

To provide your observations during the season or for any questions you might have, please contact:



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 Email: ROC-CON@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
 Web site: <http://www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/signaler-report/roc-con/capelan-capelin-eng.html>

Fisheries and Oceans Canada would like express its appreciation to the contributors below for their support in disseminating information on the Network's existence and the gathering of observation data. Thanks to these organizations, the Capelin Observers Network is gaining recognition, which is essential to the goals it pursues.



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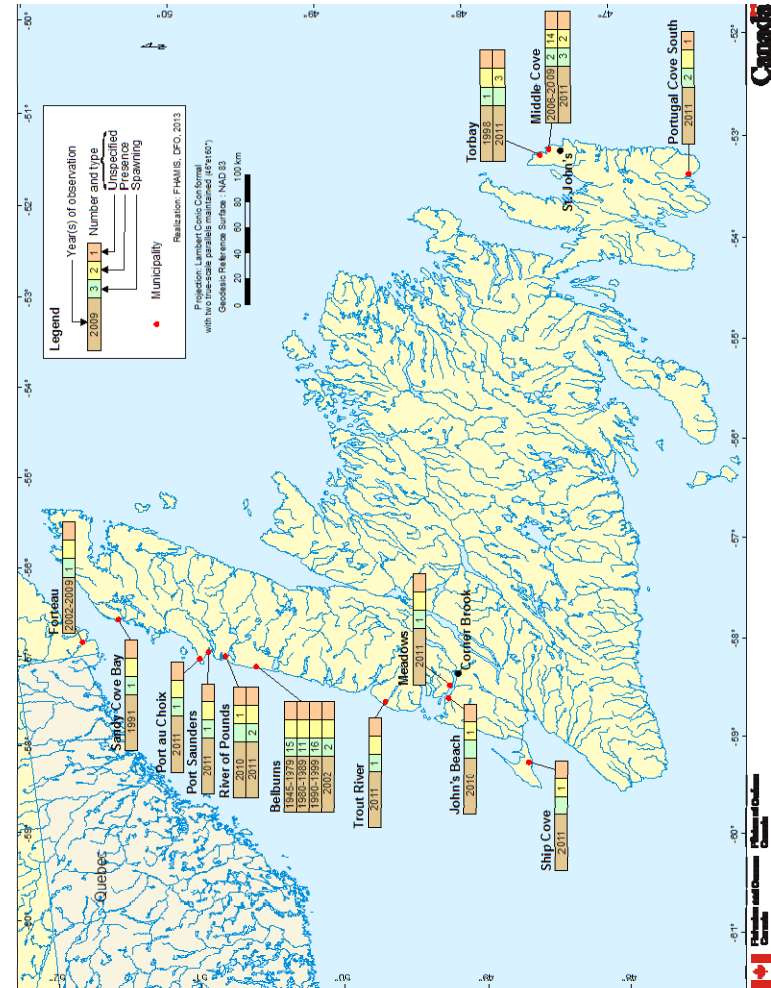


Figure 16: Locations of observation of capelin spawning and presence in Newfoundland and Labrador between 1945 and 2012.

Names in parentheses denote municipal sectors. ‡ Denotes date of observation of capelin presence without mention of spawning.

Since observation began in Newfoundland and Labrador, capelin spawning has been observed mainly in June and, to a lesser extent, in July.

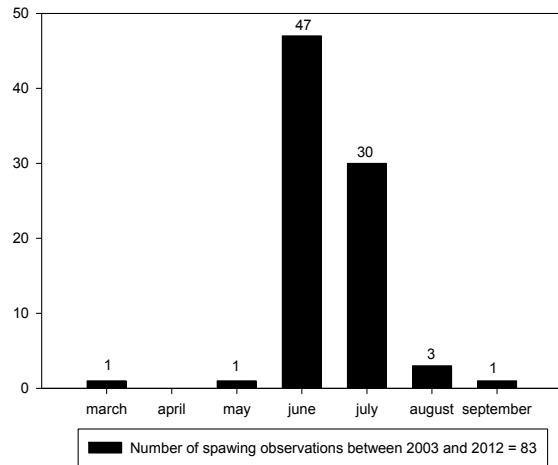


Figure 15: Period of observation of capelin spawning in Newfoundland and Labrador between 1945 and 2012.

Capelin Observers Network

The Capelin Observers Network (CON) was established to gather more information about capelin spawning areas and habits in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence. Efforts to monitor capelin spawning began on the North Shore in 2002. In 2003, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Quebec Region, and various partners, including a number of ZIP (areas of prime concern) committees, developed a network to collect data on capelin reproduction.

