

DISTRIBUTION OF SEABIRDS IN THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE, CANADA

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Our study aims to describe and analyse current distribution patterns in parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence which represents a hotspot for seabirds and marine mammals. The Gulf exposes a unique hydrography combining features of both an estuary and a small ocean. Based on ship-based seabird surveys carried out during the breeding seasons of 2007 and 2008, we present first results on the distribution of various seabird species as well as first results of the analysis on the influence of potentially important factors such as hydrography, prey abundance, distance to land, associations with marine mammals and human activity. Moreover, for Northern Gannets (*Sula bassana*), the study site offers the unique possibility to combine distribution data based on ship-based surveys with those derived from breeding birds of Bonaventure Island that were equipped with data loggers.