



Putep 't-awt observatory of the Wolastoqiyik Wampanoag First Nation © MMON

There are also interpretation centres and observatories that offer guided activities to learn more about the different marine species and their habitats.



Halte du béluga in Baie Sainte-Marguerite © Sépaq



Marine Environment Discovery Centre © Parks Canada

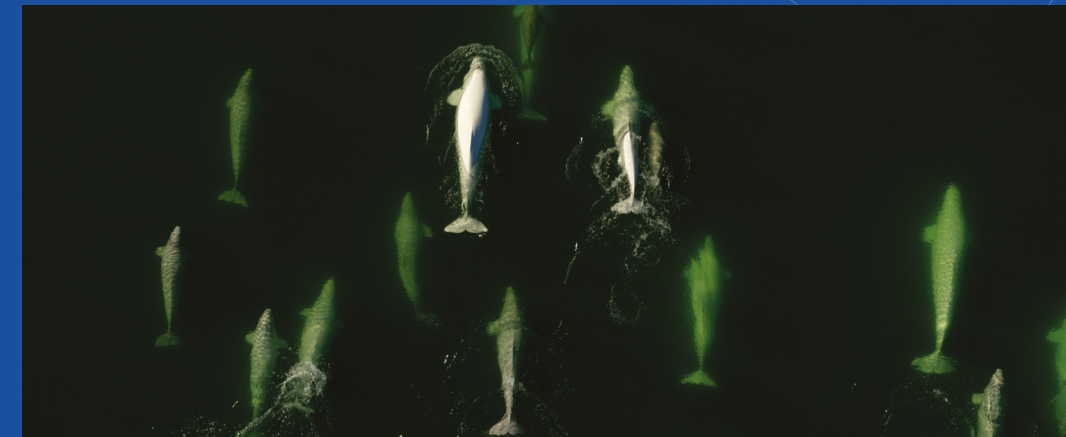
## DIVING A LITTLE DEEPER

Check out the citizen's portal on the *Navigating Whale Habitat* website to learn more about whales and their habitat. You can play an active role in citizen science by sharing your sightings through a free online tool called Vigie marine.



## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The *Window on Belugas* activity offers a unique immersive experience based on the work of beluga research teams, namely images taken by drone and sound recordings made by hydrophone. A fascinating scientific adventure awaits you at the observation sites marked by the round logo *Window on Belugas*, in the heart of the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park.



© GREMM – Beluga photos taken by drone in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park under the following scientific research permits: QUE-LEP-015-2024, SAGMP-2024-45891 and PNFS-2024-06-07

An initiative of MMON and its partners



# WATCHING WHALES WITHOUT DISTURBING THEM!

Visiting somewhere along the St. Lawrence?

Take the time to observe whales and seals from shore or on board a ferry. This is a great way to enjoy an unforgettable experience while at the same time doing your part to respect the animals' needs for peace and quiet.



Cap de Bon-Désir Interpretation and Observation Centre © Renaud Prud'homme

## HABITATS WORTH PROTECTING

The Gulf of St. Lawrence and its estuary are home to several species of marine mammals that come to feed in their waters. Some of these species are at risk. To preserve such natural wealth, protected areas such as the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park and the Banc-des-Américains Marine Protected Area have been created.

## WHERE CAN MARINE MAMMALS BE OBSERVED?

Marine protected areas often lie adjacent to national parks that feature trails and prime shore-based viewing locations. Further, many municipalities have developed public areas along the water's edge from which visitors can observe whales and seals.



Don't forget to bring your binoculars and spotting scope for better views from shore and ferries!



