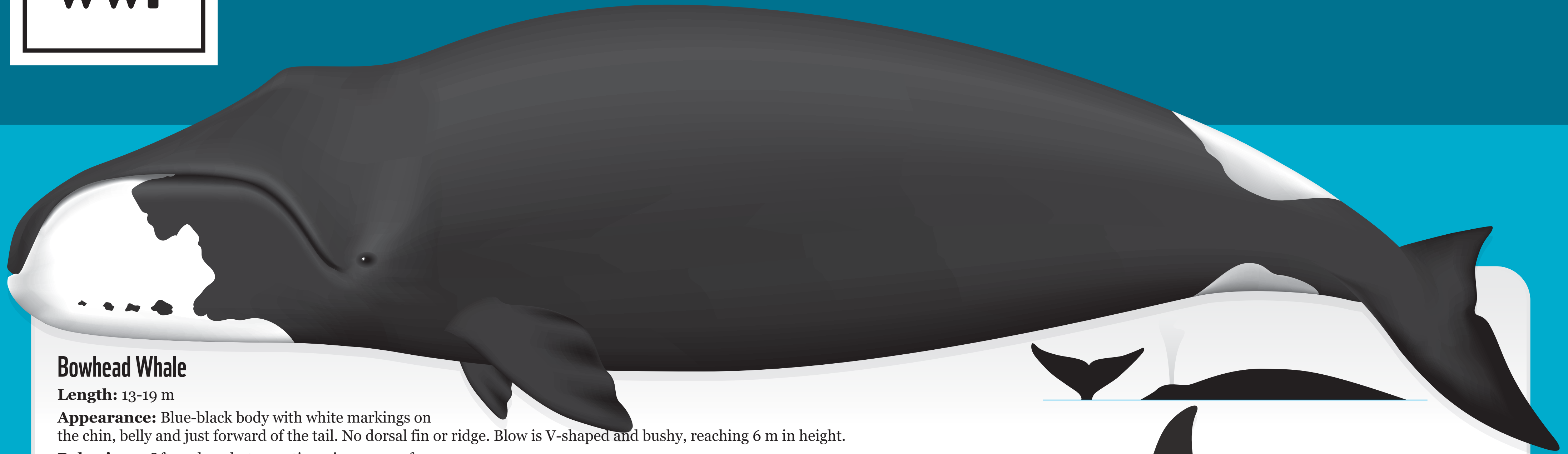




Eastern Arctic Mariner's Guide

The following marine mammals are common in the eastern Arctic, however, other species may also be seen. It's possible for marine mammals to venture outside of their common habitats and be seen elsewhere.



Bowhead Whale

Length: 13-19 m

Appearance: Blue-black body with white markings on the chin, belly and just forward of the tail. No dorsal fin or ridge. Blow is V-shaped and bushy, reaching 6 m in height.

Behaviour: Often alone but sometimes in groups of 2-10.

Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment): J F M A M J J A S O N D

Status: Special concern

Beluga Whale

Length: 4-5 m

Appearance: Adults are white and young are grey. No dorsal fin, only a small portion of the body is visible out of the water. Blow is low and hardly visible.

Behaviour: Found in small groups, but sometimes hundreds to thousands during annual migrations.

Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment): J F M A M J J A S O N D

