



SURVEY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 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 March 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)

March 2025

Date	Survey Type	Effort Distance
03/25/2025	Aerial Survey	69.21
03/26/2025	Aerial Survey	1001.45
03/27/2025	Aerial Survey	480.47
Total Aerial Effort		1551.13
03/03/2025*	Opportunistic Survey	
03/10/2025*	Opportunistic Survey	
03/13/2025*	Opportunistic Survey	
03/15/2025*	Opportunistic Survey	
03/19/2025	Vessel Survey	115.05
03/19/2025*	Opportunistic Survey	
03/20/2025	Vessel Survey	14.09
Total Vessel Effort		129.14



AERIAL SURVEYS

Aerial surveys conducted in March 2025 and total survey effort (km) are listed in **Table 1**. Surveys were primarily flown in a [Beaufort sea state](#) 2 & 3, with visibility ranging from 20 to 30 nautical miles. Species sighted are listed in **Table 2**, and survey track lines and sightings are depicted in **Figure 1**.

Table 2.

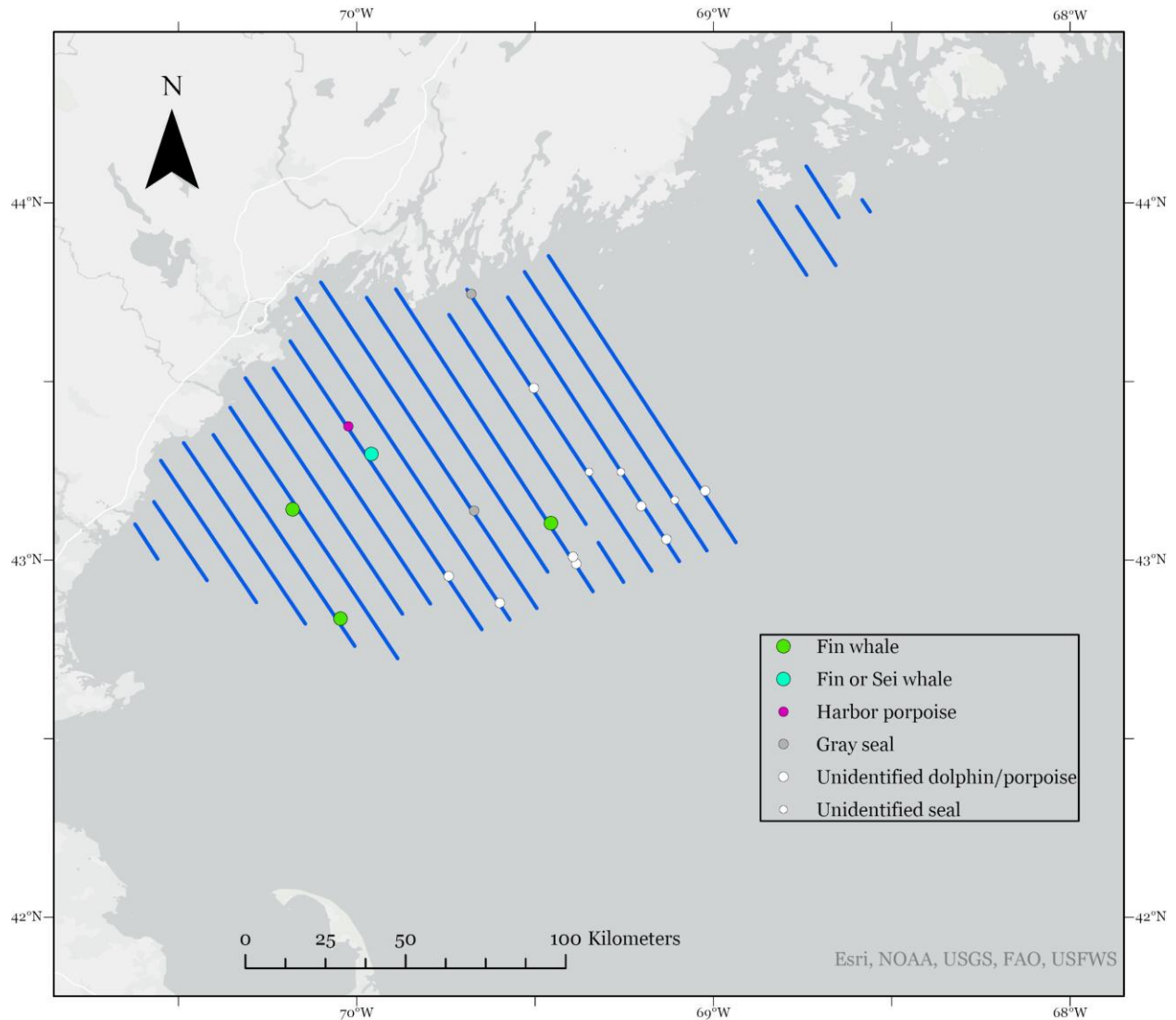
Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals

Aerial Surveys - March 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Fin whale	3	5
Fin or Sei whale	1	1
Harbor porpoise	1	3
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	8	47
Gray seal	2	2
Unidentified seal	3	3
Monthly Total	18	61



Figure 1.
Aerial Survey Transects and Sightings
March 2025





VESSEL SURVEYS

Vessel surveys conducted in March 2025 and total survey effort (km) are listed in **Table 1**. Surveys were primarily conducted in a [Beaufort sea state](#) 3 & 4, with visibility ranging from 5 to 6 nautical miles. Species sighted are listed in **Table 3**, and survey track lines and sightings are depicted in **Figure 2**.

