



Whale Insight Application: Protecting North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW)

Supported by the CDOS Spatial Solutions

Overview for the GC Data Conference
February 18-19, 2026





WHERE ARE THE WHALES?

Whale Insight collects and displays survey platform track lines and validated detections of right whales reported in near-real time by various contributors across eastern Canada



CANADIAN
WHALE
INSTITUTE



New England
Aquarium



WRC
WHALE RESEARCH COLLECTIVE



MINGAN ISLAND
CETACEAN STUDY



UNB
EST. 1785
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK



NOAA
FISHERIES

NICK HAWKINS PHOTOGRAPHY



Anderson Cabot
Center for Ocean Life
at the New England Aquarium



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY



BACKGROUND

- Whale Insight was born out of an urgent conservation need: there are currently only 372 North Atlantic right whales left in the world.
- In 2017, we saw a tragic spike in deaths. Climate change had shifted ocean conditions, and with that, the whales' feeding grounds moved from the Bay of Fundy to the Gulf of St. Lawrence with its busy shipping lanes and fishing zones.
- Fisheries and Oceans and Transport Canada stepped up quickly. We introduced fishing closures and vessel speed restrictions in areas where whales were seen. But that raised a big question: Where are the whales?
- Whale Insight is a robust, scalable platform to visualize survey track lines and whale detections in near real-time, helping us support dynamic management measures to protect the right whale.



WHALE INSIGHT

- Whale Insight is a DFO-led, publicly accessible, and bilingual visualization tool launched in May 2022 and upgraded to Version 2.0.1 in June of 2025
- Detection and track line data are available to decision makers and the public in near-real time through two interactive interfaces
- Endorsed as a Decade Action under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development



DATA CONTRIBUTORS & SHARING

- Near-real time detections come from a variety of sources:
 - Government of Canada surveillance and enforcement teams
 - External partners and trusted sources
 - Opportunistic reports from non-expert sources and the public
- Data Sharing Agreements are developed with trusted sources to establish a direct data sharing pipeline with Whale Insight
- All detections on Whale Insight are contributed or validated by qualified marine mammal experts



