A SOURCE OF LIFE, A PLACE OF EXCHANGE, A WEALTH OF RICHES
By its curves, the Marine Park symbol represents the supple movement of the waves and the water bodies.

The triangular shape brings the three sectors of the Park to mind: the Saguenay fjord, the St. Lawrence upper estuary and maritime estuary, as well as management by the Government of Canada, the Government of Quebec and the regional stakeholders.

The tips of the triangle symbolize the dorsal fins of whales or a pod of belugas.

**1 000 000**
Number of visits to the Marine Park per year (at sea and on the coast)

**500 000**
Number of visits at sea per year

**1245 km²**
Total area of the Marine Park

**105 km**
Length of the Saguenay fjord

**260 000**
People living in the regions bordering the Marine Park

**5 metres**
Amplitude of the Spring tides at Tadoussac

**500 000**
Number of visits at sea per year
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MARINE PARK

AN EXCEPTIONAL NATURAL TREASURE

The Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park protects a marine region where plant and animal diversity is exceptional: from microscopic algae to the gigantic blue whale, more than 1,600 wild species have been observed there.

VISIT THE NATURAL HABITAT OF WHALES: A PRIVILEGE

Visitors discover an important habitat for the survival of whales, especially for the St. Lawrence beluga. The protection of these mammals and their habitat is part of the Marine Park’s mandate.

A HISTORY SPANNING SEVERAL MILLENNIA

Occupied by Aboriginal peoples 8,000 years ago, the region of the Park has a rich maritime history. Many sailors have passed through there on birchbark canoes, Basque whaling ships, French vessels, sailboats, steamboats, commercial vessels and pleasure boats.

Today, nearly a million visitors come every year to admire the scenery and watch the whales. The regular presence of a number of species of whales and the ease of access to observation sites are hallmarks of the Marine Park.

MANDATE

For the benefit of present and future generations, enhance the level of protection of the ecosystems of a representative part of the Saguenay fjord and the St. Lawrence estuary for conservation purposes while promoting its use for educational, recreational and scientific purposes.
GOVERNMENTS JOIN FORCES

The Marine Park is the first marine protected area created in Quebec and one of the first in Canada. It is part of the network of national marine conservation areas managed by Parks Canada and the network of Québec national parks (Parcs Québec) under the responsibility of the Société des établissements de plein air du Québec (SÉPAQ). Their teams bring together and lead the many stakeholders to work together to achieve the objectives of the Park.

MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE PARK: a model of participatory management

The creation of protected areas contributes to compliance with the international commitments of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

PARKS CANADA

Parks Canada is the largest provider of tourist services related to historical and natural heritage sites in Canada. At present, Parks Canada administers 44 national parks, 167 national historic sites and 4 national marine conservation areas across Canada.

PARCS QUÉBEC

SÉPAQ manages the largest outdoor network in Quebec, with more than 80,000 square kilometres of natural territory. The Parcs Québec network has 23 land-based parks as well as the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park.

PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT BRINGS THE COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

The contribution of First Nations and regional and local communities is essential to the success of the Marine Park. This is why a coordination committee bringing together the regional participants was formed.

COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The coordination committee submits recommendations to managers regarding policies that are favourable to the achievement of the protected area's objectives.

The nine members of the coordination committee are:

- The Regional County Municipalities (RCMs) adjoining the Marine Park (1 member per RCM): Charlevoix-Est, Fjord-du-Saguenay and Haute-Côte-Nord;
- Three RCMs of the Bas-Saint-Laurent (1 member for 3 RCMs): Rivière-du-Loup, Les Basques and Kamouraska;
- The First Nation Innus Essipit;
- The scientific community;
- The interpretation and education sectors;
- The Government of Canada (Parks Canada);
- The Government of Québec (Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs).
The Marine Park covers an area of 1,245 km² in the St. Lawrence estuary and the Saguenay fjord. It includes the water, sea floor and the portion of the shoreline covered at high tide.

**Legend**
- Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park
- Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay
- Other protected areas
- Comprehensive preservation zones (Navigation forbidden)
- Wharf, pontoon or launching ramp
- Discovery Network sites
- Municipality
- Ferry boat
- Hiking trail
- Native Community

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THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS of the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park

ADOPTION OF LAWS ESTABLISHING THE SAGUENAY–ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK
The laws creating the Marine Park were promulgated by the Quebec National Assembly and the Canadian House of Commons in 1998. They serve as a legal framework for the management of the Park. The Quebec law prohibits the exploration for, utilization and exploitation of resources for mining or energy production purposes as well as the passage of oil pipelines, gas pipeline and power transmission lines through the Park.