From 2002 to 2009, the number of network observers and observations increased steadily, which helped provide an overview of the distribution of capelin spawning grounds in coastal environments. However, less information was collected during the 2010 season. During the 2011 season, the number of observers and observations increased with 66 observers reporting 184 observations. Moreover, the new observation area of Newfoundland and Labrador was added. The observations noted in this region since 1945 have also been integrated into the report. In 2012, the number of observations and observers decreased again, with 93 observations and 19 observers. No observations were reported for Newfoundland and Labrador.

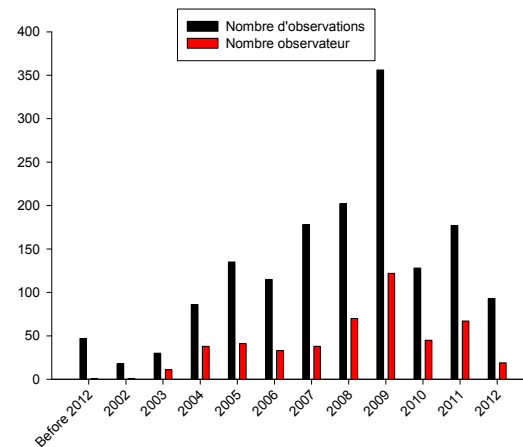


Figure 1: Changes in the number of CON observers and observation reports.

This additional knowledge about capelin spawning locations and habits is enhancing our understanding of this essential link in the St. Lawrence ecosystem. It also helps to improve the protection of spawning sites, particularly during the breeding and incubation period. Measures to mitigate the impact on habitats can also be recommended when work takes place near spawning areas. The information gathered by the CON may contribute to a better understanding of the impact of human activities and climate change, including bank erosion and beach modification, on the capelin's life cycle.

Observers are invited to join the CON by visiting our Internet registry at <http://www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/signaler-report/ROC-CON/capelan-capelin-eng.asp?p=signaler-report/ROC-CON/capelan-capelin-eng.html> or by calling 1-877-227-6853.

Your participation in the Network in 2013 is necessary for monitoring capelin spawning and identifying new trends or confirming those identified in previous years. It is also important to carefully document your observations.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

The Newfoundland and Labrador zone includes all municipalities found in that province.

Observations

In 2011, seven observers reported 11 spawning observations and six capelin presence observations in this zone. No observations were reported to the Network in 2012.

Table 11: Dates of observation of capelin spawning or presence in Newfoundland and Labrador between 1945 and 2012.

<i>Location</i>	<i>1945 to 2011</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Forteau, Labrador	July 2008	---	---
Sandy Cove Bay	August 1991	---	---
Port au Choix	---	June: 27	---
Port Saunders	---	June: 27	---
River of Pounds	June: 29 [†]	June: 13 and 27	---
	June and July 1945 to 1979		
Belburns	May and June 1980 to 1989	---	---
	June and July 1990 to 1999		
	June 2002		
Trout River	---	June: 27	---
Meadows	---	June: 18	---
John's Beach	March 2010	---	---
Ship Cove	---	June: 28 [†]	---
Portugal Cove South	---	June: 22 and 23 July: 14 [†]	---
	July 2006 and 2008		
Middle Cove	June and July 2007	June: 27 and 29 July: 4 [†] , 7 [†] and 18	---
	July, August and September 2009		
Torbay	August 1998	June: 29 [†] July: 4 [†] and 7 [†]	---

