

The St Lawrence is the Beethoven of rivers. It has nothing to do with music. We're referring to its temperament! The St Lawrence is anything but a *long and lazy river*. It leaves that role to others. From Québec, the strong tidal currents, the high cliffs, and the mountains lining the shore all make it an ideal starting point for transatlantic races.

The Québec – Pointe-des Monts section is an immense Southwest–Northeast corridor, basically walled in by the Laurentides and the Appalaches mountain chains. The wind has no choice but to follow that corridor.

Although the 2 shores are close together, they each have a different face: gentle to the South, and steep and dotted with valleys to the North, where the wind whips along the cliffs and valley openings.

### Québec to Tadoussac

Mariners encounter the most trying conditions in this area. The tides are the highest and the currents, the strongest and most turbulent, in some places reaching up to 8 knots.

Moreover, islands and shoals abound, making some areas barely navigable in strong winds, given the gusts of wind and choppy seas they produce.

### Downstream from Tadoussac

The majesty of the St Lawrence becomes apparent from Tadoussac to Pointe-des-Monts or, if you prefer, from Cacouna to Les Méchins. The river there is calmer, but even more awe-inspiring in its more ocean-like nature.

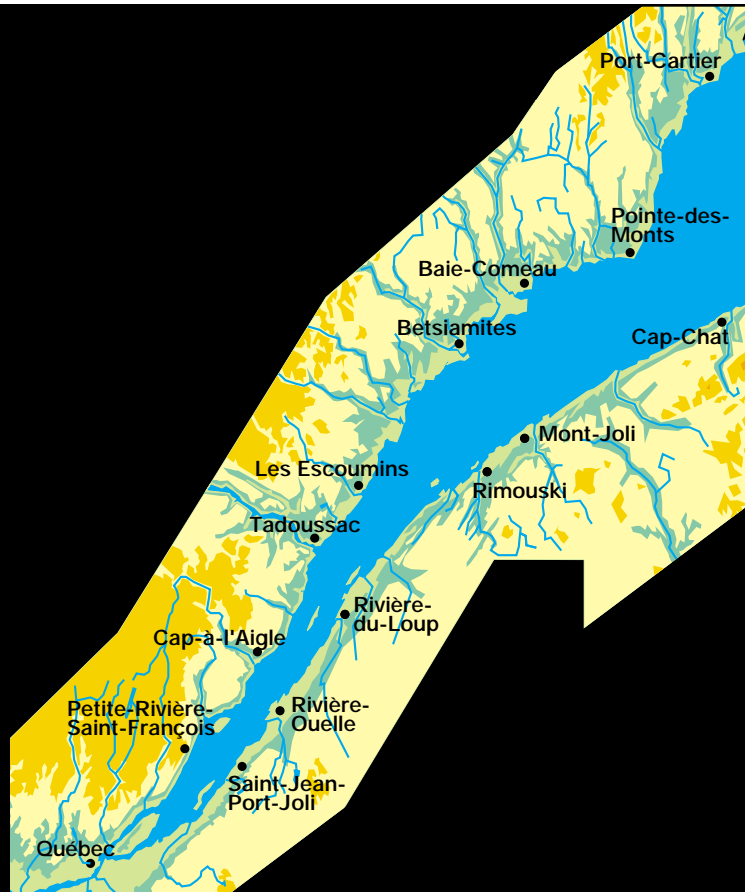
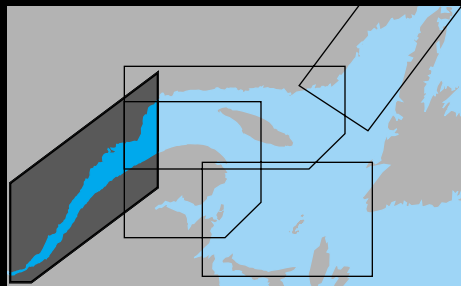
While the North shoreline doesn't reach the same heights as upriver, the bottom is deeper. An interesting phenomenon occurs near the mouth of the Saguenay: extremely cold water accumulated deep in the river over the winter months periodically rises to the surface.

