



SURVEY PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 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 July 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)
July 2025

| Date | Survey Type | Effort Distance |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 07/03/2025 | Aerial Survey | 648.8 |
| 07/05/2025 | Aerial Survey | 509.77 |
| 07/09/2025 | Aerial Survey | 394.1 |
| 07/15/2025 | Aerial Survey | 515.34 |
| Total Aerial Effort | | 2068.01 |
| 07/08/2025* | Opportunistic Survey | |
| 07/09/2025* | Opportunistic Survey | |
| 07/11/2025 | Vessel Survey | 149.04 |
| 07/14/2025* | Opportunistic Survey | |
| 07/15/2025 | Vessel Survey | 49.91 |
| 07/18/2025 | Vessel Survey | 62.71 |
| 07/22/2025 | Vessel Survey | 78.68 |
| 07/23/2025 | Vessel Survey | 40.31 |
| Total Vessel Effort | | 380.65 |



AERIAL SURVEYS

Aerial surveys conducted in July 2025 and total survey effort (km) are listed in **Table 1**. Surveys were primarily flown in a [Beaufort sea state](#) 1 & 2, with visibility ranging from 10 to 25 nautical miles. Species sighted are listed in **Table 2**, and survey track lines and sightings are depicted in **Figure 1**.

Table 2.

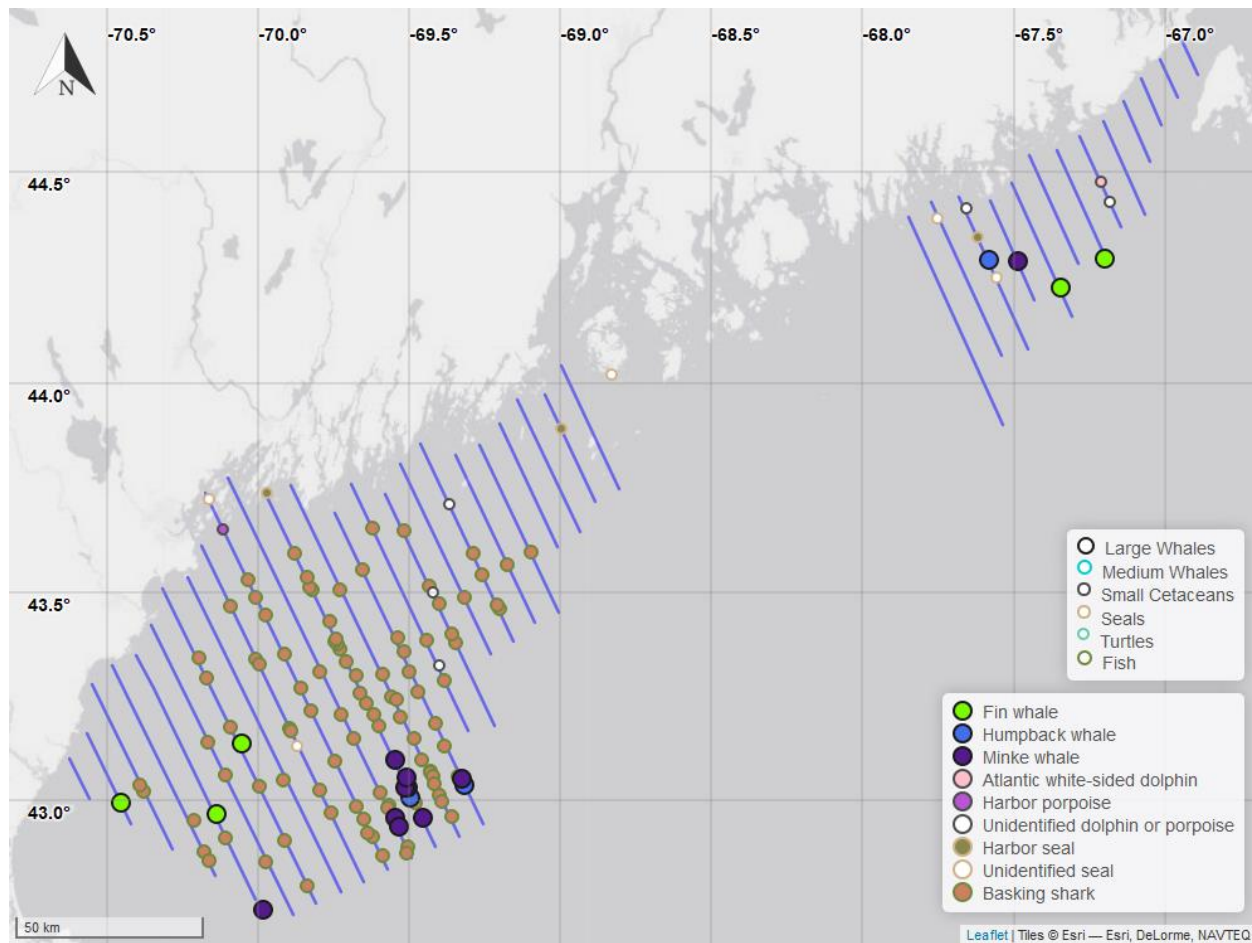
Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals

Aerial Surveys - July 2025

| Species | Sightings | Total Animals |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Fin whale | 5 | 5 |
| Humpback whale | 3 | 5 |
| Minke whale | 10 | 11 |
| Atlantic white-sided dolphin | 1 | 1 |
| Harbor porpoise | 1 | 1 |
| Unidentified dolphin or porpoise | 5 | 14 |
| Harbor seal | 3 | 22 |
| Unidentified seal | 5 | 11 |
| Basking shark | 97 | 100 |
| Monthly Total | 130 | 170 |



Figure 1.
Aerial Survey Transects and Sightings
July 2025





VESSEL SURVEYS

Vessel surveys conducted in July 2025 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.