DATA CONTRIBUTORS & SHARING



CANADIAN
WHALE
INSTITUTE



MINGAN ISLAND
CETACEAN STUDY



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada



NICK HAWKINS PHOTOGRAPHY



Canadian
Coast Guard

Garde côtière
canadienne



Canada



CBPWP

Canadian-based contributors



WHALE INSIGHT



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New England
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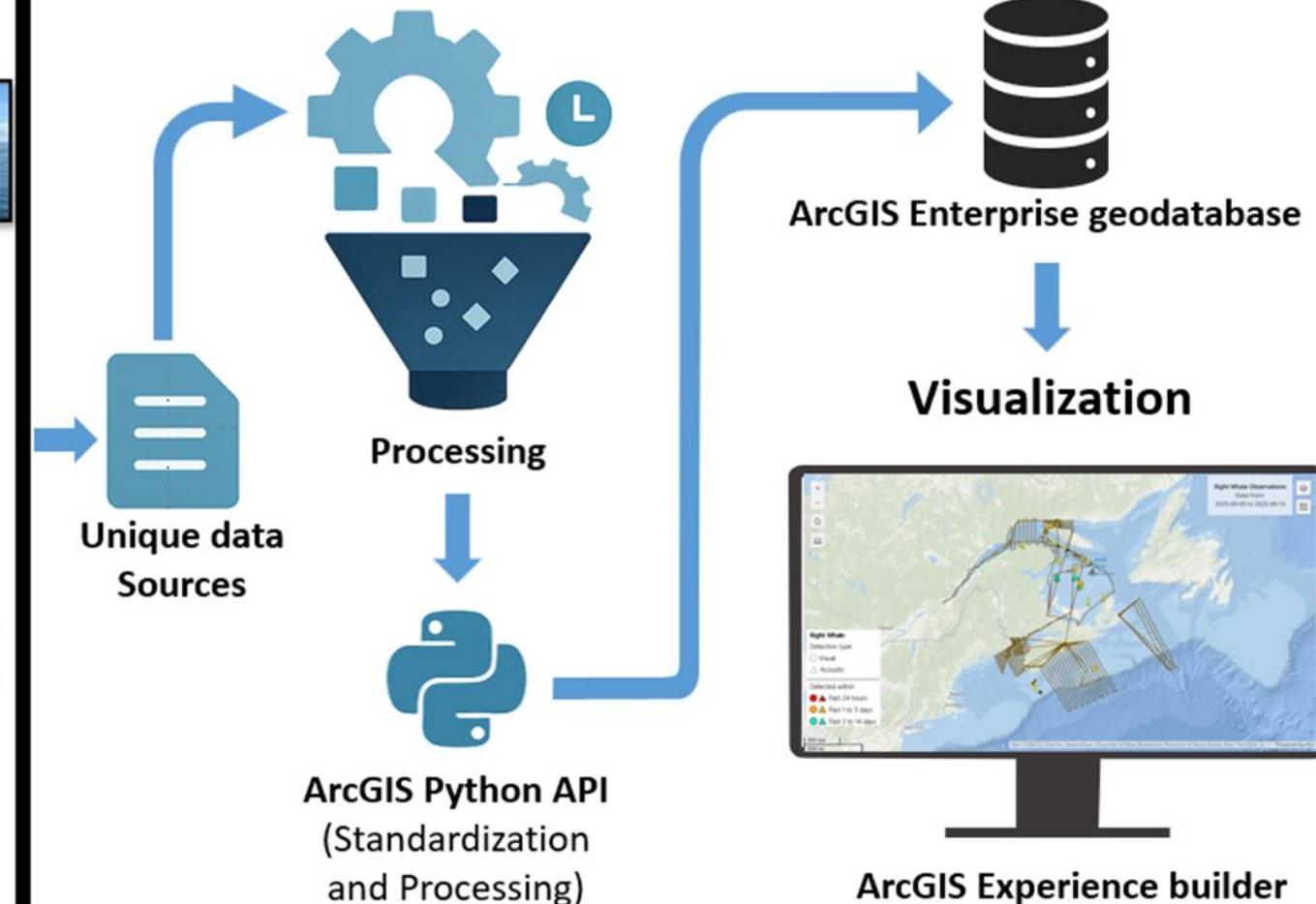
WOODS HOLE
OCEANOGRAPHIC
INSTITUTION