Even in mid-summer, this tidal phenomenon keeps the surface water temperature between 1 °C and 7 °C, and causes frequent fog.

In this part of the estuary, the largest islands are all located along the South shore, between the Rivière Saguenay and Rimouski, with the exception of Île Rouge.

Around Rimouski, the river current stabilizes at about 1 knot and is known as the Gaspé Current 🌲

# Québec ✦ Pointe-des-Monts



# Québec 🗡️ Pointe-des-Monts

Chart 1316



## 1. Portneuf to Québec

**Winds Northeasterly or Southwesterly, against the current**

Short, choppy seas.

**Difficult.**

Strong downstream current.



## 2. Québec bridges

**Winds Southwesterly or Northeasterly, even at 15 knots, against the current**

Short, choppy seas. Strong current.

**Difficult.**

Chart 1317



## 3. Québec to Île aux Coudres

**Winds Northeasterly**

Wind accelerates strongly, reaching maximum strength in the Île d'Orléans area. Funnelling effect.

## 4. Pointe Saint-Jean to Cap Tourmente

**Haze or fog**

Visibility often reduced because of colder water in the Chenal Nord.



## 5. Pointe Argentenay

**Winds Southwesterly**

Stronger winds to the North of and off the point, and cross seas. Corner effect around Île d'Orléans, accentuated by the barrier effect produced by Cap Tourmente.

## 6. Cap Tourmente to Saint-Siméon

Wind frequently turbulent close to shore.

**Winds Westerly or Northwesterly**

Wind follows passes and valleys and gusts out over the river.

**Watch out for sudden gusts of wind.**



## 7. Petite rivière Saint-François

**Winds Northeasterly, against the current**

Strong chop.

**Winds Southwesterly, even at 15 knots, against the current.**

Strong chop. Area should be avoided in strong winds.

**Dangerous.**

South side of channel is calmer.



Chart 1233

## 8. Baie Saint-Paul

**Winds Northwesterly**

Wind accelerates.

Channelling effect produced by the Rivière du Gouffre valley.



## 9. Passage de l'Île aux Coudres

**Winds Easterly or Southwesterly, against the current**

Strong chop. Strong tidal current.



