



SURVEY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025

Department of Marine Resources - Division of Marine Mammal Research

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Division of Marine Mammal Research Survey Program conducts monthly aerial and vessel surveys for North Atlantic right whales. More information on survey background, implementation and methodology can be found on the [DMR website](#) and in the 2024 DMR Survey Program Annual Report. The data presented herein are preliminary and property of the State of Maine and not to be used or distributed without the express consent of the Division of Marine Mammal Research.

This monthly report contains sighting and effort data from aerial and vessel surveys as well as any opportunistic survey efforts conducted during the month of February in 2025 (**Table 1**). Opportunistic surveys include observations collected during other vessel-based DMR activities or any survey efforts that do not follow the standardized line-transect methodology, which entails surveying along pre-determined track lines at 10 knots (vessel) or 100 knots / 1000 feet (aircraft).

Table 1.

Aerial and Vessel Surveys Dates and Effort Totals (km)

February 2025

Date	Survey Type	Effort Distance
02/08/2025	Aerial Survey	190.08
02/11/2025	Aerial Survey	271.33
02/12/2025	Aerial Survey	612.41
Total Aerial Effort		1073.82
02/02/2025*	Response Survey	
02/20/2025	Vessel Survey	167.26
Total Vessel Effort		167.26
*Non-Standardized Survey Effort		



AERIAL SURVEYS

Aerial surveys conducted in February 2025 and total survey effort (km) are listed in **Table 1**. Surveys were primarily flown in [Beaufort sea state](#) 3 & 4, with visibility ranging from 20 to 25 nautical miles. Species sighted are listed in **Table 2**, and survey track lines and sightings are depicted in **Figure 1**.

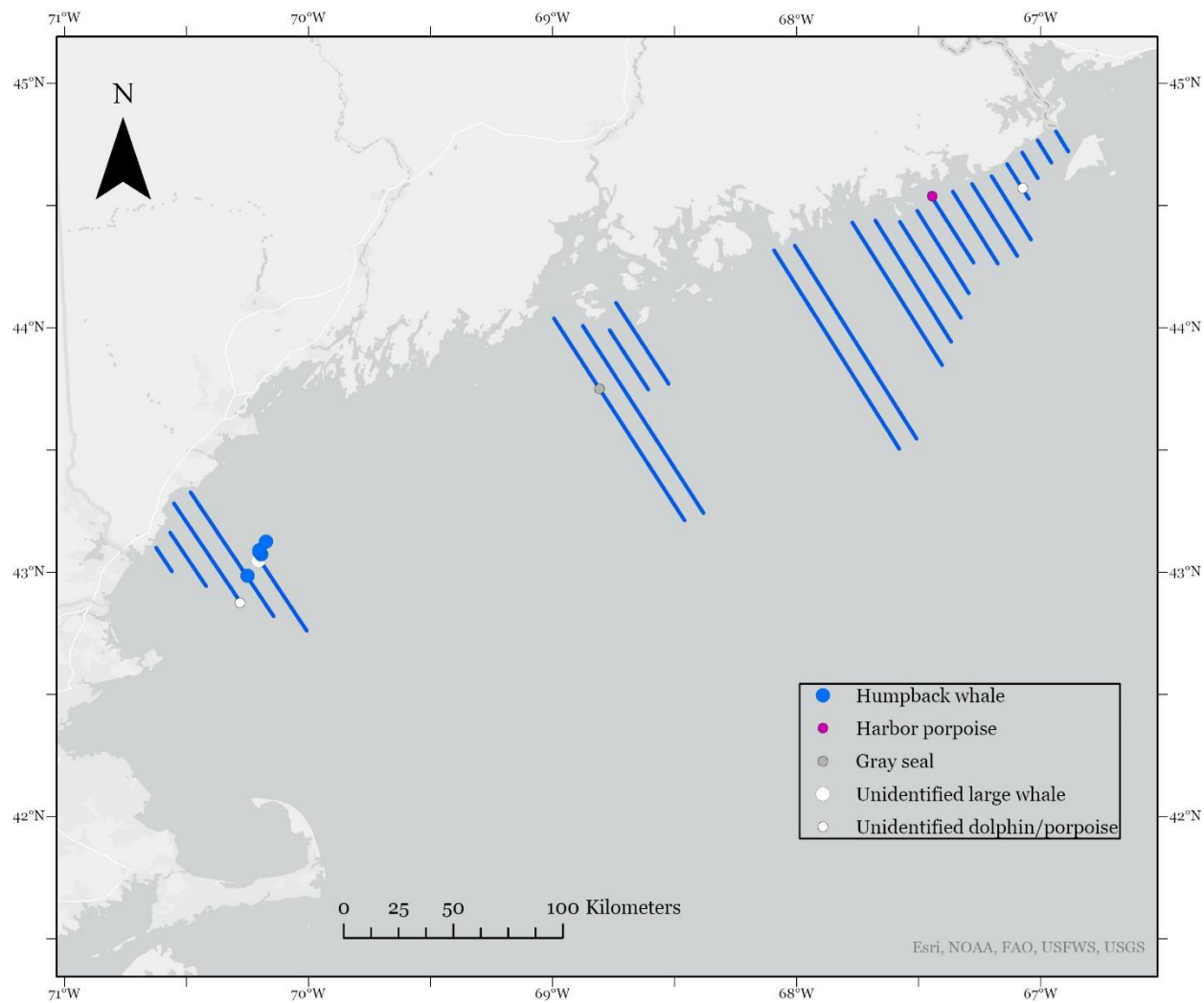
Table 2.

Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals
Aerial Surveys - February 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Humpback whale	5	5
Unidentified large whale	1	1
Harbor porpoise	1	1
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	2	17
Gray seal	1	1
Monthly Total	10	25



Figure 1.
Aerial Survey Transects and Sightings
February 2025





VESSEL SURVEYS

Vessel surveys conducted in February 2025 and total survey effort (km) are listed in **Table 1**. Survey conditions were primarily in [Beaufort sea state](#) 2 & 3, with visibility distance ranging from 6 to 7 nautical miles. Species sighted are listed in **Table 3**, and survey track lines and sightings are depicted in **Figure 2**.

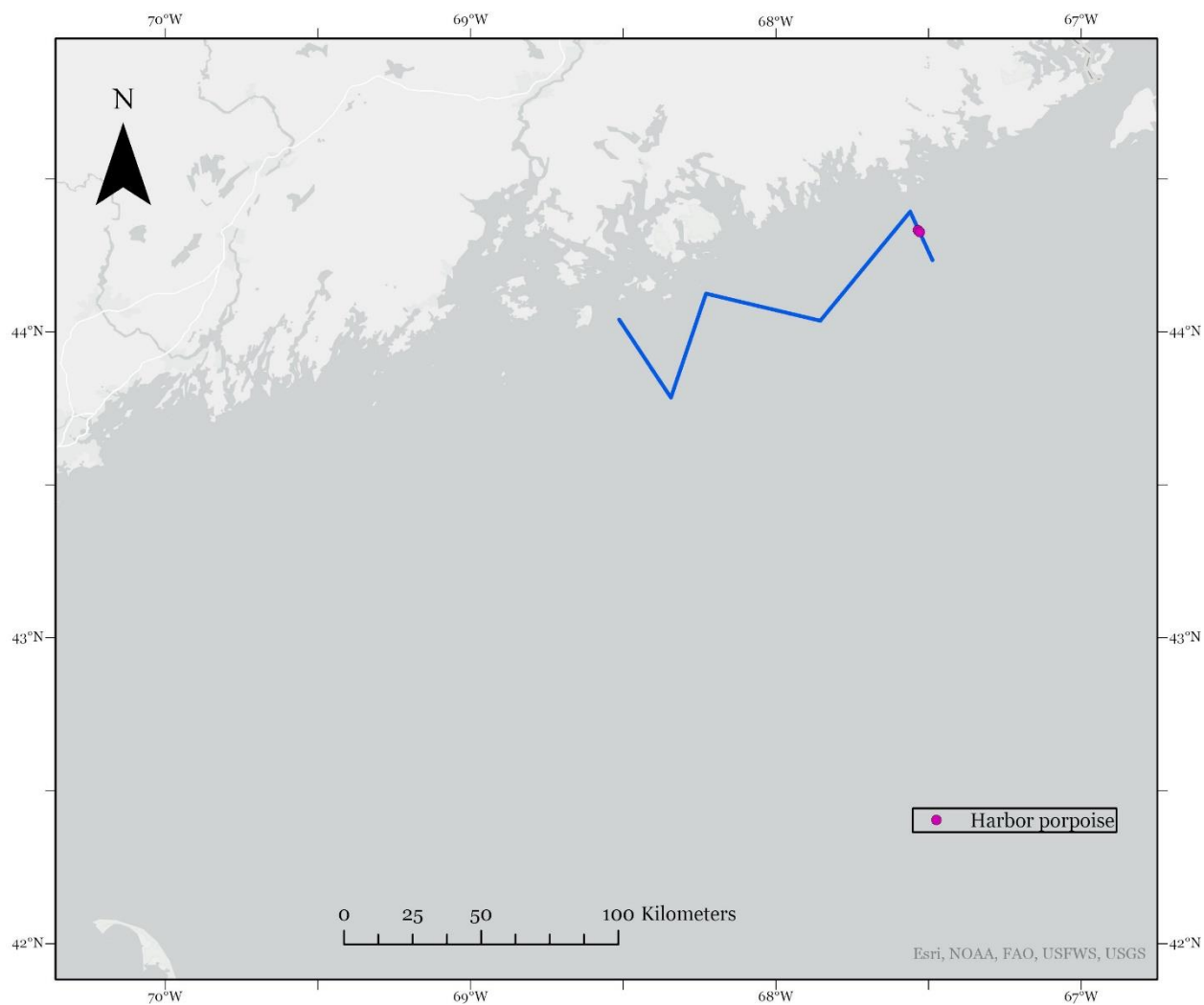
Table 3.

Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals
Vessel Surveys - February 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Harbor porpoise	2	3
<i>Monthly Total</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>



Figure 2.
Vessel Survey Transects and Sightings
February 2025





OPPORTUNISTIC SURVEY EFFORTS

A response vessel survey of Jeffery's Ledge and Jeffery's basin was conducted aboard DMR-Contracted M/V Coastal Explorer on 02 February 2025 in response to a large aggregation of North Atlantic right whales that was sighted by The New England Aquarium in January. Species sighted and total number are depicted in **Table 4**, and survey transects and sightings are depicted in **Figure 3**.

Table 4.

Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals

Response Vessel Survey - 02 February 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Fin whale	6	16
Humpback whale	8	23
Fin or Sei whale	2	5
Unidentified large whale	5	6
Common dolphin	1	20
Harbor porpoise	1	2
Gray seal	2	2
Harbor seal	1	1
Unidentified seal	2	2
<i>Monthly Total</i>	28	77



Figure 3.

Vessel Transects and Sightings

Response Vessel Survey - 02 February 2025

