



SURVEY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2026

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 April in 2026 (**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)

April 2026

Date	Survey Type	Effort Distance
04/08/2026	Aerial Survey	938.63
04/09/2026	Aerial Survey	356.81
04/25/2026	Aerial Survey	382.44
04/26/2026	Aerial Survey	984.58
04/27/2026	Aerial Survey	779.55
Total Aerial Effort		3,442.01
04/07/2026	Vessel Survey	95.10
04/08/2026	Vessel Survey	87.10
04/14/2026	Vessel Survey	98.83
04/15/2026	Vessel Survey	84.46
Total Vessel Effort		365.49



AERIAL SURVEYS

Aerial surveys conducted in April 2026 and total survey effort (km) are listed in **Table 1**. Surveys were primarily flown in a [Beaufort sea state](#) 1 & 3, with visibility ranging from 25 to 30 nautical miles. Species sighted are listed in **Table 2**, and survey track lines and sightings are depicted in **Figure 1**.

Table 2.

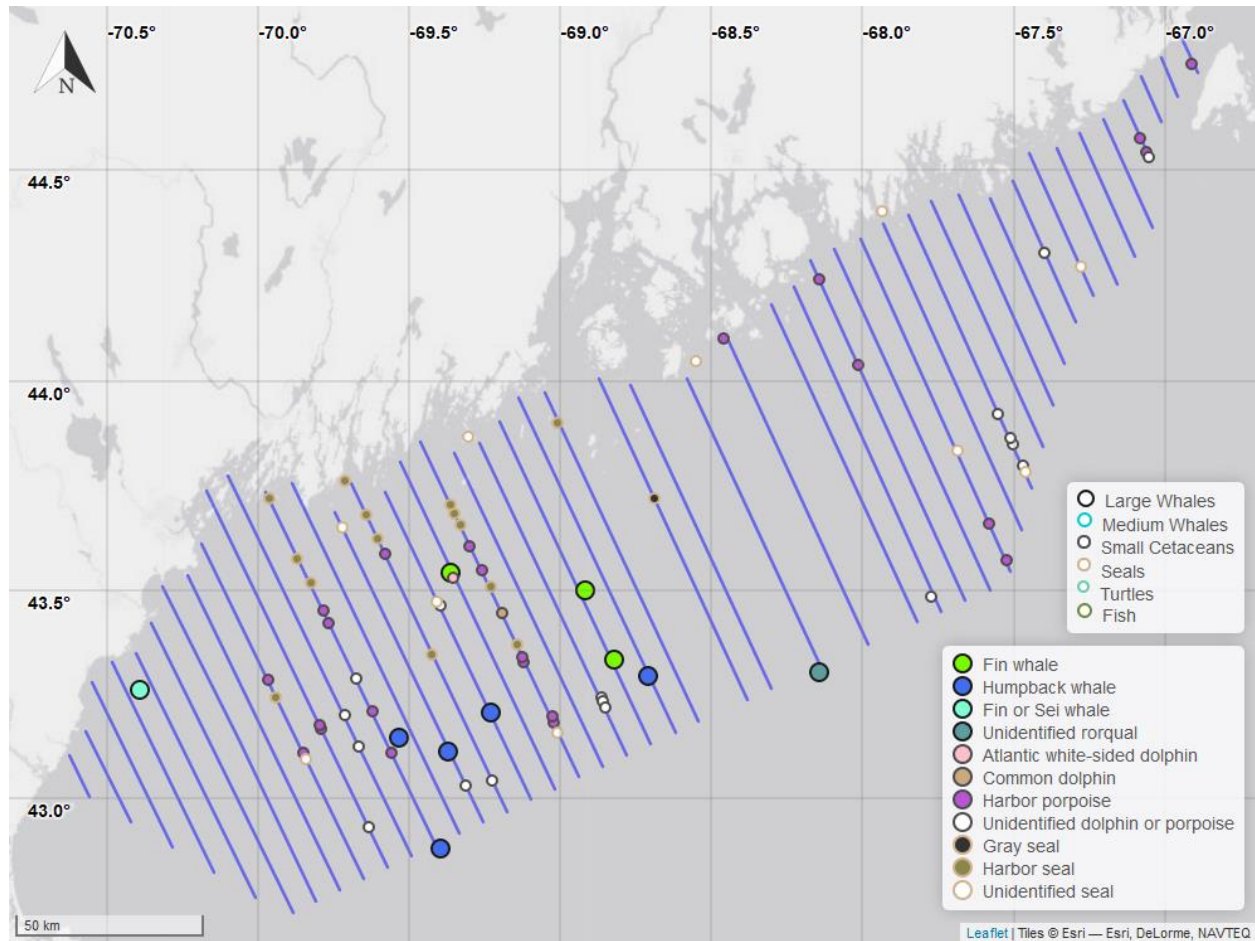
Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals

Aerial Surveys - April 2026

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Fin whale	3	6
Humpback whale	5	15
Fin or Sei whale	1	1
Unidentified rorqual	1	1
Atlantic white-sided dolphin	1	30
Common dolphin	1	2
Harbor porpoise	23	38
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	17	88
Gray seal	1	1
Harbor seal	14	54
Unidentified seal	10	83
Monthly Total	77	319



Figure 1.
Aerial Survey Transects and Sightings
April 2026





VESSEL SURVEYS

Vessel surveys conducted in April 2026 and total survey effort (km) are listed in **Table 1**. Surveys were primarily conducted in a [Beaufort sea state](#) 1 & 2, with visibility 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 - April 2026

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Sei whale	1	1
Harbor porpoise	2	2
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	1	3
Harbor seal	6	6
Unidentified seal	1	1
Monthly Total	11	13



Figure 2.
Vessel Survey Transects and Sightings
April 2026