Status: Special concern



Narwhal

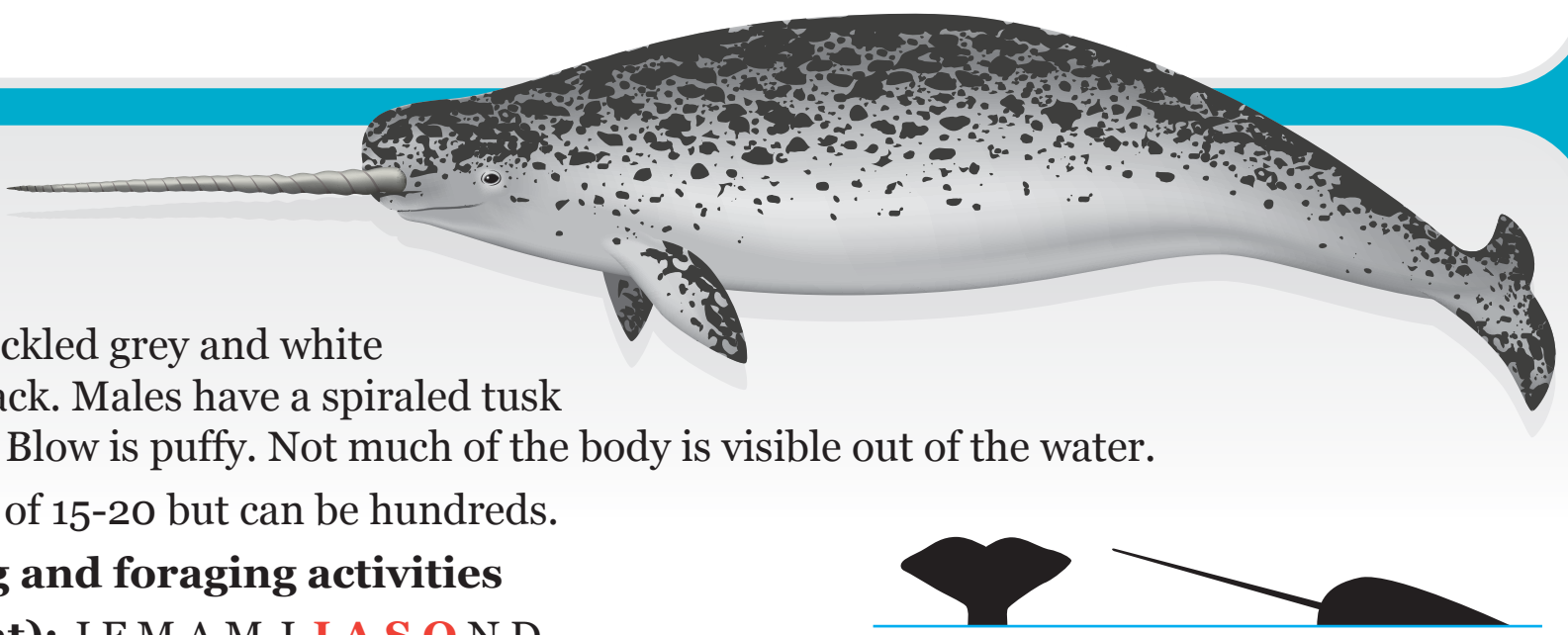
Length: 4-5 m

Appearance: Adults are speckled grey and white while young are dark grey/black. Males have a spiraled tusk up to 3 m long. No dorsal fin. Blow is puffy. Not much of the body is visible out of the water.

Behaviour: Often in groups of 15-20 but can be hundreds.

Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment): J F M A M J J A S O N D

Status: Special concern



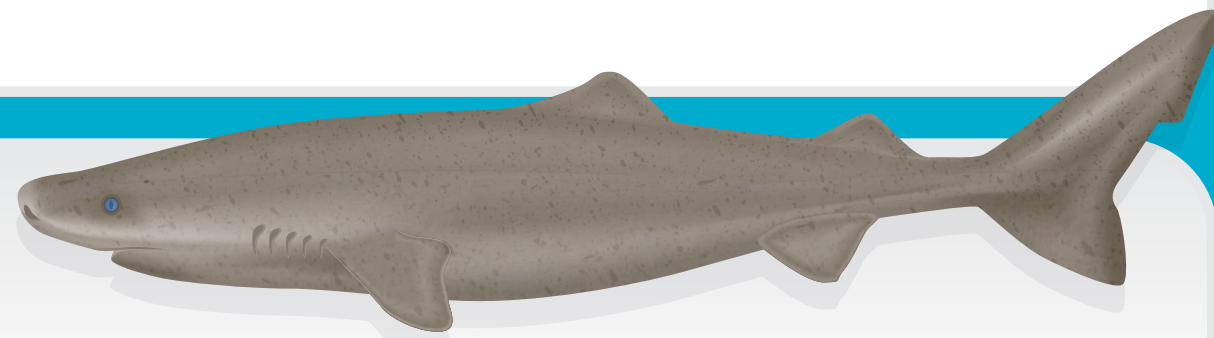
Greenland Shark

Length: 2.5-4.5 m

Appearance: Coloration can be black, brown, grey or a spotted mix of all three. Two small dorsal fins.

Behaviour: Slow swimming. Usually observed near the surface during the winter and retreats to deeper waters (180 to 550 m) during the summer.

Status: Not assessed



Hooded Seal

Length: 2-3 m

Appearance: Silver-grey with irregular dark blotches. Males have a black "hood" on forehead and inflatable balloon-like nose membrane.

Behaviour: Solitary, except during pupping, mating and moulting.

Sensitive months (pupping activities): J F M A M J J A S O N D

Status: Not at risk



Bearded Seal

Length: Up to 2.5 m

Appearance: Grey with brown tinge on the head and lighter coloring on the underside. Long, white whiskers and square shaped front flippers.

Behaviour: Solitary, but form small groups during mating and moulting.