Table 3.

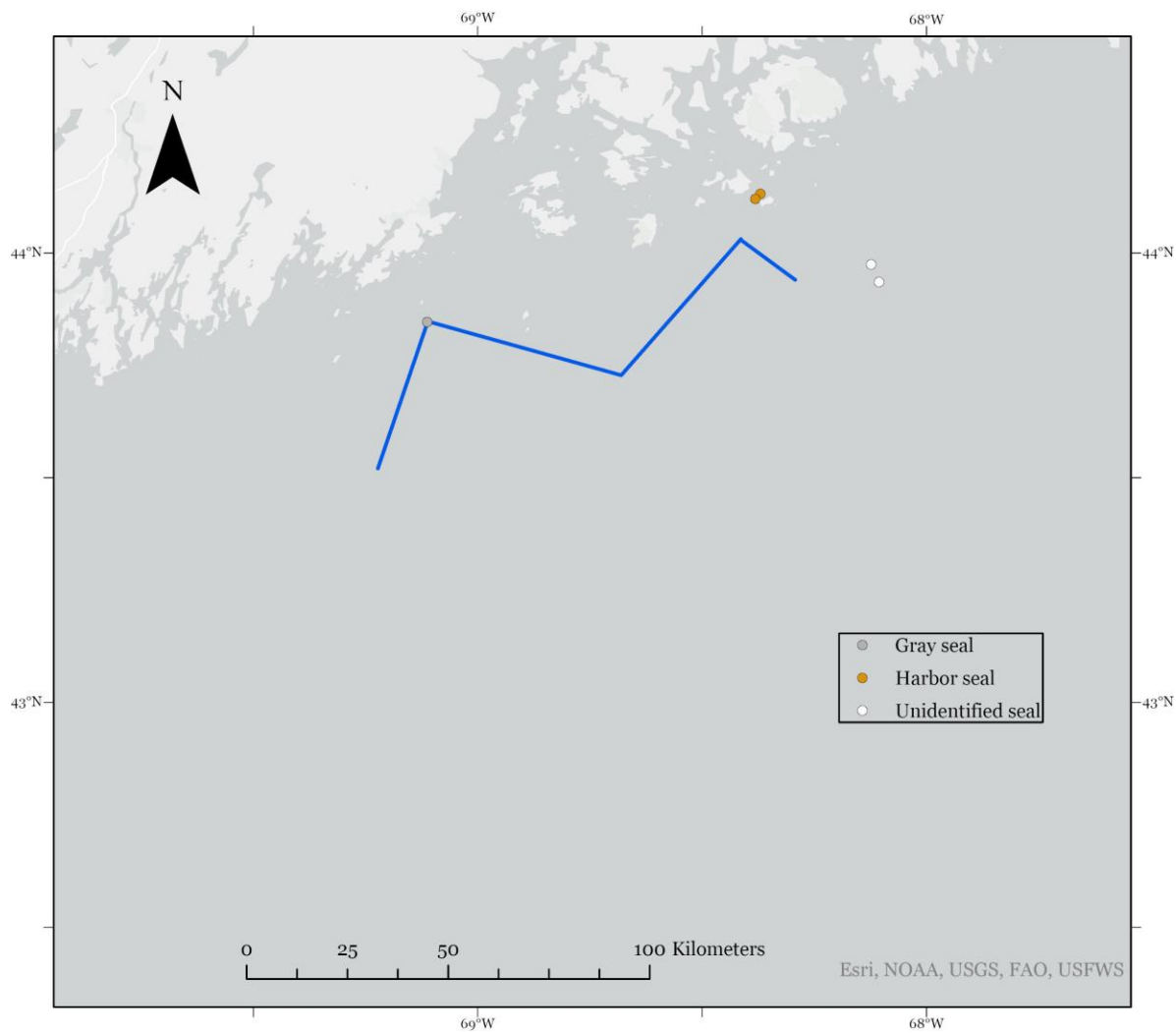
Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals

Vessel Surveys - March 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Gray seal	1	1
Harbor seal	2	32
Unidentified seal	2	9
Monthly Total	5	42



Figure 2.
Vessel Survey Transects and Sightings
March 2025





OPPORTUNISTIC SURVEYS

Several surveys were conducted in March 2025 in conjunction with Passive Acoustic mooring hot-swaps and Plankton sampling activities. Survey dates can be seen in **Table 1**. Species sighted are listed in **Table 4**, and survey transects and sightings are depicted in **Figure 3**.

Table 4.

Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals

Opportunistic Vessel Surveys - March 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Fin whale	1	1
Fin or Sei whale	1	2
Unidentified Balaenoptera spp.	1	1
Unidentified large whale	1	1
Harbor porpoise	1	2
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	2	9
Gray seal	1	1
Unidentified seal	1	1
Total	9	18



Figure 3.
Vessel Survey Transects and Sightings
Opportunistic Vessel Surveys - March 2025