US-based contributors

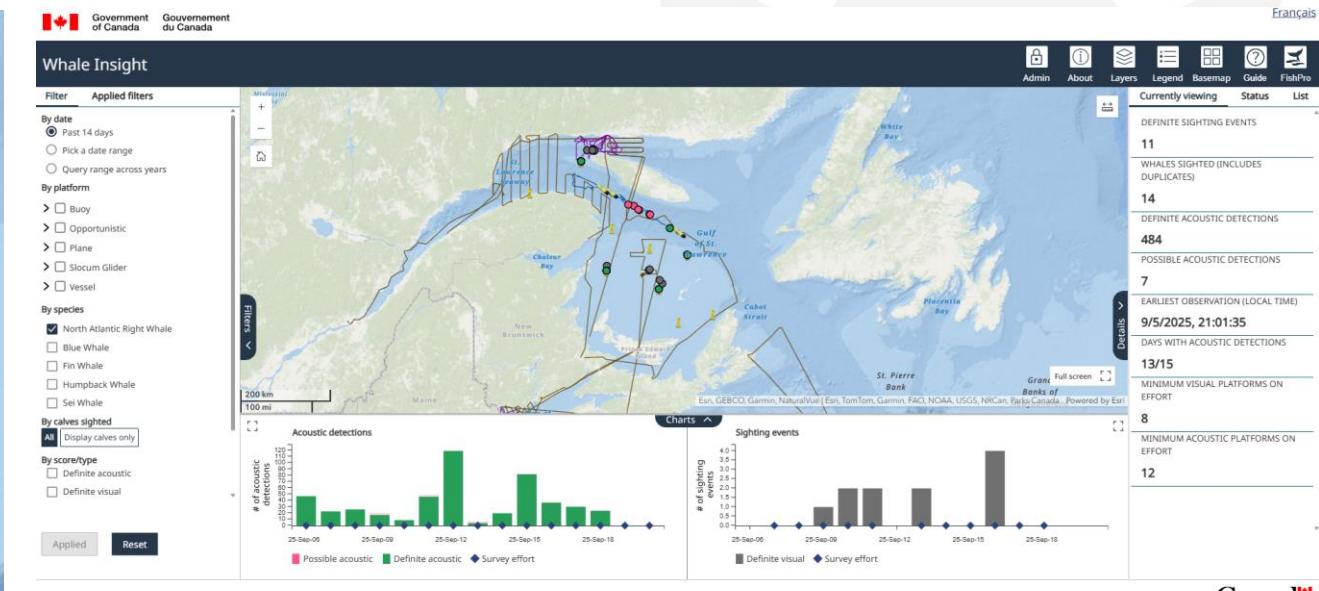
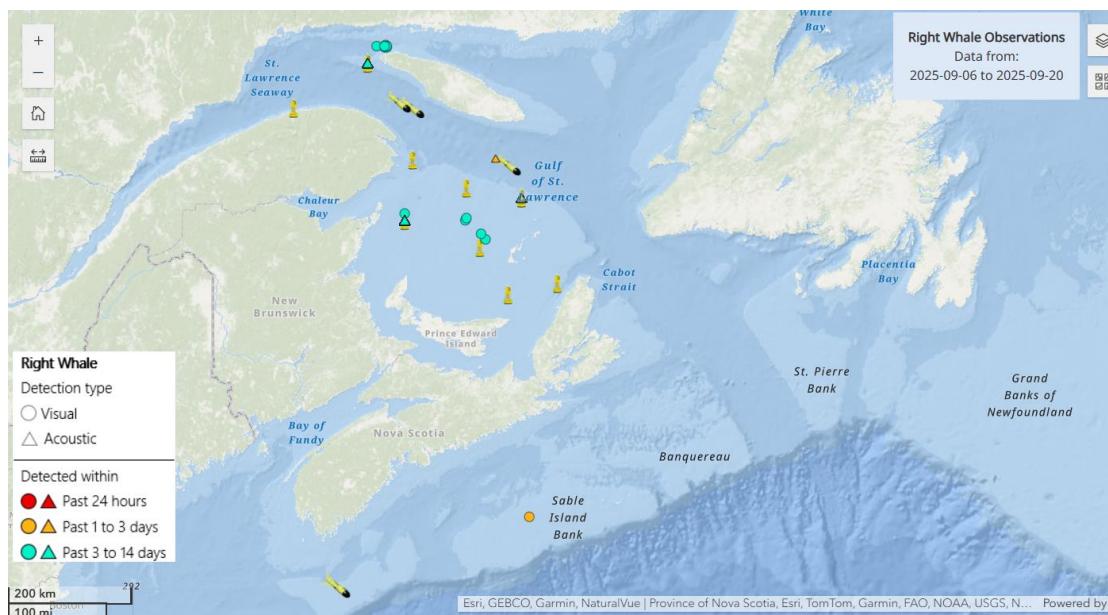


WHALEMAP



WHALE INSIGHT DASHBOARDS & DEMONSTRATIONS

Survey track line and validated detection data are available to researchers, decision makers and the public in near-real time through two interactive interfaces.



