



SURVEY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 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 October 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)
October 2025

Date	Survey Type	Effort Distance
10/02/2025	Aerial Survey	571.67
10/04/2025	Aerial Survey	772.29
10/05/2025	Aerial Survey	594.34
10/10/2025	Aerial Survey	720.25
10/25/2025	Aerial Survey	553.84
10/26/2025	Aerial Survey	607.97
Total Aerial Effort		3820.36
10/06/2025	Vessel Survey	62.12
10/10/2025	Vessel Survey	105.69
10/18/2025	Vessel Survey	99.4
10/19/2025	Vessel Survey	121.31
10/27/2025*	Opportunistic Survey	
Total Vessel Effort		388.52



AN AERIAL SURVEY

Aerial surveys conducted in October 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.

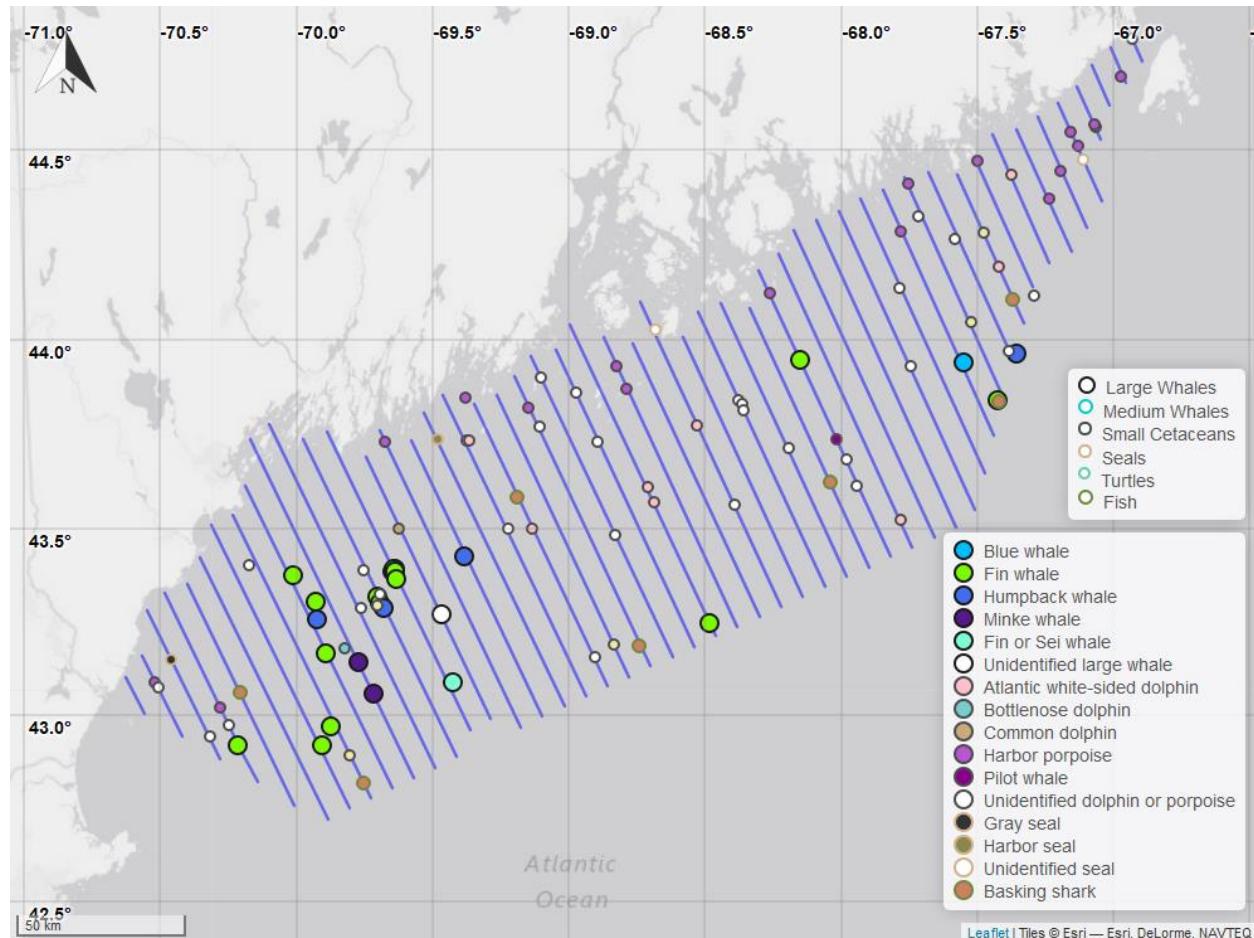
Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals

Aerial Surveys - October 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Blue whale	1	1
Fin whale	16	19
Humpback whale	4	5
Minke whale	2	3
Fin or Sei whale	1	2
Unidentified large whale	1	1
Atlantic white-sided dolphin	8	178
Bottlenose dolphin	1	60
Common dolphin	1	6
Harbor porpoise	18	67
Pilot whale	1	15
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	29	172
Gray seal	1	1
Harbor seal	1	1
Unidentified seal	2	16
Basking shark	7	7
Monthly Total	94	554



Figure 1.
Aerial Survey Transects and Sightings
October 2025





VESSEL SURVEYS

Vessel surveys conducted in October 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.

