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# National Marine Weather Guide Quebec Regional Guide



Canada 

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

























# QUEBEC REGIONAL GUIDE

## 1. Introduction

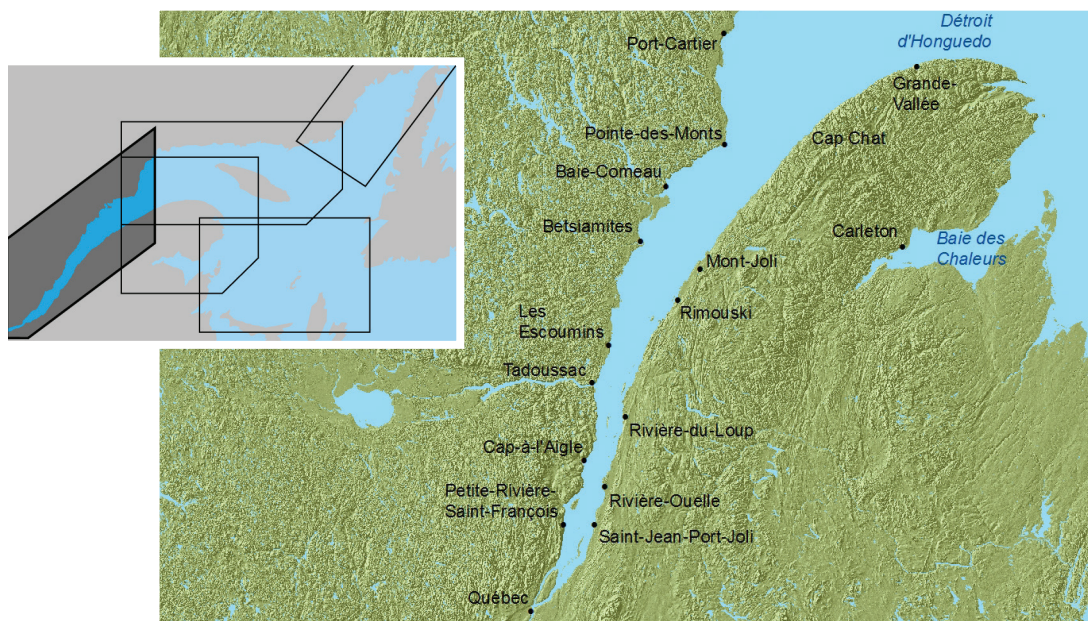
The St. Lawrence could be called “the Beethoven of rivers”—not for any reason pertaining to music, but because of its wild temperament. Anything but long and lazy, the stretch of the river bordering Quebec is known for its strong tidal currents, high cliffs, and mountain-lined shores, making it an ideal starting point for transatlantic races.

This chapter of the guide examines local marine weather effects on the St. Lawrence under five main sections: from Québec (Quebec City) to Pointe-de-Monts; from Pointe-de-Monts to Cap Whittle; from Cap Whittle to Blanc-Sablon; Gaspésie and Baie des Chaleurs (the Gaspé Peninsula and the Bay of Chaleur); and Îles de la Madeleine (the Magdalen Islands). Within each section, numbered references are made to conditions in specific areas on corresponding maps.

Wave Symbols	Wind Symbols	Weather Symbols
 Choppy Sea	 Barrier Wind	 Fog
 Crossing Sea	 Channelling	 Freezing Spray
 Large Sea	 Coastal Convergence	 Snow Streamer
 Reflection	 Cornering	 Thunderstorm
 Rough Water	 Gap Wind	 Waterspout
 Shoaling	 Gusty Wind	
 Strong Current	 Katabatic Wind	
 Tidal Rip	 Lee Wave	
 Water Level	 Wind	
	 Wind Opposing Current	
	 Downslope Wind	
	 Diurnal Wind	
	 Funnelling	

Wind, weather and wave symbols used in this guide.





## 2. Québec to Pointe-des-Monts

This section of the river is an immense southwest-northeast corridor that is basically walled in by the Laurentian and Appalachian mountain ranges. As such, the winds have no choice but to follow its path. Although the two shores are close together, each has a different face: gentle to the south, but steep and dotted with valleys to the north, where the wind whips along the cliffs and valley openings.

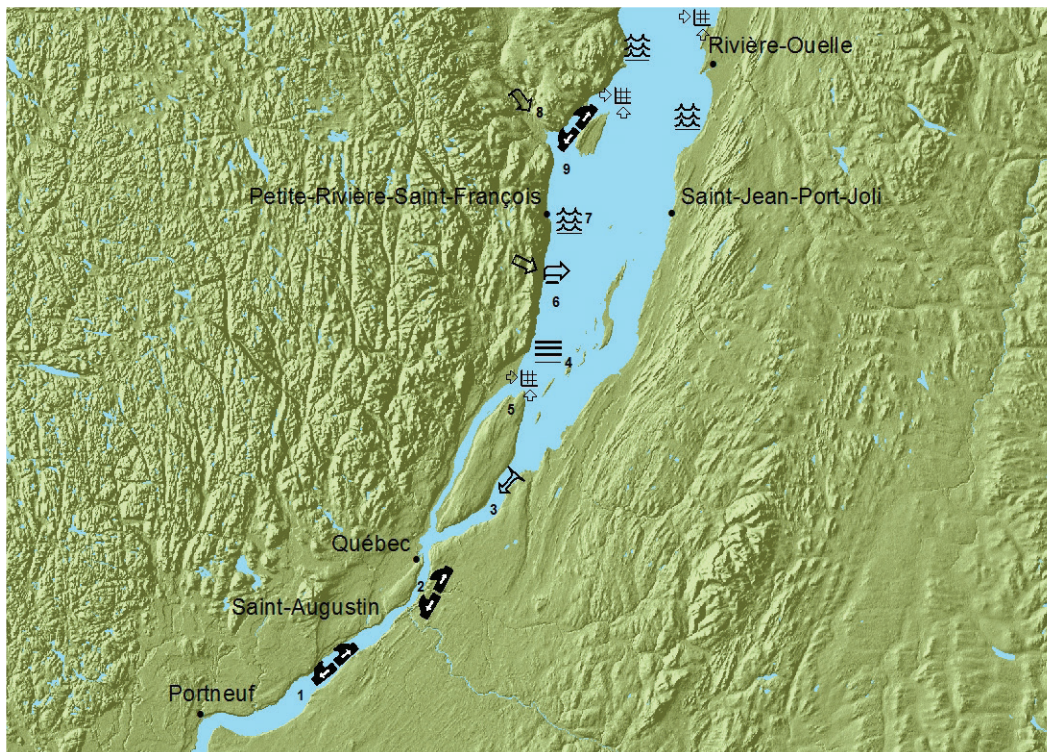
### 2.1 Québec to Tadoussac

Mariners encounter the most trying conditions in this area, as the tides are highest and the currents are the strongest and most turbulent—in some places reaching up to 8 kt. Islands and shoals abound, making some areas barely navigable in strong winds due to gusting and choppy seas.

### 2.2 Downstream from Tadoussac

The majesty of the St Lawrence becomes apparent from Tadoussac to Pointe-des-Monts—in particular, from Cacouna to Les Méchins. The river in this area is calmer but even more awe-inspiring in its ocean-like nature. While the north shoreline doesn't reach the same heights as it does upriver, the bottom is deeper. An interesting phenomenon occurs near the mouth of the Saguenay, where extremely cold water accumulated deep in the river over the winter months periodically rises to the surface. Even in mid-summer, this tidal phenomenon keeps the surface water-temperature at 1-7°C and causes frequent fog. In this part of the estuary, the largest islands are located along the Saguenay River and Rimouski, with the exception of Île Rouge. Around Rimouski, the river current stabilizes at about 1 kt and is known as the Gaspé Current.





**1. Portneuf to Québec**

**Winds northeasterly or southwesterly, against the current**

- Short, choppy seas

*Difficult*

- Strong downstream current

**2. Québec City Bridges**

**Winds southwesterly or northeasterly, even at 15 kt, against the current**

- Short, choppy seas
- Strong current

*Difficult*

**3. Québec City to Île aux Coudres**

**Winds northeasterly**

- Wind accelerates strongly, reaching maximum strength in the Île d'Orléans area
- Funnelling

**4. Pointe Saint-Jean to Cap Tourmente**

**Haze or fog**

- Visibility often reduced because of colder water in the Chenal Nord.

