Call for Participation

Scientific Trials on an Alternative Shipping Corridor Away from Cap de la Tête au Chien

The Cap de la Tête au Chien sector is regularly frequented by the endangered St. Lawrence beluga. Disturbance from underwater noise is one of the main threats to the recovery of this species. Scientific trials aim to document an alternative to enhance beluga protection in these waters.

In this context, the acoustic environment of the sector was monitored in the summers of 2022 and 2023 as part of a Parks Canada initiative consisting of the deployment of a hydrophone approximately 0.5 nautical miles from Cap de la Tête au Chien. A second hydrophone will be deployed by Université du Québec en Outaouais in 2024.

In Summer 2024, ships subject to compulsory pilotage are invited to participate in scientific trials to evaluate the effects of ascending the estuary using an alternative shipping route that avoids Cap de la Tête au Chien. **No operational impacts are anticipated.**

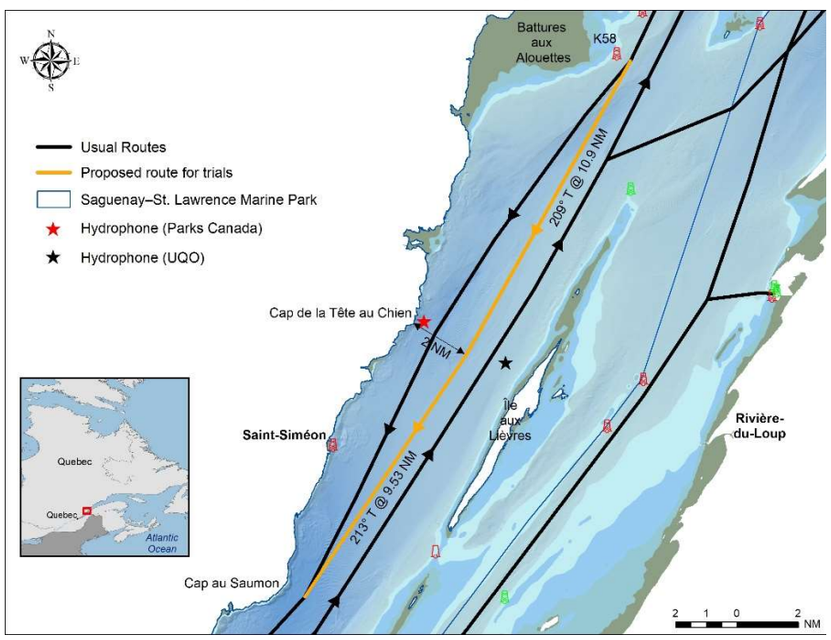
- **Why:** To assess the impact on the belugas' acoustic environment. Operational (e.g. ship transit time) and ecological (e.g. acoustic activities and belugas' use of the sector) will also be documented.
- **Where:** Along the upstream route between Buoy K58 and Cap au Saumon (**approximately 21 nautical miles**).
- **What and When:**

Please provide information on operational parameters using this online form (see QR code).

○ Scientific trial periods: **July** and **September** – follow an upstream route located approximately 2 nautical miles from Cap de la Tête au Chien, when it does not compromise navigational safety (**illustrated in orange on the map below**).

○ Reference period: **June, August and October** – usual upstream route.

- **Who:** All **ships subject to compulsory pilotage** when ascending the St. Lawrence Estuary.



These scientific trials are an initiative of the Group on Marine Traffic and Protection of Marine Mammals (G2T3M), which is tasked with identifying potential solutions for reducing the shipping-related risks faced by marine mammals in the St. Lawrence Estuary and the Saguenay Fjord while at the same time taking into account the operational constraints and security concerns of the shipping industry. G2T3M is composed of organizations and contact persons from the shipping industry, the marine conservation and protection sector, the scientific community as well as the federal and provincial governments.

Thank you for your precious cooperation.

To contact G2T3M's co-presidents:

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