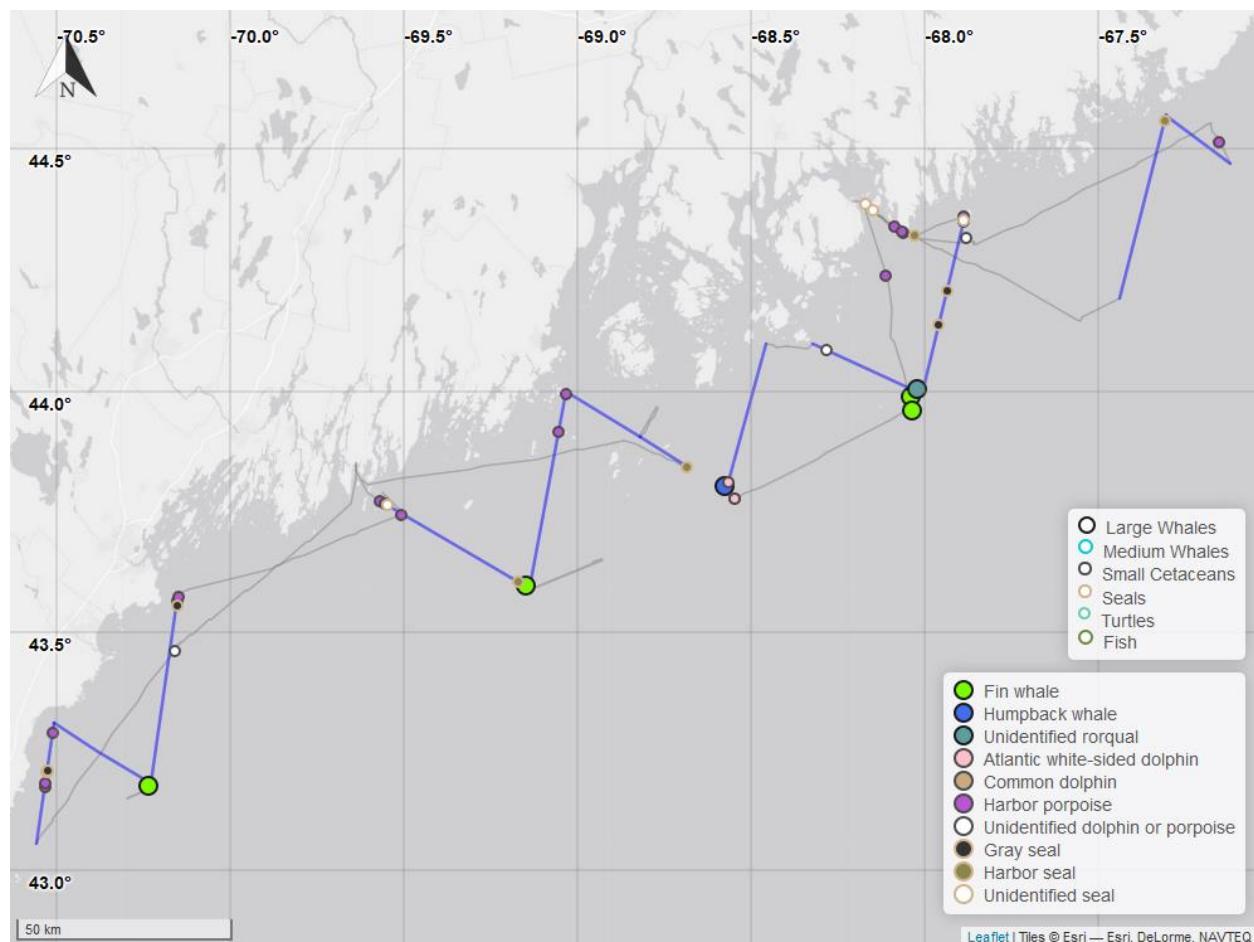
Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals

Vessel Surveys - October 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Fin whale	4	5
Humpback whale	1	1
Unidentified rorqual	1	1
Atlantic white-sided dolphin	2	15
Common dolphin	1	100
Harbor porpoise	17	56
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	3	40
Gray seal	6	7
Harbor seal	4	7
Unidentified seal	4	5
Monthly Total	43	237



Figure 2.
Vessel Survey Transects and Sightings
October 2025





OPPORTUNISTIC SURVEYS

Several surveys were conducted in October 2025 in conjunction with Passive Acoustic mooring hot-swaps. 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 - October 2025

Species	Sightings	Total Animals
Unidentified dolphin or porpoise	1	5
Harbor seal	1	1
Total	2	6



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