Observation from a ferry © MMON

St. Lawrence belugas © MMON





Minke whale © MMON



Harbour seals © MMON



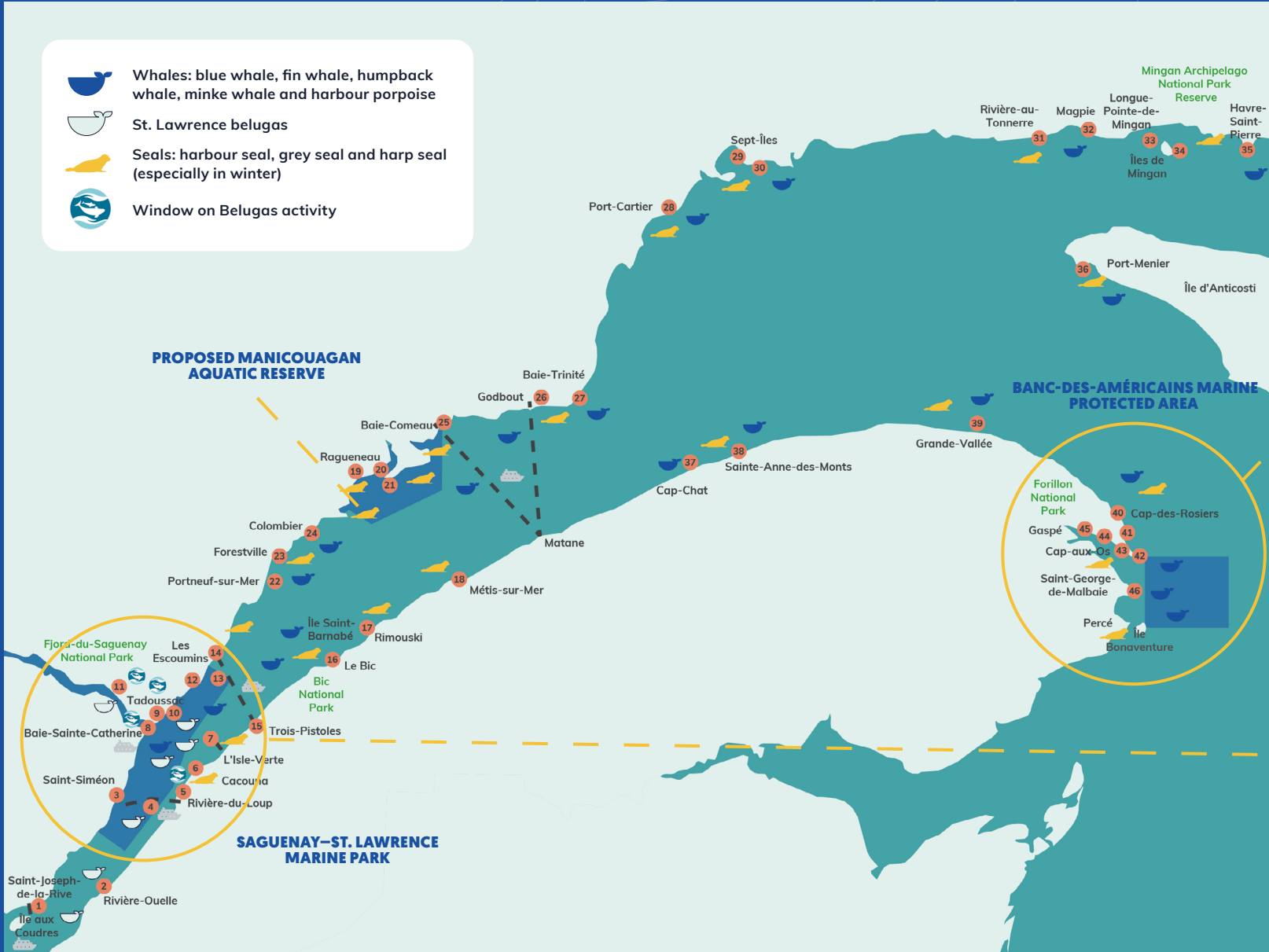
Observation of harbour seals in Bic National Park © MMON

## WHALES AND SEALS APLENTY!

At some locations, deep underwater cliffs hug the shoreline, which allows the largest cetacean species to come closer to the coasts. Such is the case in the Côte-Nord region and in certain sectors off the Gaspé Peninsula, where blue, fin and humpback whales are regularly seen.