Sensitive months (pupping activities): J F M A M J J A S O N D

Status: Data deficient



Harp Seal

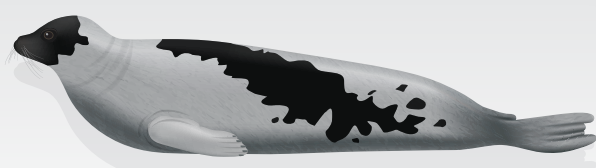
Length: Up to 2 m

Appearance: Light grey body with black or brown head and long, black 'harp-shaped' saddle on the back.

Behaviour: When migrating, the seals leap out of the water like dolphins.

Sensitive months (risk of disturbance): J F M A M J J A S O N D

Status: Not assessed



Ringed Seal

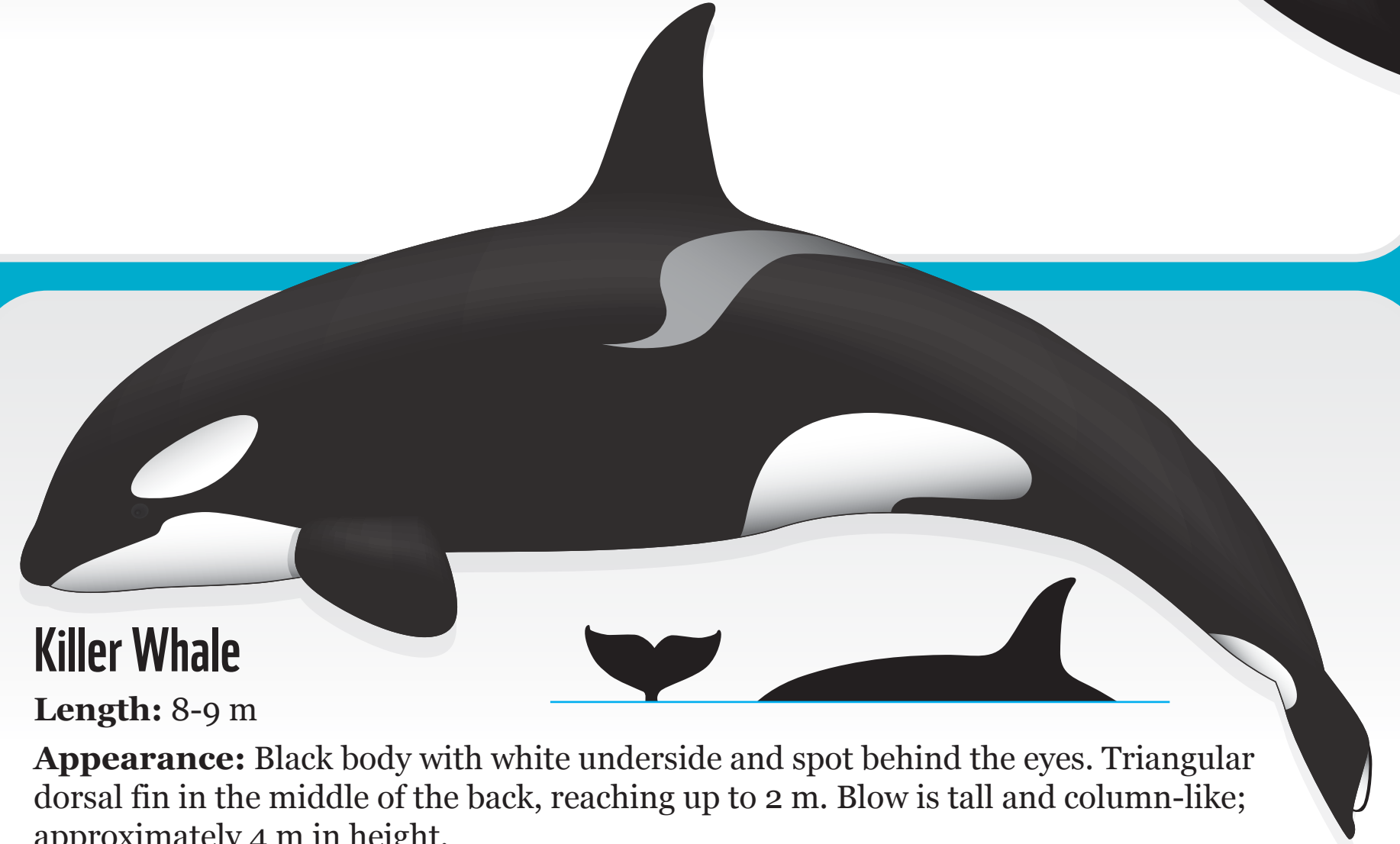
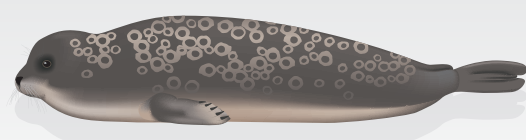
Length: Up to 1.5 m

Appearance: Dark grey body with light rings on the back and silver colouring on the front.