# Québec 🗨️ Pointe-des-Monts

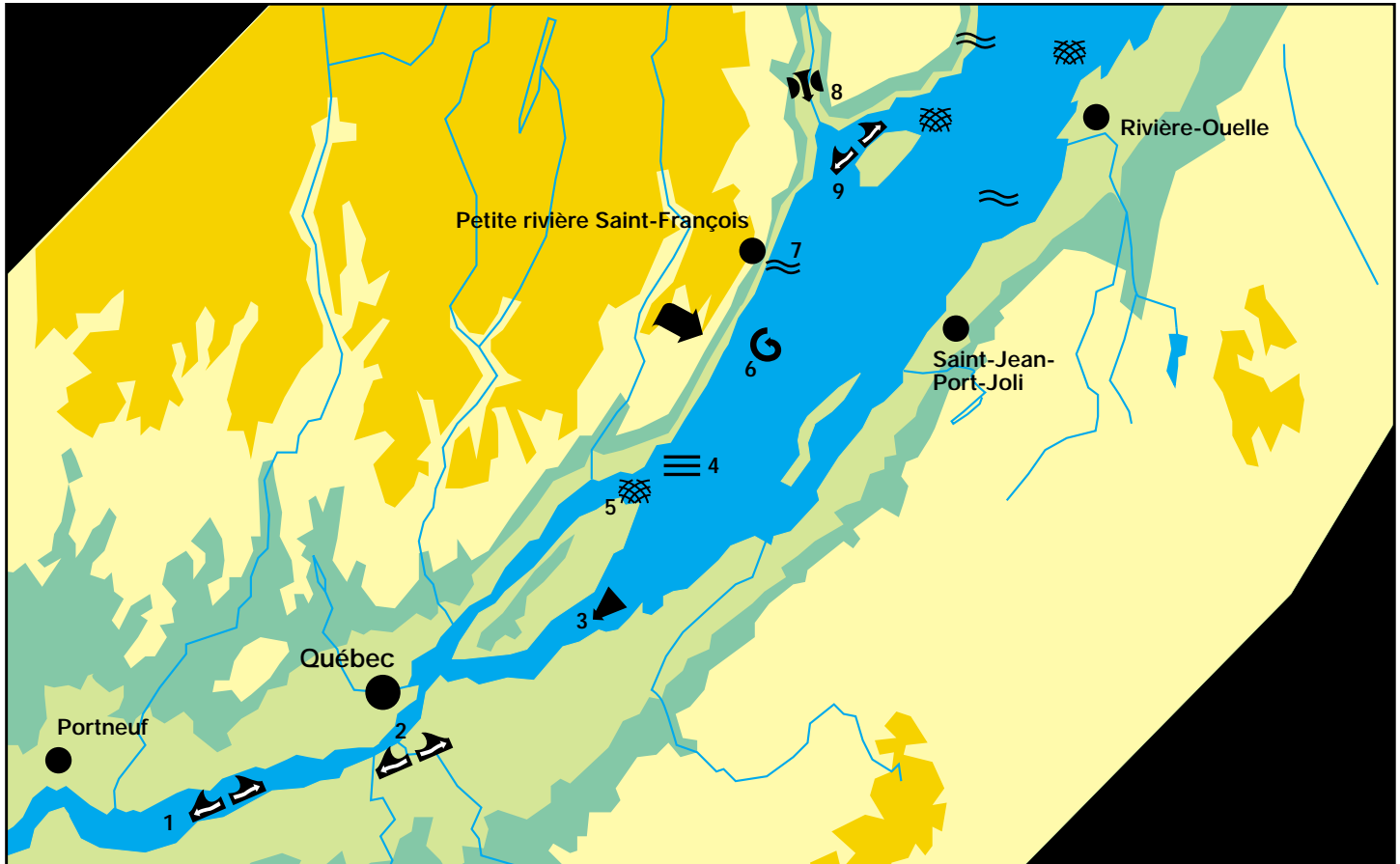


Chart 1233



## 10. Traverse de Saint-Roch

**Winds Northeasterly or Southwesterly, against the current**

High, steep waves. Chop. Very strong tidal currents. Shallow area.

*Navigation very difficult.*



## 11. Pointe du Bout d'en Bas (Île aux Coudres)

**Winds Southwesterly**

Cross seas from the Southwest and the West, offshore. At rising tide: breaking waves.

*Dangerous.*

Chart 1234



## 12. Banc des Anglais

**Winds Northeasterly or Southwesterly**

High, breaking waves.



## 13. Cap aux Oies to Pointe aux Orignaux

Significant chop, particularly at ebb tide.

**Winds Northeasterly, even at 15 knots**

Special case: close to Cap aux Oies, immediately after low tide, very strong chop. Tidal currents cross.

*Very difficult conditions.*



## 14. Haut-fond Morin

**Winds Northeasterly**

Breaking waves, refraction and cross seas to the South. Phenomenon accentuated by tidal currents.

## 15. Îles de Kamouraska

**Winds Westerly or Northwesterly**

High waves and breaking waves near the flats.



## 16. Gros Cap à l'Aigle and Cap au Saumon

**Winds Northeasterly and Easterly**

Near the points of the capes: cross seas. Wind deviates and accelerates as a result of corner and barrier effects. Chop and eddies at certain points in the tide cycle.



## 17. Passe de l'Île aux Lièvres

**Winds Easterly at ebb tide**

Strong chop on top of swell waves.