REGULATIONS ON MARINE ACTIVITIES IN THE SAGUENAY–ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK
Under Federal law, this regulation encompasses the activities that ensure the protection of marine mammals. A first of its kind in Canada and Quebec, it was developed in consultation with regional authorities and the sea excursion industry. The captains and kayak guides who work in the Marine Park must undergo training to familiarize themselves with the regulations and their rationale.

PROTECTION MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF COLLISIONS BETWEEN WHALES AND MARITIME TRANSPORT SHIPS
At the initiative of Parks Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, a working group designed specific measures for the protection of whales. The pilots of merchant and passenger vessels are asked to adapt their sailing in areas frequented by whales. They pay particular attention to the presence of animals, slow down in feeding areas and avoid sailing in the area most frequented by blue whales.

CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
To date, there have been more than 80 research and monitoring projects conducted in the Marine Park. The work of researchers from various disciplines has resulted in the acquisition of valuable knowledge that helps managers make decisions about conservation and the management of activities. Furthermore, this knowledge contributes to enrichment of the educational activities offered to the public.

THE ECO-WHALE ALLIANCE
Parks Canada and Parcs Quebec collaborate with the Group for Research and Education on Marine Mammals (GREMM) and the marine excursion companies within the framework of the Eco-Whale Alliance. The objective of this alliance is to ensure the responsible practice of whale watching in the Marine Park.

Whale watching cruises, when practiced in an environmentally-friendly manner, are wonderful activities that raise awareness of the beauty and fragility of our planet.

DISCOVERY NETWORK
Parks Canada, Parcs Quebec and their partners have formed a Discovery Network which brings together museums, interpretive centres, national historic sites as well as locations that facilitate outdoor activities. Visitors can thus choose from a wide variety of recreational and educational activities. Each of the network sites presents a specific theme of the Marine Park, which promotes a diversity of experiences.

IMPROVEMENT OF WATER ACCESS SITES TO THE MARINE PARK
Parks Canada and Parcs Quebec have contributed to the improvement of the layout of many water accesses such as docks and boat ramps. Distributed all around the Marine Park, these locations include educational items such as information panels on resources, local history and the protection of ecosystems.

The achievements are the result of ongoing cooperation between the governments of Canada, Quebec and the coordination committee. They result from the joint work of many agencies and stakeholders.
MILESTONES

1988
Under the chairmanship of father Rosaire Corbin, the « Coalition pour le parc marin du Saguenay–Saint-Laurent » brought together 27 regional bodies.

1988
The concerted action of Quebec and Ottawa resulted in the implementation of the St. Lawrence Action Plan. Among its actions, the plan identified the creation of a marine park at the junction of the Saguenay Fjord and St. Lawrence River.

1988
International forum for the future of the beluga. The creation of a marine park was proposed in order to promote the recovery of this threatened population.

1990
Start of public consultations on the boundaries of the Saguenay Marine Park. It was proposed to protect an area of 746 km² in the Saguenay fjord and the St. Lawrence estuary.

1992
Enlargement of the boundaries of the Marine Park to cover an area of 1,245 km². The proposed marine area took on its current name.

1998
Creation of the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park.

2002
Entry into force of the Marine Activities in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park Regulations.

2010
Zoning proposal with integral preservation zones on 3% of the area of the Park.

2011
Creation of the Eco-Whale Alliance.
Animal and plant species observed in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park

- 1° Celsius
  Temperature of the layer of cold water propelled to the surface in the maritime estuary, even in summer!

25 km
  Width of the St. Lawrence estuary at the level of Tadoussac

1 000 000
  Number of visits to the Marine Park per year (at sea and on the coast)

500 000
  Number of visits at sea per year

1245 km²
  Total area of the Marine Park: 2.5 x the island of Montreal

8000 YEARS
  Human presence in the region

105 km
  Length of the Saguenay fjord

340 metres
  Maximum depth of the Marine Park in the St. Lawrence maritime estuary

5 metres
  Amplitude of the Spring tides at Tadoussac

260 000
  People living in the regions bordering the Marine Park

25 meters in length and weighing 120 tonnes
  The blue whale is the largest animal in the world

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