**5. Pointe Argentenay**

**Winds southwesterly**

- Stronger winds and cross seas to the north of and off the point
- Corner effect around Île d'Orléans, accentuated by barrier effect from Cap Tourmente

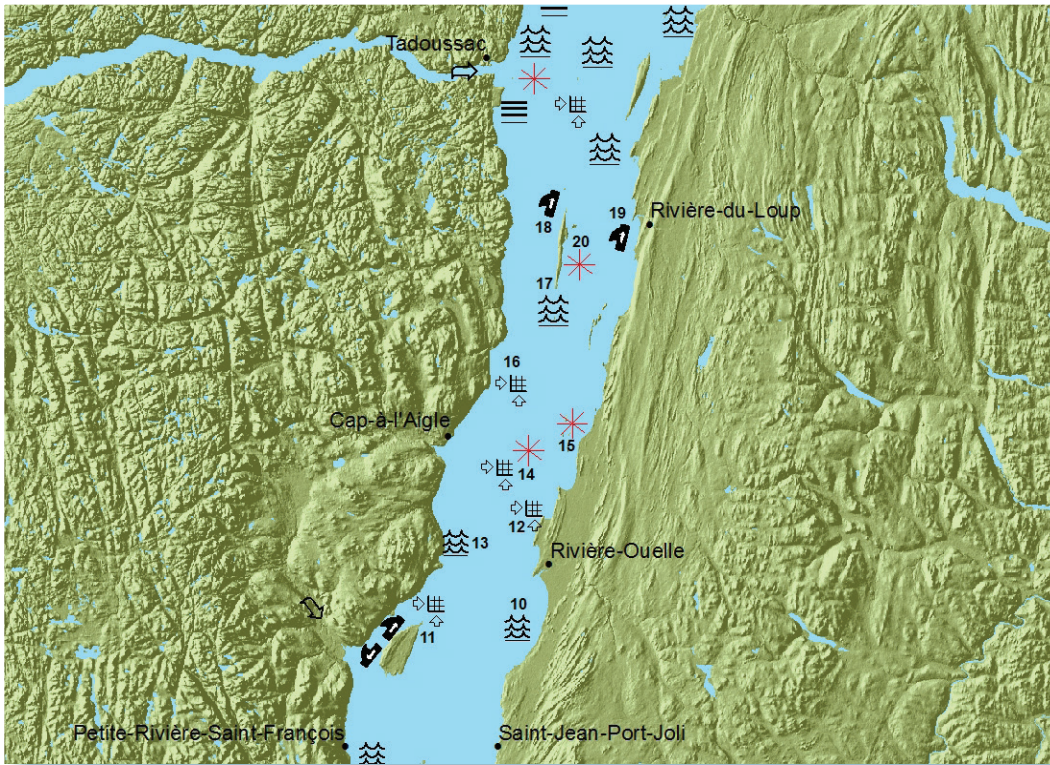
**6. Cap Tourmente to Saint-Siméon**

Wind frequently turbulent close to shore

**Winds westerly or northwesterly**

- Wind follows passes and valleys and gusts out over the river

*Sudden gusts possible*



#### 7. Petite-Rivière-Saint-François

**Winds northeasterly, against the current**

- Strong chop

**Winds southwesterly, even at 15 knots, against the current**

- Strong chop: avoid in strong winds

***Dangerous***

- Conditions calmer on south side of channel

#### 8. Baie Saint-Paul

**Winds northwesterly**

- Wind accelerates
- Channelling through valley of Rivière du Gouffre

#### 9. Passage de l'Île aux Coudres

**Winds easterly or southwesterly, against the current**

- Strong chop
- Strong tidal current

#### 10. Traverse de Saint-Roch

**Winds northeasterly or southwesterly, against the current**

- High, steep waves
- Chop
- Very strong tidal currents
- Shallow area

***Navigation very difficult***

#### 11. Pointe du Bout d'en Bas (Île aux Coudres)

**Winds southwesterly**

- Cross seas from the southwest and the west, offshore
- At rising tide, breaking waves

***Dangerous***



**12. Banc des Anglais**

**Winds northeasterly or southwesterly**

- High, breaking waves

**13. Cap aux Oies to Pointe aux Orignaux**

Significant chop, particularly at ebb tide

**Winds northeasterly, even at 15 kt**

- Near Cap aux Oies, immediately after low tide, very strong chop
- Tidal cross currents

*Very difficult conditions*

**14. Haut-fond Morin**

**Winds northeasterly**

- Breaking waves, refraction, and cross seas to the south—accentuated by tidal currents

**15. Îles de Kamouraska**

**Winds westerly or northwesterly**

- High waves and breaking waves near the flats

**16. Gros Cap à l'Aigle and Cap au Saumon**

**Winds northeasterly and easterly**

- Cross seas near the points of the capes
- Wind deviates and accelerates as a result of corner and barrier effects.
- Chop and eddies at certain points in the tide cycle

**17. Passe de l'Île aux Lièvres**

**Winds easterly at ebb tide**

- Strong chop on top of swell waves

**18. Île Blanche**

**Winds northeasterly, against the current, on the northeast side of the island**

*Navigation difficult*

**19. Pointe de la rivière du Loup**

**Winds northerly or northeasterly, at ebb tide**

- High waves near the wharf

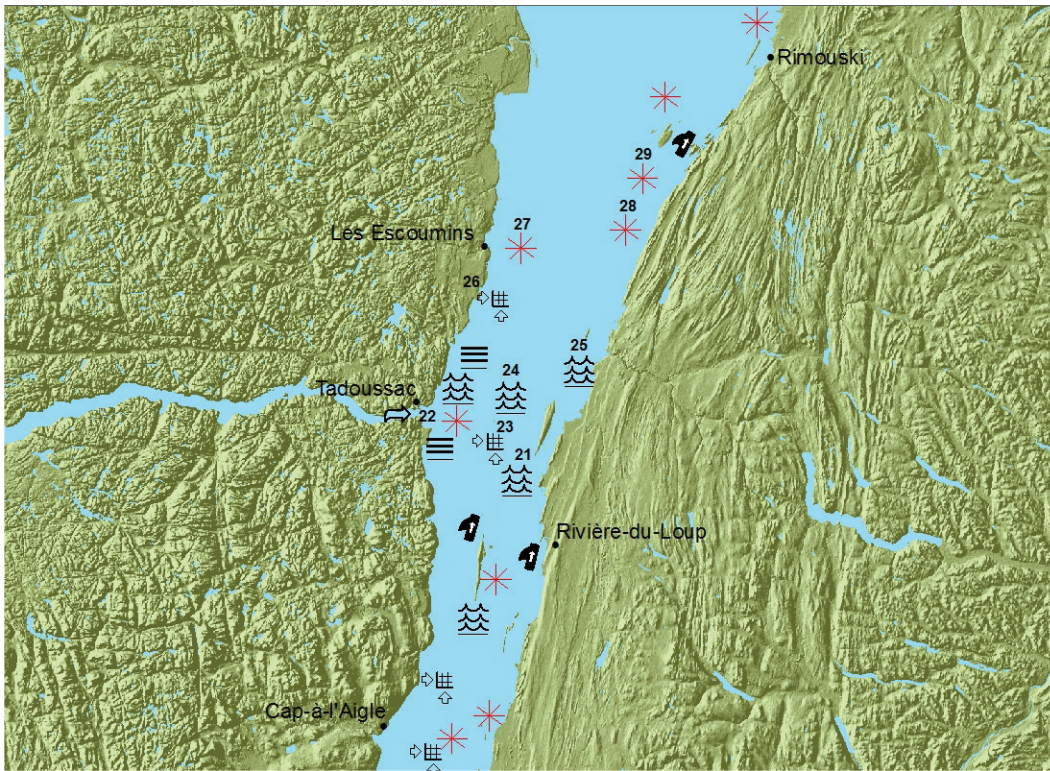
**20. Brisants Barrett and Hauts-fonds du Milieu**

