**Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) update on North Atlantic right whale fisheries management measures**

In 2021, the Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s (DFO) management measures continue to focus on entanglement prevention for North Atlantic right whales throughout its Canadian range. Since 2017, Canada has implemented strong measures for the protection of the North Atlantic right whale with the primary objective of the fisheries measures being the prevention of fishing gear entanglement. To prevent entanglements the Department has consulted with industry and scientists to adjust fishing seasons to minimize co-occurrence with whales and has developed a series of near real-time area closure protocols that apply to non-tended fixed gear fisheries throughout the right whale’s Canadian range. These closures are supported by the most comprehensive right whale monitoring and detection regime in the world which includes flights, vessels, and acoustic devices. Closure areas, some of which remain in place for several months, are adaptive and occur in areas where whales are found to aggregate. In addition, the Department has put in place a series of regulatory measures, including the requirement for the reporting of lost gear, accidental contact with marine mammals, and the implementation of a gear marking regime for non-tended fixed gear fisheries. Further, the Department has implemented a comprehensive ghost gear program, and has also implemented a new Whalesafe Gear Adoption Fund to support the requirements that are being phased in for whalesafe fishing gear. All Canadian measures are developed in consultation with industry and scientists, and take into consideration past confirmed NARW detections, the latest science advice, navigational safety, and economic impacts.