



SAGUENAY-ST. LAWRENCE  
**MARINE PARK**

A SOURCE OF LIFE,  
A PLACE OF EXCHANGE,  
A WEALTH OF RICHES





SAGUENAY-ST. LAWRENCE  
**MARINE PARK**

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 Québec and the regional stakeholders.

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



**1636**



Animal and plant species observed in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park



**25 km**

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

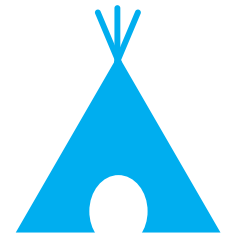


**889**

Belugas belonging to the St. Lawrence population

**-1° Celsius**

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



**8000 YEARS**

Human presence in the region

**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



# 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.



# 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.*



## 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.

## 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.

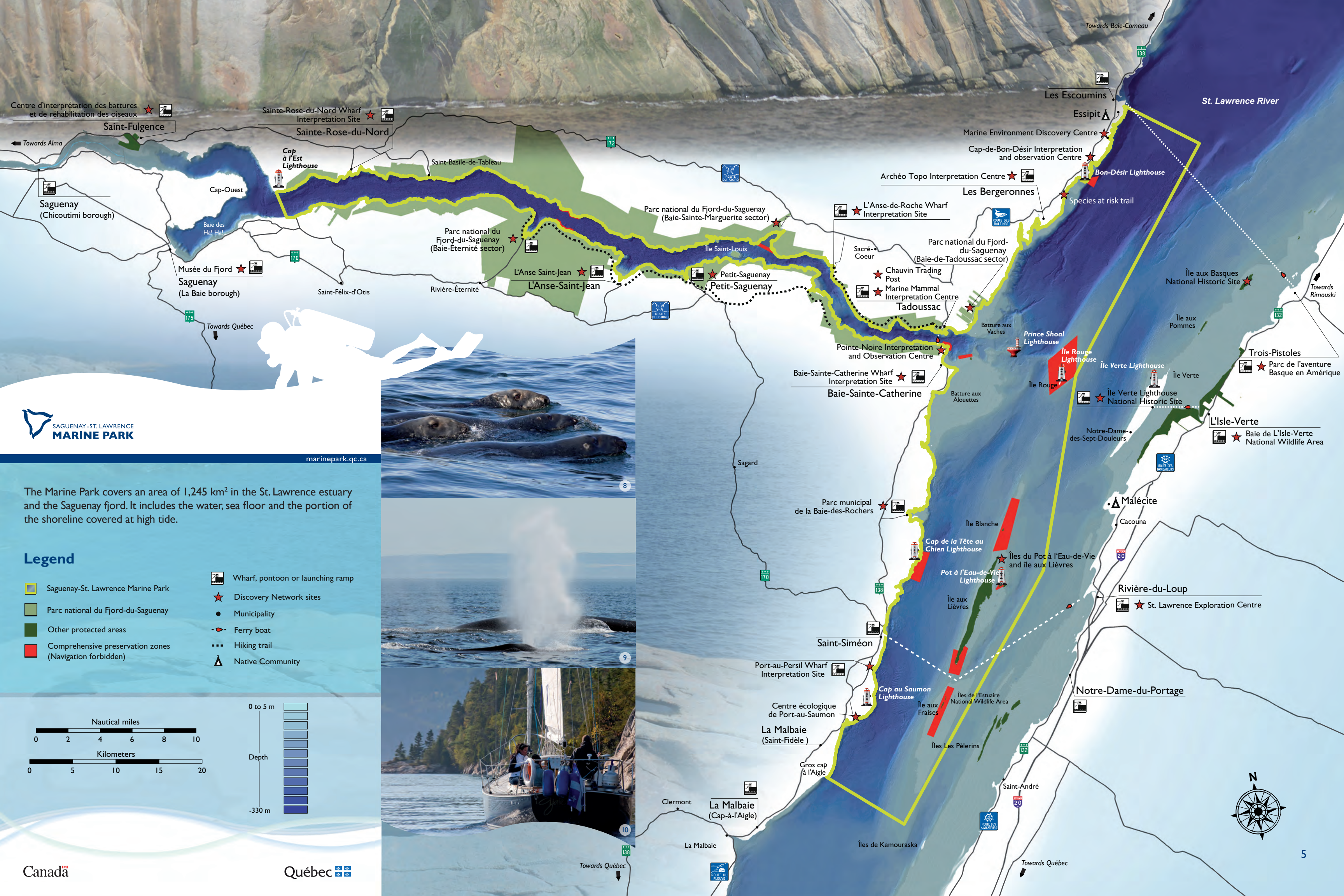
## COORDINATION COMMITTEE

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).