**Winds northeasterly**

- Breaking waves, especially at ebb tide







**21. Rocher de Cacouna to the South tip of Île Verte**

**Winds against the current**

- Strong chop
- Strong tidal eddies

**22. Mouth of the Saguenay**

**Winds easterly at ebb tide**

- Dangerous conditions: avoid this area
- Current 7 kt

**Winds westerly or northwesterly: gusts of up to 60 kt or more**

- Northwesterlies may be 10-15 kt stronger than reported at Île Rouge station
- Channelling and funnelling
- Frequent fog, particularly in August

**23. Île Rouge**

**Winds northeasterly**

- Cross seas southwest of the island

**24. Bancs de l'Île Rouge**

**Winds from any direction**

- Very confused seas
- At all times: strong chop, particularly on the west side

**25. Île Verte to Île aux Basques**

Strong chop, particularly between Île Verte and the Bancs de l'Île Rouge

**Winds southwesterly at rising tide**

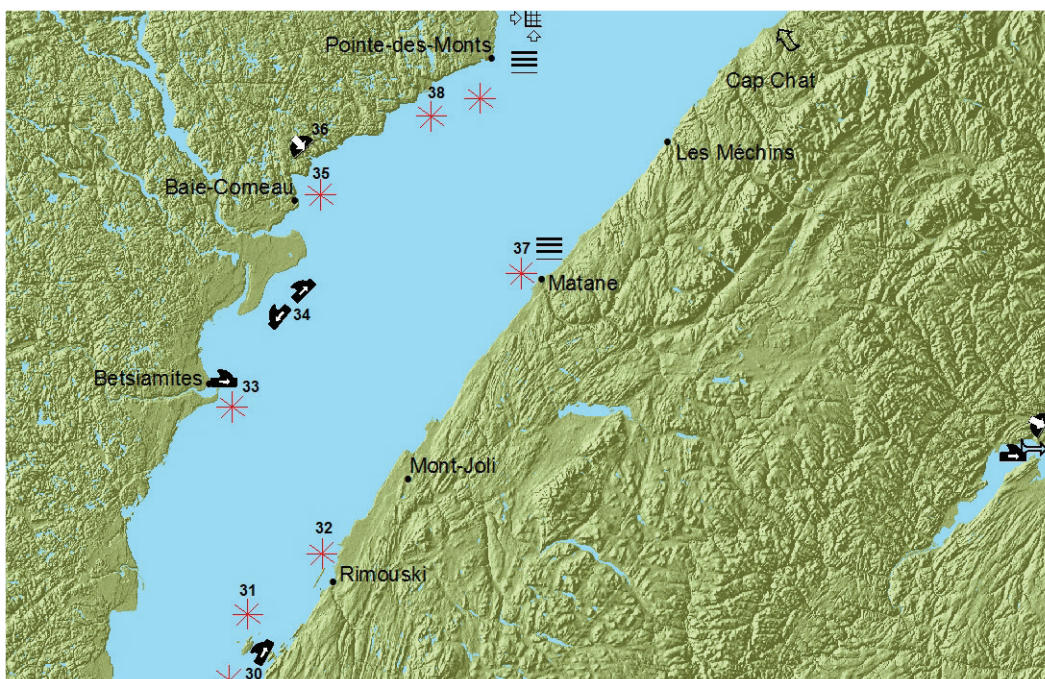
- Short, steep waves near Île Verte
- Convergence

**26. Cap de Bon-Désir**

**Winds northeasterly**

- Wind accelerates and deviates, cross seas off the point
- Barrier and corner effects

*Difficult to make way*



**27. 48° 21' - 69° 20' - Point 6A**

**Winds northeasterly or southwesterly**

- When gale force, high waves

*Difficult seas*

**28. 48° 21' - 69° 07'**

**Winds northeasterly or southwesterly**

- When gale force, high waves due to underwater mountain

**29. Île du Bic - 5 nautical miles to the west**

**Winds northeasterly or southwesterly**

- When gale force, high waves due to underwater mountain

**30. Île du Bic**

**Winds northeasterly**

- At ebb tide, high waves between the island and the shore due to wind blowing against the current

**31. Île du Bic - Northern part and close to Île Bicquette lighthouse**

- Winds northeasterly
- High waves

*Difficult conditions*

**32. Rimouski (harbour)**

**Winds northeasterly**

- High waves over shoals, up to about 3 NM offshore

**33. Pointe à Michel**

**Winds southwesterly**

- Strong seas offshore • Shallow waters

**Winds easterly at ebb tide**

- Strongly breaking seas
- Wind opposing current at mouth of Rivière Bersimis

*Difficult*



#### 34. Battures de Manicouagan (flats)

**Winds easterly, northeasterly, southeasterly or southwesterly, against tide**

- Short waves accentuated by shoals

*Navigation difficult*

#### 35. Baie-Comeau

**Winds easterly and southeasterly**

- Significant swell flowing into Baie des Anglais
- Navigate with caution

#### 36. Anse Saint-Pancrace

**Winds southeasterly and southerly**

- Significant swell flowing into bay

*Navigate with caution*

- Watch for katabatic wind

#### 37. Matane

**Winds northerly or northeasterly**

- Steep waves and very strong swell at entrance to pleasure-boat harbor due to channelling of waves between two wharfs and outflow from the Rivière Matane

*Frequent fog*

- Potentially dangerous conditions

#### 38. Godbout

**Winds easterly or southeasterly**

- Significant swell flowing into bay





### 3. Pointe-des-Monts to Cap Whittle

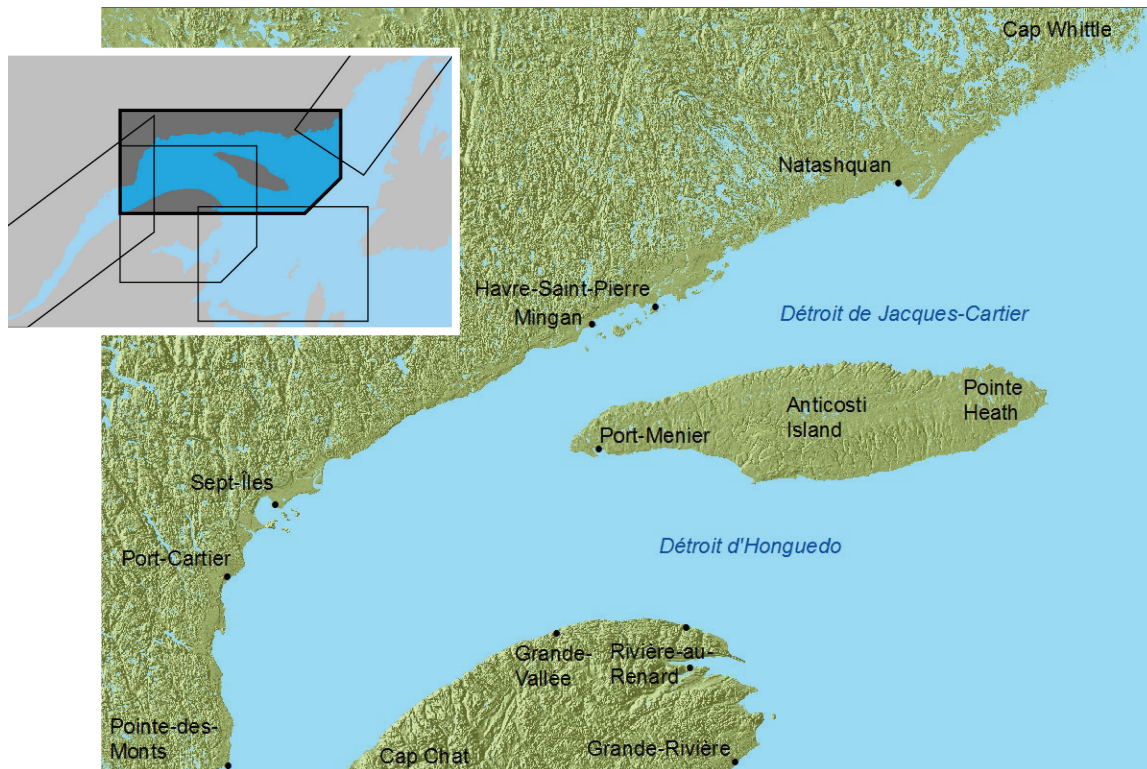
This region is the gateway to the veritable inland sea known as the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is also the door through which the easterly wind surges into the estuary, forced into the funnel formed by the north and south shores.

