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United States of America - Progress Report Summary

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INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

Progress Report Summary

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Vessel Strikes of Large Whales

Large Area	Local Area	Species	Year	Individuals*	Submitted to IWC or National Ship Strike Database	Source of Information
Atlantic Ocean - North		humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae)	2016	7	Unknown	National Collator
Atlantic Ocean - North		North Atlantic right whale (Eubalaena glacialis)	2016	1	Unknown	National Collator
Atlantic Ocean - North		sei whale (Balaenoptera borealis)	2016	1	Unknown	National Collator

** This column has been aggregated*

Fishery Bycatch of Large Whales

Large Area	Local Area	Species	Year	Individuals*	Targeted Species	Gear Type
Atlantic Ocean - North		fin whale (Balaenoptera physalus)	2016	3		[NK] GEAR NOT KNOWN OR NOT SPECIFIED,
Atlantic Ocean - North		humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae)	2016	13		
Atlantic Ocean - North		North Atlantic right whale (Eubalaena glacialis)	2016	8		
Atlantic Ocean - North		Common minke whale (Balaenoptera acutorostrata)	2016	4		

** This column has been aggregated*

Direct Catches of Small Cetaceans

No data is available for this section.

Vessel Strikes of Small Cetaceans

Large Area	Local Area	Species	Year	Individuals*	Submitted to IWC or National Ship Strike Database	Source of Information
Atlantic Ocean - North		Common bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus)	2017	0	Unknown	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Common bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus)	2017	0	Unknown	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena)	2017	0	Unknown	National Collator
Atlantic Ocean - North		Common bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus)	2017	0	Unknown	National Collator
Atlantic Ocean - North		common dolphin (Delphinus delphis)	2017	0	Unknown	National Collator

** This column has been aggregated*

Fishery Bycatch of Small Cetaceans

Large Area	Local Area	Species	Year	Individuals*	Targeted Species	Gear Type
Atlantic Ocean - North		Risso's dolphin (Grampus griseus)	2016	2	pelagic swordfish, tunas and billfish	[LL] HOOKS AND LINES - Longlines (not specified),
Atlantic Ocean - North		long- or short-finned pilot whale (Globicephala sp.)	2016	15	pelagic swordfish, tunas and billfish	[LL] HOOKS AND LINES - Longlines (not specified),
Atlantic Ocean - Gulf of Mexico		short-finned pilot whale (Globicephala macrorhynchus)	2016	1	pelagic swordfish, tunas and billfish	[LL] HOOKS AND LINES - Longlines (not specified),
Atlantic Ocean - North		Unidentified dolphin ()	2016	1	pelagic swordfish, tunas and billfish	[LL] HOOKS AND LINES - Longlines (not specified),
Atlantic Ocean - North	Northeast and Mid-Atlantic US	common dolphin (Delphinus delphis)	2016	87		[GN] GILLNETS AND ENTANGLING GEAR - Gillnets (not specified),
Atlantic Ocean - North	Northease and Mid-Atlantic US	harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena)	2016	148		[GN] GILLNETS AND ENTANGLING GEAR - Gillnets (not specified),
Atlantic Ocean - North	Northeast and mid-Atlantic US	Risso's dolphin (Grampus griseus)	2016	56		[TBB] TRAWLS - Bottom trawls,
Atlantic Ocean - North	Northeast US	long-finned pilot whale (Globicephala melas)	2016	29		[TBB] TRAWLS - Bottom trawls,
Atlantic Ocean - North	Northeast and mid-Atlantic US	common dolphin (Delphinus delphis)	2016	193		[TBB] TRAWLS - Bottom trawls,
Atlantic Ocean - North	Northeast and mid-Atlantic US	Common bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus)	2016	41		[TBB] TRAWLS - Bottom trawls,
Atlantic Ocean - North	Northeast US	long-finned pilot whale (Globicephala melas)	2016	3		[TM] MIDWATER TRAWLS - Midwater trawls (not specified),

