



# SURVEY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT

## NOVEMBER 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 November 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)***

***November 2025***

| <b>Date</b>                | <b>Survey Type</b>   | <b>Effort Distance</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 11/05/2025                 | Aerial Survey        | 213.16                 |
| 11/07/2025                 | Aerial Survey        | 192.34                 |
| 11/09/2025                 | Aerial Survey        | 289.08                 |
| 11/13/2025                 | Aerial Survey        | 756.23                 |
| 11/15/2025                 | Aerial Survey        | 507.58                 |
| <b>Total Aerial Effort</b> |                      | <b>1958.39</b>         |
| 11/03/2025*                | Opportunistic Survey |                        |
| 11/05/2025*                | Opportunistic Survey |                        |
| 11/07/2025*                | Opportunistic Survey |                        |
| 11/09/2025                 | Vessel Survey        | 75.44                  |
| 11/13/2025                 | Vessel Survey        | 92.19                  |
| 11/19/2025                 | Vessel Survey        | 94.58                  |
| 11/20/2025                 | Vessel Survey        | 135.23                 |
| 11/21/2025*                | Opportunistic Survey |                        |
| <b>Total Vessel Effort</b> |                      | <b>397.44</b>          |



## AERIAL SURVEYS

Aerial surveys conducted in November 2025 and total survey effort (km) are listed in **Table 1**. Surveys were primarily flown in a [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.**

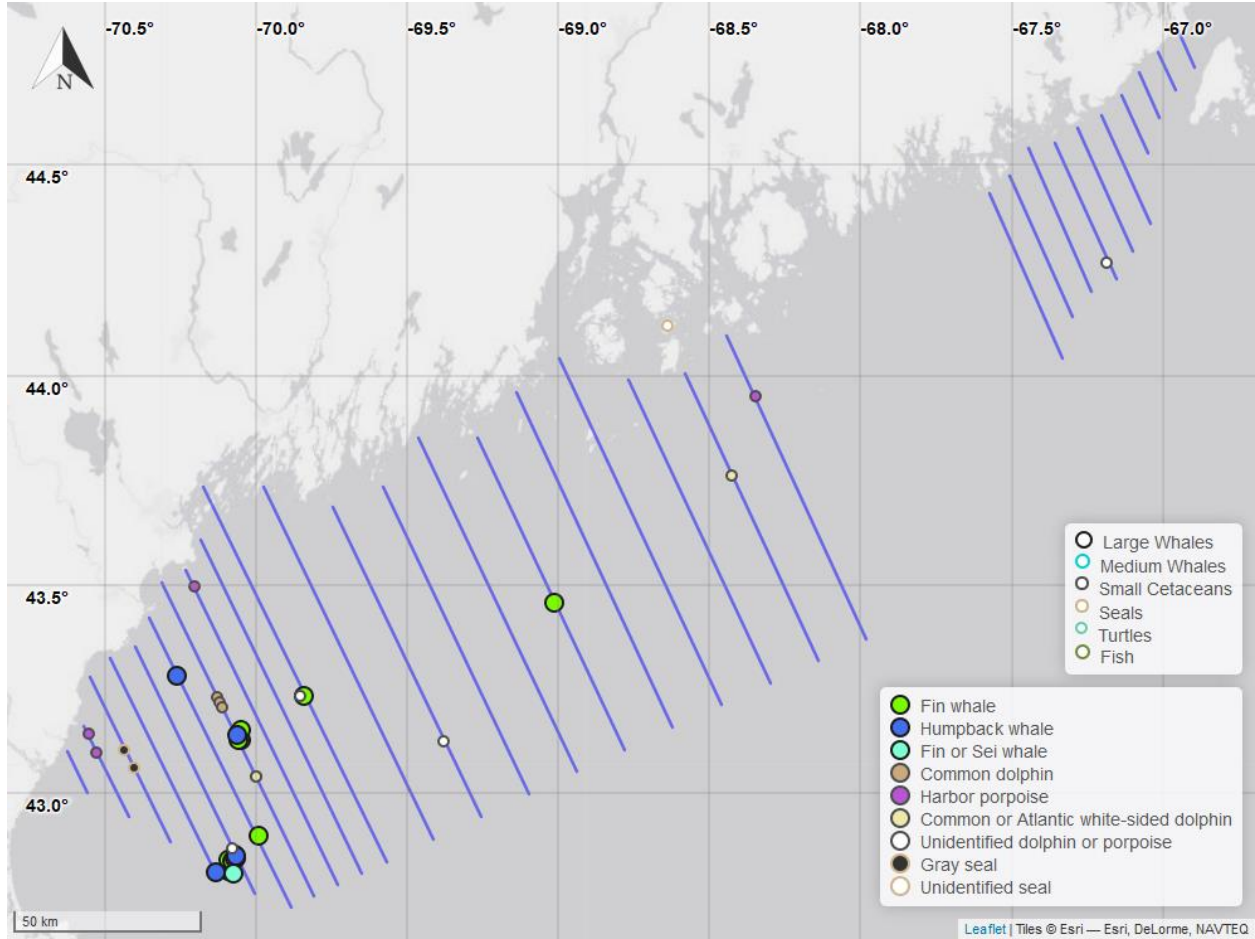
***Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals***