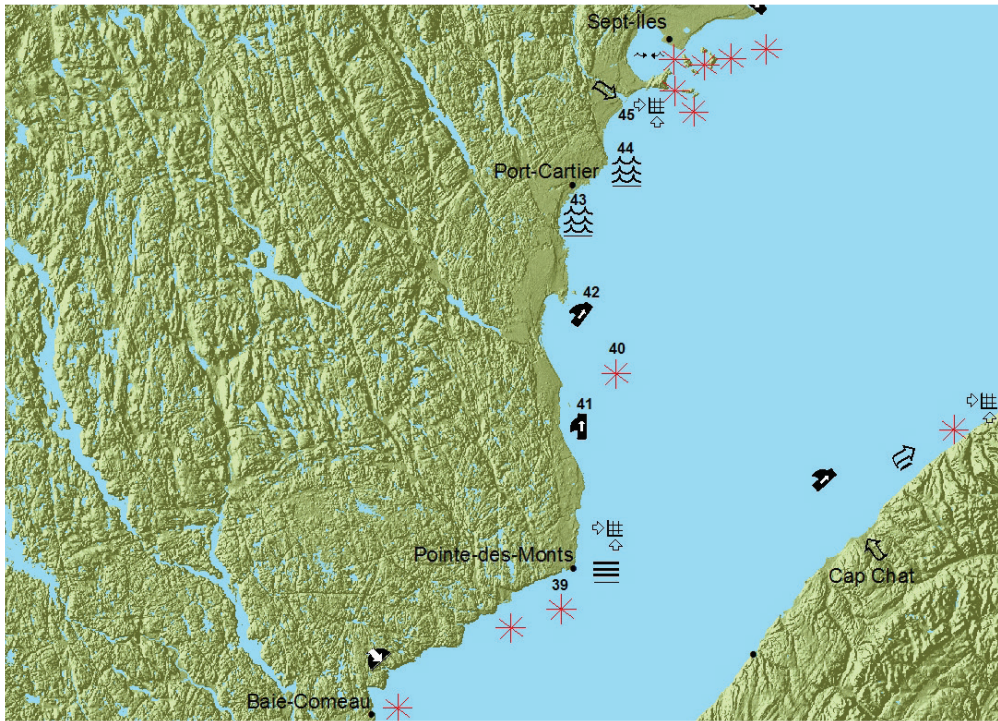
#### 3.1 The North and South Shores

Northeast of Pointe-des-Monts, the sharp relief of the Archipel des Sept Îles creates gusty winds. In the Archipel de Mingan, the combination of an uneven seabed and strong tidal currents sometimes makes navigation dangerous, as is often the case among the islands on the mid and lower Côte-Nord.

Moving eastward, the tide becomes weaker—although the strength of the tidal currents does not necessarily correspond to the height of the tides. The easterly wind is particularly strong in the Détroit de Jacques-Cartier, where Anticosti and the north shore form a huge funnel. This wind produces a significant swell on the Bancs de Mingan.

Along the Basse-Côte-Nord—the lower north shore—there are deep waters and a smooth shoreline from Baie Johan-Beetz to Kegaska. Caution should be exercised near the mouths of the rivers on the north shore, as strong currents from these waterways create very difficult if not dangerous seas at ebb tide.





## 3.2 Anticosti Island

Anticosti Island has two faces. On the north side, the water is quite deep, and there are steep cliffs and numerous capes, near which mariners will encounter cross seas. On the south side, the land slopes gently away to the sea: but looks can be deceiving. The reefs and shoals off this side of the island are the graveyard of over 400 ships. Sudden gusts of wind should be watched for, and there is frequent fog in the Pointe-des-Monts and Havre-Saint-Pierre areas as a result of cold water rising from the river bottom.

### 39. Pointe-des-Monts

#### **Winds easterly**

- Cross seas
- Wind deviates and accelerates as a result of barrier and corner effects
- Conditions may become very difficult

***Dangerous seas within 3-4 NM of the point***

#### **Winds gale force from the southwest**

- High, short, sharply breaking waves
- Southeast of point, bottom rises from 330 m to 70 m
- Frequent fog

### 40. Pointe-des-Monts to Pointe aux Jambons

#### **Winds gale force from the east**

- High waves 3-5 NM offshore
- Bottom rises rapidly

### 41. Île aux Oeufs

#### **Winds easterly or northeasterly at ebb tide**

- Breaking waves

***Avoid passing between island and shore***



#### 42. Île du Grand Caouis

**Winds easterly or northeasterly at ebb tide**

- Breaking waves

*Avoid passing between island and shore*

**Winds northerly or northwesterly**

- Short, steep waves that break easily at rising tide
- Accelerating wind
- Channeling effect

*Dangerous conditions at mouth of river*

#### 43. Port-Cartier

**Winds easterly or southeasterly**

- High waves near the Cascades (Rayonnier) wharf
- Convergence or barrier effects

#### 46. Chenal de l'Ouest

**Winds southwesterly or southerly**

- High waves amplified by funnelling from Îlets Dequen and Pointe à la Chasse

#### 44. Pointe aux Jambons

**Winds easterly**

- High waves due to underwater cliff
- Corner effect near point accentuates waves

*Mariners should stay several nautical miles off point*

#### 47. Pointe à la Chasse

**Winds southerly or southwesterly**

- Strong swell between the point and Île du Corossol

**Winds southeasterly**

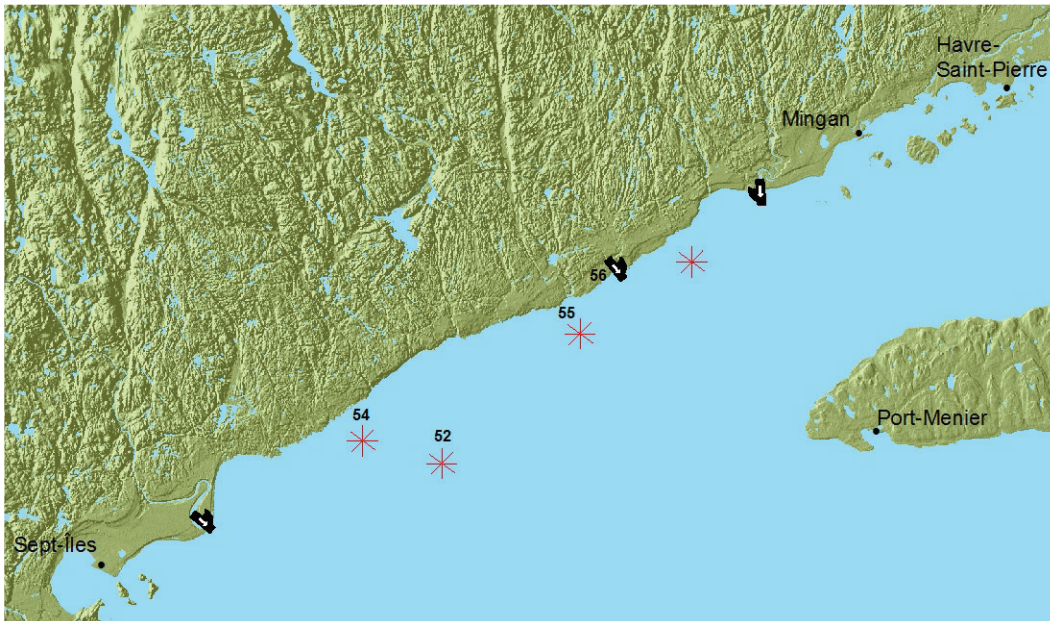
- Wind accelerates along the west side of the point, toward Rivière Sainte-Marguerite

#### 45. Rivière Sainte-Marguerite

**Winds southeasterly**

- Cross seas and breaking waves against the currents and over sandy shoals
- Rough waters accentuated by wind acceleration on northeast side of the bay
- Corner effect





#### 48. Baie des Sept Îles

##### **Winds southerly or southwesterly**

- Significant swell flowing into the Chenal du Milieu
- High, steep waves up to 2 NM offshore from the Iron Ore wharfs
- Reflection effect
- Surf occurs during a southerly swell, even when winds are light

#### 49. Île du Corossol

##### **Winds easterly**

- Confused seas and accelerating wind around southern tip
- Corner effect

#### 50. Ile La Petite Boule

##### **Winds easterly**

- Strong swell on eastern side

#### 51. Ile La Grosse Boule

##### **Winds easterly**

- Confused seas and strong swell
- Wind accelerates around southern tip
- Corner effect

