



NATIONAL PROGRESS AND DATA REPORTING 2021

GREENLAND - PROGRESS REPORT ON MARINE MAMMALS 2021

I INTRODUCTION

Sections II, III and V of this report summarize the research done on pinnipeds and cetaceans in Greenland in 2021 by the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GINR), in collaboration with several organizations. Section IV and VI deals with management issues. The Department of Fisheries and Hunting provided the hunting data.

II RESEARCH BY SPECIES

A Species and stocks studied

Pinnipeds

- Walrus *Odobenus rosmarus* – Northern Baffin Bay and East Greenland
- Bearded seal *Erignathus barbatus* – East Greenland
- Ringed seal *Pusa hispida* – West and East Greenland
- Gray seal *Pagophilus groenlandicus* – West and East Greenland

Cetaceans

- Narwhal *Monodon monoceros* – West and East Greenland
- Beluga *Delphinapterus leucas* – West Greenland
- Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* – West Greenland
- Bowhead whale *Balaena mysticetus* – West and East Greenland
- Humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* – West and East Greenland
- Fin whale *Balaenoptera pinnatus* – West Greenland
- Minke whale *Balaenoptera acronotus* – West and East Greenland
- White-beaked dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albobrunneus* – East Greenland
- Killer whale *Orcinus orca* – East and West Greenland

B Field work in 2021

Walrus

An automated camera was mounted on Ekkertaglutoneq, Northwest Greenland, to monitor a terrestrial haul-out of walrus discovered in 2018 in Walaarselme Fjord/ Umanussup Kangerluk.

Seals

The time-series of ringed seal tagging in Sermilik (Southeast Greenland) and in Kangia (Belouat Ior Fjord, West Greenland), started in 2012, continued in 2021. A two-year tagging study of ringed seals in Ingfield (Breeding) was also started in 2021. The main aim of this work is to obtain oceanographic data for climate analysis. By-product of this study is data on habitat use, movements and ecology of seals in the area.

An interview study about local knowledge about the ecology in Belouat Ior Fjord, with focus on ringed seals was published.

Cetaceans

An aerial survey for narwhals, planned for May 2020, was cancelled for the second year in a row due to travel restrictions posed by the covid-19 pandemic. A telemetry study of bowhead whales in Disko Bay was also cancelled because of the pandemic.