At low tide, seals rest at sites called haul-outs: islands, rocks or beaches that are often located near shallow bays. The haul-out sites found at Le Bic, Métis Bay, Petit-Gaspé and Ragueneau are particularly important for harbour seals.

## MAP OF SHORE-BASED OBSERVATION SITES



### BANC-DES-AMÉRICAINS MARINE PROTECTED AREA



### SAGUENAY-ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK



### SHORE-BASED OBSERVATION SITES

- Ferry docks – St-Joseph-de-la-Rive and Isle-aux-Coudres
- Pointe-aux-Orignaux wharf – Rivière-Ouelle
- Ferry docks and adjacent beach – Saint-Siméon
- Western portion of “De la Mer” trail – Île aux Lièvres – Société Duvetnor
- “Vieux Quai” promenade – Rivière-du-Loup
- Putep ‘t-awt observatory – Wolastoqiyik Wahsipekuk First Nation – Cacouna
- Île Verte Lighthouse – Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs – Île Verte
- Pointe-Noire Interpretation and Observation Centre – Baie-Sainte-Catherine – Parks Canada
- Marine Mammal Interpretation Centre – Tadoussac
- Pointe-de-l’Islet trail – Fjord-du-Saguenay National Park – Sépaq – Tadoussac
- Halte du Béluga in Baie Sainte-Marguerite – Sépaq
- Cap de Bon-Désir Interpretation and Observation Centre – Les Bergeronnes – Parks Canada
- Marine Environment Discovery Centre – Les Escoumins – Parks Canada
- Île aux Basques – Provancher Société
- Pointe-aux-Épinettes – Bic National Park – Sépaq
- Île Saint-Barnabé – Rimouski
- Pointe Mitis Lighthouse – Métis-sur-Mer – Parks Canada
- Old wharf of Ragueneau – Ragueneau
- Ragueneau tourism information office – Ragueneau
- Pointe-aux-Outardes Nature Park – Pointe-aux-Outardes
- Pointe des Fortin – Portneuf Bank – Portneuf-sur-Mer
- “Baie-Verte” trail and docks – Forestville
- Cap Colombier – Colombier
- Baie-Comeau wharf and St-Pancrace Bay – Baie-Comeau
- Godbout Bay – Municipality of Godbout
- Pointe-des-Monts Lighthouse – Baie-Trinité
- Fishermen’s wharf – Port-Cartier
- Vieux-Quai Park – Sept-Îles
- Île Grande Basque – Sept-Îles
- Coste lookout – Rivière-au-Tonnerre
- Magpie lookout – Magpie
- Riverside promenade – Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan
- Mingan Archipelago – Parks Canada
- “Des Anciens” promenade and wharf – Havre-Saint-Pierre
- Port-Menier Bay and Pointe Carleton Lighthouse – Anticosti Island
- Cap-Chat rest area and docks – Cap-Chat
- Cartier beach and docks – Saint-Anne-des-Monts
- Grande-Vallée jetty – Grande-Vallée
- Cap-des-Rosiers Lighthouse – Cap-des-Rosiers
- Cap Bon-Ami – Forillon National Park
- Cap Gaspé – Forillon National Park
- Anse-aux-Amérindiens – Forillon National Park Canada
- Petit-Gaspé – Forillon National Park
- Cap-aux-Os beach – Cap-aux-Os
- Pointe-Saint-Pierre trails – Saint-Georges-de-Malbaie

### FERRY CROSSINGS

- St-Joseph-de-la-Rive – Île-aux-Coudres
- Saint-Siméon – Rivière-du-Loup
- Tadoussac – Baie-Sainte-Catherine
- Trois-Pistoles – Les Escoumins
- Matane – Baie-Comeau – Godbout
- L’Isle-Verte – Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs

### TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION PARK

- Fjord-du-Saguenay National Park
- Bic National Park
- Forillon National Park
- Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve