

# MARINE ACTIVITIES IN THE SAGUENAY-ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK REGULATIONS

## A permit for activities at sea

Under the regulations, a permit is required to practise certain activities in the marine park, such as offering whale-watching excursions, guided sea kayaking excursions and conducting scientific research.

The number of sea excursion permits is limited. The permit holders are identified by this flag.



## Well trained captains and guides

The captains and sea kayaking guides of companies holding a licence must successfully complete training on the regulation in order to obtain their mandatory certifications. Offered by Parks Canada, this training focuses on the behaviour to be adopted to avoid disturbing the whales and to react properly when a whale surfaces unexpectedly near their vessel.

## Did you know that...

A quality marine mammal observation begins with a respectful approach to the animals.



## Summary of the rules to be followed

These obligations apply to the operators of all vessels, motorized and non-motorized, as well as to divers and swimmers.

Operators must maintain control of their vessels at all times, taking the wind, waves and current into account.

### Collision

Any collision with a marine mammal must be reported to a park warden without delay (1 866 508-9888), providing the details specified in the regulation (name, contact information, location, date and time, species involved, circumstances, state of the animal before and after the incident, direction taken by the animal, weather conditions, name and description of the vessel involved).

### Temporary exclusion sector

It is forbidden to enter a temporary exclusion sector during a period when this sector is in place, unless the individual has a written authorization.

### Beluga

#### Navigation mode

When you are sailing and you observe a beluga within less than a half nautical mile:

**5 MIN less 10 MAX** Maintain the speed of the boat between 5 and 10 knots;

It is forbidden to stop the boat;

**400+ metres** Maintain a minimum distance of 400 metres between your boat and the beluga whale;

**N** If the 400 metres distance is impossible to maintain, stay the course.

#### Observation mode (cetaceans)

The observation mode is in effect when an approach is made within 400 metres of a cetacean in order to observe it.

If you are in observation mode and a beluga approach within 400 metres:

Stay in neutral;

Move away based on what is prescribed in navigation mode.

KNOTS	KILOMETERS	MILES
<b>3 knots</b>	5.56 km/h	3.45 mph
<b>5 knots</b>	9.26 km/h	5.75 mph
<b>10 knots</b>	18.52 km/h	11.50 mph
<b>15 knots</b>	27.78 km/h	17.25 mph
<b>25 knots</b>	46.30 km/h	28.70 mph

### Prohibited activities

It is prohibited in the park to use a personal watercraft, a hovercraft, to practice a nautical traction sport or to offer a commercial service related to migratory bird hunting.

It is prohibited to fly over the park at an altitude of less than 609.6 m (2,000 ft), to land in or take off from the park in an aircraft unless you are the holder of a special events permit.

It is prohibited to kill, injure or disturb a marine mammal.

#### Disturb means:

- Feed or touch any marine mammal;
- Go into the water to swim or interact with marine mammals;
- Under the water, to play the calls or cries of the whales or create other noise that resembles them;
- Separate a group of marine mammals or go between an adult and her calf. A calf is a baby whale measuring no more than half the size of an adult.
- Encircle a cetacean between a boat and the coast or between several boats;
- Interrupt or disrupt normal swimming, breathing, diving, resting, feeding, lactation, reproduction behaviour.

### Speeds

Speeds are measured in relation to the seabed.

**25 kts** The maximum speed in the park is 25 knots.

**15 kts** The maximum speed in the mouth of the Saguenay River, i.e., the area between buoys S7 and S8 and the ferries, is 15 knots from May 1 to October 31.

**10 kts** The maximum speed in an observation zone is 10 knots.

**5 MIN less 10 MAX** A boat that is less than a half nautical mile from a beluga can remain stationary and must sail at a constant speed of at least 5 knots and no more than 10 knots. It must also maintain its course.

**MIN** If a cetacean approaches your vessel between 200 and 400 metres, reduce to minimum speed to manoeuvre, equivalent to manoeuvring close to a dock.

