**Fishing-Vessel-Strike Risk to North Atlantic Right Whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence**

Vessel strikes are one of the leading identified sources of mortality for critically endangered North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*; right whales). From 2017 to 2020, 32 right whales were observed dead in United States and Canadian waters. Of the 16 cases where cause of death was determined, 9 carcasses (56%) presented with injuries consistent with vessel strike, 7 of which (78%) were discovered in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (GSL). The GSL is an area with substantial shipping and fishing activities and lethal vessel-strike risk from large (>20 m) vessels that has been preliminarily quantified (same authors). However, no studies have investigated lethal vessel-strike risk derived from smaller fishing vessels in the GSL or elsewhere. The southwestern GSL is an area of particular concern as right whales have shifted their distribution to seasonally feed and socialize in this area and a considerable portion of the GSL snow crab fishing fleet transits through and actively fishes in this area. Right whales are not only exposed to fishing gear entanglement risk but also lethal vessel-strike risk as a recent study found that smaller vessels such as 15-meter long, 45 tonne Cape Islander lobstering vessels are capable of causing lethal injury to right whales (Kelley et. al 2021; Mar. Mam. Sci. 37(1), 251-267). Our research addresses the small-vessel risk knowledge gap by quantifying lethal vessel-strike risk to right whales based on the 2017 snow crab fishing fleet using mandatory Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data in concert with visual right whale detections. Lethality is estimated for standard-dimension GSL snow crab vessels using the Kelley 4-layer model. Areas of concentrated risk that may be the focus of future management schemes are identified and risk under normal operating conditions is compared to risk during right-whale-triggered fishing area closures.