

# Northern Bottlenose Whale

*Hyperoodon ampullatus* (Scotian Shelf Population)



## Species Description

The Northern Bottlenose Whale is a beaked whale typically found in waters greater than 500 m deep.

It can be recognized by its small beak (rostrum) and bulbous forehead (melon), which is more obvious in males. It is yellowish to chocolate brown in colouration, 6-9 m long, has a small triangular dorsal fin (2/3 down its body length), and broad tail flukes with no notch in the middle. Males may have two visible teeth in the lower jaw while females and juveniles have no visible teeth.



**Key ID Features:** \* bulbous forehead \* small beak

## STATUS



Endangered COSEWIC

Endangered SARA

Extend from the Northeast Channel off Nova Scotia to the Flemish Cap off Newfoundland. About 160 individuals are year-round residents of the area. The Gully, Shortland and Haldimand submarine canyons have been identified as critical habitat.



## Interesting Points

- A highly social species.
- Described as a 'curious' whale, and often investigates vessels.
- Can make incredibly deep dives (over 1.4 km) and stay submerged for over an hour to feed on deep-water squid.

## Threats

- Impacts of historical whaling.
- Entanglement in fishing gear.
- Oil and gas activities.
- Acoustic disturbance (noise produced from human activities).
- Contaminants.
- Changes to food supply.
- Vessel strikes.

Learn how you can help on page 136.

## Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

**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)



Long-term passive acoustic monitoring study in the Gully.