** This column has been aggregated*

Strandings

Large Area	Local Area	Species	Year	Total Number of Individuals Stranded	Source of Information
Atlantic Ocean - North		Atlantic spotted dolphin (Stenella frontalis)	2017	2	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Common bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus)	2017	508	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		clymene dolphin (Stenella clymene)	2017	14	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Fraser's dolphin (Lagenodelphis hosei)	2017	7	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Risso's dolphin (Grampus griseus)	2017	3	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		rough-toothed dolphin (Steno bredanensis)	2017	1	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		spinner dolphin (Stenella longirostris)	2017	1	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		striped dolphin (Stenella coeruleoalba)	2017	2	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena)	2017	1	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Blainville's beaked whale (Mesoplodon densirostris)	2017	1	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Large Area	Local Area	Species	Year	Total Number of Individuals Stranded	Source of Information
Atlantic Ocean - North		Cuvier's beaked whale (Ziphius cavirostris)	2017	2	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		dwarf sperm whale (Kogia sima)	2017	7	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		false killer whale (Pseudorca crassidens)	2017	99	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Gervais' beaked whale (Mesoplodon europaeus)	2017	2	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae)	2017	7	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		melon-headed whale (Peponocephala electra)	2017	4	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Common minke whale (Balaenoptera acutorostrata)	2017	2	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		short-finned pilot whale (Globicephala macrorhynchus)	2017	13	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		pygmy sperm whale (Kogia breviceps)	2017	16	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		North Atlantic right whale (Eubalaena glacialis)	2017	1	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		sperm whale (Physeter macrocephalus)	2017	3	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Unidentified dolphin ()	2017	6	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Unidentified Mesoplodon beaked whale (Mesoplodon Sp.)	2017	1	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Unidentified large baleen whale ()	2017	1	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		Unidentified small cetacean ()	2017	13	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Atlantic Ocean - North		common dolphin (Delphinus delphis)	2017	190	National Collator
Atlantic Ocean - North		harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena)	2017	79	National Collator
Atlantic Ocean - North		Atlantic white-sided dolphin (Lagenorhynchus acutus)	2017	8	National Collator
Atlantic Ocean - North		Risso's dolphin (Grampus griseus)	2017	18	National Collator
Atlantic Ocean - North		striped dolphin (Stenella coeruleoalba)	2017	7	National Collator
Atlantic Ocean - North		long-finned pilot whale (Globicephala melas)	2017	2	National Collator
Pacific Ocean - North	San Diego, CA	fin whale (Balaenoptera physalus)	2018	1	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Pacific Ocean - North	San Diego, CA	common dolphin (Delphinus delphis)	2018	7	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Pacific Ocean - North	San Diego, CA	common dolphin (Delphinus delphis)	2018	17	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Pacific Ocean - North	San Diego, CA	gray whale (Eschrichtius robustus)	2018	1	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center

Large Area	Local Area	Species	Year	Total Number of Individuals Stranded	Source of Information
Pacific Ocean - North	San Diego, CA	striped dolphin (Stenella coeruleoalba)	2018	1	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Pacific Ocean - North	San Diego, CA	Common bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus)	2018	3	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center