Behaviour: Associated with ice floes and pack ice. Maintain breathing holes throughout winter.

Sensitive months (pupping activities): J F M A M J J A S O N D

Status: Not at risk



Killer Whale

Length: 8-9 m

Appearance: Black body with white underside and spot behind the eyes. Triangular dorsal fin in the middle of the back, reaching up to 2 m. Blow is tall and column-like; approximately 4 m in height.

Behaviour: Typically form groups of 2-25.

Sensitive months (risk of disturbance): J F M A M J J A S O N D

Status: Special concern

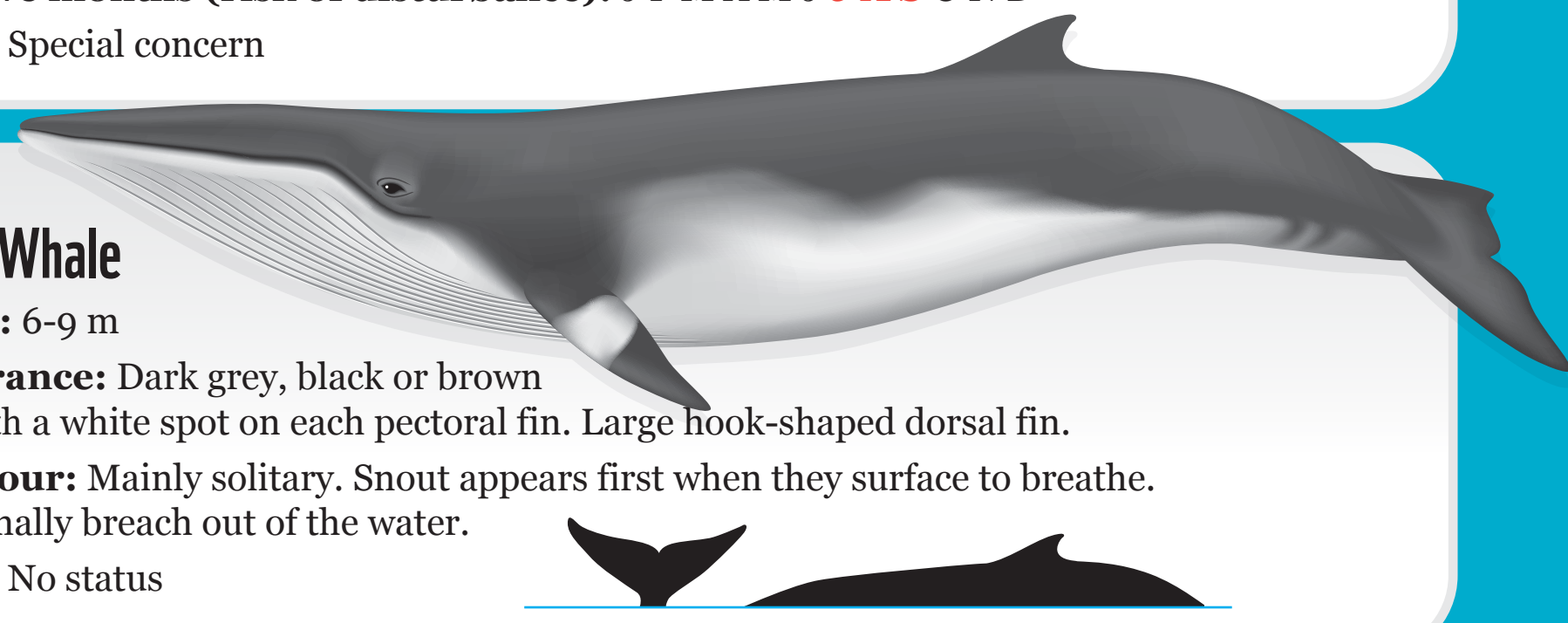
Minke Whale

Length: 6-9 m

Appearance: Dark grey, black or brown back with a white spot on each pectoral fin. Large hook-shaped dorsal fin.

Behaviour: Mainly solitary. Snout appears first when they surface to breathe. Occasionally breach out of the water.

Status: No status



Polar Bear

Length: Up to 3 m

Appearance: White, but can appear yellow, or light brown.

Behaviour: Solitary, except during breeding and cub rearing. Majority of time is spent on sea ice.