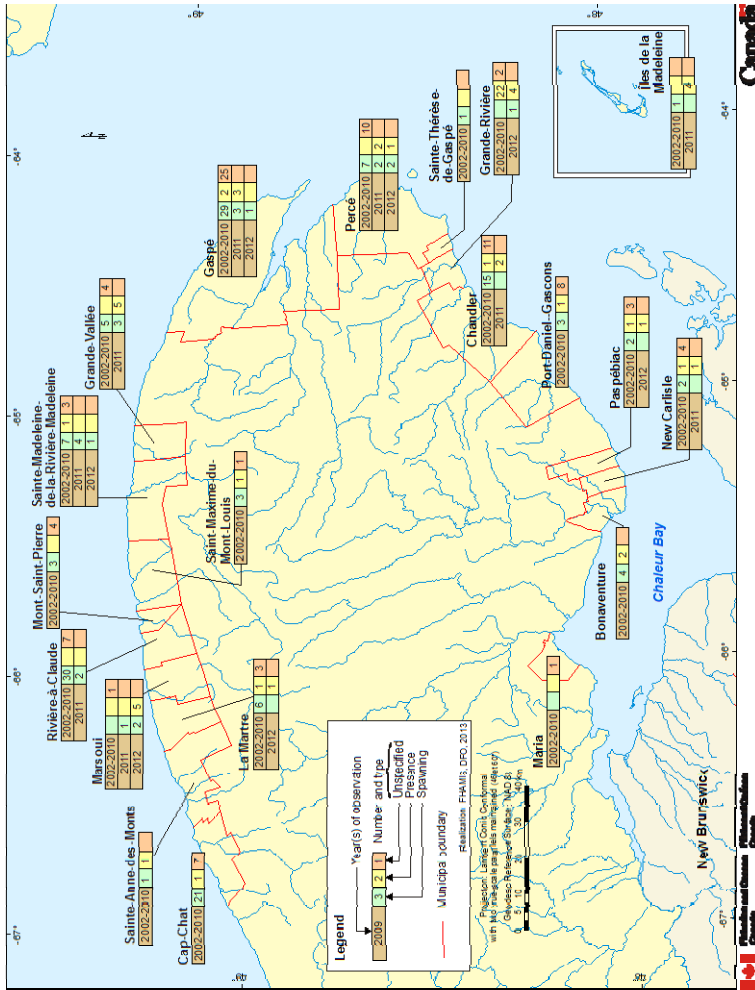


Figure 14: Locations of observation of capelin spawning and presence in the Gaspé Peninsula, Chaleur Bay and Magdalen Islands.

Capelin Spawning Habits

The Network has collected 1565 observations since its founding. Of these, 822 observations involved spawning activity, 340 were of signs of capelin presence and 383 were general observations that did not specify whether or not capelin were spawning. The information gathered, which includes the observation's date and time, the tidal conditions and the type of spawning area, is helping to reveal trends that can assist in answering questions such as: Do capelin spawn more frequently at night? Do they prefer high tide? What type of substrate do they prefer?

Time of Day

Capelin appear to spawn more frequently in the darkness, at least when this activity takes place along the shoreline. According to Network data, spawning is observed five times more often at night, namely between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., than at other times of day.

Table 1: Percentage of capelin spawning observations by time of day.

Time of Day	Number of Observations	Percentage (%)
Day (from 6:00 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.)	159	21
Night (from 6:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.)	599	79

(Number of spawning observations between 2002 and 2012 with time of day information = 759)

Tide

Comparing spawning observations with tidal information reveals that capelin are 12% more likely to spawn during the rising tide than the ebbing tide.

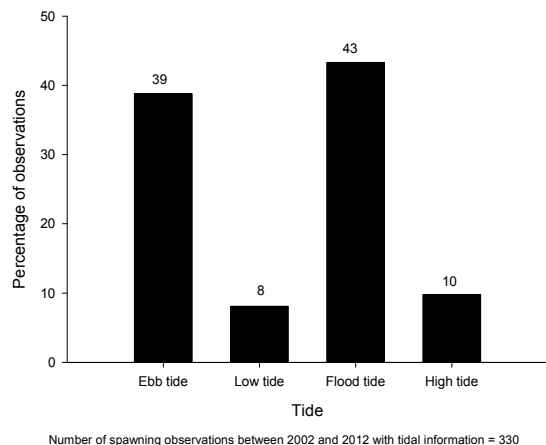


Figure 2: Percentage (%) of capelin spawning observations by tidal cycle.

Type of Spawning Area

According to the great majority of observations, spawning occurs on sandy beaches. However, the data collected do not specify the substrate diameter. Spawning takes place on gravel beaches approximately 20% of the time.

Table 2: Percentage of capelin spawning observations by substrate type.

Substrate	Number of Observations	Percentage (%)
Sand	617	80
Gravel	138	18
Pebbles	16	2
Bedrock	3	0
Silt	1	0

(Number of spawning observations between 2002 and 2012 with substrate information = 775)

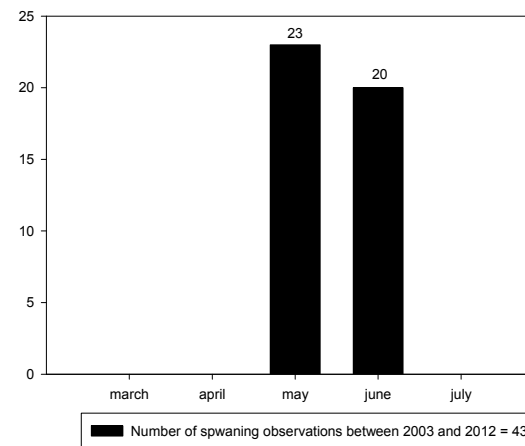


Figure 13: Period of observation of capelin spawning in Chaleur Bay between 2003 and 2012.

