

Gulf of Maine Bat Research Program



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Energy Resources

*A partnership of fishermen, academic institutions, NGOs,
and state and federal agencies using acoustic monitoring
to understand bat activity in the Gulf of Maine.*



Figure 1. Above: Map of monitoring sites in the Gulf of Maine. Overlay: Wildlife Acoustics SM4 bat detector used to listen for bat calls.

Project Goals and Overview

The Biodiversity Research Institute established the Gulf of Maine Bat Program (GoMBat) to advance understanding of bat activity in the Gulf of Maine, home to several rare bat species.

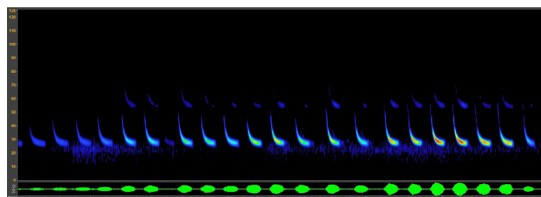
With support from the Maine Department of Energy Resources, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and collaborators—Bat Conservation International and Maine Coast Fisherman's Association—we use passive acoustic monitoring equipment and advanced data processing techniques to effectively study occurrence and migration patterns of bats on land and at sea, from Cape Cod up to Newfoundland.

None of this work would be possible without you, our partners—fishermen, research institutions, non-profit organizations, federal and state agencies, businesses, and the military.

From deploying equipment, swapping data cards, troubleshooting technical issues, and general coordination with our team, **you bring this project to life.**

Through this community science effort, we will continue to collect the vital information needed to protect these important species in the Gulf of Maine.

Figure 2. Spectrogram of Silver-haired bat call.



Big Brown Bat



Eastern Red Bat



Northern Long-eared Bat



Silver-haired Bat



Little Brown Bat



Hoary Bat



Eastern Small-footed Bat



Tricolored Bat

R/V Connecticut

Summary of Findings:

- Monitoring period: 04/07/2026 – 04/16/2026
- Monitoring nights offshore: 9
- Number of monitoring nights offshore with bats: 1
- Total number of passes: 17
- Species detected offshore: Silver-haired
- Furthest bat detected from shore: 39.8 miles



Figure 3. Detection set up on R/V Connecticut.

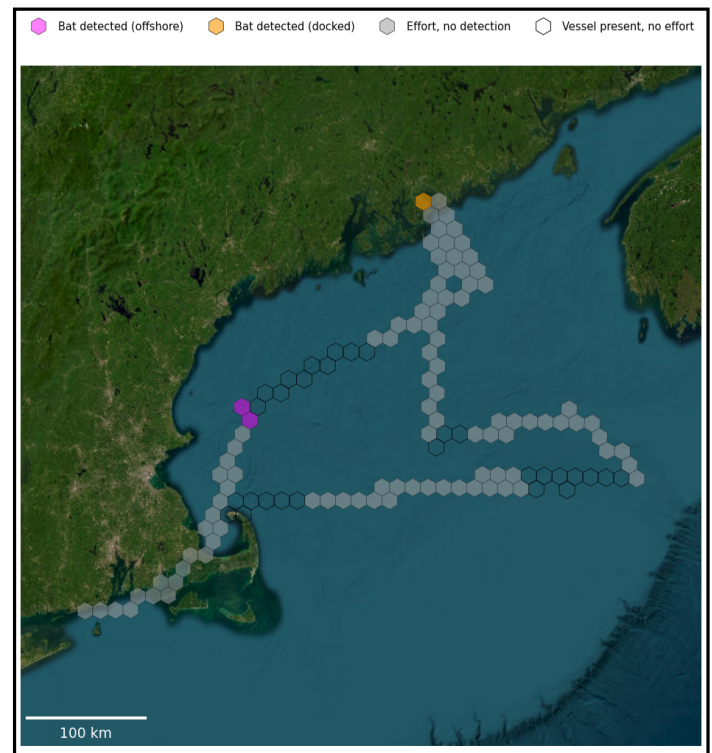


Figure 4. Map of Connecticut vessel effort and bat detections in the Gulf of Maine.