## 18. Île Blanche

**Winds Northeasterly against the current, on the Northeast side of the island**

*Navigation difficult.*



Chart 1235

## 19. Pointe de la rivière du Loup

**Winds Northerly or Northeasterly, at ebb tide**

High waves near the wharf.



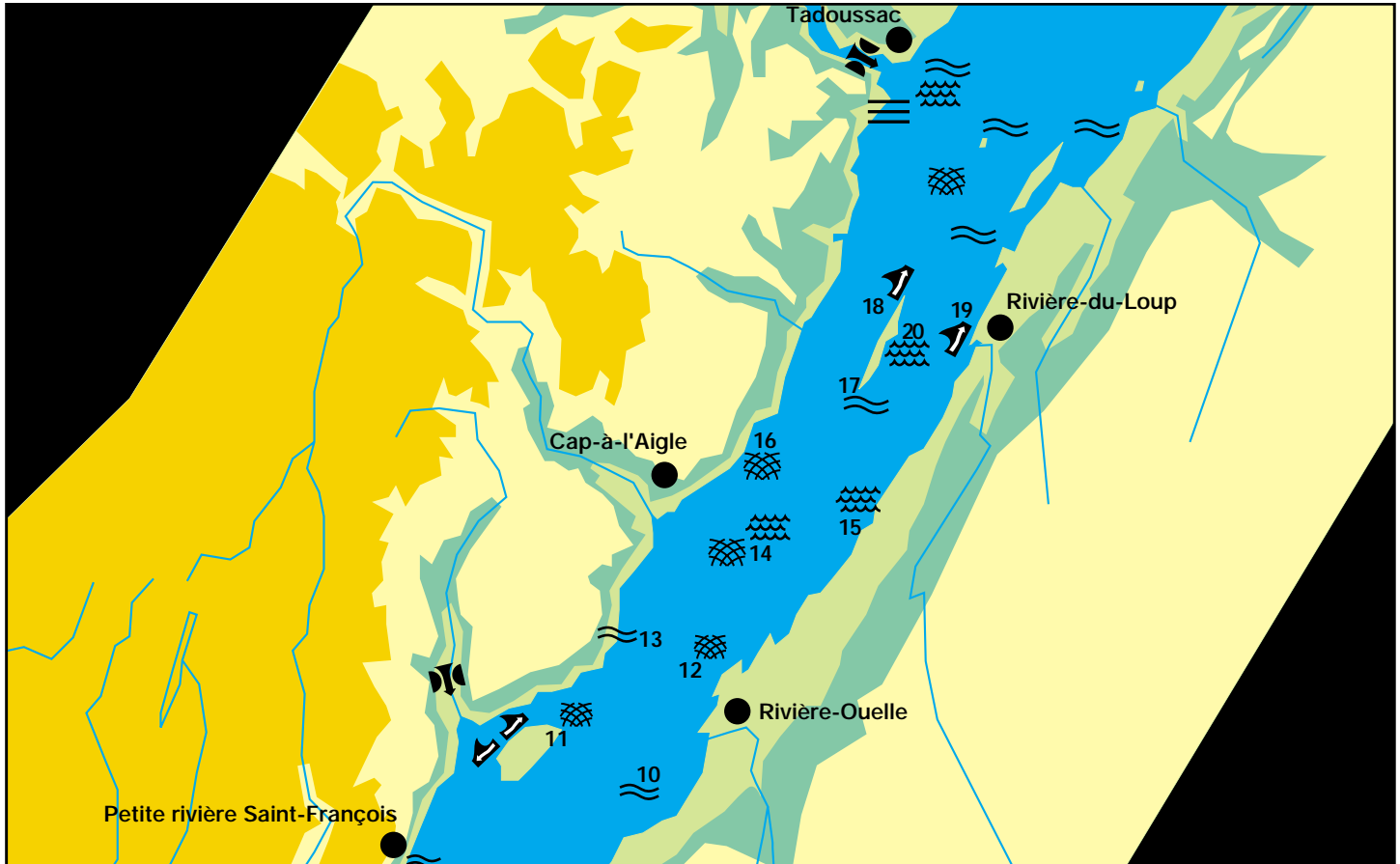
## 20. Brisants Barrett and Hauts-fonds du Milieu

**Winds Northeasterly**

Breaking waves, especially at ebb tide.