Put the motor in neutral if a cetacean other than a beluga whale comes within 200 metres of the boat.

### Approach distances

**400+ metres** For endangered or threatened\* marine mammals such as the beluga whale and the blue whale, a distance of at least 400 metres must be maintained between the vessel and the animal.

**200+ metres** A boat can come within of 200 metres of a cetacean that is not endangered or threatened.

It is prohibited to get into the path of a cetacean in such a way that it passes within less than 200 metres of the boat, and less than 400 metres if it is an endangered or threatened marine mammal.

It is forbidden to use the action of wind, waves or current to approach within less than the specified distances.

### Observation zone and sector

An observation zone extends over a radius of a half nautical mile around the boat in observation mode.

An observation sector consists of two or more contiguous or overlapping observation zones.

The observation mode is in effect when an approach is made within 400 metres of a cetacean in order to observe it.

**60 MAX** A boat must not remain in an observation zone or sector for more than one hour.

**60 MIN** A boat must wait at least one hour before returning to the same observation zone or sector.

\* Threatened or endangered species are listed in Appendix I of the Species at Risk Act.

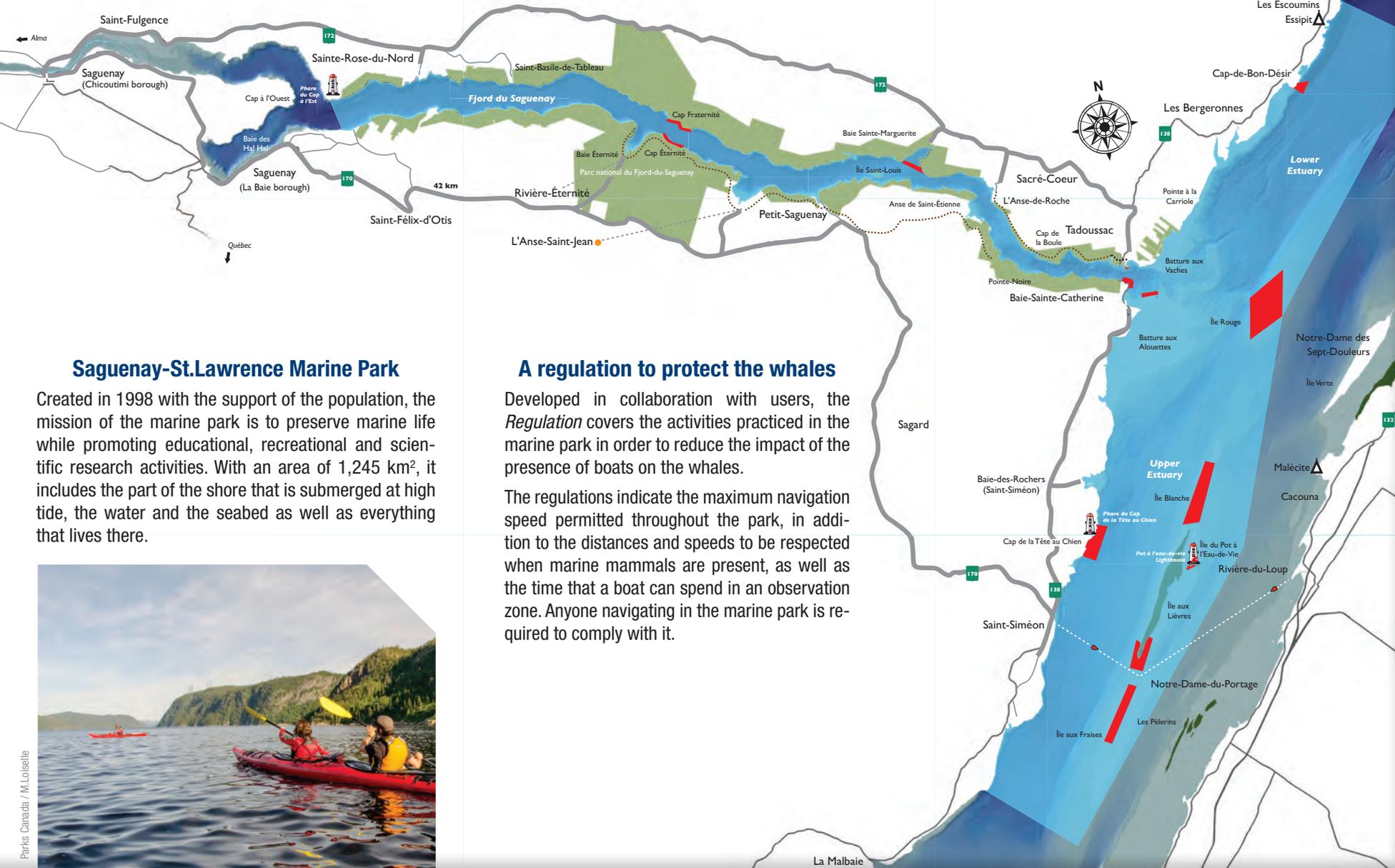
In the event of any disparity, the text of the *Marine Activities in the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park Regulations* shall take precedence over the information presented in this guide.



