



Gulf of Maine Bat Research Program



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.

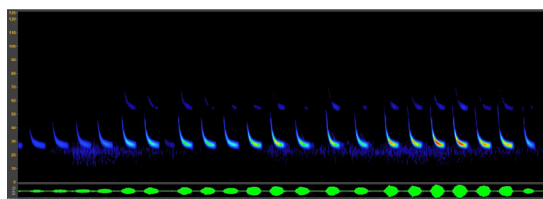
With support from the Maine Department of Energy Resources, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and collaborators—Bat Conservation International and Maine Coast Fisherman's Association—we use passive acoustic monitoring equipment and advanced data processing techniques to effectively study 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



Hoary Bat



Silver-haired Bat



Little Brown Bat



Northern Long-eared Bat



Eastern Small-footed Bat



Tricolored Bat



F/V Tenacious II

Summary of Findings:

- Monitoring period: 04/23/2026 – 05/12/2026
- Monitoring nights offshore: 12
- Number of monitoring nights offshore with bats: 0
- Total distance traveled: 1558.1 miles
- Number of monitoring nights while docked: 16
- Number of monitoring nights with bats while docked: 4
- Species detected while docked: Eastern red and Tricolored



Figure 3. Detection setup on Tenacious II.

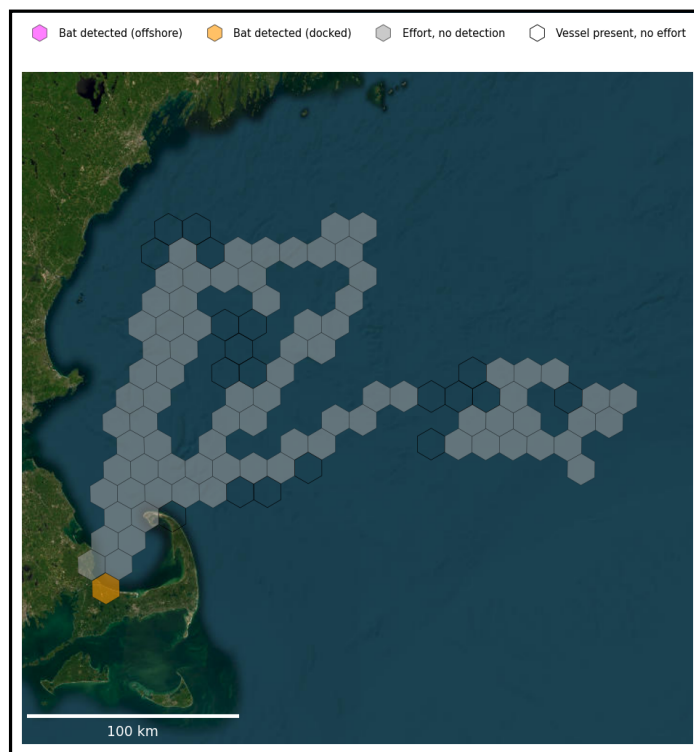


Figure 4. Map of Tenacious II vessel effort and bat detections in the Gulf of Maine.

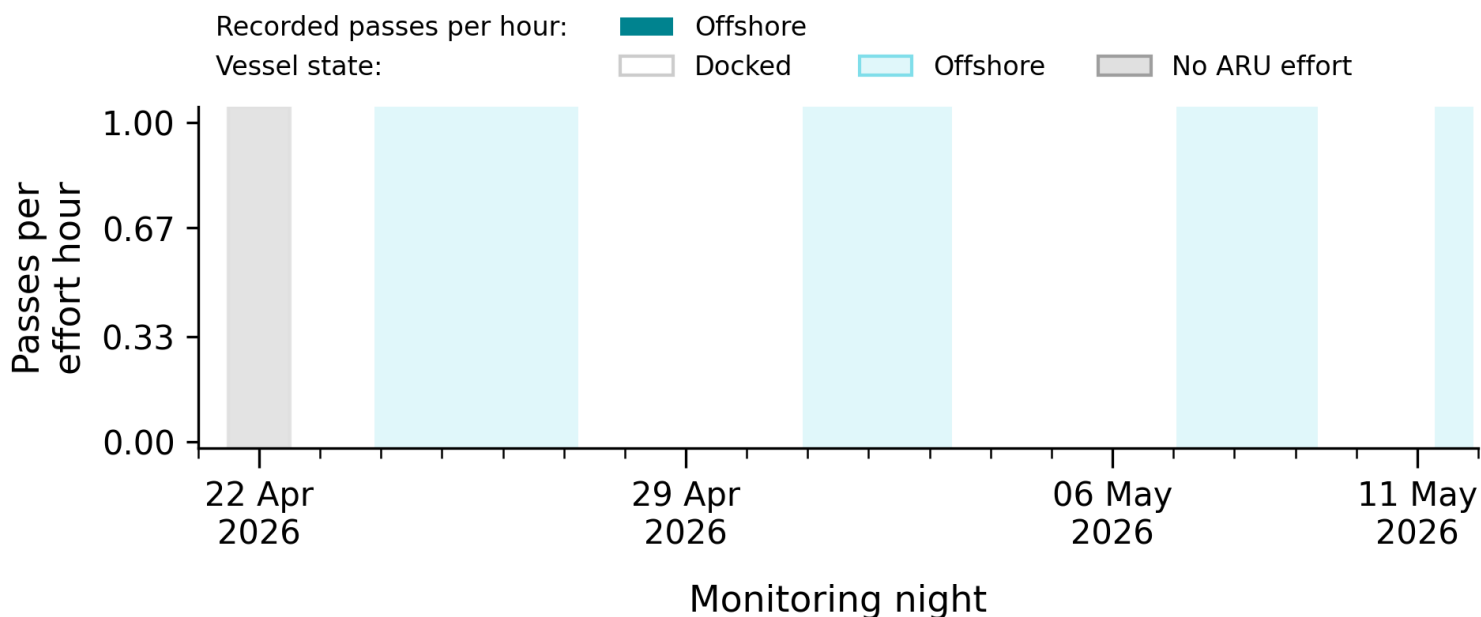


Figure 5. Recorded passes per vessel hour on Tenacious II while docked and offshore.



Scan the QR to learn more about the project.

For more information, please contact:

Merra Howe
merra.howe@briwildlife.org

Photo credits: Front top to bottom: Big Brown Bat; Eastern Red Bat; Hoary Bat; Silver-haired Bat; Little Brown Bat; Northern Long-eared Bat; Eastern Small-footed Bat; Tricolored Bat © Merlin Tuttle Foundation. Figure 1 and 2 © BRI staff. Back: Figure 3, 4, and 5 © BRI staff.

276 Canco Road | Portland, Maine 04103
www.briwildlife.org