Status: Special concern



Walrus

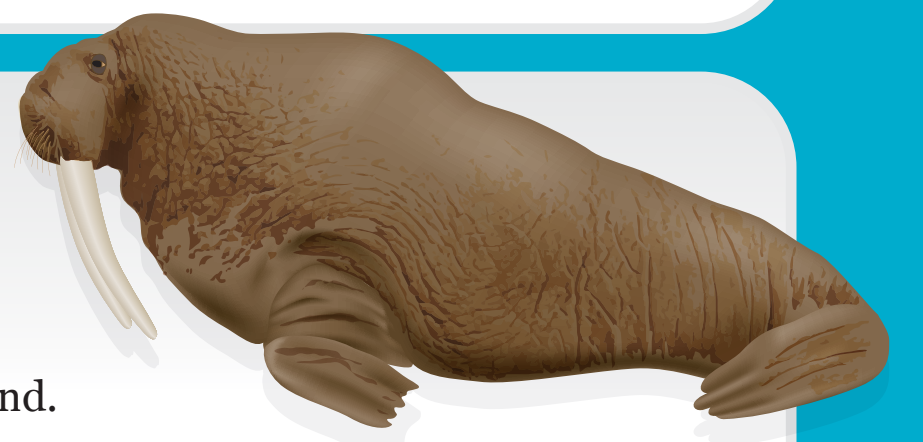
Length: 2-3.5 m

Appearance: Brown skin. Broad flat muzzle, white whiskers and two distinctive tusks.

Behaviour: Occur in tight groups on ice floes or on land.

Sensitive months (risk of disturbance): J F M A M J J A S O N D

Status: Special concern



Distance Recommendations When Around Marine Mammals
(Changes in navigation should not be assumed if they compromise safe operations)

Slow down and avoid abrupt course changes



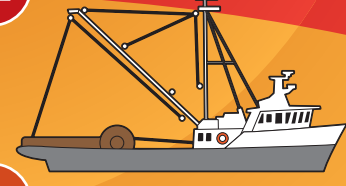
Do not approach or position vessel toward any marine mammal



200 m



400 m



Maneuver around marine mammals

2 km



5 km

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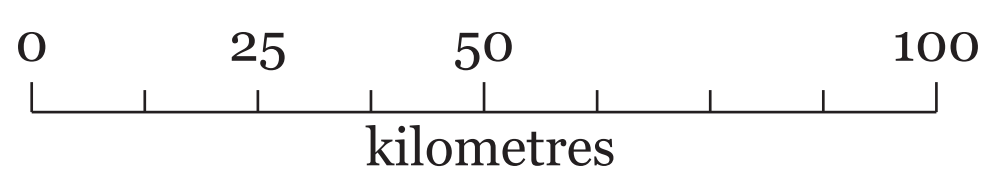


