



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 29

*13-15 September 2022
Grand Hotel, Oslo & Hybrid*

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

NAMMCO/29/NPR/ CA-2021	NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS CANADA – 2021
Submitted by	Canada
Action requested	For information
Background/content	

NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT CANADA 2021ⁱ

I INTRODUCTIONⁱⁱ

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is Canada’s responsible federal government department with respect to the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO). This report provides an overview of Canada’s 2021 marine mammals catch statistics for its East Coast and Arctic Archipelago. It reflects available information on subsistence hunting practices. Additional subsistence hunt data is usually received/available after the NAMMCO reporting period. As an addendum to this year’s report, we have provided additional data from the 2020 and 2019 harvests that was not available at the time of those reports.

II RESEARCH BY SPECIESⁱⁱⁱ

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) was created in 1977 to provide a single, scientifically-sound classification of wildlife species at risk of extinction by assigning risk categories for all native species, including marine mammals, under its current mandate. COSEWIC prepares status reports, which compiles and analyzes the best available information on a wildlife species' status in Canada. It contains information on the basic biology of a wildlife species, as well as information on a wildlife species' distribution in Canada, population sizes and trends, habitat availability and trends, and threats to the wildlife species. The following tables provides a list of recovery documents and COSEWIC reports published on *Species at Risk Act* Public Registry during 2019 and 2020

Species	Recovery documents and COSEWIC Reports from 2019-2020	Date posted
Atlantic walrus ¹	NA	
Harbour seal ²	NA	
Grey seal ³	NA	
Harp seal ⁴	NA	
Hooded seal ⁵	NA	
Ringed seal	COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Ringed Seal (<i>Pusa hispida</i>) in Canada	2020-10-15 https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.888463/publication.html
Bearded seal ⁶	NA	
Common minke whale ⁷	NA	
Fin whale Atlantic & Pacific	COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Fin Whale (<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>), Atlantic population and Pacific population, in Canada	2019-12-09 https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.878715/publication.html
Humpback whale ⁸	NA	
Sei whale Atlantic	COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Sei Whale (<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>), Atlantic population, in Canada	2019-12-20 https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.878720/publication.html
Blue whale	Action Plan for the Blue Whale (<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>), Northwest Atlantic Population, in Canada	2020-07-13 https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.885997/publication.html

Species	Recovery documents and COSEWIC Reports from 2019-2020	Date posted
Bowhead whale ⁹	NA	
Sperm whale ¹⁰	NA	
Long-finned pilot whale ¹¹	NA	
Narwhal ¹²	NA	
Beluga whale	Action Plan to Reduce the Impact of Noise on the Beluga Whale (<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>) and Other Marine Mammals at Risk in the St. Lawrence Estuary, 2019 (Proposed)	2019-07-24 https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/action-plans/beluga-whale-st-lawrence-estuary-2019-proposed.html
	Action Plan to Reduce the Impact of Noise on the Beluga Whale (<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>) and Other Marine Mammals at Risk in the St. Lawrence Estuary (final)	2020-03-02 https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.884546/publication.html
Harbour porpoise ¹³	NA	
North Atlantic right whale	Action Plan for the North Atlantic Right Whale (<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>) in Canada [Proposed]	2020-05-11 https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/action-plans/north-atlantic-right-whale-2021.html
White sided dolphin ¹⁴	NA	
White bearded dolphin ¹⁵	NA	
Bottlenose dolphin		

1. Designated as ‘special concern’ by COSEWIC in 2017.
2. Harbour Seal Atlantic and Eastern Arctic designated ‘not at risk’ by COSEWIC in 2007. Recovery Strategy for Harbour Seal, Lacs des Loups Marins (*Phoca vitulina mellonae*) posted in 2018 and listed on Schedule 1 as Endangered in 2017..
3. Designated as ‘not at risk’ by COSEWIC in 1999.
4. Has never been assessed by COSEWIC.
5. Designated as ‘not at risk’ by COSEWIC in 1986.
6. Designated as ‘data deficient’ by COSEWIC in 2007.
7. Designated as ‘not at risk’ by COSEWIC in 2006.
8. North Pacific population designated as ‘special concern’ by COSEWIC in 2011. Listed on Schedule 1 as Special Concern on June 20, 2017. Atlantic population designated as “not at risk” in 2003.
9. Eastern Canada-West Greenland population designated as ‘special concern’ by COSEWIC in 2009. Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort population listed on Schedule 1 as “special concern” in 2007.
10. Designated as ‘not at risk’ by COSEWIC in 1996.
11. Designated as ‘not at risk’ by COSEWIC in 1994.
12. Designated as ‘special concern’ by COSEWIC in 2004.
13. Pacific Population listed on Schedule 1 as “special concern” in 2005, and last assessed by COSEWIC as “special concern” in 2016. Atlantic population designated by COSEWIC as “special concern” in 2006.
14. Atlantic population designated as ‘not at risk’ by COSEWIC in 1991, and Pacific population as “not at risk” in 1990.
15. Has never been assessed by COSEWIC.

