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Environmental Stewardship: Maritime Forces Atlantic's Marine Mammal Impact Mitigation



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Introduction

The Canadian Department of National Defence has a policy of environmental stewardship. Maritime Forces Atlantic (MARLANT) has undertaken an Environmental Assessment of its training activities in the Atlantic Operating Areas.

It has created the framework of an Environmental Management System and computer-based environmental risk assessment tools. MARLANT also has drafted a "Standard Operating Procedure" on the observation of marine mammals and reptiles.

Environmental Stewardship

"Society demands a high degree of environmental stewardship for DND. Therefore, it is important that MARLANT personnel understand and accept their legal and moral responsibilities to meet these expectations..."

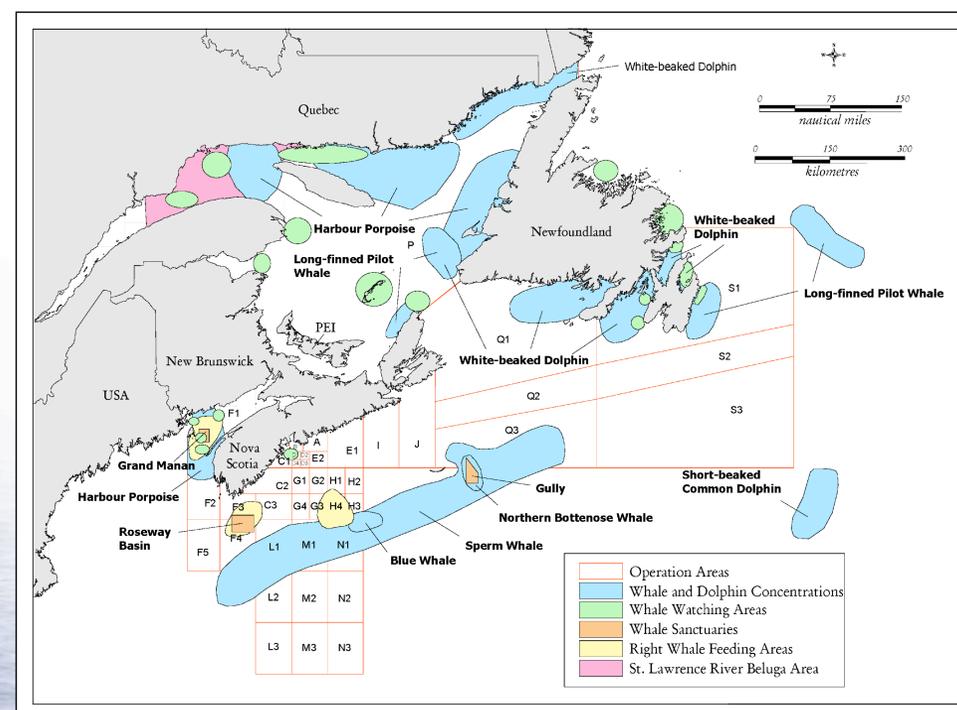
I am personally committed to protecting and sustaining our environment and will make appropriate resources available to ensure we are successful."

*Rear-Admiral G.V. Davidson
Commander, Maritime Forces Atlantic
February 2003*

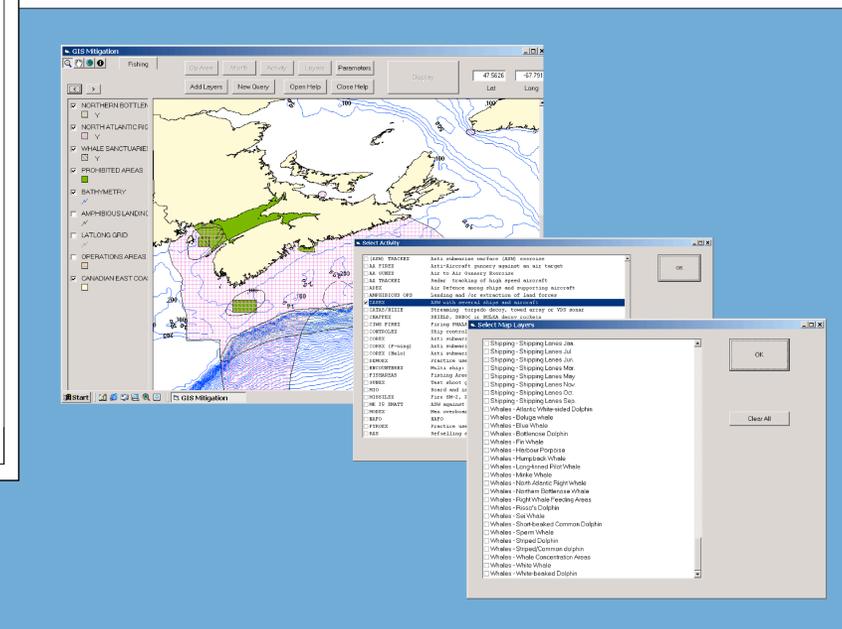
Proposed Sonar Use Protocol

- **Based on Independent Environmental Assessment**
 - For Training in MARLANT operating areas
- **For AN/SQS-510 Hull Mounted Sonar and Marine Mammals**
 - Avoid use in special circumstances
 - bays with complicated shorelines
 - Ramp Up
 - start low and increase to normal operating levels over 20 minutes when feasible
 - Maximum power only as required
 - Maintain visual watch
 - Shut down if mammals are observed within 600 m of transmitting ship (excluding small, bow-riding whales)
 - Avoid sensitive areas
 - whale concentration areas
 - beaked whale critical habitat

Environmental Assessment Tools



Example of Marine Mammal related areas.



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