

RIGHT WHALE STEWARD PROGRAM

The **Grand Manan Whale & Seabird Research Station** would like to introduce an educational program about an endangered species, the North Atlantic right whale, that is literally on the doorsteps of coastal communities of Atlantic Canada but about which many know very little. It is also hoped that working through the material will introduce and help engage students and youth in environmental stewardship. Marine environmental issues that may seem remote can be brought closer to home, even if your community does not border on an ocean.

With funding from the Government of Canada **Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk**, we are targeting schools and other groups that are interested in supplementing their current curricula with targeted information about right whales. This could fit with topics such as conservation, biodiversity, endangered species, ocean studies and many other marine/ocean issues in science, math, history and languages. Although the material is gauged for middle grades, modifying the material for younger or older grades is acceptable and we will readily work with teachers to help.

Over the years, we have worked with the fishing, shipping and whale watch industries on right whale conservation issues and have developed a number of information sheets and pamphlets, some of which are appended. We have also developed a successful Adopt Right Whales program which helps to fund some of these projects. In addition, other colleagues have also developed promotional and informational documents that can be found through web links. This background information, along with core web and printed material can aid you with developing your own projects. A favourite activity for other whale species can often be easily tailored to fit right whales as well, particularly those designed for baleen whales. Web material is abundant and ever changing and we apologize if some is no longer available.

You will find in this package or download the material online at <http://www.AdoptRightWhales.ca>:

- Right Whale Steward booklet including quizzes and application form

- Evaluation form

- Supplemental material:

 - Code of Conduct

 - Code of Ethics

 - GMWSRS Nat. History Notes 1 and 2

 - Whale watching pamphlet

 - PowerPoints – disentangling, right whales

If you need help, just let us know and we will do our best. Good Luck.