

GREENLAND

PROGRESS REPORT ON MARINE MAMMALS 2013

Compiled by The Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
 Catch, by-catch and strandings statistics provided by the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and
 Agriculture

1. INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the research on phocids and cetaceans done in Greenland in 2013 by The Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GINR), in collaboration with several organizations.

II RESEARCH 2013

A Species and stocks studied

Phocids

- Walrus *Odobenus rosmarus* – Northern Baffin Bay & West Greenland Southern Baffin Island
- Hooded seal *Cystophora cristata* – Western Atlantic
- Harbour seal *Phoca vitulina* – Central West and South Greenland
- Bearded seal *Erymnopsis barbata* – Baffin Bay and South Greenland
- Ringed seal *Pusa hispida* – West and East Greenland
- Harp seal *Phoca phocaena* – West Greenland

Cetaceans

- Narwhal *Monodon monoceros* – West and East Greenland
- Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* – West Greenland
- Sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus* – West and East Greenland
- Bowhead whale *Balaena mysticetus* – West Greenland
- Humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* – West and East Greenland
- Fin whale *Balaenoptera physalus* – West and East Greenland
- Minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* – West and East Greenland

B Field work in 2013

Walrus

To correct for availability bias (i.e. animals not seen because they were submerged) in aerial surveys, and to better understand the connectivity between walrus harvested in Qaanaaq and other areas, Sook hunters tagged 8 walrus with satellite transmitters at the ice edge in the North West Polynia.

Seals

The harbour seal is classified as "Critically Endangered" in the Greenland Red List, and in 2010 all hunting of harbour seals was banned. Despite reports of sporadic observations, no viable colonies have