



REDUCE COLLISIONS WITH NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES

USE TWO-WAY ROUTES TO AVOID WHALES JANUARY - MAY

PURPOSE:

To minimize collisions (vessel strikes) with endangered right whales during the winter/spring feeding season in Cape Cod Bay (January through May). These two-way routes and two-way track were established based on historical patterns of right whale congregations during this timeframe.

WHO, WHERE, WHEN:

The two-way routes and track shown in the chart to the right are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** for use by all vessels when transiting within or through Cape Cod Bay from January through May. The majority of Cape Cod Bay is designated Right Whale Critical Habitat.

HOW:

The two-way routes and track may, at times, have opposing vessel traffic and all mariners should navigate with caution. Mariners are warned that some vessels might not be able to keep to the starboard side of the routes at all times.

Caution: Full bottom coverage surveys have not been conducted within the entire routes, so uncharted dangers may exist.



This chart is for information purposes only and is not to be used for navigation. For navigation, refer to NOAA Chart 13246 12/2006.

The area shaded in blue is designated critical habitat for North Atlantic right whales (see CFR 226.203(c)). This area is a critical feeding area for the whales between January and May each year.

REMEMBER:

When within Cape Cod Bay, NOAA Fisheries Service recommends vessels reduce speed to 10 knots or less when consistent with safe navigation to reduce the risk of collision with right whales.

It is illegal to approach right whales closer than 500 yards (See 50 CFR 224.103(c), regulations, and exceptions).



For more information, visit: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/shipstrike/