# Québec ✦ Pointe-des-Monts



Charts  
1203 and 1235



## 21. Rocher de Cacouna to the South tip of Île Verte

### Winds against the current

Strong chop. Strong tidal eddies.



## 22. Mouth of the Saguenay

### Winds Easterly, at ebb tide

Dangerous conditions. Avoid this area.  
Current 7 knots.



### Winds Westerly or Northwesterly

Extremely strong gusts of wind reaching or exceeding 60 knots. Channelling and funnelling effects. Frequent fog, particularly in August, because of cold water.

*At the mouth of the Saguenay, Northwesterly winds may be 10 to 15 knots stronger than those observed at the Île Rouge automatic reporting station.*



## 23. Île Rouge

### Winds Northeasterly

Cross seas Southwest of the island.



## 24. Bancs de l'île Rouge

### Winds from any direction

Very confused seas. At all times: strong chop, particularly on the West side.

Chart 1235

## 25. Île Verte to Île aux Basques

Strong chop, particularly between Île Verte and the Bancs de l'Île Rouge.

### Winds Southwesterly at rising tide

Short, steep waves near Île Verte.  
Convergence effect.



## 26. Cap de Bon-Désir

### Winds Northeasterly

Wind accelerates and deviates, cross seas offshore from the point. Barrier and corner effects.

*Difficult to make way.*



## 27. 48° 21' - 69° 20' - Point 6A

### Winds Northeasterly or Southwesterly and when gale force

High waves.

*Difficult seas.*



## 28. 48° 21' - 69° 07'

### Winds Northeasterly or Southwesterly and when gale force

High waves. Underwater mountain.



## 29. Île du Bic - 5 nautical miles to the West

### Winds Northeasterly or Southwesterly and when gale force

High waves produced by underwater mountain.



