

# Banc-des-Américains marine protected area (MPA) monitoring

**Dates:** May-June

**Recurrence:** Every 3 years, since 2023

**Location:** Banc-des-Américains MPA

**Vessel:** CCGS LEIM

## Description

This survey aims to monitor the benthic and demersal habitats and communities of the Banc-des-Américains MPA. Since the establishment of the MPA in 2019, it has been essential to develop an ecological monitoring program to look at the evolution of the area and the species found there. A protocol for long-term monitoring with underwater photo and video has been in place since 2023 and will be repeated every 3 years. The protocol targets 5 monitoring sites (30 stations) on the plains and 65 stations on the ridge.

## Objectives

1. Monitor benthic communities using underwater imagery with an imagery sled and a drop camera system;
2. Monitor demersal fish and mobile invertebrates using baited imagery; and
3. Sample environmental data (CTD) and collect water (environmental DNA, pH analysis).

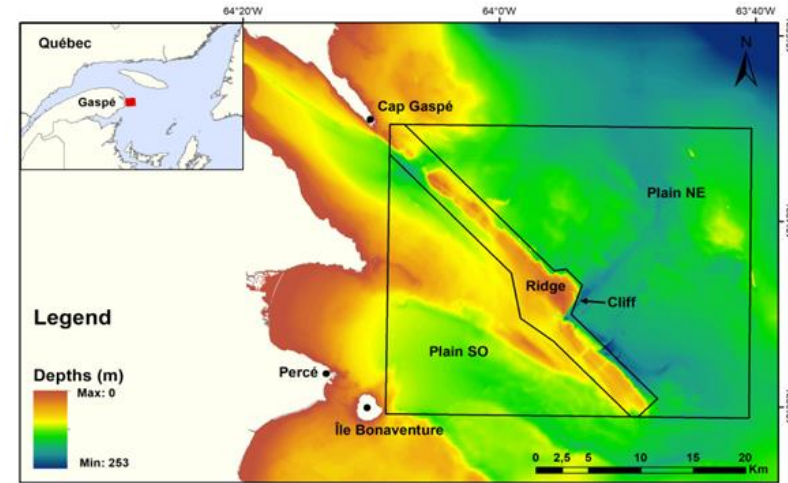


Figure 1: Study area (Banc-des-Américains marine protected area (MPA)) in St. Lawrence Gulf.