IV ADVICE GIVEN AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES TAKEN^{iv}

Canada manages all fish and marine mammal resources under integrated fisheries management plans (IFMP), specific for each species. An IFMP serves to communicate the necessary information on the fishery and its management to DFO and other federal government officials, other domestic orders of government, legislated co-management boards, hunters and trappers associations, regional wildlife boards, Inuit communities, and other stakeholders.

The IFMP provides a common understanding of basic “rules” for the resource's sustainable management. Where DFO is responsible for implementing obligations for any land claims agreements, the IFMP will be implemented in a manner consistent with these obligations. In the event that an IFMP is inconsistent with obligations under land claims agreements, the provisions of the land claims agreements will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. More information on IFMPs can be found here: [Integrated Fisheries Management Plans \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/seals-phoques/index-eng.html)

IFMPs are not a legally binding instrument that can form the basis of a legal challenge. IFMPs can be modified at any time and does not fetter Canada’s Minister of Fisheries and Oceans’ discretionary powers set out in Canada’s *Fisheries Act*. For reasons of conservation or for any other valid reasons, the minister can 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 and fishery management measures concerning pinnipeds and cetaceans.

Pinnipeds	
Harp seal	https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/seals-phoques/index-eng.html
Hooded seal	
Bearded seal	
Grey 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
Bowhead whale	https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/documents/1777 Species search - Species at risk registry (canada.ca)
Beluga whale	Species search - Species at risk registry (canada.ca)
North Atlantic right whales	2022 fishery management measures (dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

In Canada, species that are at risk are protected under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), which was created to prevent Canadian species and their distinct populations from becoming extirpated or extinct,

to provide for the recovery of Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened species, and to encourage the management of Special Concern species to prevent them from becoming further at risk. More information about Canadian marine mammal stocks/populations that are listed, or under consideration for, SARA listing is available at <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/identify-eng.html>

VI APPENDIX 1 - CATCH DATA^v

The accompanying Excel worksheet “NAMMCO NPR database Canada 2021” provides reported DFO catch data for the 2021/2022 Season (April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022) received to date. The 2021/22 harvest year is not yet complete and these harvest numbers are based on a mid-season update from Hunter and Trappers Organizations (HTO) and Wildlife Offices in October/November 2021. All reported harvest numbers are preliminary at this time.

ANNOTATIONS

ⁱ National Progress Reports should directly address the management measures and research undertaken by member countries in response to NAMMCO proposals for conservation and management, and research recommendations.

ⁱⁱ **I INTRODUCTION:** Indicate which institutions are involved or reported on.

ⁱⁱⁱ **II RESEARCH BY SPECIES:** If relevant, please note any field (sightings, tagging, scientific catches, etc.) and laboratory work, and any research results.

^{iv} **IV ADVICE GIVEN AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES TAKEN:** Report what kind of management advice (scientific) of relevance for the NAMMCO Council and the Scientific Committee has been provided to the authorities in respective member countries, and, similarly, what management measures have been taken *e.g.* Executive Orders.

^v **VI APPENDIX 1 - CATCH DATA:** In the narrative, include any relevant information about catch reporting. See Excel worksheet “NAMMCO NPR database (Country) 2019”. Report the variables indicated for each species harvested. “Stock area” refers to generally accepted stocks, if appropriate, *e.g.* Northeastern Atlantic for minke whales, West Greenland for beluga. If no stock areas exist, give area of catch, *e.g.* NW coastal Iceland. If “struck and lost” data are available, please list these.