Systematic Surveys

Name	Description	Source of Information
Gulf of Mexico Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species (GoMMAPPS) large vessel surveys	Winter (January–March) and summer (August–October) 2018 large vessel surveys of U.S. Gulf of Mexico outer continental shelf and oceanic waters (>100m in depth to the U.S. EEZ) to estimate abundance and spatial distribution of cetaceans.	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Gulf of Mexico Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species (GoMMAPPS) aerial surveys	Winter (January–March) and fall (October–November) 2018 aerial surveys of nearshore and continental shelf waters of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico (Texas to Florida) to estimate abundance and assess spatial distribution of common bottlenose dolphins, Atlantic spotted dolphins, and sea turtles.	NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals	The Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals (ASAMM) project (and predecessors) have conducted aerial line-transect surveys in the eastern Chukchi and western Beaufort seas every year since 1979. The geographic extent in 2018 ranged from 67o to 72o N, 140o to 169o W. The 2018 field season began on 1 July and ended on 29 October. The main objectives are to study the density, distribution, habitat, and behavior of Arctic marine mammals (primarily cetaceans, although all detected marine mammals are recorded).	NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Aerial Surveys of Beluga Whales (Delphinapterus leucas) in Cook Inlet, Alaska	The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has conducted aerial surveys to estimate abundance of the beluga population in Cook Inlet, Alaska, each June, July, or both from 1993 to 2012, after which biennial surveys began in 2014. Surveys occurred June 5 - 15, 2018 (44 flight hours). All surveys were flown in twin-engine, high-wing aircraft at a target altitude of 244 m (800 ft) and speed of 185 km/hour (100 knots), consistent with NMFS' surveys of Cook Inlet conducted in previous years.	NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center
GU1803 Beaked Whale Survey	This survey focused on the ecology of deep diving cetaceans, with the goal of collecting fine-scale data on distribution and behavior of beaked whale species in the western North Atlantic.	National Collator
2018 Mariana Archipelago Cetacean Survey (MACS)	The 2018 Mariana Archipelago Cetacean Survey (MACS) was a 24-day survey effort aboard the NOAA Oscar Elton Sette to study cetaceans in the waters of Mariana Archipelago. The MACS study area was focused on pelagic waters extending west from archipelago out to the West Mariana Ridge, and from Guam in the south to Pagan in the north. MACS was focused primarily on the deployment and recovery of Drifting Acoustic Spar Buoy Recorders (DASBRs) with the intent of collecting passive acoustic data for estimating density and abundance of beaked whales and other cetaceans. Visual and acoustic surveys were conducted in 3 different effort modes: 'standard' survey when the ship was traversing along the pre-determined tracklines, 'fine-scale' when the ship was following standard data collection protocols within the study grid, but was headed toward or away from a DASBR deployment so not on the pre-determined trackline, or 'non-standard' when survey effort was focused around islands or when transiting to or from port not along pre-determined transect lines. Standard and fine-scale effort may be used for encounter rate and density analyses. More than one type of survey effort could have occurred within each day. There were 64 cetacean visual sightings of 13 species, including spinner, pantropical spotted, striped, rough-toothed, bottlenose, and Risso's dolphins, melon-headed, pygmy killer, short-finned pilot, and sperm whales, Cuvier's beaked whales, Dwarf sperm whales, and Bryde's whales, as well as groups of dolphins and whales that could not be identified to species. Photographic documentation commenced during most sightings, resulting in more than 6600 individual or species identification photos. Biopsy sampling was attempted during 12 sightings resulting in collection of 20 biopsy samples collected from pantropical spotted and bottlenose dolphins, melon-headed, short-finned pilot, and Bryde's whales . No satellite telemetry tags were deployed during the effort. Eight DASBRs were deployed and recovered during this effort.	NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Name	Description	Source of Information
2018 Mariana Archipelago Cetacean Survey (MACS)	The 2018 Mariana Archipelago Cetacean Survey (MACS) was a 24-day survey effort aboard the NOAA Oscar Elton Sette to study cetaceans in the waters of Mariana Archipelago. The MACS study area was focused on pelagic waters extending west from archipelago out to the West Mariana Ridge, and from Guam in the south to Pagan in the north. MACS focused primarily on the deployment and recovery of Drifting Acoustic Spar Buoy Recorders (DASBRs) with the intent of collecting passive acoustic data for estimating density and abundance of beaked whales and other cetaceans. We deployed 8 DASBR units over the course of our 24-day effort and let the instruments drift with the current for several days. Each DASBR unit had a hydrophone and a recording device within it, which recorded sound while it floated with the current. In addition to the DASBR research, we conducted visual and towed hydrophone array observations for cetaceans. Visual and acoustic surveys were conducted in 3 different effort modes: 'standard' survey when the ship was traversing along the pre-determined tracklines, 'fine-scale' when the ship was following standard data collection protocols within the study grid, but was headed toward or away from a DASBR deployment so not on the pre-determined trackline, or 'non-standard' when survey effort was focused around islands or when transiting to or from port not along pre-determined transect lines. Standard and fine-scale effort may be used for encounter rate and density analyses. More than one type of survey effort could have occurred within each day. Towed array surveys were conducted during all daylight hours each day of the survey. Data were collected using a simultaneously from 6 hydrophones, 3 from an inline array and 3 from an end array, with the arrays separated by 30m of cable. The inline array was towed 300m behind the ship. Data were digitized using a SailDAQ and recorded to hard disk. PAMGuard software was used to manage data recording, real-time acoustic detection and tracking, and manage acoustic metadata. There were 64 cetacean visual sightings of 13 species, including spinner, pantropical spotted, striped, rough-toothed, bottlenose, and Risso's dolphins, melon-headed, pygmy killer, short-finned pilot, and sperm whales, Cuvier's beaked whales, Dwarf sperm whales, and Bryde's whales, as well as groups of dolphins and whales that could not be identified to species. Photographic documentation commenced during most sightings, resulting in more than 6600 individual or species identification photos. Biopsy sampling was attempted during 12 sightings resulting in collection of 20 biopsy samples collected from pantropical spotted and bottlenose dolphins, melon-headed, short-finned pilot, and Bryde's whales. No satellite telemetry tags were deployed during the effort. A total of 94 acoustic encounters were identified in real-time using the automated detectors within PAMGuard, including acoustic detection during 30 visual sightings. In addition to those groups seen by the visual team, the passive acoustic team encountered 4 groups of false killer whales, 7 groups of sperm whales, 5 groups of Blainville's beaked whales, 2 groups of Cuvier's beaked whales, 1 group of Longman's beaked whales, and 45 groups of unidentified dolphins.	NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
