



# SURVEY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT

## APRIL 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 April 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)***

***April 2025***

Date	Survey Type	Effort Distance
04/14/2025	Aerial Survey	763.72
04/18/2025	Aerial Survey	551.3
<b>Total Aerial Effort</b>		<b>1315.02</b>
04/07/2025	Vessel Survey	150.22
04/11/2025	Vessel Survey	149.44
04/23/2025*	Opportunistic Survey	
04/24/2025	Vessel Survey	111.77
04/25/2025	Vessel Survey	91.11
<b>Total Vessel Effort</b>		<b>502.54</b>



## AERIAL SURVEYS

Aerial surveys conducted in April 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.**

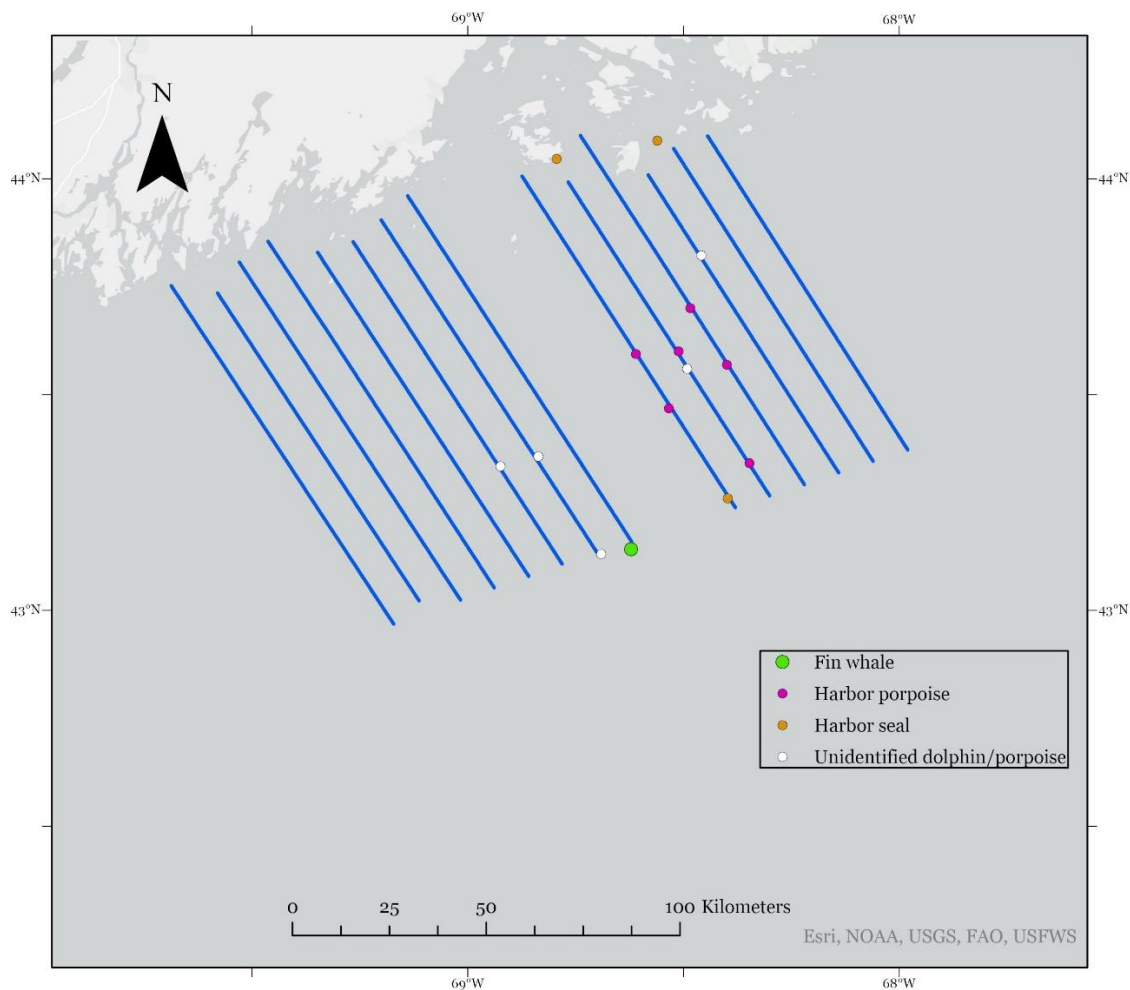
***Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals***

***Aerial Surveys - April 2025***

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Fin whale	1	1
Harbor porpoise	6	7
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	5	24
Harbor seal	3	54
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>86</b>



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





## VESSEL SURVEYS

Vessel surveys conducted in April 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 6.5 to 7 nautical miles. Species sighted are listed in **Table 3**, and survey track lines and sightings are depicted in **Figure 2**.

