

Proposed actions

Priorities:

- Begin an awareness campaign aimed at educating the public as to park zoning and compliance with zoning and including zoning elements in the marine park's future interpretation plan.
- Draft and adopt specific regulations to ensure compliance with park zoning.

Other actions:

- Continue gaining scientific knowledge of the park's ecosystems, habitats, species, natural processes and human activities in order to keep park zoning up to date.
- Search for ways to phase out non-conforming commercial fishing activities, together with the authorities and fishermen involved.



Photo: Jacques Beardsell, Parks Canada

Île Rouge



Photo: Isabelle Peltier, Parks Canada

Hike at baie Sainte-Marguerite

This paper contains 100% of post consumer fibre.



Photo: Mark Mills, Parks Canada

Buoy at the mouth of the Saguenay River



Saguenay-St. Lawrence
MARINE PARK



Kayakers resting
Photo: Parks Canada

Zoning is a management tool designed to protect the marine park's ecosystems and plant and animal life, while promoting an environmentally sustainable use of the park and a quality visitor experience. The marine park's first management plan outlined a general zoning plan. The present zoning proposal is more specific in terms of the zones and the activities permitted in each zone.

Marine park legislation stipulates four types of zones:

- Comprehensive preservation zones (Zone I)
- Specific protection zones (Zone II)
- General protection zones (Zone III)
- General use zones (Zone IV)

A Zone I designation ensures that an area is to be completely preserved with a minimum of activity. Zones II, III and IV gradually allow activities that are compatible with the degree of protection designated for the park's ecosystems and habitats.

Method

Zoning of the marine park was subject to a consultation process that took place over 2005-2007 and that included targeted groups and the government departments involved. The present zoning proposal is the result of those consultations. Zoning takes into account legislation and regulations governing the marine park, the scientific data available and the activities practiced within the park. The zoning map divides the park into 16 geographical sectors based on the boundaries of the main ecosystems and uses of the park.



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•Société des établissements de plein air du Québec

Activities not in compliance with the marine park's mandate and eventual bans

Clause 21 of the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park Act (P-8.1) already stipulates that certain types of activities are prohibited: all forms of prospecting, use and harvesting or harnessing of resources for mining or energy production purposes, as well as the laying of oil pipelines, gas pipelines and power lines.

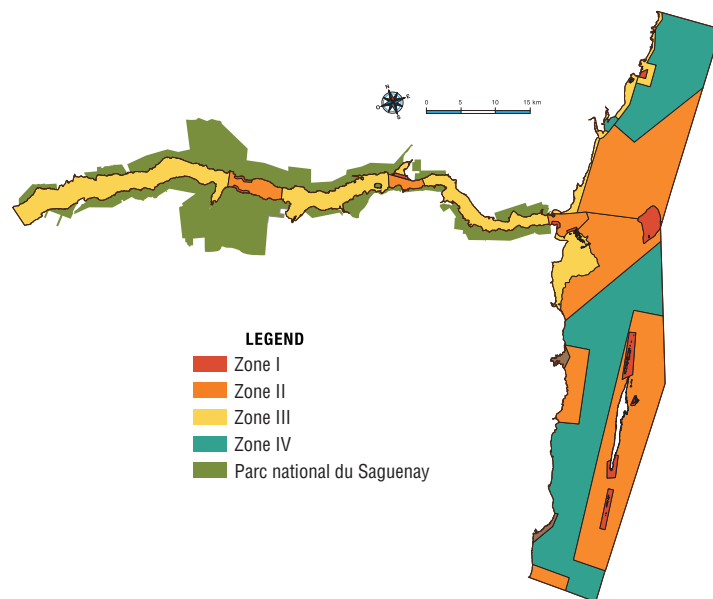
An analysis of present and potential activities was carried out to identify activities that are not in compliance with the marine park's mandate. These activities will eventually be banned through the adoption of regulations (see table 2).

Temporal zoning

Some zoning provisions protect certain habitats or endangered species over a specific period of time (see table 4).

Exceptions

In some cases, zoning provisions allow interventions for emergency, management or maintenance purposes. Exceptions are also made to settle park use conflicts related to the visitor experience and the safety of park users. As for existing commercial fishing, special dispensations will apply in certain areas, until a phasing out process is put into place (see table 3).