#### 52. Sept-Îles to Rivière-Saint-Jean

##### **Winds gale-force out of the south, southwest, or southeast**

- Strong swell caused by shallow and irregular seabed along shore, up to 20 NM offshore

#### 53. Rivière Moisie

##### **Winds southerly, southwesterly, and, in particular, southeasterly**

- High, very short waves break at mouth of river due to river current

##### ***Very dangerous: risk of capsizing, especially at ebb tide***

- Stay several NM offshore in these conditions
- Enter river only at high tide



#### 54. Banc Blaskowit

**Winds gale-force out of the east**

- Strong refraction effect and breaking waves near bank due to underwater point

#### 55. Rivière Sheldrake

**Winds southerly, southeasterly, or southwesterly**

- High breaking waves forming a bar ~20 m offshore
- Wait for rising tide before entering river

#### 56. Rivière-au-Tonnerre

- Winds southwesterly at ebb tide
- High, breaking waves at entrance to harbour
- Hazardous
- Avoid Banc Rouge, 20 NM to the east-southeast: breaking waves and shoals

#### 57. Banc Parent

**Winds gale-force out of the southeast**

- Cross seas near shoals and due to channelling from east in Déroit de Jacques-Cartier

*Dangerous conditions*

#### 58. Pointe de l'Ouest

**Winds gale-force out of the southeast**

- Heavy, cross seas offshore due to easterly winds channelled to the north of Anticosti by Déroit de Jacques-Cartier

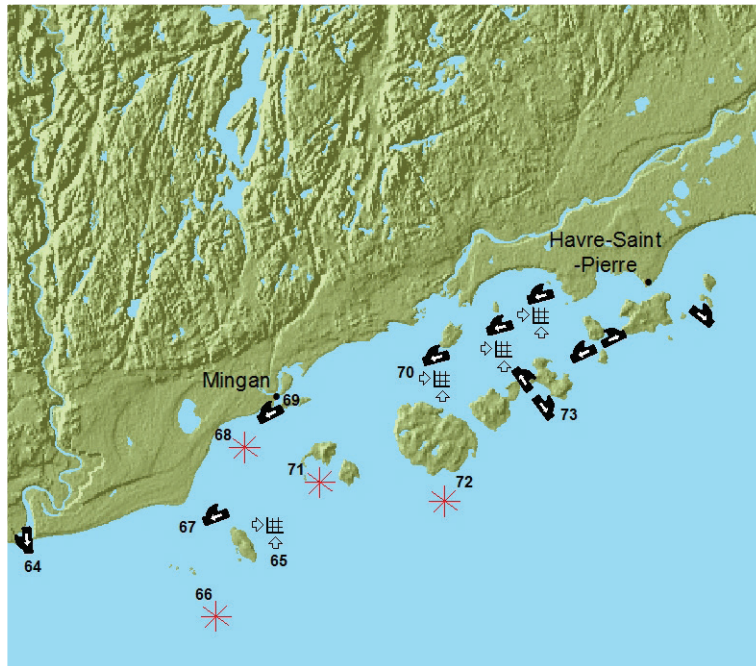
#### 59. Port-Menier

**Winds southerly and, in particular, southeasterly**

- Strong, breaking waves due to rise in sea bottom

*Very difficult access to wharf*





#### 60. Rivière Jupiter

Winds southerly, southwesterly, or westerly

- Breaking waves create bar
- Numerous sandbanks

*Dangerous river mouth*

#### 61. Pointe Carleton

Winds westerly

- Cross seas up to a few NM offshore

#### 62. Cap de la Table

Winds westerly

- Cross seas up to a few NM offshore

#### 63. Pointe Heath

Winds easterly

- Swell accentuated offshore by submerged segment of point

Winds westerly

- Heavy, cross seas offshore, created by refraction

*Difficult to very difficult conditions*

#### 64. Rivière Saint-Jean

Winds westerly or southwesterly at ebb tide

- Breaking waves caused by sandy shoals form bar

*Dangerous river mouth*

#### 65. Île aux Perroquets and Île Nue de Mingan

Winds westerly or southwesterly

- Cross seas in lee of islands
- Produced by refraction

*Sometimes very difficult*

#### 66. Banc de Mingan

Winds southerly, southeasterly, southwesterly or easterly

- Significant swell produced by shoals

**67. La Longue Pointe to Île Nue de Mingan**

**Winds westerly at rising tide**

- High, breaking waves in channel

**68. La Longue Pointe to Mingan**

**Winds southerly**

- Strong, breaking waves close to shore

***Strongly advised to avoid this area***

**69. Île du Havre de Mingan**

**Winds westerly or southwesterly at rising tide**

- Heavy seas between shore and island at western entrance to channel
- Funnelling
- Shoals

**70. Chenal de Mingan**

**Winds westerly at rising tide**

- High, breaking waves—in particular, between Île du Havre de Mingan and La Grande Île

**Winds southerly or southwesterly**

- Cross seas accentuated by tidal currents

***May be dangerous***

**71. Île aux Bouleaux to Petite Île aux Bouleaux**

**Winds westerly or southwesterly**

- Heavy seas at western entrance to islands, particularly at rising tide
- Funnelling
- Shoals

**72. La Grande Île**

**Winds westerly, southwesterly, southerly, southeasterly or easterly**

- High waves south of the island due to shoals
- ***Navigation difficult***

**73. Chenal à la Proie - South entrance**

**Winds northerly or southerly, against current**

- Very confused seas







#### 74. Chenal du Fantôme

**Winds against current**

- Very confused seas

#### 75. Chenal de la Petite Île au Marteau (Chenal Walrus)

- Winds southerly at ebb tide

*Difficult*

#### 76. Haut-fond à l'Eau Claire

**Winds westerly, easterly,  
southwesterly, southerly, or  
southeasterly**

- Strong swell and breaking waves

*Difficult area*

#### 77. La Grande Pointe à l'Eau Claire

**Winds easterly**

- Cross seas
- Stay more than 3 NM offshore
- Corner effect strengthens wind at tip, causing it to shift to northeast

#### 78. Baie des Trilobites

**Winds southerly or southwesterly**

- Strong swell at entrance to bay

#### 79. Île Saint-Charles

**Winds southerly or southwesterly**

- Zone of standing waves extends several NM offshore
- Pronounced reflection effect west of island

#### 80. Île à la Chasse - Northwest tip

**Strongly breaking seas**

- Exceptionally strong chop
- Conditions worse when wind is southwesterly, against current