Eastern Arctic Mariner's Guide

Seals, Walrus and Fish

Legend

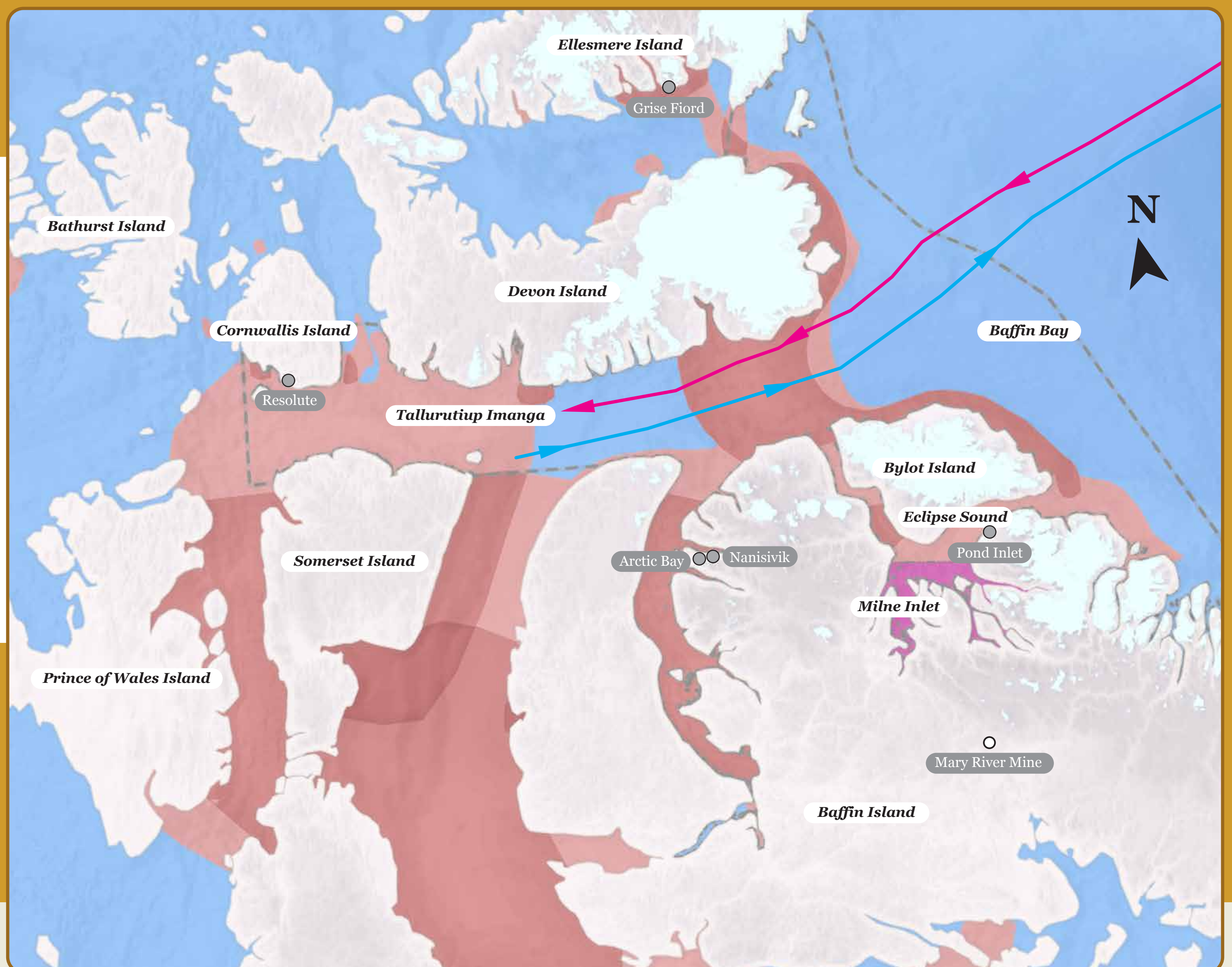
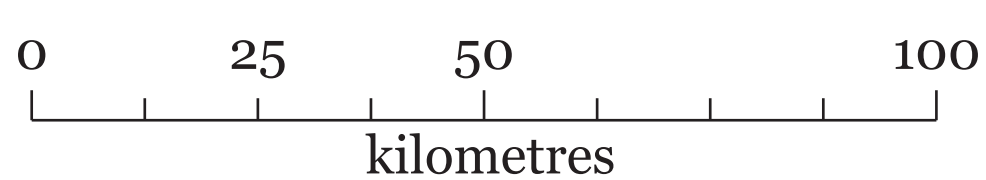
- Communities¹
- Walrus haulouts²
- Walrus high concentration¹⁷
- Arctic char high concentration¹⁶
- Seal high concentration^{8,17}



Whales

Legend

- Communities¹
- Narwhal, bowhead and beluga foraging, calving and areas of high concentration^{2,8,17} (overlap between species are darker shades)
- Recommended tourism exclusion zone
- Beluga fall migration³
- Beluga spring migration³
- National Marine Conservation Area



NOTE:
For navigation purposes, please use charts provided by the Canadian Hydrographic Service.

WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on community input and Traditional Knowledge, Science, Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan, Baffinland Shipping and Marine Wildlife Management Plan, North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan, and WWF engagement. Masters remain responsible for safe navigations.

Walrus haulout

Maintain a setback of five (5) km seaward of a walrus haulout, any time during the year⁹

Whale sensitive habitats

Be cautious in whale calving, foraging and migration areas from mid-July to mid-September and follow mitigation procedures in the vicinity of marine mammals:

- Wildlife will be given right-of-way;
- Maintain a straight course and constant speed, avoiding erratic behaviour;
- When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stoppage of movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area; and
- Adhere to setback distances (see chart) when in the presence of marine mammals⁹

Caribou sea ice crossing

Avoid shipping in caribou sea ice crossing areas from mid-January to mid-July⁹

Polynyas (open water in ice cover)

Avoid shipping in polynyas (approximately November to June)⁹

Floe edges

Avoid shipping through and around floe edges in April, May and June¹⁰

Ice breaking

Avoid shipping during ice formation, coverage and breakup⁹

Speeds

Maintain a straight course and constant speed of 7-10 knots in Eclipse Sound and Milne Inlet^{13,15}

Birds

When birds are present, year-round:

- 500 m setback for ships from seabird colonies
- 100 m setback from seabird colonies for zodiacs, kayaks and other small launch vessels
- 2 km setback distance from Ivory gull breeding sites
- 500 m setback distance from seaduck colonies, moulting aggregations of seaducks and waterfowl⁹