Centre d'interprétation des battures et de réhabilitation des oiseaux  
 Saint-Fulgence  
 Sainte-Rose-du-Nord Wharf Interpretation Site  
 Sainte-Rose-du-Nord  
 Cap à l'Est Lighthouse  
 Cap-Ouest  
 Baie des Hal Hal  
 Musée du Fjord  
 Saguenay (La Baie borough)  
 Saint-Félix-d'Otis  
 Rivière-Éternité  
 L'Anse Saint-Jean  
 Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay (Baie-Éternité sector)  
 L'Anse-Saint-Jean  
 Petit-Saguenay  
 Île Saint-Louis  
 Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay (Baie-Sainte-Marguerite sector)  
 L'Anse-de-Roche Wharf Interpretation Site  
 Sacré-Coeur  
 Chauvin Trading Post  
 Marine Mammal Interpretation Centre  
 Tadoussac  
 Pointe-Noire Interpretation and Observation Centre  
 Baie-Sainte-Catherine Wharf Interpretation Site  
 Baie-Sainte-Catherine  
 Sagard

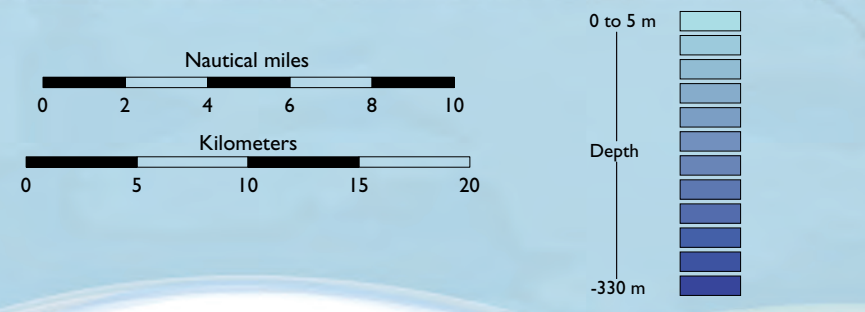


marinepark.qc.ca

The Marine Park covers an area of 1,245 km<sup>2</sup> 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



Les Escoumins  
 Essipit  
 Marine Environment Discovery Centre  
 Cap-de-Bon-Désir Interpretation and observation Centre  
 Archéo Topo Interpretation Centre  
 Les Bergeronnes  
 Bon-Désir Lighthouse  
 Species at risk trail  
 L'Anse-de-Roche Wharf Interpretation Site  
 Parc national du Fjord-du-Saguenay (Baie-de-Tadoussac sector)  
 Sacré-Coeur  
 Chauvin Trading Post  
 Marine Mammal Interpretation Centre  
 Tadoussac  
 Bataure aux Vaches  
 Prince Shoal Lighthouse  
 Bataure aux Alouettes  
 Pointe-Noire Interpretation and Observation Centre  
 Baie-Sainte-Catherine Wharf Interpretation Site  
 Baie-Sainte-Catherine  
 Sagard  
 Parc municipal de la Baie-des-Rochers  
 Île Blanche  
 Cap de la Tête au Chien Lighthouse  
 Pot à l'Eau-de-Vie Lighthouse  
 Île aux Lièvres  
 Îles du Pot à l'Eau-de-Vie and île aux Lièvres  
 Île Verte  
 Île Verte Lighthouse  
 Île Verte Lighthouse National Historic Site  
 Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs  
 L'Isle-Verte  
 Baie de L'Isle-Verte National Wildlife Area  
 Trois-Pistoles  
 Parc de l'aventure Basque en Amérique  
 Île aux Basques National Historic Site  
 Île aux Pommes  
 Île Verte  
 Malécite  
 Cacouna  
 Rivière-du-Loup  
 St. Lawrence Exploration Centre  
 Notre-Dame-du-Portage  
 Saint-Siméon  
 Port-au-Persil Wharf Interpretation Site  
 Cap au Saumon Lighthouse  
 Centre écologique de Port-au-Saumon  
 La Malbaie (Saint-Fidèle)  
 Gros cap à l'Aigle  
 Îles de l'Estuaire National Wildlife Area  
 Îles Les Pèlerins  
 Îles de Kamouraska  
 Saint-André  
 La Malbaie (Cap-à-l'Aigle)  
 Clermont  
 La Malbaie  
 Towards Québec





*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.*

#### **ADOPTION OF LAWS ESTABLISHING THE SAGUENAY-ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK**

The laws creating the Marine Park were promulgated by the Québec 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.

## **THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS of the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine 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 Québec, 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 Québec 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 Québec 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 Québec 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.



# 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 km<sup>2</sup>. The proposed marine area took on its current name.

**1998**

Creation of the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park.

