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**Status of the North Atlantic fin whale in Icelandic waters. Update since the latest assessment**

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Status of the North Atlantic fin whale in Icelandic waters. Update since the latest assessment.

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The purpose of this document is to provide an update on data for North Atlantic fin whales in Icelandic waters since the last assessment was carried out. Details on the previous assessment can be found in IST/WP1.

Since the last assessment, results of the NASS (North Atlantic Survey Series) 2015 survey are available, and the abundance estimates of North Atlantic fin whales around Iceland from that survey have been reviewed and accepted by ASI. Details are provided in IST/WP03. This estimate indicates that the population in Iceland and East Greenland is 42,976 (CV=0.15, 95% CI 35,200–52,496). Further details on the estimates and the survey are provided in Pike et al. (2022).

Catches of fin whales by Iceland and Greenland since the last assessment are listed in IST/WP02.

In the previous assessment age data based on ear plugs age readings, up to 2010 was used. Age data is available from the catches in 2013,2014 and 2015 if requested. Samples from the 2018 and 2022 catches are still being processed.

As for genetic analysis on the stock structure, no new analysis has been carried out, but samples have been taken. Samples were regularly genotyped at 15 microsatellite loci and the D-loop of the mtDNA and new data were produced for 2015, 2018 and 2022 since the last implementation. These data were reported to the SDDNA as part of the Icelandic DNA registry. If funding is secured, a study on stock structure of fin whales in the wider North Atlantic can be carried out before the next implementation review.

Furthermore, a new NASS survey will take place in the summer of 2024, with the estimates likely being available for ASI endorsement at the SC meeting in 2026.

## References

Pike, D. G., Gunnlaugsson, T., Mikkelsen, B., Halldórsson, S. D., & Víkingsson, G. (2019). Estimates of the Abundance of Cetaceans in the Central North Atlantic based on the NASS Icelandic and Faroese Shipboard Surveys Conducted in 2015. NAMMCO Scientific Publications, 11.

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