Inuit travel routes

Avoid crossing on-ice community transportation corridors when the sea is frozen, unless accompanied by ice-bridging⁹

Seal pupping

Avoid seal areas during pupping from late-February to June¹²

Community use

Give right-of-way, do not approach, or take photographs of hunting activities. Respect the "tourism exclusion zone" during the summer months

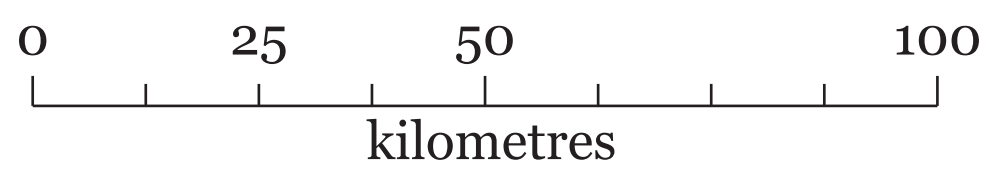


Eastern Arctic Mariner's Guide

Ice

Legend

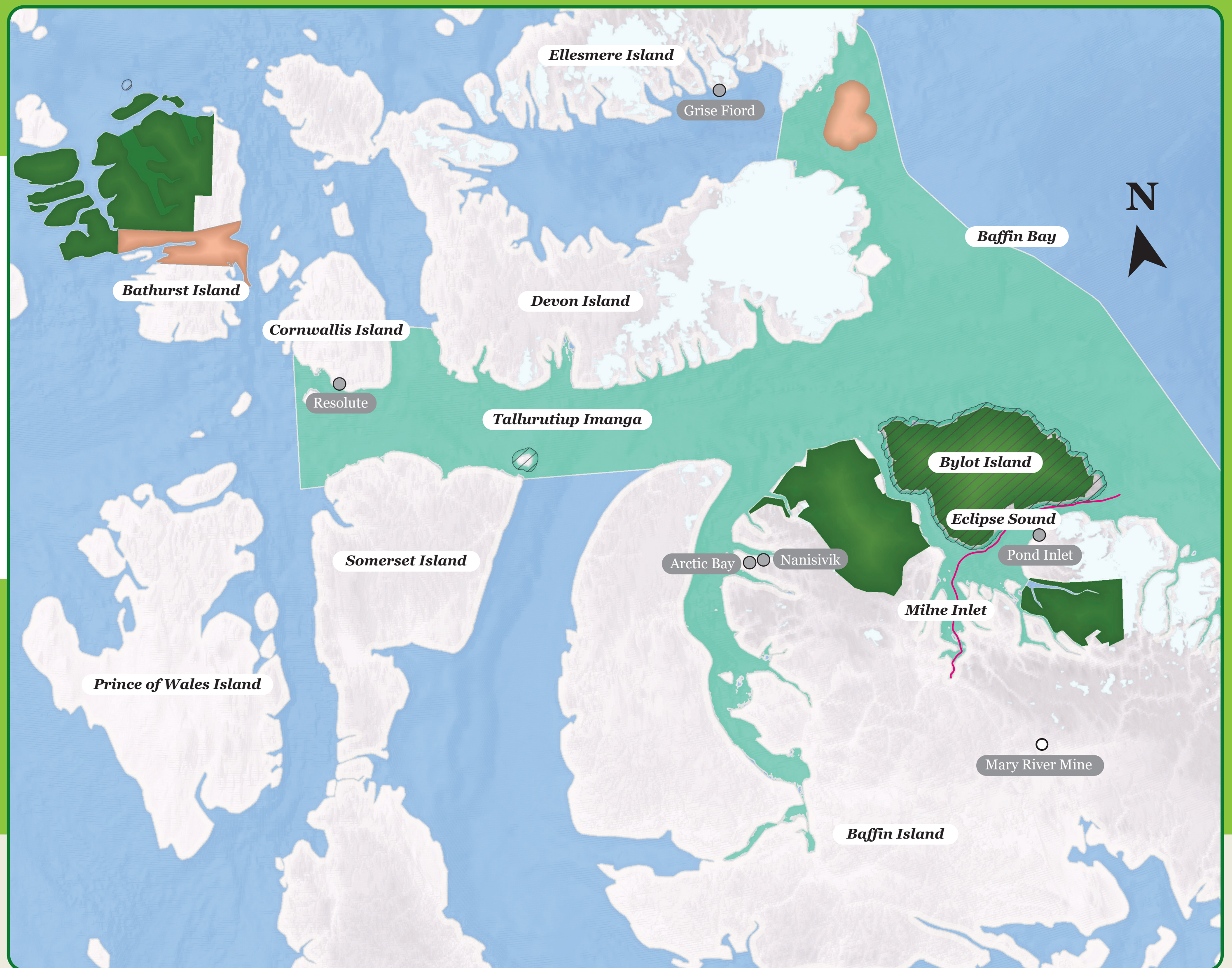
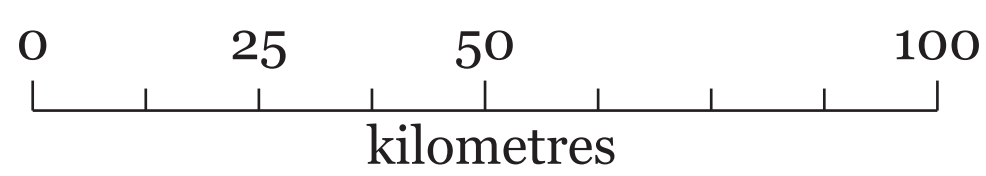
- Floe edge⁹
- Polynyas (open water in ice cover)⁹
- On-ice travel routes⁹
- Caribou sea ice crossing⁹
- Communities¹
- National Marine Conservation Area boundary



