

# CANADA, PROGRESS REPORT ON CETACEAN RESEARCH, APRIL 2001 TO MARCH 2002

Compiled by SUSAN COSENS

*Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Central and Arctic Region  
501 University Crescent  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3T 2N6*

This report summarizes information obtained from: The Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Central and Arctic (C&A) Region

## 1. Species and stocks studied

Common name	Scientific name	Area/stock	Items referred to
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	BB-DS, HB-FB	2.1.1, 3.1.3, 4.1
Beluga whale	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	High Arctic (Greenland), James Bay	4.2, 7.1 4.3
Beluga whale	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Hudson Bay	4.2, 7.1
Beluga whale	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Cumberland Sound	3.13, 7.1
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	High Arctic	3.13, 7.1
Narwhal	<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Hudson Bay	4.2, 7.1

## 2. Sightings data

### 2.1 Field work

#### 2.1.1 SYSTEMATIC

An aerial photographic survey of bowheads was done in southern Prince Regent Inlet and northern Gulf of Boothia. Whales were sighted but were difficult to photograph. Distribution data were collected and will be compared to environmental data collected by remote sensing.

#### 2.1.2 OPPORTUNISTIC, PLATFORMS OF OPPORTUNITY

none

### 2.2 Analyses/development of techniques

None completed on bowheads.

## 3. Marking data

### 3.1 Field work

#### 3.1.1 NATURAL MARKING DATA

none

#### 3.1.2. ARTIFICIAL MARKING DATA

none

#### 3.1.3 TELEMETRY DATA

Species	Tag type	No. successfully deployed	Maximum time transmitting	Contact person/ Institute
Bowhead (HB-FB)	satellite	4	4 days from one whale*	Larry Dueck
Beluga (CS)	satellite	7	ongoing	Pierre Richard
Narwhal	satellite	12	ongoing	Pierre Richard

\* Tag retention seems to have been problematic.

### 3.2 Analyses/development of techniques

Give brief details of any analyses of marking data carried out (e.g. times/distances to resightings, biological parameters, etc.) with references where appropriate.

#### 4. Tissue/biological samples collected

##### 4.1 Biopsy samples

Species	Area/stock	Calendar Year/Season Total	Archived (Y/N)	No. analyzed	Total holdings	Contact person/institute
Bowhead	BB-DS	2	Y	2	3	Lianne Maiers
Bowhead	HB-FB	46	Y	46	84	Lianne Maiers

##### 4.2 Samples from directed catches or bycatches

Species	Area/stock	Calendar Year/Season Total	Archived (Y/N)	No. analyzed	Total holdings	Contact person/institute
Beluga	Hudson Bay	120	Y	not yet	1000*	Brigitte de March
Narwhal	Hudson Bay	25	Y	not yet	300	Brigitte de March
Beluga	SE Baffin	25	Y	ongoing	not avail.	Gary Stern**
Beluga	High Arctic	30	Y	ongoing	not avail.	Gary Stern**
Beluga	Hudson Bay	15	Y	ongoing	not avail.	Gary Stern**
Narwhal	High Arctic	20	Y	ongoing	not avail.	Gary Stern**
Narwhal	Hudson Bay	15	Y	ongoing	not avail.	Gary Stern**

\* All stocks of belugas for genetics analysis

\*\* Samples being used by Gary Stern for contaminants analyses

##### 4.3 Samples from stranded animals

Species	Area/stock	Calendar Year/Season Total	Archived (Y/N)	No. analyzed	Total holdings	Contact person/institute
Bowhead	HB-FB	3	Y		11	Lianne Maiers/Ole Neilsen
Sperm Whale	Clyde River	1	Y			Lianne Maiers/Ole Neilsen
Beluga*	James Bay	2	Y	N	2	Lianne Maiers

\*samples collected from old skull material

##### 4.4 Analyses/development of techniques

none

#### 5. Pollution studies

Information on available samples can be seen in Section 4. Contaminant levels are being analyzed to look at temporal and spatial trends. Contaminant fingerprinting is being done as a tool for stock identification. Mercury levels are being estimated.

#### 6. Statistics for large cetaceans

##### 6.1 Direct catches (commercial, aboriginal and scientific permits) for the calendar year 2001 or the season 2000/01

none

##### 6.2 Other non-natural mortality for the calendar year 2001

5 beached carcasses

6.3 Earlier years' statistics

n/a

**7. Statistics for small cetaceans**

7.1 For the calendar year 2001

Species	Area/stock	Directed Catch		Incidental mortality			Live-capture
		Reported	Est. total	Reported	Est. total	Source	
Beluga	Nunavut	375		none			none
Beluga	NWT*	not avail.**		none			none
Narwhal	High Arctic	451		none			none
Narwhal	Hudson Bay	108		none			none

\*Northwest Territories – Beaufort Sea

\*\* not available at time of report preparation

7.2 Earlier years' statistics

n/a

**8. Strandings**

Contact Ole Neilsen at the Freshwater Institute (Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 501 University Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 2N6) – primary species of interest: bowhead whales

**9. Other studies and analyses**

n/a

**10. Literature cited**

n/a

**11. Publications**

n/a