#### 81. Rocher de la Garde

**Winds easterly, southeasterly,  
southerly, or southwesterly**

- High, breaking waves

*Stay more than 3 NM offshore*

#### 82. Haut-fond Collins

**Winds gale force out of the east,  
southwest, south, or southeast**

- High, breaking waves

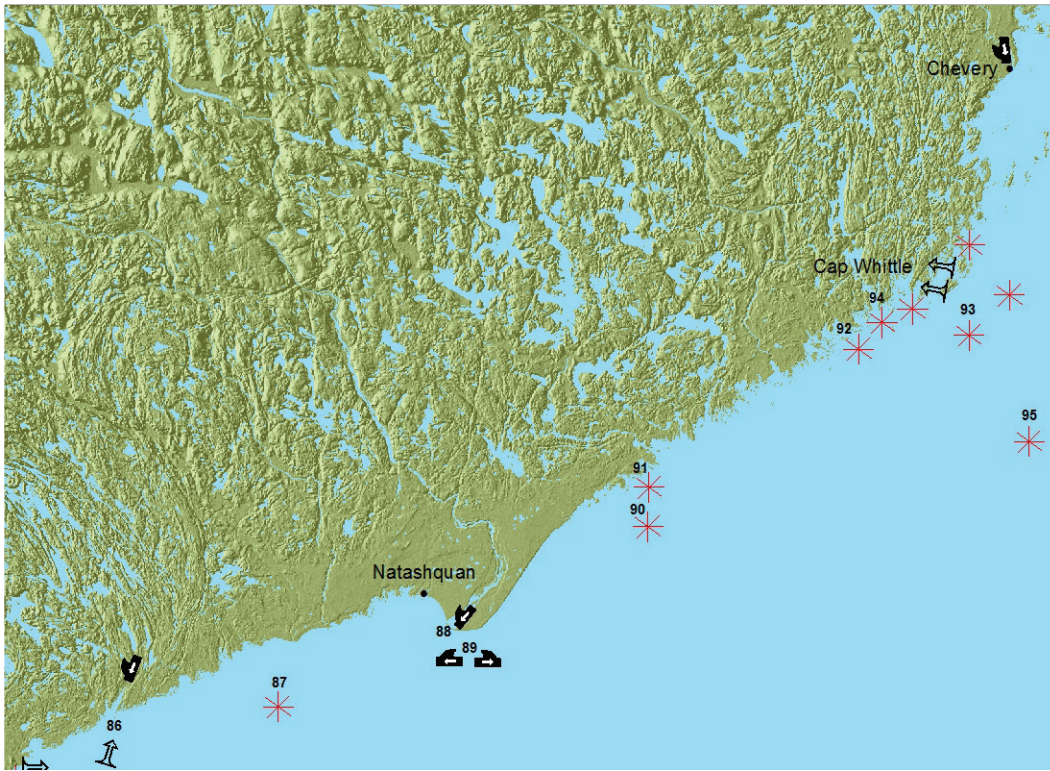
*Stay more than 3 NM offshore*

#### 83. Chenal des Saints

- **Winds southeasterly**

- Strong swell

- Funnelling



#### 84. Île Sainte-Geneviève

**Winds easterly**

- High, breaking waves over La Cormorailière Sainte-Geneviève (Rochers Les Saints) and Rochers Bowen

#### 85. Pointe Nord-Est

**Winds easterly**

- Strong swell
- Funnelling

#### 86. Baie Johan-Beetz

**Winds southerly or southwesterly**

- Strong swell
- Funnelling
- Outflow from Rivière Piashti

***Difficult access to harbour***

***Avoid area at ebb tide: strongly breaking seas***

#### 87. Baie Johan-Beetz to Natashquan

**Winds gale-force out of south, southeast, or southwest**

- High waves

***Stay more than 3 NM offshore***

#### 88. Rivière Natashquan

**Winds westerly, southwesterly, or southerly at ebb tide**

***Dangerous: strong river current***

**Winds southerly**

- Wharf exposed to swell

***Very difficult to come alongside***



**89. Pointe de Natashquan**

Winds southerly, southeasterly, or southwesterly

*Difficult*

Winds southwesterly

- Shorter, breaking waves at rising tide

*More difficult*

Winds southeasterly

- Strong swell at ebb tide

Offshore winds gale-force

- High waves due to uneven sea bottom

**90. Haut-fond Court**

Winds southerly, southeasterly or southwesterly

- Breaking seas

**91. Kegaska**

Winds southerly, southeasterly, or easterly

*Very difficult access*

**92. La Romaine**

Winds southerly, southeasterly, or southwesterly

- Waves flowing directly into harbour

*Very difficult*

*Maneuvering dangerous: attempts to come alongside not advised*

**93. La Romaine to Îles Sainte-Marie**

Winds southerly, southeasterly, southwesterly, and, in particular, easterly

- Breaking seas up to 10 NM offshore

**94. Rivière Olomane**

Winds southerly or southwesterly

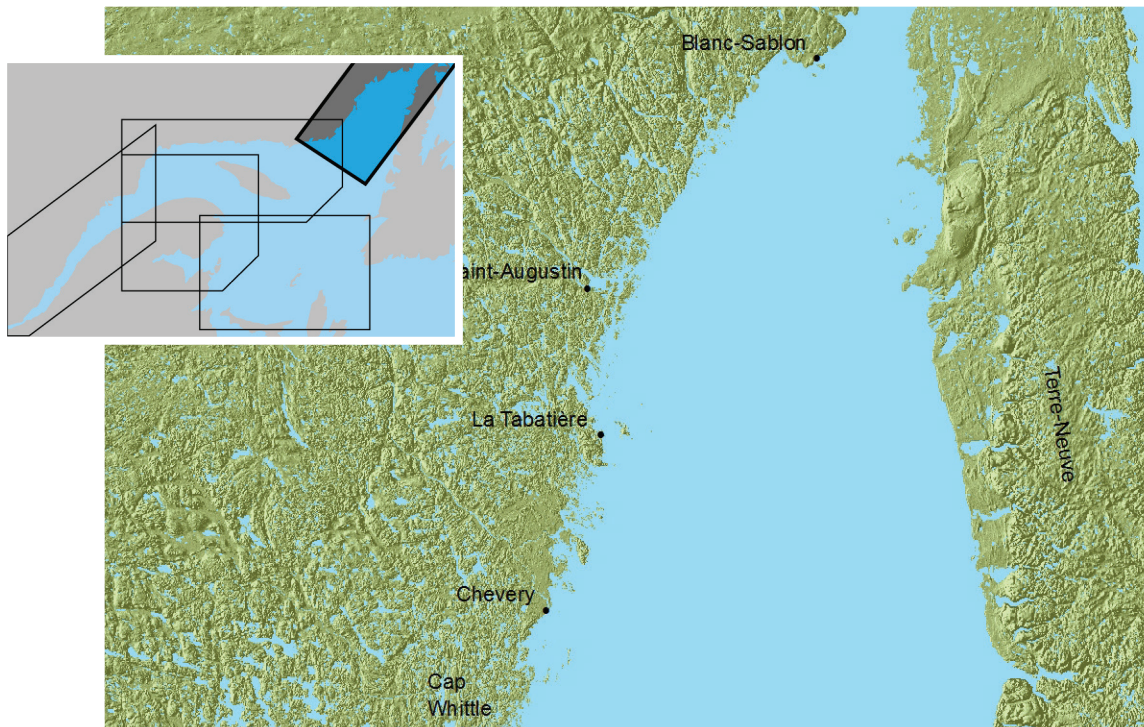
- Breaking waves at river mouth

**95. Banc Beaugé**

Winds gale-force out of east, west, or south

- Seas always stronger over bank





## 4. Cap Whittle to Blanc-Sablon

This section marks the eastern boundary of both Quebec and the St. Lawrence and leads directly to the Strait of Belle Isle. Its shoreline is jagged and fairly low, dotted over most of its length by a string of islands and islets. Local effects are significant, with channeling effects and katabatic winds in some of the valleys.

The tides are weak, but the narrow passages between the islands create strong currents. Up to 20-25 NM offshore, high seas are accentuated by the shallow bottom, which is less than 35 m deep. In addition to creating high seas, the southwesterly wind is strengthened by funneling between the shores of Quebec and Newfoundland. The area's most famous trademark is its persistent fog, which increases with proximity to the Strait.

### 96. Cap Whittle

#### Winds easterly

- Steep waves created by channelling and funneling between Île du Lac and Cap Whittle lighthouse

### 97. Île Galibois

#### Winds easterly

- Strong swell accentuated by ebb tide between Île Galibois and Îles Sainte-Marie
- Channelling and funneling

*Mariners advised to avoid this area*





#### 98. Îles Sainte-Marie

**Winds gale-force out of southwest, southeast, south, and, in particular, east**

- Violent, breaking seas up to 20 NM offshore
- Area scattered with reefs and shoals

#### 99. Chevery — Rivière Nétagamio

**Winds southerly or southwesterly at ebb tide**

- Sharply breaking, short waves

*Dangerous*

#### 100. Cap Mackinnon (Île du Petit Mécatina)

**Winds easterly**

- Breaking seas offshore
- Corner effect
- Shoals

*Mariners advised to avoid area and stay more than 3 NM offshore*

#### 101. Baie des Moutons

**Winds southwesterly, close to point**

- Strong, breaking waves sometimes impassable
- Sea bottom rises abruptly

*Dangerous area*

**Winds gale-force from any direction, except northwest**

- Uneven bottom up to 10-20 NM offshore

*Very difficult seas*

#### 102. Île du Gros Mécatina

**Winds easterly**

- Strongly breaking seas between Île du Gros Mécatina and Île Plate
- Channelling

#### 103. Île aux Trois Collines

**Winds easterly**

- Heavy seas
- Pronounced corner effect



**104. Baie de Jacques-Cartier to Baie du Vieux Fort**

**Winds northerly**

- Strong wind channelled by shoreline out to several NM offshore
- Wind particularly strong at heads of Mistanoque, Napetipi, and des Homards bays