**2002**

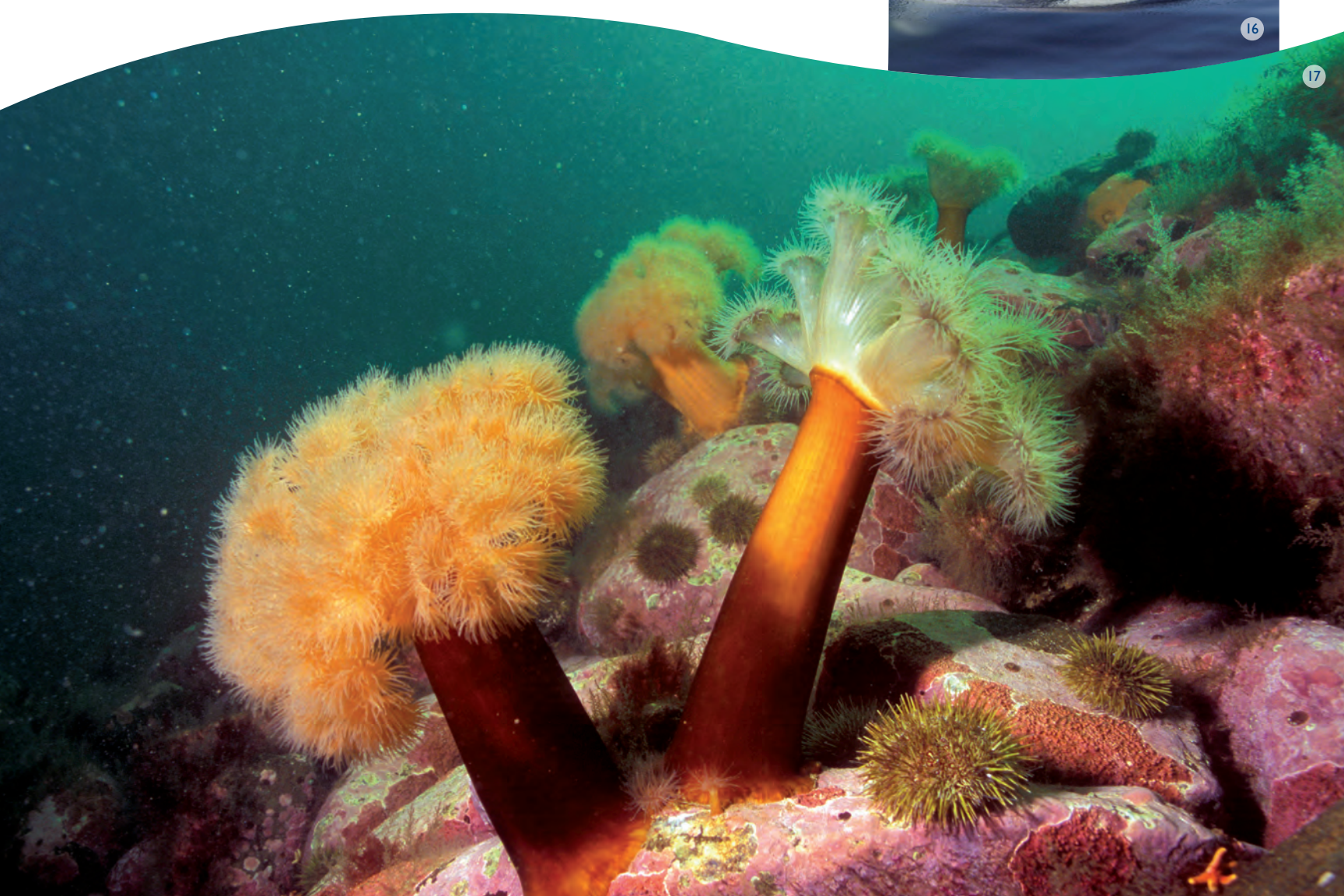
Entry into force of the Marine Activities in the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park Regulations.

**2010**

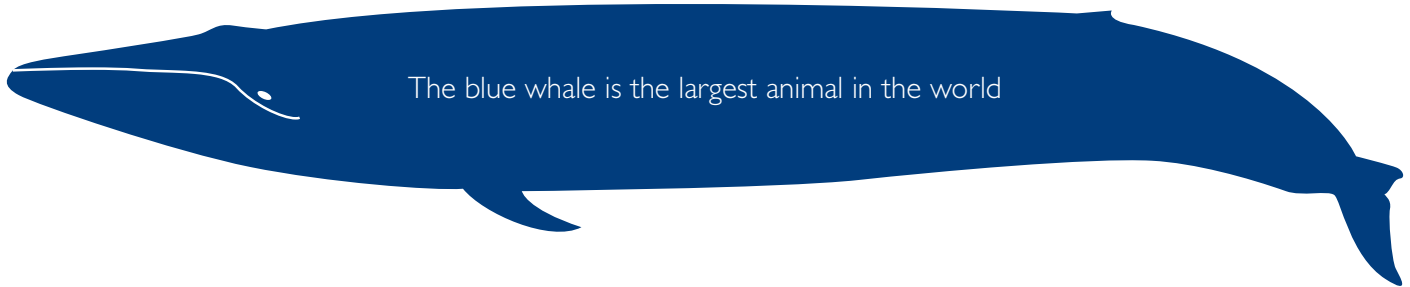
Zoning proposal with integral preservation zones on 3% of the area of the Park.

**2011**

Creation of the Eco-Whale Alliance.



● — **25 meters in length and weighing 120 tonnes** — ●



The blue whale is the largest animal in the world

**5 metres**



Amplitude of the Spring tides at Tadoussac

**1245 km<sup>2</sup>**

Total area of the Marine Park  
2.5 x the island of Montreal



**340 metres**

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

**105 km**

Length of the Saguenay fjord



**260 000**

People living in the regions bordering the Marine Park

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