

PROGRESS REPORT ON MARINE MAMMAL RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT IN 2019

March 2020

I. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the management programs and catch statistics of marine mammals for Canada’s East Coast and Arctic Archipelago in 2019.

IV. Advice given and management measures taken

Canada manages all fisheries and marine mammal resources with Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMP), specific for each species.

An IFMP also serves to communicate the basic information on the fishery and its management to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) staff, legislated co-management boards, Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTOs), Regional Wildlife Boards (RWOs), Inuit, communities and other stakeholders. They also provide a common understanding of the basic “rules” for the sustainable management of the fisheries resource.

IFMPs are not a legally binding instrument which can form the basis of a legal challenge. IFMPs can be modified at any time and does not fetter the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans’ discretionary powers set out in the Fisheries Act. The Minister can, for reasons of conservation or for any other valid reasons, modify any provision of the IFMP in accordance with the powers granted pursuant to the Fisheries Act, and subject to the relevant terms of the Nunavut Agreement. Below is a list of relevant IFMPs.

Pinnipeds	
Harp seal	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/seals-phoques/reports-rapports/mgtplan-planges20112015/mgtplan-planges20112015-eng.html
Hooded seal	
Bearded seal	
Grey seal	
Harbour seal	
Ringed seal	
Walrus	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/ifmp-gmp/walrus-atl-morse/walrus-nunavut-morse-eng.html
Cetaceans	
Narwhal	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/ifmp-gmp/narwhal-narval/index-eng.html

In Canada, Bowhead and Beluga are considered species at risk and are subject to the Species at Risk Act. More information regarding their management measures can be found at the following links.

Bowhead	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/profiles-profil/bowheadwhale-baleineboreale2-eng.html
Beluga	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/profiles-profil/beluga-Hudson-eng.html

VI. Appendix 1 – Data reporting to NAMMCO Committees

CANADIAN CATCH DATA – 2019 HARVEST YEAR

Pinnipeds – 2019 Harvest Year (data is considered preliminary)

	Atlantic Canada (including QC)*	Eastern Canadian Arctic
Harp seal	32,199	No data
Hooded seal	30	No data
Bearded seal	0	No data
Grey seal	1,232	No data
Harbour seal	0	No data
Walrus		80
Ringed seal	3	**

*Seal catches include minimal landings for personal use (<50).

** Data issues are restricting our ability to report on ringed seal. Once rectified, data will be forwarded to NAMMCO.

Cetaceans – 2019 Harvest Year

	Western Canadian Arctic	Eastern Canadian Arctic	Quebec Region
Beluga	No data	362	No data
Bowhead	No data	4	No data
Narwhal		Pending 2019 Tag Returns	

** some communities have yet to report