2018 Mariana Archipelago small-boat summer surveys	The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center's (PIFSC) Cetacean Research Program (CRP) has been conducting visual surveys for cetaceans in the waters surrounding Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) as part of an ongoing effort to develop a record of cetacean occurrence in the region. Visual surveys have been conducted aboard small boats (7.6–12.2 m) since 2010 off the southernmost islands of the Mariana Archipelago (Saipan, Tinian, Aguijan, Rota, and Guam). These surveys include the collection of photographs for individual identification, tissue samples for genetic analysis of population structure, and the deployment of satellite tags for assessment of individual movements throughout the broader region. Funding for these surveys was provided in partnership between the Navy (U.S. Pacific Fleet Environmental Readiness Division) and PIFSC. Data sets from the small-boat survey efforts are used to evaluate the distribution, stock structure, and movements of cetaceans within the study area. During August–September 2018, non-systematic visual surveys for cetaceans were conducted from small vessels off Saipan, Tinian, Aguijan, and Guam. Surveys off Saipan, Tinian, and Aguijan were conducted using a 12.2-m sport-fisher with flying bridge and twin-diesel inboard engines (Sea Hunter) and a 7.9-m Regulator with twin 4-stroke outboard engines (Regulator). Surveys off Guam were conducted aboard a 10-m Grady White with twin outboard engines (No Quarter) and a 17.7-m Riviera Sport Fisher with flying bridge and twin diesel inboard engines (Liquid Soul). Visual survey effort and vessel tracks were spread out from day to day to ensure broad survey coverage over a wide range of depths. Weather and sea conditions dictated the direction and scope of the survey effort. The survey vessels traveled at a speed of 15–26 km/h, depending on the size of the vessel and sea conditions. Four to 6 observers scanned for marine mammals with unaided eyes, collectively searching 360 degrees around the vessel. All cetacean groups sighted were approached for species confirmation, group size estimates, photo-identification, and biopsy sampling. Satellite tagging operations were planned during encounters with all cetacean species except stenellid dolphins. Photo-identification, biopsy, and satellite tagging protocols were the same as those described by Hill et al. (2019). A total of 1,168 km of trackline was surveyed on 14 days between 24 August–9 September 2018. Twenty cetacean groups were encountered including spinner dolphin (Stenella longirostris), pantropical spotted dolphin (S. attenuata), bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus), short-finned pilot whale (Globicephala macrorhynchus), and sperm whale (Physeter macrocephalus). A total of 6,437 photos and 33 biopsy samples were collected from all five species. Five satellite tags were deployed on short-finned pilot whales. Hill M.C., E.M. Oleson, A.L. Bradford, K.K. Martien, D. Steel, and C.S. Baker. 2019. Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center Mariana Archipelago Cetacean Surveys: A review of available data and analyses through February 2018. Prepared for the U.S. Pacific Fleet Environmental Readiness Office. 84 pp.	NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
2019 Mariana Archipelago winter humpback whale surveys	The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center's (PIFSC) Cetacean Research Program (CRP) conducted surveys of cetaceans in the waters off Saipan within the CNMI in an effort to expand on the developing records of cetacean occurrence and gather information for population distribution models for species that occur in the region. The primary target species was the humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae). These surveys were a continuation of the PIFSC CRP's surveys from the 2015–2018 winters. The collection of biopsy samples and photo-identifications is vital to determine the breeding population to which they belong. These surveys were conducted in January 2019 and were small-boat based. This project was carried out in partnership with the Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet. Non-systematic small-boat surveys were conducted aboard a 12.2-m sport-fisher with flying bridge and twin-diesel inboard engines (Sea Hunter) 9–26 January 2018. Four observers scanned for marine mammals with unaided eye or occasional use of 10× binoculars, collectively searching 360-degrees around the vessel. Cetacean groups encountered were approached for species confirmation, group-size estimates, photo-identification, and biopsy sampling (for assessment of genetic population structure) when possible. Digital SLR cameras with telephoto zoom lenses were used for taking photographs. Additional data collected during each sighting included the location (lat/long), behavior and presence of neonates/Young-of-the-Year (YOY). Environmental data (e.g., Beaufort sea state, swell height) and effort status were recorded regularly as conditions changed. Global Positioning System (GPS) readings of the vessel's track were automatically recorded once per minute. All cetacean groups sighted were approached for species confirmation, group size estimates, photo-identification, and biopsy sampling. Satellite tagging operations were planned during encounters with all cetacean species except stenellid dolphins. Photo-identification, biopsy, and satellite tagging protocols were the same as those described by Hill et al. (2019). The small-boat surveys were conducted during 11 days between 9¬26 January. There were a total of 12 encounters with 4 cetacean species including humpback whales, rough-toothed dolphins (Steno bredanensis), bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus), and spinner dolphins (Stenella longirostris). A total of 377 photos were collected. Fluke images were collected from 3 humpback whales. No biopsy samples were collected.	NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Cetacean Databases, Datasets and Archives

