

# North Atlantic Right Whale

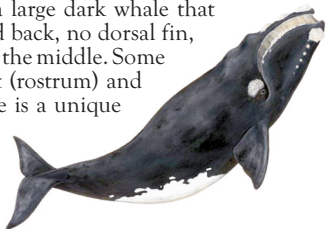
*Eubalaena glacialis*



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## Species Description

The North Atlantic Right Whale is a large dark whale that reaches lengths of 16 m. It has a broad back, no dorsal fin, and large tail flukes that are notched in the middle. Some have a white belly or chin. Its snout (rostrum) and lower jaw are long and arching. There is a unique pattern of thickened skin patches called callosities on the top and sides of the head. The blow of water created when it exhales is v-shaped and can reach heights of 7 m.



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**Key ID Features:** \* callosities on head region \* v-shaped blow \* no dorsal fin

## STATUS

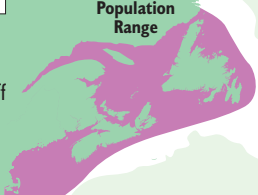


Endangered COSEWIC

Endangered SARA

The North Atlantic Right Whale occurs in northern coastal waters in the summer and fall. Some females migrate south to waters off the southeastern USA in the winter to calve. The Grand Manan and Roseway Basins have been identified as critical habitat.

Population Range



## Interesting Points

- Callosity patterns are individually unique like human fingerprints.
- Approx. 82% have been entangled in fishing gear at least once in their lives.
- First time mothers are 5-20+ years old and have one calf every 3 years (or longer).

## Threats

- Impacts of historical whaling.
- Vessel strikes and entanglements.
- Declining reproductive rates (low genetic diversity, food limitation, toxins).
- Acoustic disturbance (noise produced from human activities).
- Habitat degradation and reduction.
- Disturbance from vessel presence.

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In 2003, shipping lanes were altered in the Bay of Fundy to reduce the chance of vessel strikes in a Right Whale hotspot. Learn how you can help on page 136.

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or [xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Info:** [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca), [www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca),

**Sighting Reports:** [xmarwhalesightings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:xmarwhalesightings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Stewardship:** Report distressed or dead marine mammals to MARS: 1-866-567-6277