



SURVEY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT MAY 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 May 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)

May 2025

Date	Survey Type	Effort Distance
05/01/2025	Aerial Survey	722.22
05/05/2025	Aerial Survey	505.46
05/08/2025	Aerial Survey	426.42
Total Aerial Effort		1,654.10
05/13/2025	Vessel Survey	149.66
05/14/2025	Vessel Survey	143.17
Total Vessel Effort		292.83



AERIAL SURVEYS

Aerial surveys conducted in May 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 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.

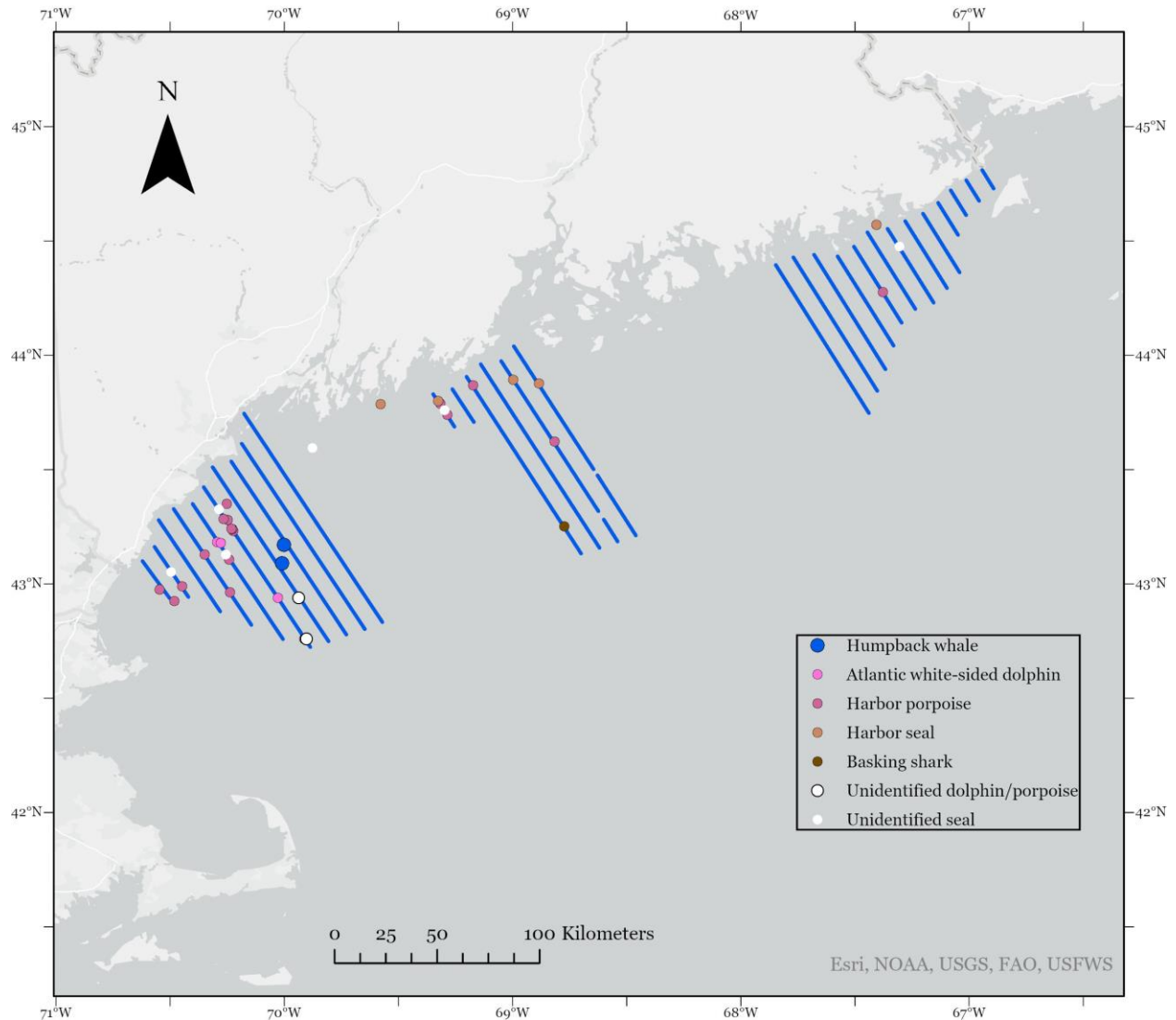
Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals

Aerial Surveys - May 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Humpback whale	2	2
Atlantic white-sided dolphin	3	8
Harbor porpoise	18	22
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	2	3
Harbor seal	6	100
Unidentified seal	6	6
Monthly Total	37	141



Figure 1.
Aerial Survey Transects and Sightings
May 2025





VESSEL SURVEYS

Vessel surveys conducted in May 2025 and total survey effort (km) are listed in **Table 1**. Surveys were primarily conducted in a [Beaufort sea state](#) 2 & 3, 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 - May 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Minke whale	1	1
Harbor porpoise	13	20
Gray seal	3	4
Harbor seal	6	6
Unidentified seal	2	2
Monthly Total	25	33



Figure 2.
Vessel Survey Transects and Sightings
May 2025