MAGDALEN ISLANDS – GULF

The Magdalen Islands zone encompasses all islands in that archipelago.

Observations

The first observation of capelin presence in this zone since the Network's founding was reported in June 2008 at Cap de l'hôpital in Fatima by lobster and flounder fishers. In 2011, two observers made four observations of capelin presence on the beach at Pointe-aux-Loups and at Étang-du-Nord between June 21 and July 1. No observations were made in 2012.

Table 10: Dates of observation of capelin spawning or presence in the Magdalen Islands between 2008 and 2012.

Location	2008 to 2010	2011	2012
Fatima	June 2008	---	---
Étang-du-Nord	---	June: 27 [‡]	---
Pointe-aux-Loups	---	June: 21 [‡] and 30 [‡] July: 1 [‡]	---

[‡] Denotes date of observation of capelin presence without mention of spawning.

Location	2003 to 2010	2011	2012
	2005 and 2009		
Port-Daniel-Gascon (Port-Daniel)	May and June 2003 and 2009	---	---
Chandler (Newport)	May 2005 to 2010 June 2006, 2008 and 2009	June: 21 [‡]	---
Chandler (Chandler)	June 2006 and 2008 2007	June: 6 [‡]	---
Chandler (Pabos)	May 2006 June 2008	---	---
Grande-Rivière	2006 May, June and July 2009	April: 29 [‡] May: 13 [‡] and 20 [‡]	June: 3 [‡] , 6 [‡] , 8, 16 [‡]
Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé	May 2008	---	---
Percé (Percé)	May: 2009, 2010 June 2005, 2007 and 2009	June: 29	June: 2, 3 and 19 [‡]
Percé (Anse-à-Beaufils)	May 2009 June 2008	June: 15	---
Percé (Barachois)	May and June 2009	July: 7 [‡]	---

Names in parentheses denote municipal sectors. ‡ Denotes date of observation of capelin presence without mention of spawning.

Since 2003, capelin spawning in Chaleur Bay has been observed mainly in May and, to a lesser extent, in June.

Are there more or fewer capelin in 2012?

This question is difficult to answer because capelin abundance is not the subject of annual monitoring. Based on data collected by the Network between 2006 and 2009, the majority of observers noted that the number of spawning capelin was high. This trend was less significant in 2010, but it is important to note that the number of observers and observations had fallen between 2009 and 2010. However, this does not mean that there were fewer capelin on the shore. In 2011, there were more observers and observations than there were in 2010. In 2012, there was a significant decrease in observations and observers. On the other hand, the method used to collect data cannot be used to determine whether these decreases are due to a low abundance of capelin or to the presence of fewer active observers.

For most of the observations involving spawning activity, the observers noted that the capelin were present in abundant numbers. In the majority of cases, however, the quantity of spawning capelin was either not specifically evaluated or unknown.

Table 3: Compiled evaluations of the quantity of capelin spawning as a percentage.

Year	High	Average	Low
2006	63	12	25
2007	66	17	17
2008	58	21	21
2009	46	29	25
2010	44	30	26
2011	52	30	18
2012	50	25	25

Several factors may influence the quantity of capelin spawning onshore. For example, spawning variations could occur due to a mild preceding winter or to changes in the ice cover or freshwater levels. It is also possible that for various reasons, capelin spawn more some years than others.

Observations for the 2012 Season by Zone

A total of 93 observations were reported in 2012. Of these, 23 involved spawning, 59 involved signs of capelin presence and 10 involved the absence of capelin. These observations were made in 17 different sectors and on 27 beaches or sections of beaches. No new spawning sites were identified in 2012. These observations were compiled in the form of tables that include maps. This year once again, observations involving spawning or signs of capelin presence (e.g. presence of diving birds or dead capelin on the beach) were highlighted in the results tables by placing a symbol (‡) next to the date.

For practical reasons, the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence were divided into eight observation zones whose boundaries are described below.