**105. Baie de Brador**

**Winds southwesterly**

*High waves*

*Access difficult*

*In poor weather, avoid passing between Île du Bassin and shore*

**106. Banc Perroquet to Île Greenly**

**Winds southwesterly at rising tide**

- Very strong chop

**107. Baie de Blanc-Sablon**

**Winds westerly or southwesterly at rising tide**

- Heavy, confused seas in channel between bay and Île au Bois

**108. Strait of Belle Isle**

**Winds southwesterly**

- Very strong swell at western entrance, more pronounced when against current During summer, risk of enormous fog banks in strait
- Persistent fog close to Labrador coast

**Winds easterly**

- Fog in entire strait: Newfoundland coast normally clears first

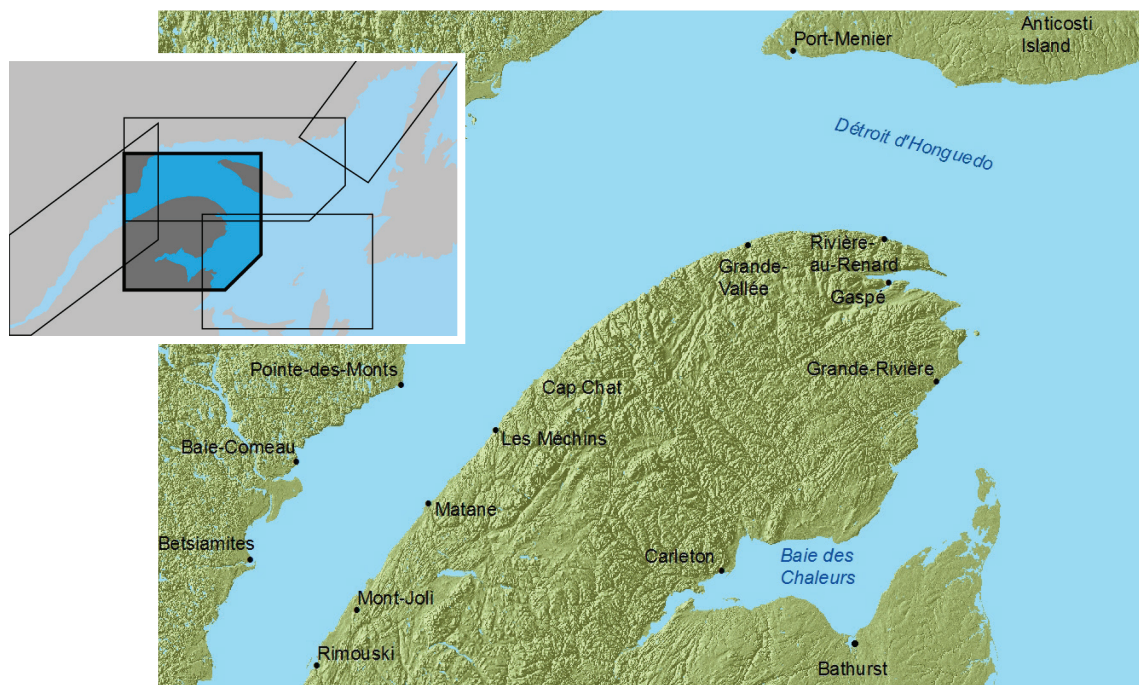
**Winds southwesterly or northeasterly, against current**

- Heavy seas









## 5. Gaspésie and Baie des Chaleurs

### 5.1 Gaspésie

Where the mountains of the north shore bow out, those of the south shore step in. The steep cliffs and mountains on the Gaspé Peninsula form a barrier that causes

the winds to shift and accelerate. This phenomenon is particularly marked in late summer, when the northwesterly wind blows more frequently and strongly. All along the St. Lawrence, the winds that rush into these deep valleys are strengthened; those from the south gust out over the river.

At sea, the Gaspé Current follows the coast up to 20 NM offshore; close to shore, it can reach 2 kt. When the wind is against the current, it produces waves that tumble and may even break. Northwesterly and southeasterly winds are channeled in the Baie de Gaspé, so mariners must be cautious. Two offshore banks—the Banc des Américains and the Banc de l'Orphelin—are known for their choppy seas.

### 5.2 Baie des Chaleurs

The entrance to Baie des Chaleurs is guarded to the north by the Haut-fond Leander; to the south, by the Miscou shoals. Its configuration—that is, the steep cliffs on its north side and its V-shape—tends to channel the wind. As a result, there is a zone in the middle of this section, off Nepisiguit Bay, that is particularly windy and subject to high seas if the wind is



from the northwest or northeast. Tidal currents in this section rarely reach 1 kt, except at the mouths of some rivers and channels.

#### **109. Matane to Cap-des-Rosiers**

##### **Winds easterly**

- High waves against the Gaspé Current

#### **110. Les Méchins to Grande-Vallée**

##### **Winds violent from the south, from fall to spring**

- Strongly breaking seas and turbulence close to shore
- Wind off the Appalachians occasionally reaches storm force

#### **111. Les Méchins to Rivière-la-Madeleine**

##### **Winds northwesterly**

- Cross seas along shoreline due to wind shifting to westerly along the coast and acceleration from barrier effect

*Difficult conditions*

#### **112. Mont-Louis - L'Anse-Pleureuse - Rivière-la-Madeleine - Grande-Vallée**

##### **Winds southerly**

- Steep valleys cause channelling
- Katabatic winds possible, with gusts up to 40 kt or more
- Problems with anchoring at night

*Dangerous river mouths*

#### **113. Petite-Vallée to Cap Gaspé**

##### **Winds gale force out of north, northeast, or northwest**

- Heavy to very heavy seas close to shore

##### **Winds northwesterly**

- Wind accelerated by convergence

*Sea bottom rises rapidly*





#### 114. Rivière-au-Renard

**Winds northerly, northeasterly, or northwesterly**

- Breaking waves up to harbor entrance

**Difficult**

**Winds northeasterly**

- Risk of surging sea in harbor: possible moorage problems

#### 115. Cap Gaspé

**Winds westerly or northwesterly**

- Cross seas offshore
- Refraction on both sides of the Presqu'île de Forillon

**Winds southerly**

- Waves breaking on shoals northwest of cape
- Refraction
- Chop southeast of cape at certain times during the tide cycle
- Shallow

#### 116. Baie de Gaspé\*

**Winds westerly or northwesterly**

- Strong wind from mountains
- Acceleration not very noticeable on Gaspé side, but marked on Forillon side
- Channelling