Name	Short Description	Type	Data Start	Data End	Last Updated	No. Records	Manager
NOAA NMFS SEFSC Marine Mammal Program	Visual and acoustic line-transect, photo-identification, and genetic data	Other,	1985	2018	2018	multiple but varies temporally by location and species	Keith Mullin
Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals		Sightings,	2011	2018	2018	1458 (for year 2018)	Janice Waite
Aerial Surveys of Beluga Whales (Delphinapterus leucas) in Cook Inlet, Alaska		Sightings,	1993	2018	2018	300	Janice Waite

Name	Short Description	Type	Data Start	Data End	Last Updated	No. Records	Manager
NOAA/AFSC National Marine Mammal Lab: Gray whale and humpback whale photo-identification		Photo-id, Other,	2000	2018	2018	263	Janice Waite
Evaluating Foraging Behavior of Resident Killer Whales to Assess Impacts of Anthropogenic Disturbance	Evaluating Foraging Behavior of Resident Killer Whales to Assess Impacts of Anthropogenic Disturbance	Other,	2018	2019	2019	0	Marla Holt and Brad Hanson
Using data from trained and deceased killer whales to better understand body condition of endangered Southern Resident killer whales	Using data from trained and deceased killer whales to better understand body condition of endangered Southern Resident killer whales	Other,	2001	2019	2019	0	Dawn Noren
Monitoring for toxicologically active POP metabolites in Southern Resident killer whales	Monitoring for toxicologically active POP metabolites in Southern Resident killer whales	Other,	2018	2019	2019	0	Gina Ylitalo
Cetacean POP and lipid class analyses in support of Prescott Grant Studies	Cetacean POP and lipid class analyses in support of Prescott Grant Studies	Other,	2018	2019	2019	0	Gina Ylitalo
Contaminants in stranded pilot whales from Hawaii	Contaminants in stranded pilot whales from Hawaii	Other,	2018	2019	2019	0	Gina Ylitalo
Contaminants in vaquita from the Gulf of California	Contaminants in vaquita from the Gulf of California	Other,	2018	2019	2019	4	Gina Ylitalo