Description of the zones

COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION ZONE (ZONE I)	SPECIFIC PROTECTION ZONE (ZONE II)	GENERAL PROTECTION ZONE (ZONE III)	GENERAL USE ZONE (TYPE IV ZONE)
<p>Comprehensive preservation zones cover 3% of the marine park. They are composed of smaller areas that are highly important for the protection of exceptional ecosystems and habitats in the marine park. The perimeter of most of the islands, the western tip of Île aux Lièvres, the banks of Île Rouge, the mouth of Baie Sainte-Marguerite, the Cap Fraternité and Cap Éternité haul-outs, and areas off Cap de Bon-Désir, Pointe Noire and Pointe de l'Islet are all designated Zone I.</p>	<p>Specific protection zones cover 43% of the marine park. These zones protect large areas of each of the marine park's three main ecosystems. They are located:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in the upper estuary, the Gros Cap à l'Aigle and Cap de la Tête au Chien sectors, the perimeter of the Battures aux Alouettes and the islands in the upper estuary; - in the lower estuary, the sector at the head of the Laurentian Channel; - in the Saguenay Fjord, sectors at the mouth of the Saguenay, a section located off Baie Sainte-Marguerite and a section off Cap Fraternité and Cap Éternité. 	<p>The general protection zone covers 19% of the marine park. It includes most of the coastal areas of the upper estuary and lower estuary and most of the Saguenay Fjord.</p>	<p>The general use zone covers 36% of the area of the marine park and is concentrated in the upper estuary and lower estuary. Hunting and commercial fishing are authorized in this zone according to principles of sustainable use.</p>
<p>Protection objective</p> <p>To ensure the strict protection of rare, sensitive or vulnerable ecosystems, habitats, communities or species, and cultural resources deemed significant.</p>	<p>Protection objectives</p> <p>To ensure specific protection of representative, rare or vulnerable ecosystems, communities or species present in the Saguenay Fjord and the St. Lawrence estuary.</p> <p>To preserve the biodiversity of marine habitats or key species or rare seascapes that are highly representative of the marine park's biodiversity and fragile when used.</p> <p>To keep the composition, structure and functions of selected ecosystems and habitats intact and to preserve seascapes.</p> <p>This zone can also serve as a buffer zone on the periphery of some Zone I areas, to increase their protection while permitting a certain degree of use.</p>	<p>Protection objective</p> <p>To ensure the general protection of marine ecosystems.</p>	<p>Protection objective</p> <p>To ensure that the structures and functions of marine ecosystems are maintained.</p>
<p>Education objectives</p> <p>To educate park users and the public as to the importance of protecting exceptional ecosystems, habitats, communities and species through various off-site means of interpretation.</p> <p>To oversee scientific research so that it complies with the protection objectives of the comprehensive preservation zone.</p>	<p>Education objectives</p> <p>To provide park users and visitors with opportunities to enjoy and discover ecosystems, habitats, communities or representative, rare or vulnerable species by emphasizing their importance in terms of biodiversity conservation, through interpretation activities, visitor experiences and outreach projects.</p> <p>To promote and oversee scientific research.</p>	<p>Education objectives</p> <p>To promote opportunities for park users and visitors to learn about biodiversity, environmentally sustainable uses of the park, and means of protecting ecosystems, habitats, communities and species through interpretation activities on site.</p> <p>To oversee and promote scientific research.</p>	<p>Education objectives</p> <p>To encourage the acquisition of knowledge and development of sound management practices aimed at the environmentally sustainable use of marine ecosystems.</p> <p>To educate park users and the general public as to the importance of ensuring that marine ecosystems are used in an environmentally sustainable way in the recreational and commercial use of natural resources.</p> <p>To oversee and promote scientific research, including research that would lead to improved methods of commercial fishing.</p>
<p>Park use objectives</p> <p>To promote a visitor and recreational experience using virtual tools and interpretation activities offered outside of the comprehensive preservation zone.</p> <p>To resolve conflicting park uses through strict protection of a section of the marine environment located off land observation sites to ensure that the sites remain undisturbed and offer a quality visitor experience. Comprehensive preservation zones are closed to public use.</p>	<p>Park use objectives</p> <p>To promote opportunities for park users and visitors to enjoy and discover a relatively undisturbed marine environment.</p> <p>Pleasure boating, marine tours and commercial navigation are permitted in specific protection zones, in compliance with rules that have been set. However, no harvesting of natural resources is permitted, except for the specific cases indicated in the zoning plan (Table 3).</p>	<p>Park use objectives</p> <p>To promote a range of educational and recreational activities that may or may not involve the harvesting of natural resources.</p> <p>To allow pleasure boating, marine tours and commercial navigation, in compliance with rules that have been set.</p> <p>To allow hunting and sport fishing, in compliance with rules that have been set.</p>	<p>Park use objectives</p> <p>To promote a variety of opportunities for visitors and park users to have access to the marine environment, and to discover and use it in an environmentally sustainable manner.</p> <p>To permit pleasure boating, marine tours and commercial navigation, in compliance with rules that have been set.</p> <p>To permit hunting and sport fishing, in compliance with rules that have been set.</p>