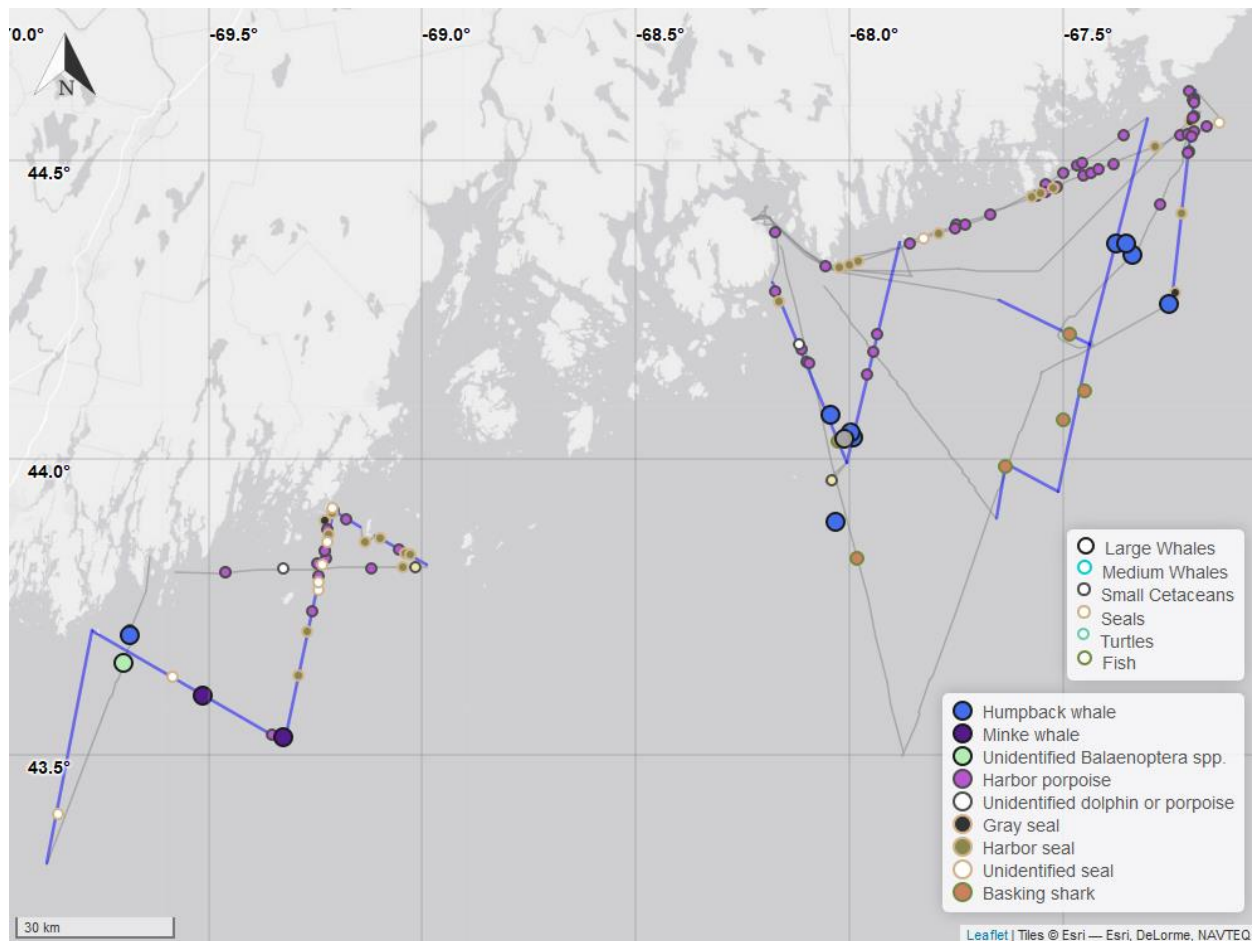
Species Sighted and Total Number of Animals

Vessel Surveys - July 2025

| Species | Sightings | Total Animals |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Humpback whale | 9 | 13 |
| Minke whale | 2 | 2 |
| Unidentified Balaenoptera spp. | 1 | 1 |
| Harbor porpoise | 56 | 124 |
| Common or Atlantic white-sided dolphin | 2 | 22 |
| Unidentified dolphin or porpoise | 2 | 9 |
| Gray seal | 4 | 4 |
| Harbor seal | 19 | 69 |
| Unidentified seal | 9 | 9 |
| Basking shark | 6 | 6 |
| Monthly Total | 110 | 259 |



Figure 2.
Vessel Survey Transects and Sightings
July 2025





OPPORTUNISTIC SURVEYS

Several surveys were conducted in July 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 - July 2025

| Species | Sightings | Total Animals |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Humpback whale | 1 | 2 |
| Minke whale | 1 | 1 |
| Unidentified large whale | 1 | 1 |
| Harbor porpoise | 8 | 10 |
| Pilot whale | 1 | 6 |
| Gray seal | 3 | 6 |
| Harbor seal | 9 | 32 |
| Basking shark | 7 | 7 |
| Total | 31 | 65 |



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