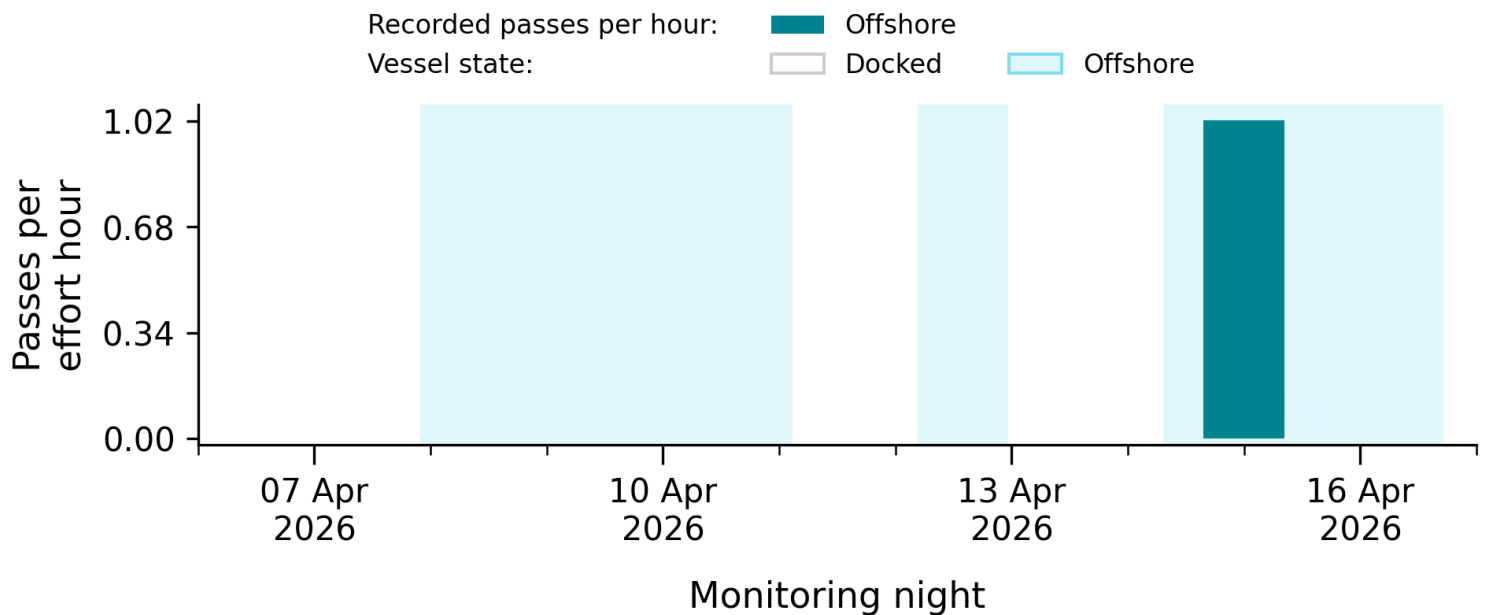


Figure 5. Recorded passes per vessel hour on Connecticut while docked and offshore.



Scan the QR to learn more about the project.

For more information, please contact:

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Photo credits: Front top to bottom: Big Brown Bat (Josh Hydeman/Bat Conservation International); Eastern Red Bat (Rachel Harper/Bat Conservation International); Northern Long-eared Bat (Jim Kennedy/Bat Conservation International); Silver-haired Bat (José G. Martínez-Fonseca/Bat Conservation International); Little Brown Bat (Ann Froschauer/USFWS); Hoary Bat (Josh Hydeman/Bat Conservation International); Eastern Small-footed Bat (Brock Fenton); Tricolored Bat (José G. Martínez-Fonseca/Bat Conservation International). Figure 1 and 2 © BRI staff. Back: Figure 3, 4, and 5 © BRI staff.

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