***Aerial Surveys - November 2025***

| <b>Species</b>                   | <b>Sightings</b> | <b>Total Animals</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Fin whale                        | 11               | 17                   |
| Humpback whale                   | 6                | 10                   |
| Fin or Sei whale                 | 1                | 1                    |
| Common dolphin                   | 3                | 95                   |
| Harbor porpoise                  | 4                | 10                   |
| Unidentified dolphin or porpoise | 4                | 25                   |
| Gray seal                        | 2                | 2                    |
| Unidentified seal                | 1                | 10                   |
| <b><i>Monthly Total</i></b>      | <b><i>32</i></b> | <b><i>170</i></b>    |



**Figure 1.**  
**Aerial Survey Transects and Sightings**  
**November 2025**





## VESSEL SURVEYS

Vessel surveys conducted in November 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 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.**

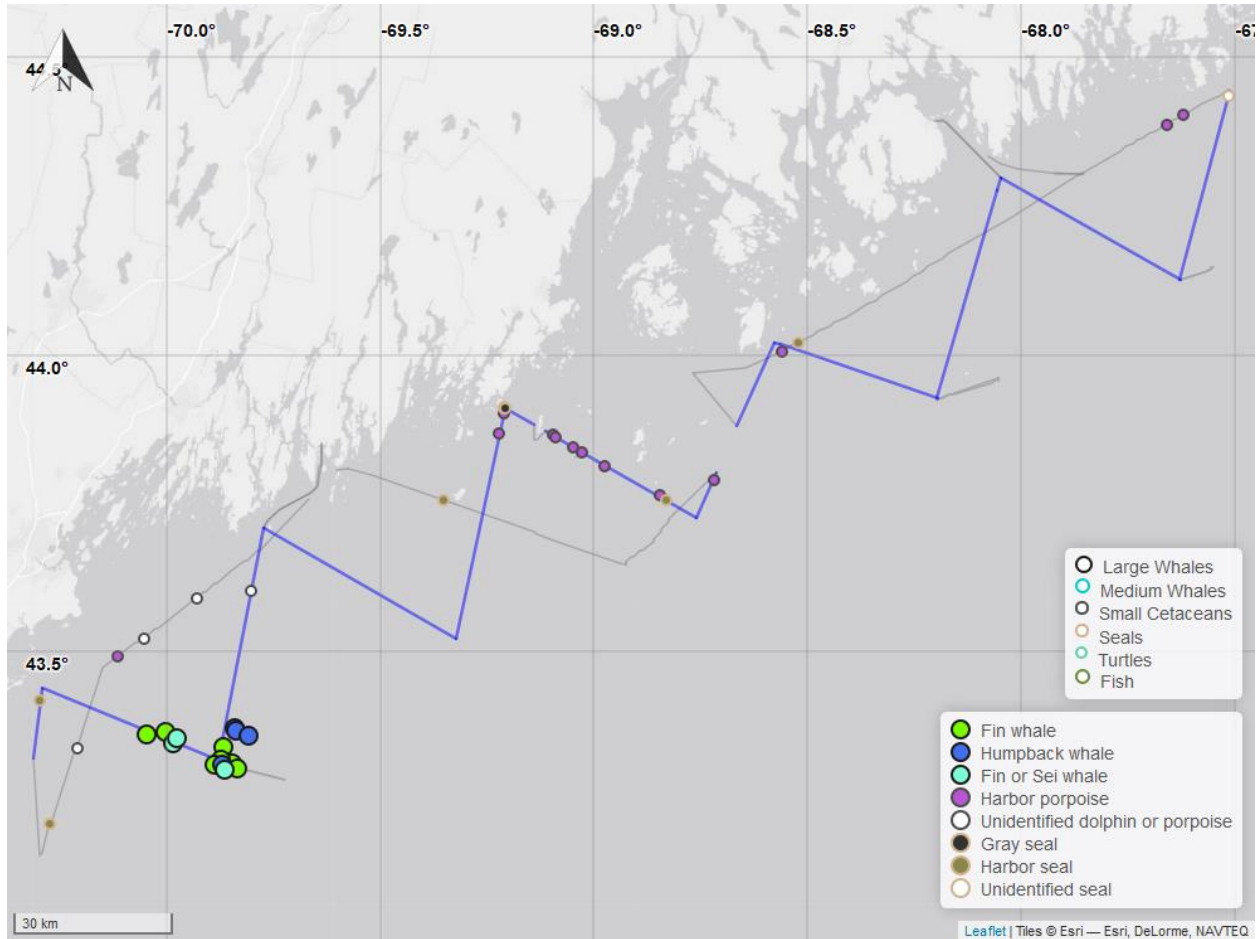
***Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals***

***Vessel Surveys - November 2025***

| <b>Species</b>                   | <b>Sightings</b> | <b>Total Animals</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Fin whale                        | 8                | 14                   |
| Humpback whale                   | 4                | 9                    |
| Fin or Sei whale                 | 3                | 7                    |
| Harbor porpoise                  | 13               | 31                   |
| Unidentified dolphin or porpoise | 4                | 10                   |
| Gray seal                        | 3                | 8                    |
