<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Welcome participants.</td>
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<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>1. Opening remarks from the Co-Chairs of the Canada-Quebec Bilateral Group on Marine Protected Areas.</td>
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<td>1:45 pm</td>
<td>2. General background.</td>
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| 2:15 pm| 3. Areas of ecological interest for a marine protected area project in the Gulf:  
  ○ Conservation priorities;  
  ○ Areas of ecological interest;  
  ○ Discussion period. |
| 3 pm   | Break. |
| 3:15 pm| 4. Areas of ecological interest for a marine protected area project in the Estuary:  
  ○ Conservation priorities;  
  ○ Areas of ecological interest;  
  ○ Discussion period. |
| 4 pm   | 5. Forthcoming steps in the development of future marine protected area projects, timelines, consultations. |
| 4:05 pm| 6. Discussion period |
| 4:30 pm| 7. Conclusion and closing remarks. |
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

Information Session
June 19, 2019
Purpose of the session

- 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:

**Information**
Conservation areas and priorities are presented to Indigenous groups and stakeholders.

**Engagement**
Potential conservation measures are developed and discussed with Indigenous groups and relevant stakeholders.

**Consultation**
Projects, including the conservation measures being considered, are presented to Indigenous groups and stakeholders for consultation.
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., marine refuges).

  ✓ Quebec: establishment of a representative network of marine protected areas.
A few concepts

A marine protected area (MPA) is:

• a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means,

• to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem functions, services and cultural values.
Some concepts

An other effective area-based conservation measure (OEABCM) is:

• a defined geographical area that is subject to management measures to achieve positive long-term results,

• for the conservation of biological diversity, including related ecosystem functions and services, as well as cultural, spiritual and socio-economic values.

For example: some fisheries management measures
Marine protected areas of Quebec

Main tools:

• Aquatic reserve *(Natural Heritage Conservation Act)*;

• Threatened or vulnerable wildlife species habitat *(Act Respecting the Conservation and Development of Wildlife)*;

• Natural settings designated by a plan *(Natural Heritage Conservation Act)*;

An MPA may also be designated by an ad hoc law (e.g., the Saguenay-Saint-Lawrence Marine Park)
Marine protected areas of Canada

Main tools:

- *Oceans Act* Marine Protected Areas (*Oceans Act*);
- Marine Wildlife Areas (*Canada Wildlife Act*);
- National Marine Conservation Areas (*Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*);
- National park with a marine component (*Canada National Parks Act*).

An MPA may also be designated by an ad hoc law (e.g., the Saguenay-Saint-Lawrence Marine Park)
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.

These standards are based on the recommendations of the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Areas Standards.
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

Other effective area-based conservation measures including marine refuges for coral and sponge conservation.
Marine Protected Areas in Quebec

- **Saguenay – St. Lawrence Marine Park**
- **Réserve aquatique de l'Estuaire-de-la-Rivière-Bonaventure**
- **Réserve aquatique projetée de Manicouagan**
- **Joined project of Banc-des-Américains Protected Area**
  - Marine Protected Area
  - Aquatic reserve under study

Produce by OMD – Quebec Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2020
Cartographic background, Natural Resources Canada, CanVei, 2017
This document has no legal value.
Marine refuges in Quebec

[Map showing marine refuges in Quebec, including Coral and Sponge Conservation Area, Magdalen Island Lagoons, Les Demoiselles nursery (Plaisance Bay), Magdalen Islands closure, and Saguenay Fjord Upstream closure.]
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.
The Canada-Quebec Bilateral Group on Marine Protected Areas (GBAMP) brings together the following departments to coordinate the Agreement:

**Canada**
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO);
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC);
- Parks Canada Agency (PCA).

**Quebec**
- Environnement et Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC);
- Forêts, Faune et Parcs (MFFP);
- Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation (MAPAQ);
- Énergie et Ressources naturelles (MERN).
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 under discussion and will be the focus of a separate information, engagement and consultation process.
Benefits of MPAs

MPAs provide numerous environmental, social and cultural benefits, such as:

- Maintaining biodiversity and essential ecological processes;
- Promoting sustainable fisheries;
- Diversifying local and regional economies (tourist and leisure activities);
- Stimulating scientific research, education and outreach activities;
- Mobilizing key actors to act more broadly at the system or landscape level.
Do you have questions or comments about this first general section?
Part 2. Projects under study
Projects under study

- Area under study in the northern gulf of St. Lawrence
- Area under study in the St. Lawrence Estuary
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.
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.
Video presenting the coral and sponge conservation area of the Eastern Honguedo Strait
Corals and sponges

- Several species: hard (1) or soft (3) coral, sea pens (4), sponges (+).
- Are not very mobile and their growth is slow, making them vulnerable to seabed disturbance.
- Provide a number of other species with habitat that can be used for breeding, feeding and shelter.
Choice of areas

- Marine refuges established in December 2017, taking into account:
  - Significant areas of corals and sponges and their ecological values;
  - Fishing activities;
  - Comments from Indigenous groups and stakeholders.

- The Canada-Quebec planning provides an opportunity to strengthen the protection of some of these areas while taking into account the representativeness of habitats.
Areas under study

Northern Gulf project
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 supervised**

*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.
Completed steps and upcoming steps

• Identify conservation priorities and areas of interest;
• Complete the overview of human activities and assess their impacts on conservation priorities;
• Develop potential conservation measures and assess the socio-economic impacts;
• Meet with Indigenous groups and relevant stakeholders to discuss potential conservation measures;
• Consult Indigenous groups and stakeholders on the overall project (boundaries, conservation priorities and conservation measures).
Discussion period 2

Do you have questions or comments on the project under study in the Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence?
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
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**.
Conservation priorities: to protect blue whales and fin whales.

Cover **whale feeding areas** (concentration of krill and prey fish).
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.
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.
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).
Do you have questions or comments on the project under study in the St. Lawrence Estuary?
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 4

Do you have questions or comments?
Thank you!

To submit comments or ask questions:

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