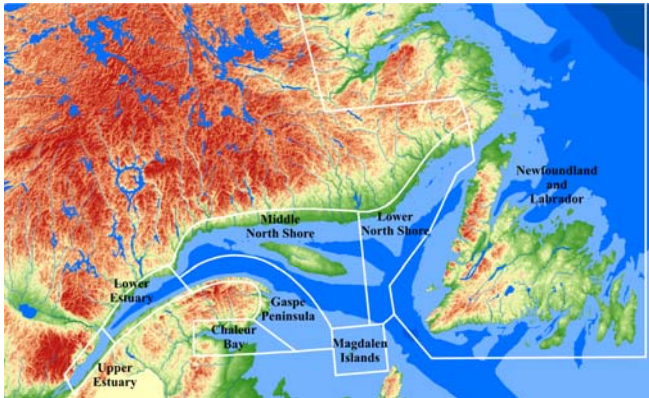


Figure 3: The Capelin Observers Network's observation zones.

Upper Estuary

This zone covers both banks of the Middle St. Lawrence Estuary from Saint-Joachim to Baie-Sainte-Catherine on the north shore and from Montmagny to Cacouna on the south.

Observations

In 2012, capelin were seen on the shores of the Middle Estuary zone between April 8 and May 27. A total of 41 observations of capelin presence were reported by one observer. No spawning was observed.

According to Network data, capelin spawning in the northern Gaspé Peninsula begins in late May and is observed mainly in June.

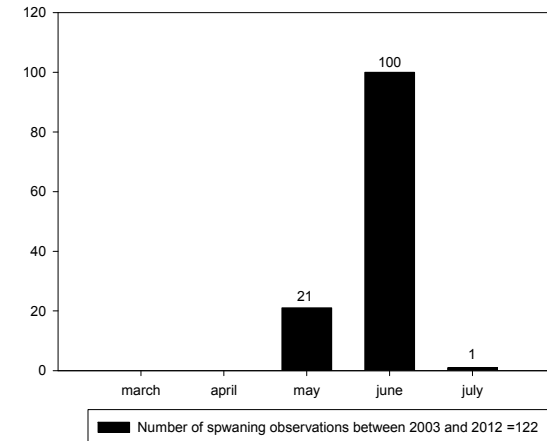


Figure 12: Period of observation of capelin spawning in the Gaspé Peninsula between 2004 and 2012.

CHALEUR BAY – GULF

The Chaleur Bay zone covers the southern Gaspé Peninsula from the mouth of the Restigouche River to Percé (Barachois sector).

Observations

In 2012, four observers reported nine observations, three of which involved spawning in this zone. These observations were made between May 25 and June 16.

Table 9: Dates of observation of capelin spawning or presence in Chaleur Bay between 2003 and 2012.

Location	2003 to 2010	2011	2012
Maria	May 2005	---	---
Bonaventure	May 2009, 2010	---	---
New Carlisle	May 2005 to 2007 and 2009	---	May: 28 [‡]
Paspébiac	May 2003 to	---	May: 25

<i>Location</i>	<i>2004 to 2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Saint-Maxime-du-Mont-Louis (L'Anse-Pleureuse)	May and June 2009	---	---
Sainte-Madeleine-de-la-Rivière-Madeleine (Manche-d'Épée)	June 2004 and 2005	---	---
Sainte-Madeleine-de-la-Rivière-Madeleine (Rivière-Madeleine)	June 2004, 2008, 2009 and 2010	June: 20 to 22	June: 14
Grande-Vallée	June 2004, 2006 to 2009 July 2006 August 2005	June: 14 [‡] to 16 [‡] , 17, 18 [‡] , 19 [‡] , 20 and 21	---
Gaspé (Anse-à-Valleau)	---	June: 23	---
Gaspé (Saint-Maurice-de-l'Échourie)	2005, 2006 and 2007	---	---
Gaspé (Petit-Cap)	June 2009 July and August 2005	---	---
Gaspé (Rivière-au-Renard)	May and June 2007 Mid-June 2006	---	---
Gaspé (Cap-des-Rosiers)	June 2005 to 2009	June: 15	---
Gaspé (Anse-aux-Amérindiens)	---	June: 21	---
Gaspé (Cap-Bon-Ami)	May and June 2007	---	---
Gaspé (Cap-aux-Os)	May and June 2007 June 2004	---	July: 29
Gaspé (Gaspé)	May 2009 May and June 2007 June 2004 to 2006 July 2004	May: 23 [‡] , 27 [‡] and 29 [‡]	---

Names in parentheses denote municipal sectors. ‡ Denotes date of observation of capelin presence without mention of spawning.

Table 4: Dates of observation of capelin spawning or presence between 2003 and 2012 in the Upper Estuary.