Conservation

Legend

- National Marine Conservation Area boundary⁷
- Migratory Bird Sanctuary⁵
- National Wildlife Area⁵
- Baffinland shipping route¹¹
- National Park⁵
- Communities¹



NOTE:
For navigation purposes, please use charts provided by the Canadian Hydrographic Service.

LOCAL PHONE NUMBERS

Contact the nearest community Hunters and Trappers Organization/Association for local knowledge of marine mammals

- Arctic Bay:** 867-439-9917
- Clyde River:** 867-924-6220
- Pond Inlet:** 867-899-8856
- Resolute:** 867-252-3616
- Grise Fiord:** 867-980-9959
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board:** 867-975-7300

WWF

Please contact for errors, omissions, comments, additions

Andrew Dumbrille, 613-290-2006
adumbrille@wwfcanada.org

Melissa Nacke, 613-232-2509
mnacke@wwfcanada.org

MARINE WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS, ENCOUNTERS & INCIDENTS

Report to: Department of Fisheries and Oceans,
Steve Ferguson, 204-983-5057, steve.ferguson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

You may be asked to provide:

- Date and time you found the animal or witnessed the incident
- Specific location, including latitude and longitude (if available) or driving directions (if accessible by land)
- Species or type of animal, including a description of the size, colour, features
- Condition of the animal – alive, sick or injured, freshly dead, badly rotting away
- Number of animals involved
- Your contact information, including name and phone number

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

Contact for permitting requirements if transiting in a Nunavut Migratory Bird Sanctuary or National Wildlife Area

Environment and Climate Change Canada
P.O. Box 1870, 933 Mivvik Street
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Email: ec.nupermisscf-cwspermitnu.ec@canada.ca
Telephone: 867-975-4636

NATIONAL PARKS

Sirmilik National Park: 867-899-8092
Qausuittuq National Park: 867-975-4673

Sources:
¹ Atlas of Canada, Northern Geodatabase, 2017 <http://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/702ebdea-39ff-50e4-ab5f-de1150d16b7a>
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⁴ Mallory, M. and Fontaine, A. 2004. Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in the Nunavut and Northwest Territories. Occasional Paper Number 109, Canadian Wildlife Service. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/3CF6D6D9-A460-4348-9C10-79648C948B2E/KeyMarineHabitatSitesForMigratoryBirdsInNunavutAndTheNorthwestTerritories.pdf>
⁵ Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA)
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⁸ Mary River Project. 2001. Marine Mammal Baseline Synthesis.

⁹ Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan. 2016. Nunavut Planning Commission. http://www.nunavut.ca/files/2016DNLUP/2016_Draft_Nunavut_Land_Use_Plan.pdf
¹⁰ David Currie, P.Eng. Canatec Associates International Ltd. 2012. http://webmap.geoanalytic.com/download/wwf/polynya_report.html
¹¹ Received from Baffinland, 2017
¹² North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. 2000. <http://www.nunavut.ca/files/North%20Baffin%20Regional%20Land%20Use%20Plan.pdf>
¹³ Baffinland Iron Mines. 2016. Shipping and Marine Wildlife Management Plan.
¹⁴ Wilson, S.C., Trukhanova, I., Crawford, I., Doglova, E., Dmitrieva, L., and Goodman, S.J. Assessment & mitigation of impacts from icebreaking vessels on ice-breeding pinnipeds in the Holarctic.
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¹⁷ Stephenson, S.A., and L. Hartwig. 2010. The Arctic Marine Workshop: Freshwater Institute, Winnipeg, Manitoba, February 16-17, 2010. Can. Manuscript Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2934:vi+67p