Chart 1236

# Québec 🗡️ Pointe-des-Monts

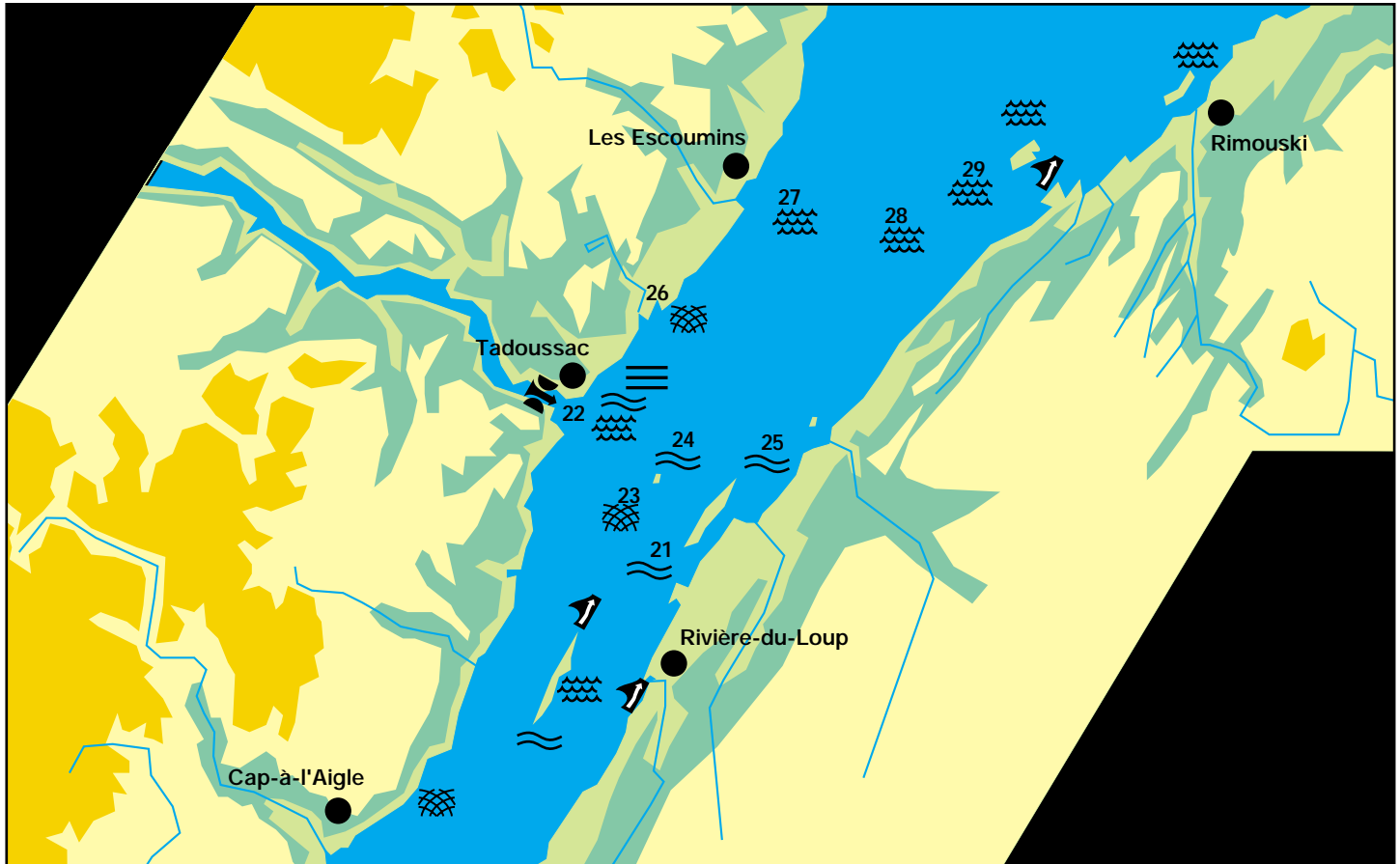




Chart 1236



## 30. Île du Bic

### **Winds Northeasterly and at ebb tide**

High waves in the channel between the island and the shore, caused by the wind blowing against the currents.



## 31. Île du Bic - Northern part and close to Île Bicquette lighthouse

### **Winds Northeasterly**

High waves.

**Difficult conditions.**



## 32. Rimouski (harbour)

### **Winds Northeasterly**

High waves over shoals, up to about 3 nautical miles offshore.



## 33. Pointe à Michel

### **Winds Southwesterly**

Strong seas offshore.  
Shallow waters.



### **Winds Easterly at ebb tide**

Strongly breaking seas. Wind opposing current at mouth of Rivière Bersimis.

**Difficult.**



## 34. Battures de Manicouagan (flats)

### **Winds Easterly, Northeasterly, Southeasterly or Southwesterly, against tide**

Short waves, accentuated by shoals.

**Navigation difficult.**

## 35. Baie-Comeau

### **Winds Easterly and Southeasterly**

Impressive swell flowing into Baie des Anglais.

**Navigate with caution.**



## 36. Anse Saint-Pancrace

### **Winds Southeasterly and Southerly**

Impressive swell flowing into bay.

**Navigate with caution.**

Watch for katabatic winds.



## 37. Matane

### **Winds Northerly or Northeasterly**

Steep waves and very strong swell at entrance to pleasure boat harbour. Caused by channelling of waves between two wharfs and outflow from Rivière Matane.

**Frequent fog.**

**Conditions may become dangerous.**



## 38. Godbout

### **Winds Easterly or Southeasterly**

Impressive swell flowing into bay.



# Québec ⚓ Pointe-des-Monts