**Winds southeasterly**

- Channelling in bay
- Sea breeze, easily reaching 20 kt

**Winds gale-force out of east or southeast**

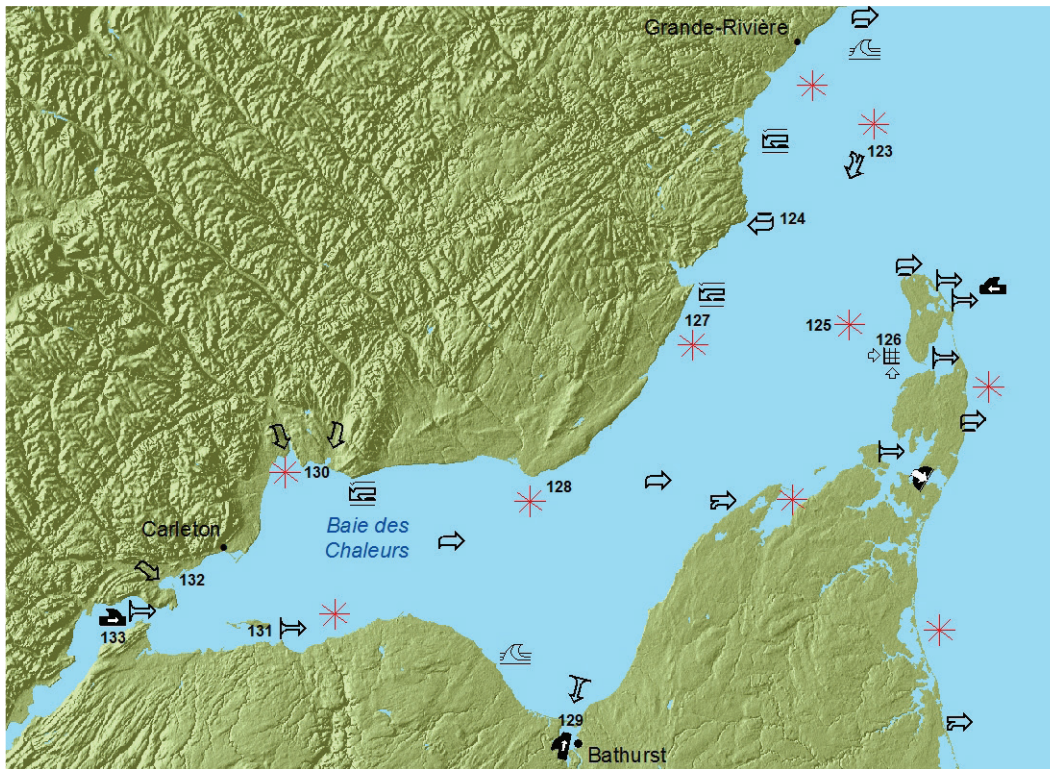
- Very strong swell

*\*Weather reported from airport, so may not correspond to actual conditions*

#### 117. Douglastown

**Winds southeasterly**

- Strong swell



#### 118. Banc des Américains

- Winds gale-force from any direction, except west or northwest**
- High, breaking waves

#### 119. Baie de Malbaie

- Winds gale force out of southeast**
- Heavy seas often preceded by fog

#### 120. Île Bonaventure

- Winds southerly or northeasterly**
- Strong swell between island and the shore
  - Shoals
  - Channelling

*Navigation difficult*

**Winds gale-force out of east**

- Cross seas up to 10 NM offshore due to reflection

#### 121. Banc de l'Orphelin

- Winds gale-force from any direction**
- High, breaking waves

#### 122. Haut-fond Leander

- Winds easterly or southeasterly**
- High, breaking waves
  - Cap d'Espoir extends underwater

*One of most difficult areas in Baie des Chaleurs*

#### 123. Cap d'Espoir to Pointe Bonaventure

- Winds easterly or northeasterly**
- Large seas close to shore
  - Convergence

#### 124. Pointe au Maquereau

- Winds easterly or northeasterly**
- Convergence accentuated by corner effect

**125. Northwest Miscou Point to  
Maisonnette Point**

**Winds westerly, northwesterly,  
northerly, or northeasterly**

- High waves and shoals

*Difficult access to all bays*

**126. Miscou Island (Northwest side)**

**Winds northwesterly**

- Cross seas accentuated by Miscou and Shippegan shoals
- Wind shifting to southwesterly, along shore

**127. Port-Daniel**

**Winds easterly**

- Strong swell

**128. Baie de Paspébiac**

**Winds southwesterly**

- Strong swell

**129. Bathurst**

**Winds northerly, northwesterly, or  
northeasterly**

- High waves at harbour entrance
- Shoals

- Funnelling

- Tidal currents make access difficult

***Dangerous area:*** without proper information, should be avoided, except in fair weather

**130. Petite rivière Cascapédia and Rivière  
Cascapédia**

**Winds northerly or northwesterly**

- Very strong wind from valleys
- Channelling

**131. Heron Channel**

**Winds westerly or easterly**

- High waves over shoals
- Funnelling between Heron Island and New Brunswick coast

**132. Rivière Nouvelle (baie Tracadigache)**

**Winds northerly or northwesterly**

- Very strong wind from valley
- Channelling

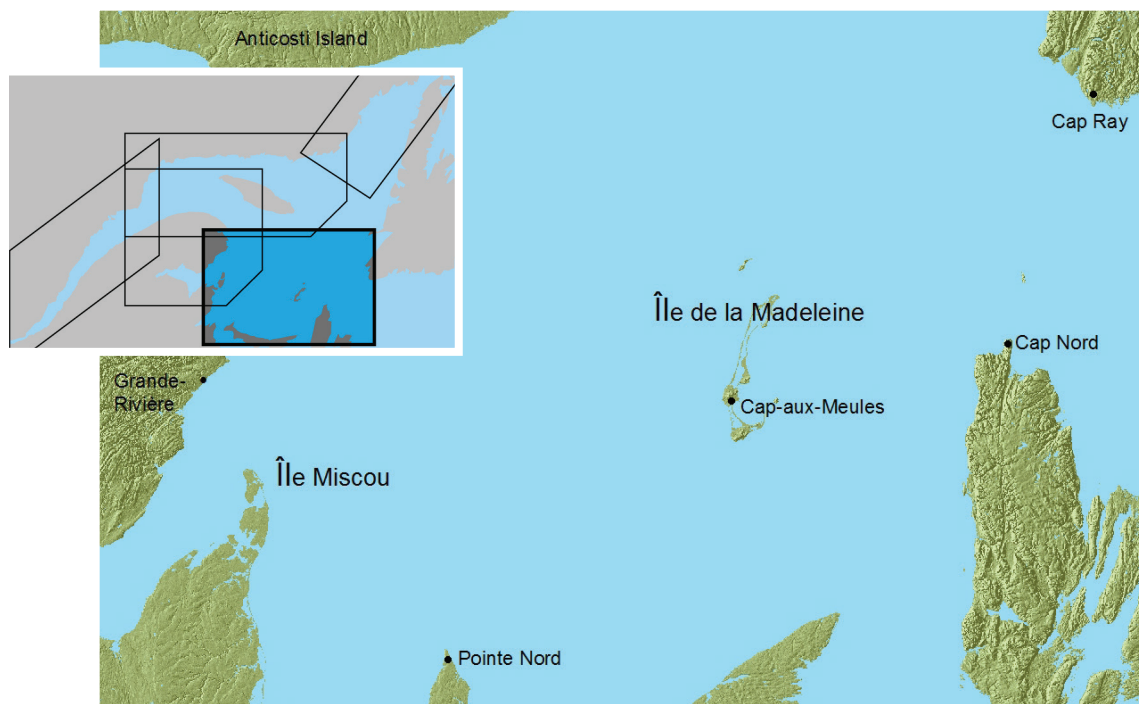
**133. Eel Bay**

**Winds easterly at ebb tide**

- High waves due to shoals and river current
- Funnelling from Baie des Chaleurs







## 6. Îles de la Madeleine

The Îles de la Madeleine are another striking feature of the St. Lawrence River. Located in the centre of the Gulf, 40 NM off the nearest shore, these islands are swept by winds from every direction—making their sheltered lagoons a windsurfer’s paradise.

Shoals, which are found everywhere around the islands and form a crescent from Pointe de l’Est to Rochers aux Oiseaux (with Île Brion in the middle), produce high seas in the area. Winds in the eastern part of the islands sometimes heralds the arrival of a storm that brings strong northwesterly winds. As the summer progresses, the northwesterlies produce higher and higher seas along the north shore because of their strength and the available fetch. Even if the tidal currents are less than 1 kt, they will be stronger around points and at the mouths of lagoons. In spring and summer, humid air from the warmer waters to the south and southwest of the islands brings fog.

### 134. Northwest side (in particular, Pointe Hérissée area)

#### Winds southwesterly

- Wind strengthens
- Convergence

### 135. Northeast side

#### Winds northeasterly

- Breaking waves produced by numerous reefs and shoals

*Navigation very difficult*



#### 136. Pointe de l'Est

**Winds northwesterly, northerly, and northeasterly at ebb tide**

- High, breaking seas—especially off point—due to crossing of two westerly currents from both sides of point

#### 137. Île Brion and Rocher(s) aux Oiseaux

**Winds from any direction**

- Corner effect

**Winds northeasterly**

- Heavy, cross seas southwest of Rochers aux Oiseaux

#### 138. La Perle (reef)

**Breaking waves even with winds of 15 kt from any direction**

#### 139. Île d'Entrée

**Winds from any direction**

- Corner effect

#### 140. La Passe

**Winds southerly and southeasterly**

- Breaking seas, especially at ebb tide
- Shoals between Dune Sandy Hook and Île d'Entrée

#### 141. Southwest side

**Winds northeasterly**

- Cross seas
- Refraction effect in lee of all islands

*Seas may become very confused*

#### 142. Le Corps-Mort

**Winds from any direction**

- Corner effect







