

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) monitoring program in the Quebec region

Dates: May - October

Recurrence: Annually, since 2006

Location: St. Lawrence Estuary and Gulf and Saguenay Fjord

Description

In the Quebec region, detection and monitoring for AIS is carried out every year since 2006. The sampling intensity varies as a function of the risk of introduction and the potential impacts of targeted species on ecosystems in the Saint Lawrence. The monitoring program uses a variety of techniques including settlement plates suspended in the water column, traps or other fishing gear to target one or several specific species (e.g., Fukui traps for green crab), and SCUBA diving assessment surveys.

Objectives

1. Detect these species as quickly as possible, follow their populations and try to avoid their spread to non-colonized sites;
2. Provide information for requests for scientific advice such as evaluations of the risk associated with aquaculture transfers and evaluations of the risk of introduction for specific species; and
3. Determine research priorities for AIS.

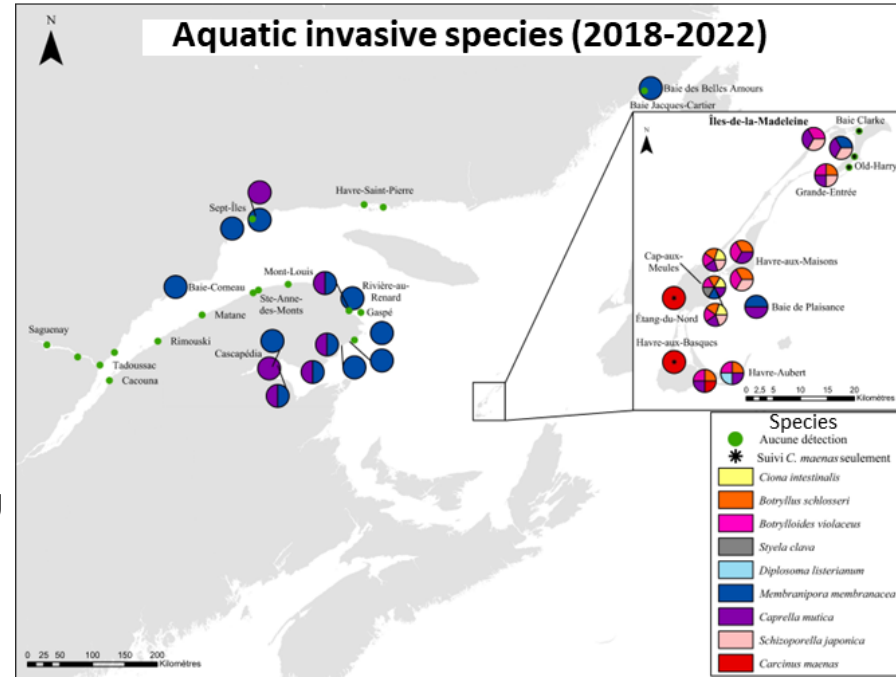


Figure 1: Aquatic invasive species identified in the Estuary, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Saguenay Fjord from 2018 to 2022.