<i>Location</i>	<i>2003 to 2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Saint-Irénée	April and May 2003, 2010 May and June 2004, 2006 and 2008 May, June and July 2005 April, May and June 2009	April: 23 [‡] to 25 [‡] May: 1 [‡] to 4 [‡] , 8 [‡] to 10 [‡] , 15 [‡] , 16 [‡] , 19 [‡] , 24 [‡] to 26 [‡] , 28 [‡] to 30 [‡] June: 9 [‡] to 12 [‡]	April: 8 [‡] to 13 [‡] , 16 [‡] to 21 [‡] , 26 [‡] to 30 [‡] May: 1 [‡] to 16 [‡] , 18 [‡] to 21 [‡] , 24 [‡] to 27 [‡]
La Malbaie (Port-au-Saumon / Anse aux Indiens)	June 2005 and 2009	---	---
Île-aux-Coudres	June 2007 April to early June 2008 May 2010	April: 23 [‡]	---
Kamouraska	June 2003	---	---
Rivière-du-Loup	May 2010 [‡] June 2009	---	---
Rivière-Ouelle	May 2010 [‡]	June: 15 [‡] and 18 [‡]	---

Names in parentheses denote municipal sectors. ‡ Denotes date of observation of capelin presence without mention of spawning.

Since 2003, capelin spawning in the Middle Estuary has been observed mainly in May and June, with its peak occurring in May.

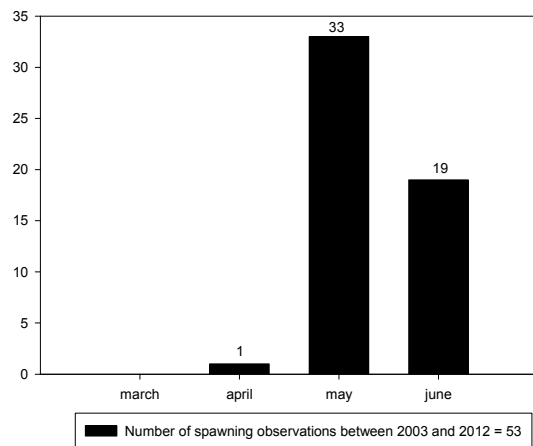


Figure 4: Period of observation of capelin spawning in the Upper Estuary between 2003 and 2012.

NORTHERN GASPÉ PENINSULA – GULF

This zone covers the north shore and the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula from Cap-Chat (Capucins sector) to Gaspé.

Observations

In 2012, three observers reported ten capelin observations between June 4 and July 29.

Table 8: Dates of observation of capelin spawning or presence between 2004 and 2012 in the northern Gaspé Peninsula.

<i>Location</i>	<i>2004 to 2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Cap-Chat (Capucins)	June 2004	---	---
Cap-Chat (Cap-Chat)	May and June 2007, 2008 and 2009 June 2004 and 2006	---0	---
La Martre	June 2004, 2006 and 2007 May and June 2009	---	June: 17 [±]
Sainte-Anne-des-Monts	May 2008 June 2009	---	---
Marsoui	June 2004	June: 21	June: 4 [±] , 12 [±] , 15 [±] , 16, 17, 18 [±] , 19 [±]
Rivière-à-Claude	May and June 2008 June 2004 to 2007 and 2009 July 2004, 2010	June: 20 and 24	---
Mont-Saint-Pierre	June 2008 and 2009 July 2004	---	---
Saint-Maxime-du-Mont-Louis (Mont-Louis)	June 2005, 2008 and 2009	---	---

LOWER ESTUARY

This zone covers both shores of the Lower St. Lawrence Estuary from Tadoussac to Baie-Trinité (Pointe-des-Monts) on the north shore and from Isle-Verte to Les Méchins on the south.

Observations

In 2012, the number of both observations and observers rose to four. Three of these four observations mentioned spawning. These observations were made between May 19 and June 7.

Table 5: Dates of observation of capelin spawning or presence between 2003 and 2012 in the Lower Estuary.

<i>Location</i>	<i>2003 to 2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
NORTH SHORE			
Tadoussac	June 2009, 2010	---	---
Les Escoumins	April 2003	---	---
Portneuf-sur-Mer	May 2003, 2007, 2008		
	May and June 2004 to 2006, 2009	May: 25	May: 19 and 21
	May and July 2010		
Forestville	June 2009	---	---
Colombier	May 2005, 2007 to 2009, June 2005	---	---
Baie-Comeau	June: 7 ⁺ , July: 6 ⁺	July: 4 ⁺	
Godbout	June: 6, July: 7	---	---
SOUTH SHORE			
Saint-Simon (Saint-Simon-sur-Mer)	June 2003,		
	May 2009	---	---
Saint-Fabien (Saint-Fabien-sur-Mer)	May 2006		
	June 2003 to 2005, 2008	---	June: 7
	May, June and July 2009		
Rimouski (Bic – Anse à Mouille-Cul)	July: 11 ⁺		---
Rimouski (Cap-à-	June: 19 ⁺	---	---