| Harbor seal                      | 5                | 5                    |
| Unidentified seal                | 1                | 1                    |
| <b><i>Monthly Total</i></b>      | <b><i>41</i></b> | <b><i>85</i></b>     |



**Figure 2.**  
**Vessel Survey Transects and Sightings**  
**November 2025**





## OPPORTUNISTIC SURVEYS

Several surveys were conducted in November 2025 in conjunction with Passive Acoustic mooring hot-swaps and Plankton sampling. 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 - November 2025***

| <b>Species</b>                         | <b>Sightings</b> | <b>Total Animals</b> |
|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Fin or Sei whale                       | 1                | 2                    |
| Unidentified large whale               | 1                | 2                    |
| Atlantic white-sided dolphin           | 1                | 10                   |
| Common dolphin                         | 3                | 33                   |
| Harbor porpoise                        | 3                | 4                    |
| Pilot whale                            | 2                | 11                   |
| Common or Atlantic white-sided dolphin | 2                | 9                    |
| Unidentified dolphin or porpoise       | 1                | 3                    |
| Gray seal                              | 1                | 1                    |
| Harbor seal                            | 2                | 2                    |
| Basking shark                          | 1                | 1                    |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>18</b>        | <b>78</b>            |



**Figure 3.**

**Vessel Survey Transects and Sightings**

**Opportunistic Vessel Surveys - November 2025**

