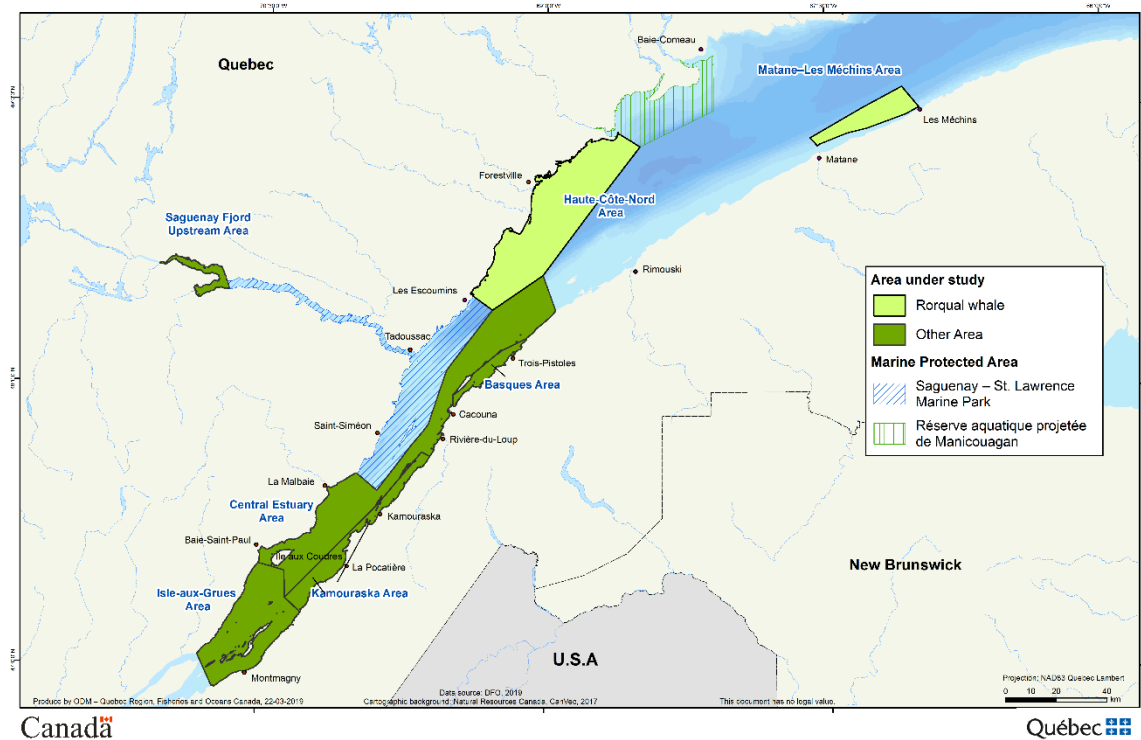


Includes the **critical beluga whale habitat** outside the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park and **an area around île aux Coudres**. Also an important reproduction and growth area for **several beluga prey species**.

Upper North Shore and Matane-Les Méchins Areas

Estuary project

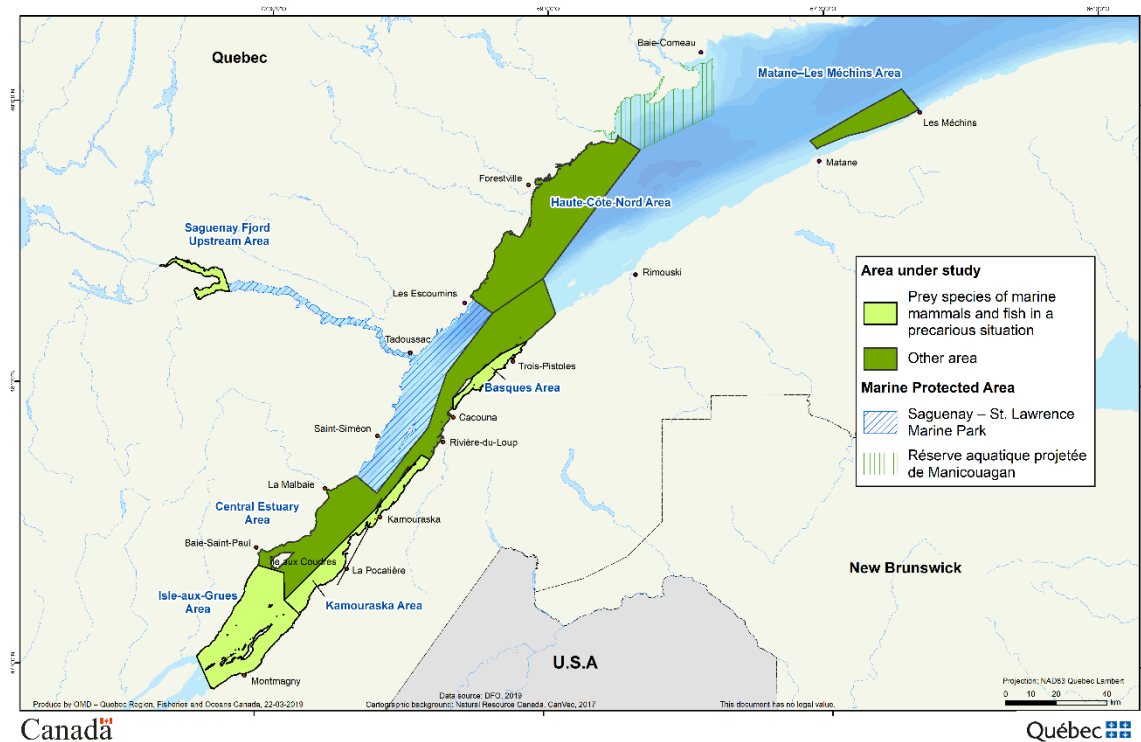
Conservation
priorities :
**to protect blue
whales and fin
whales**



Cover **whale feeding areas** (concentration of krill and prey fish).

Four Other Areas

Conservation priorities : **to protect fish species in a precarious situation or beluga prey species**



Includes **important habitats for a number of fish species**, particularly spawning grounds and nursery areas.

Activities to be examined

Activities that may harm marine mammals at risk, their habitats and prey, as well as fish species in a precarious situation and their habitats, particularly:

- ✓ Shipping and recreational boating;
- ✓ Marine observation activities;
- ✓ Fishing (mainly fishing that impacts prey species of marine mammals or habitat);
- ✓ Development activities (e.g. harbour construction and dredging);
- ✓ Scientific research.

Development of conservation measures

Conservation measures will be :

- developed **through engagement** with Indigenous groups and key stakeholders;
- **specific to the conservation priorities** of each of the identified areas (zoning);
- developed with a concern for **harmonization** with measures in existing marine protected areas.

Part 3. Next steps



Next steps

Indigenous groups and concerned stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide comments and make recommendations **throughout the process**.

- Presentation of **projects under study** and conservation priorities from June 2019.
- **Discussion** with Indigenous groups and relevant stakeholders on conservation measures (Gulf: autumn 2019 | Estuary: 2020).
- **Consultation** on the projects, including proposed conservation measures.

Next steps

- Conservation measures will be specific to the conservation priorities established for each project.
- **The socio-economic impacts of conservation measures will be assessed** and taken into account.
- If necessary, conservation tools other than MPAs could be considered.

Discussion period

Do you have questions or comments?

Thank you!

To submit comments or ask questions:

Government of Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
1-877-775-0848

Oceans-QC@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Government of Quebec
Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte
contre les changements climatiques

Aires.marines@environnement.gouv.qc.ca