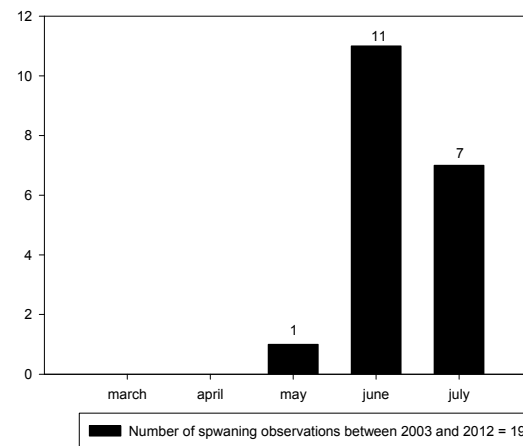


Figure 10: Period of observation of capelin spawning in the Lower North Shore between 2002 and 2012.

LOWER NORTH SHORE – GULF

The Lower North Shore zone extends from Natashquan (Pointe du Vieux Poste area east of the Natashquan River) eastward to the Labrador border.

Observations

In 2012, one observer reported one observation involving spawning in this zone.

Table 7: Dates of observation of capelin spawning or presence between 2002 and 2012 in the Lower North Shore.

Location	2002 to 2010	2011	2012
North Shore-Gulf of St. Lawrence (Kégaska)	May 2008	---	---
North Shore-Gulf of St. Lawrence (Chevery)	June 2004, 2005 and 2008 July 2006 and 2009	July: 1 and 17 [‡]	---
Bonne-Espérance (Vieux-Fort)	June 2002, 2009 and 2010 July 2010	---	---
Blanc-Sablon (Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon)	June 2002, 2006 to 2008 June and July 2004 and 2009	---	---
Blanc-Sablon (Blanc-Sablon)	June 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010	---	June: 30

Names in parentheses denote municipal sectors. ‡ Denotes date of observation of capelin presence without mention of spawning.

Since 2002, capelin spawning in the Lower North Shore has been observed mainly in June and early July.

Location	2003 to 2010	2011	2012
l'Original)			
Rimouski (Rivière-Hâtée)	June 2007 and 2009	---	---
Rimouski (Rimouski)	June 2008 July 2009	---	---
Rimouski (Pointe-au-Père)	May and June 2008 June and July 2009	June: 29 [‡]	---
Sainte-Luce	June 2003 and 2008 April, May, June and July 2009	June: 12, 13, 28	June: 5 [‡]
Sainte-Flavie	June 2008, 2010 May, June and July 2009	June: 24, 28 [‡]	---
Métis-sur-Mer	June 2008 June and July 2009	June: 29	---
Les Méchins	June 2004, 2006 and 2009	---	---

Names in parentheses denote municipal sectors. ‡ Denotes date of observation of capelin presence without mention of spawning.

The data gathered by the Network indicate that capelin spawning is observed primarily in May and June, with its peak occurring in June.

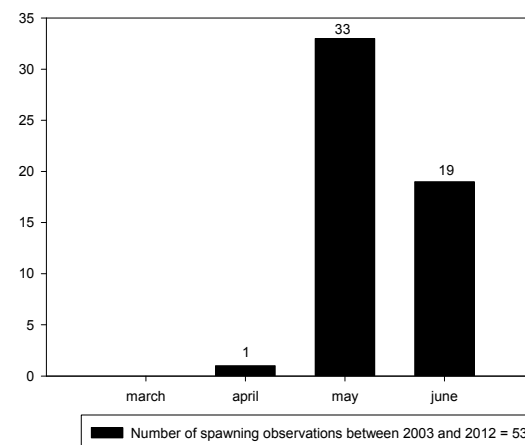


Figure 6: Period of observation of capelin spawning in Lower Estuary between 2003 and 2012.

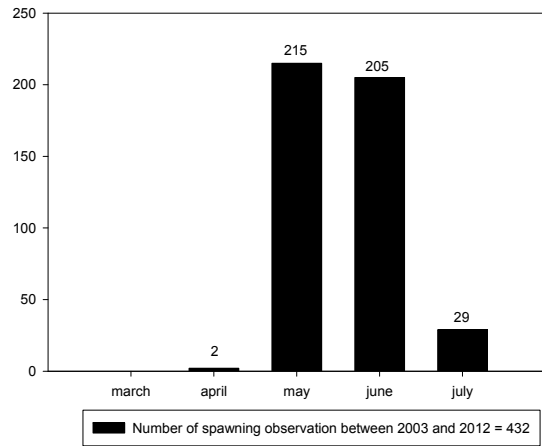


Figure 8: Period of observation of capelin spawning in the Middle North Shore between 2002 and 2012.

