



# North Atlantic Right Whale Advisory Committee

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Conservation & Protection  
November 22, 2022

Brent Napier  
Director, Enforcement Programs



# 2022 NARW C&P Season Priorities



## Conservation & Protection (C&P) Protects North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW) through:

- Supporting marine mammal incident response such as disentanglement support or rescue activities.
- Patrolling closed fishing areas – to detect the presence of illegal gear or illegal activity.
- Patrolling open fishing areas – to verify compliance with NARW management measures.
- Supporting the clearance flight protocol for grid reopening, as requested.
- Identifying and reporting marine mammal activities.
- Other related duties as may be requested/required.



# 2022 NARW C&P Protection Effort



- Fishery officer hours (to Nov 16): **3713 hours**
  - **1724 vessel checked**
  - **14096 gear checked**
- C&P reported **30 NARW related occurrences**, resulting in warnings issued or pending charges
- Over 100 Variation Orders issued from the Atlantic Provinces

Hours by Month



# 2022 NARW C&P Aerial Surveillance



C&P conducted:

- **319** NARW surveillance flights (to Oct 31)
- **634.75 hours** of aerial patrol (to Oct 31)



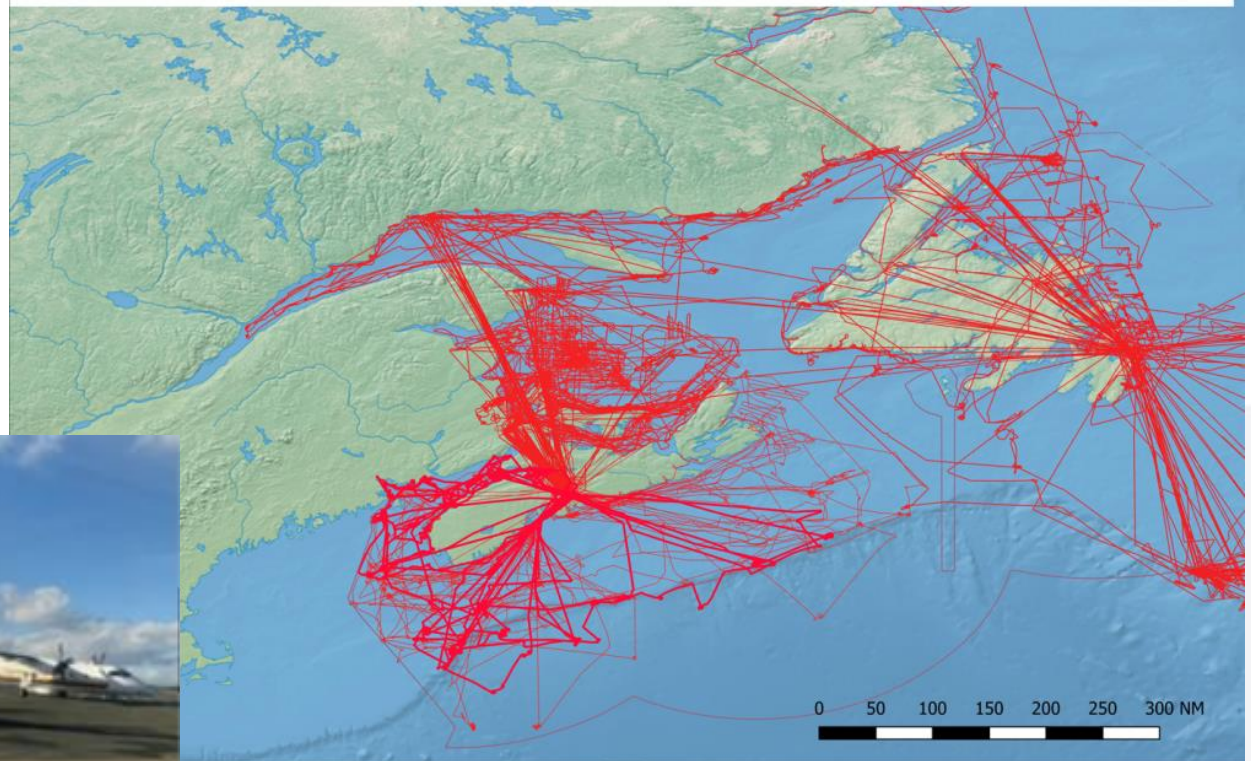
## C&P Regional Aerial Efforts to October 31, 2022

C&P Regions	NARW Hours	NARW Flights	Sightings
Quebec	97	48	2
Gulf	104.5	51	60
Maritimes	210.75	103	0
Newfoundland	222.5	117	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>634.75</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>62</b>

# 2022 NARW C&P Aerial Surveillance



## C&P Flights – April to September 16



# 2022 NARW C&P Operational Highlights



- NARW aerial surveillance team calls – liaison with partners
- Disentanglement support – 11 flights supporting 6 entangled NARW
- C&P has 110 sightings of one or more marine mammals (whales, seals, sharks, dolphins) and dedicated 5 flights to marine mammal carcasses relocation (other than NARW)



\*2013 Event

# 2022 NARW C&P Training and Safety



- Post COVID ramp-up of training for fishery officers in the four Atlantic regions, including:
  - Disentanglement support training
- Safety/Equipment

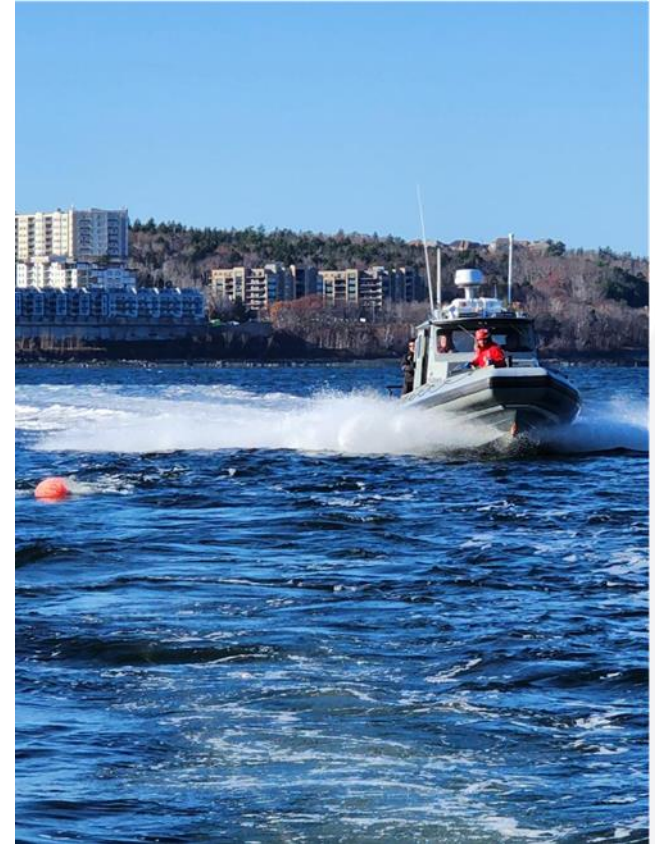


Photo Credit: Maritimes Region 2022 Training Exercise

# Looking Ahead - 2023



- **Asset Acquisition** – Planned procurement of additional C&P program vessels
- **Whale Safe Gear** – Internal Government of Canada working group on the implementation of Whale Safe Gear
- **Exploring New Technologies** – Remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs) and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in support of operations