**Table 3.**

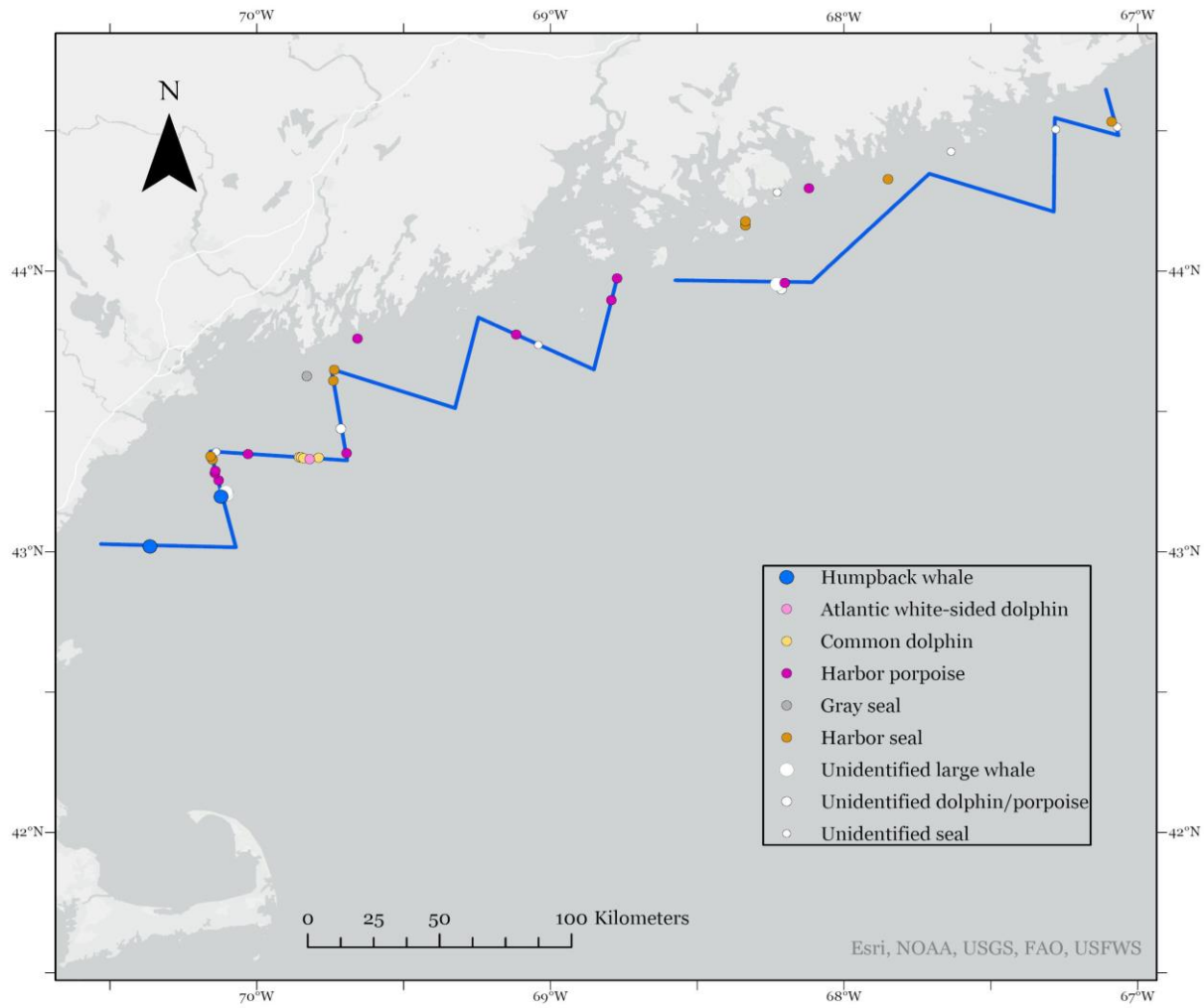
***Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals***

***Vessel Surveys - April 2025***

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Humpback whale	2	3
Unidentified rorqual	3	3
Atlantic white-sided dolphin	1	6
Common dolphin	4	31
Harbor porpoise	11	16
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	2	5
Gray seal	1	1
Harbor seal	8	41
Unidentified seal	6	45
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>151</b>



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





## OPPORTUNISTIC SURVEYS

One survey was attempted that had to be abandoned due to heavy fog. No useable data was collected thus it was labeled as an opportunistic survey. Survey dates can be seen in **Table 1**. Species sighted are listed in **Table 4**, and survey route and sightings are depicted in **Figure 3**.

**Table 4.**

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

***Opportunistic Vessel Surveys - April 2025***

<b>Species</b>	<b>Sightings</b>	<b>Total Animals</b>
Harbor porpoise	1	2
Harbor seal	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>



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