MIDDLE NORTH SHORE – GULF

The Middle North Shore zone extends from Baie-Trinité (Pointe-des-Monts) eastward as far as Natashquan (Pointe-Parent) and includes Anticosti Island.

Observations

In 2012, the number of observers and observations decreased in comparison to previous years. Six observers reported 18 observations in this zone. Thirteen observations involving spawning occurred between May 15 and June 28. Observations of capelin presence were reported between May 15 and July 4.

Table 6: Dates of observation of capelin spawning or presence between 2002 and 2012 in the Middle North Shore.

Location	2002 to 2010	2011	2012
Baie-Trinité (Îlets-Caribou)	May 2005 and 2006 June 2006	May: 24	---
Port-Cartier (Pointe-aux-Anglais)	May 2002, 2004 to 2008, 2010 June 2006 and 2007 May and June 2009	May: 22	May: 15 ⁺
Port-Cartier (Rivière-Pentecôte)	May 2004, 2005 and 2008 June 2008, 2010 July 2009	---	---
Port-Cartier (Grand-Ruisseau)	---	May: 9 to 13, 23 and 27 June: 2 and 4	---
Sept-Îles (Gallix)	May and June 2003, 2005 to 2010 June and July 2004	May: 2 ⁺ , 19, 21, 22 ⁺ , 25 to 27 June: 3 to 5, 7 to 9, 12 ⁺ , 28 ⁺ and 29 ⁺ July: 1 ⁺ and 8 ⁺	May: 18 ⁺
Sept-Îles (Sept-Îles)	April to June 2002 and 2007 May and June 2004, 2005 and	May: 27 ⁺	May: 18 to 23,

Location	2002 to 2010	2011	2012
	2008 May 2006 May, June, July and September 2009	June: 28	26
Sept-Îles (Moisie)	May 2007 and 2008 July 2009	---	---
Sept-Îles (Matamec)	June 2009 July 2008	May: 30, 31 June: 5 July: 1 [‡] and 2	---
Uashat mak Mani- Utenam (Uashat)	May 2006 and 2008 June 2008 May and June 2009	---	May: 15 [‡]
Rivière-au-Tonnerre (Sheldrake)	May 2005 June and July 2010 July 2008	May: 25 June: 5	---
Rivière-au-Tonnerre (Rivière-au-Tonnerre)	May 2005, 2006 and 2008 May and June 2009, 2010 June 2004 and 2007 July 2008	---	---
Rivière-au-Tonnerre (Rivière-aux-Graines)	---	June: 10 July: 7 [‡] to 13 [‡]	---
Rivière-Saint-Jean (Magpie)	May 2006 to 2010 June 2004 to 2009 July 2006	---	---
Rivière-Saint-Jean (Rivière-Saint- Jean)	July 2008, 2010	May: 27, 31 June: 1, 2 [‡] , 4, 7, 9, 17 and 24 to 26	---
Longue-Pointe-de- Mingan (Longue- Pointe-de-Mingan)	May 2005 to 2010 June 2002, 2004, 2005, 2008 to 2010	May: 25 and 26	---

Location	2002 to 2010	2011	2012
	July 2006, 2008 and 2010	June: 7 and 11	
Longue-Pointe-de- Mingan (Mingan)	Mid-May to mid- June 2006 and 2007, 2010 June 2002 and 2009	May: 25 and 29	May: 20
Havre-Saint-Pierre	May 2007 and 2008 June 2002, 2004 and 2009 May and June 2005	July: 15 [‡]	---
Aguanish	May 2003 and 2008 June 2002, 2008 and 2009 May and June 2004 to 2007, 2010 July 2008	June: 4 and 11	---
Natashquan	June 2007 June and July 2006	May: 20	---
Anticosti Island	June and July 2004 and 2009 July 2005 June 2006 to 2008 June, July and August 2010	June: 20, 21 [‡] and 23 [‡] July: 5 [‡] and 12 [‡]	June: 7 and 28 July: 4 [‡]

Names in parentheses denote municipal sectors. ‡ Denotes date of observation of capelin presence without mention of spawning.

Since 2002, capelin spawning in the Middle North Shore has been observed mainly in May and June as well as, in some years, until mid-July.