SUMMARY MAP

14 days of detections & basic filtering

ADVANCED MAP

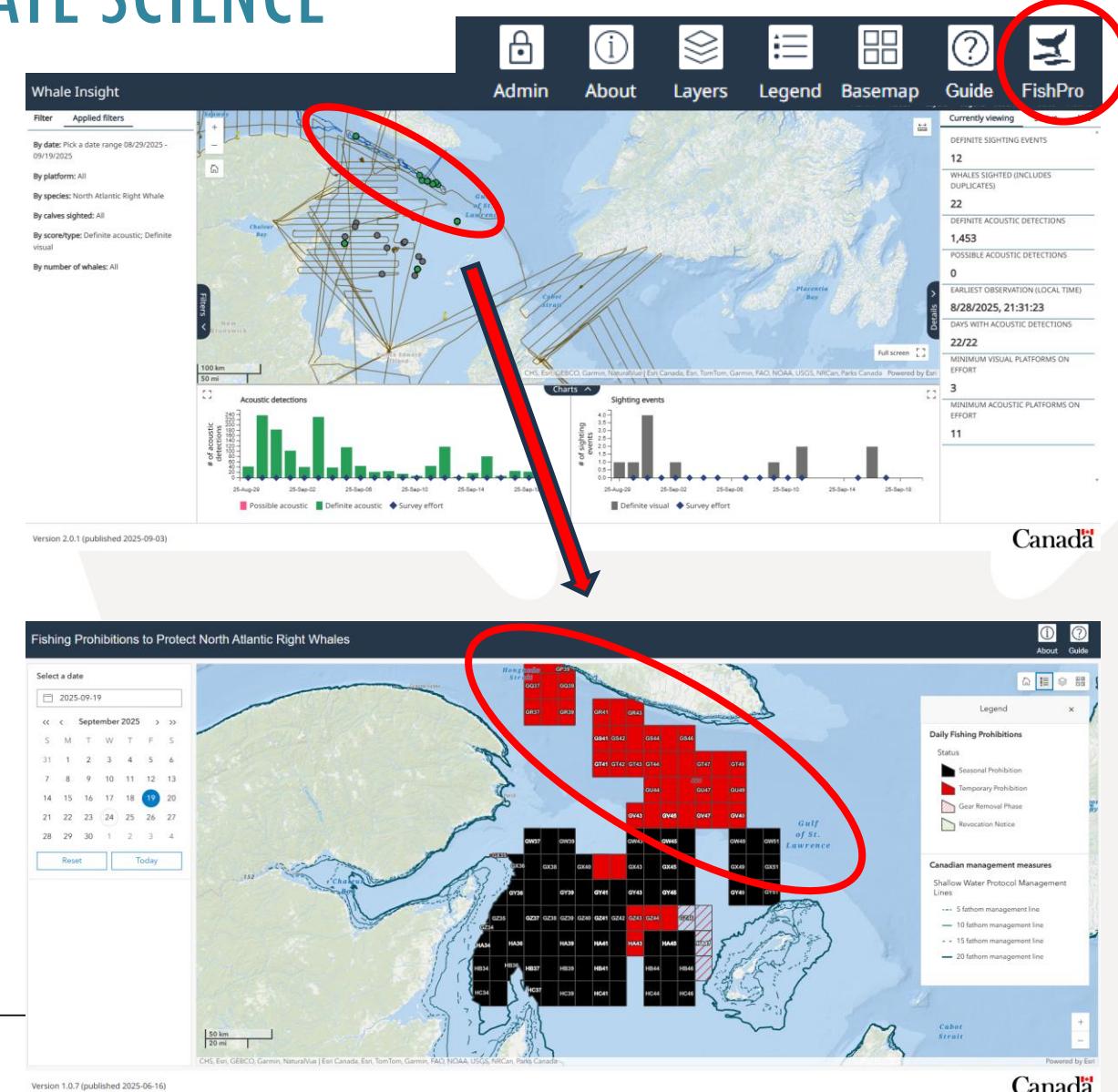
Advanced data exploration

EGIS DASHBOARDS HELP TO COMMUNICATE SCIENCE

- Whale Insight transforms scientific data into actionable insights that inform the management and protection of the NARW in Canada
- The platform has succeeded in building meaningful partnerships, encouraging trust and transparency, and enhancing collaboration within the broader science community

TO ACCESS | POUR ACCÈS

canada.ca/whale-insight-map





Thank you for your interest.

For more information or to explore collaboration opportunities, please contact

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APPENDIX



ENTERPRISE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (eGIS) PLATFORM