## Marine Activities in the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park Regulations



# Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park Map



## Legend

Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park. The regulations on Marine Activities apply to this entire protected area.

Comprehensive preservation zones: zone for the protection of habitats and sensitive species. Please avoid sailing there.

Zone outside of the Marine Park: the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Regulations Respecting the Protection of Marine Mammals apply.

## Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park

Created in 1998 with the support of the population, the mission of the marine park is to preserve marine life while promoting educational, recreational and scientific research activities. With an area of 1,245 km<sup>2</sup>, it includes the part of the shore that is submerged at high tide, the water and the seabed as well as everything that lives there.

## A regulation to protect the whales

Developed in collaboration with users, the *Regulation* covers the activities practiced in the marine park in order to reduce the impact of the presence of boats on the whales.

The regulations indicate the maximum navigation speed permitted throughout the park, in addition to the distances and speeds to be respected when marine mammals are present, as well as the time that a boat can spend in an observation zone. Anyone navigating in the marine park is required to comply with it.

This map should not be used for navigation. Consult the nautical charts and sailing directions for the dangers of the area where you are sailing.

## Species are threatened; let's protect them!

The whale species whose status is threatened or endangered, such as the beluga whale and the blue whale, benefit from increased protection through the *Regulations on marine activities in the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park*. A distance of at least 400 metres from these whales must be maintained in order to reduce the risk of collisions and disturbance. These animals need tranquility to feed, to raise their young and to rest. If these species come close to you unexpectedly, then re-establish your distance as soon as it is safe for you and the animal.



## Did you know that...

The beluga population is in decline. There are only 889 belugas left (2012). Monitoring shows that the proportion of 0 to 1 year old calves is declining. At the end of the 1990s, calves accounted for 15.1 to 17.8% of the population. Since 2000, this proportion is 3.2 to 8.4%. Also, since 2010, problems related to the birth and survival of young belugas have been observed. By respecting the regulations on marine activities when you sail in the marine park, you are helping to protect this species.

Every effort is important!

## One of the best places in the world for whale-watching

From a boat or the shore, it is possible to see these large mammals near the coast in a spectacular natural setting. In the summer, a number of whale species visit the marine park, including the minke whale, the beluga, the blue whale, the fin whale, the humpback whale and the harbour porpoise.



## Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park

Parks Canada  
182, rue de l'Église  
Tadoussac, (Quebec) G0T 2A0  
Telephone: 418-235-4703  
Evenings and weekends (Emergency):  
1-866-508-9888

## For more information

[www.parkscanada.gc.ca/saguenay-saint-laurent](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/saguenay-saint-laurent)  
[www.parcmarin.qc.ca](http://www.parcmarin.qc.ca)  
[www.baleinesendirect.org](http://www.baleinesendirect.org) (Available in french only)

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