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# North Atlantic Humpback Whale Catalog: overview of current holdings

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The North Atlantic Humpback Whale Catalog, curated by Allied Whale/College of the Atlantic, contains fluke photographs of North Atlantic humpback whales contributed from dedicated research efforts and more opportunistic platforms, such as whale watch cruises. It currently includes over 38,000 photographic-identification images of 9,500 whales contributed by over 700 groups and individuals. Table 1 lists the number of unique individuals catalogued by area for the period 1970 through 2018.

Jones et al. have recently completed a study estimating transition probabilities among all major areas of humpback whale aggregation in the North Atlantic Ocean through 2015, including the five primary feeding grounds in mid- to high-latitudes (Gulf of Maine, Atlantic Canada, West Greenland, Iceland, and northern Norway) and breeding/calving grounds in the West Indies and the Cape Verde Islands. The results further support the findings of Stevick et al. (2018) that suggest the presence of distinct breeding populations in the Greater Antilles and the southeastern Caribbean. Migratory patterns between feeding areas and the southeastern Caribbean were more similar to those from the CVI breeding segment than the geographically-closer area in the Greater Antilles. Breeding to feeding area transition probabilities were highest from the Greater Antilles to western feeding grounds, from the southeastern Caribbean to eastern feeding grounds, and from CVI to eastern feeding grounds. Published results of this study are anticipated by the time of the next Scientific Committee meeting.

<b>Table 1: Current holdings of the North Atlantic Humpback Whale Catalog for the period 1970-2018</b>		
<b>Area type</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b># of Catalogued Individuals</b>
Breeding/ Southern Regions	Dominican Republic (Silver & Navidad Banks, Samana Bay, north to Florida)	2855
	Lesser Antilles (Anguilla through Venezuela)	320
	Puerto Rico	558
	Cape Verde Islands	221
Feeding/ Northern Regions	Gulf of Maine	1932
	Eastern Canada (mainly Newfoundland, Gulf of St. Lawrence)	3429
	West Greenland	578
	Norway (including Svalbard, Franz Josephland- Russia, Faroe Islands, Scotland, Ireland)	432
	Iceland (including eastern Greenland, Jan Mayen)	698
Other areas	U.S. East Coast south of the Gulf of Maine	244
	Azores	149
	Bermuda	342

### References cited:

Stevick, P. T., L. Bouveret, N. Gandilhon, C. Rinaldi, R. Rinaldi, F. Broms, C. Carlson, A. Kennedy, N. Ward and F. Wenzel. 2018. Migratory destinations and timing of humpback whales in the southeastern Caribbean differ from those off the Dominican Republic. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management* 18: 127–133.