

GARFO Master ESA Species Table - Marine Mammals

Species	Region	Offshore distribution	Nearshore areas of importance	Likely Presence	Life Stages Present	Behaviors Anticipated to Occur
North Atlantic right whale	Northeast (ME to Cape Cod, MA)	throughout continental shelf and slope waters	Cape Cod Bay, Massachusetts Bay, Great South Channel, western Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, Jordan Basin, Wilkinson Basin, Jeffreys Ledge, Cashes Ledge	Year round	Adults and juveniles	<p>Foraging - Cape Cod Bay (January-April), Massachusetts Bay (January-April), Great South Channel (April-June), the western Gulf of Maine (April-May and July-October), the northern edge of Georges Bank (May-July), Jordan Basin (August-October), and Wilkinson Basin (April-July)</p> <p>Wintering - Increasing evidence of wintering areas (approximately November-January) in Cape Cod Bay, Jeffreys and Cashes Ledge, Jordan Basin, and Massachusetts Bay (e.g., Stellwagen Bank)</p>
	Mid-Atlantic (Cape Cod, MA to VA)	throughout continental shelf and slope waters	possibly waters off New Jersey and Virginia	Year round	Adults and juveniles	<p>Migration - Migratory pathway to/from northern (high latitude) foraging and southern calving grounds (primarily November-April)</p>
Fin whale	Northeast (ME to Cape Cod, MA)	throughout continental shelf and slope waters	Massachusetts Bay, Stellwagen Bank, Great South Channel, east of Cape Cod, western Gulf of Maine, eastern perimeter of Georges Bank	Year round	Adults and juveniles	<p>Foraging - Greatest densities from March-August; lower densities from September-November; important foraging grounds include Massachusetts Bay (especially Stellwagen Bank), Great South Channel, waters off Cape Cod (~40-50 meter contour), the western Gulf of Maine (especially Jeffreys Ledge), and the eastern perimeter of Georges Bank</p> <p>Wintering - Evidence of wintering areas in Stellwagen Bank and eastern perimeter of Georges Bank</p>
	Mid-Atlantic (Cape Cod, MA to VA)	throughout continental shelf and slope waters	east end of Long Island, mid-shelf east of New Jersey	Year round	Adults and juveniles	<p>Foraging - Year round in the mid-shelf area off the east end of Long Island</p> <p>Migration - Migratory pathway to/from northern (high latitude) foraging and southern (low latitude) calving grounds</p> <p>Wintering - Evidence of wintering areas in mid-shelf areas east of New Jersey</p> <p>Calving - Possible offshore calving area (October-January)</p>

GARFO Master ESA Species Table - Marine Mammals

Sei whale	Northeast (ME to Cape Cod, MA)	continental shelf edge/slope waters with depths greater than 200 meters	none	Year round	Adults and juveniles	<p>Foraging - Spring through summer, found in greatest densities in offshore waters of the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank (eastern margin into the Northeast Channel area; along the southwestern edge in the area of Hydrographer Canyon); prefer continental shelf edge/slope waters (i.e., >200 meters), although incursions into continental shelf waters do occur seasonally or sporadically during periods of high prey abundance; generally feed on copepods and can often be found in areas where right whales are also found foraging, typically a bit further offshore than Cape Cod Bay</p> <p>Migration - The population is believed to migrate from south of Cape Cod and along the coast of eastern Canada in June-July, and return on a southward migration again in September-October</p>
-----------	--------------------------------	---	------	------------	----------------------	--

Sperm whale	Northeast and Mid-Atlantic (ME to VA)	areas with depths greater than 600 meters, and are relatively uncommon in waters less than 300 meters deep	none	Year round	Adults and juveniles	<p>Foraging - In winter, concentrated east and northeast of Cape Hatteras; in spring, the center of distribution shifts northward to east of Delaware and Virginia, and is widespread throughout the central portion of the Mid-Atlantic Bight and the southern portion of Georges Bank; in summer, the distribution is similar but also includes the area east and north of Georges Bank and into the Northeast Channel region, as well as the continental shelf (inshore of the 100 meter isobath) south of New England; in fall, occurrence south of New England on the continental shelf is at its highest level, and there remains a continental shelf edge occurrence in the Mid-Atlantic Bight</p> <p>Migration - In some mid-latitudes, there seems to be a general trend to migrate north and south depending on the seasons (they move poleward in the summer); in temperate areas, there appears to be no obvious seasonal migration</p>
-------------	---------------------------------------	--	------	------------	----------------------	---

GARFO Master ESA Species Table - Marine Mammals

Blue whale	Northeast and Mid-Atlantic (ME to VA)	continental shelf edge/slope waters with depths greater than 200 meters	none	Year round	Adults and juveniles	<p>Foraging - Off the U.S. Northeast and Mid-Atlantic coasts, they are most common during the summer and fall feeding seasons and typically leave by early winter; although they are rare in continental shelf waters, blue whales are occasionally seen off Cape Cod; best considered an occasional visitor in U.S. Atlantic waters, which may represent the southern limit of its feeding range</p> <p>Migration - Migrate seasonally between summer and winter, but some evidence suggests that individuals remain in certain areas year round; information about movements varies with location, and migratory routes are not well known</p>
------------	---------------------------------------	---	------	------------	----------------------	--

<u>Species</u>	<u>Listing Rule</u>	<u>Recovery Plan</u>
North Atlantic right whale	73 FR 12024; March 6, 2008	NMFS 2005
Fin whale	35 FR 18319; December 2, 1970	NMFS 2010a
Sei whale	35 FR 18319; December 2, 1970	NMFS 2011
Sperm whale	35 FR 18319; December 2, 1970	NMFS 2010b
Blue whale	35 FR 18319; December 2, 1970	NMFS 1998

References: CETAP 1982; Watkins and Schevill 1982; Payne 1984; Kenney et al. 1986, 1995; Schevill et al. 1986; Winn et al. 1986; Wenzel et al. 1988; Hamilton and Mayo 1990; Payne et al. 1990; Hain et al. 1992; Brown et al. 2002; McClellan et al. 2004; Good 2008; NOAA 2008; Baumgartner et al. 2011; Cole et al. 2013; Khan et al. 2013, 2014, 2016; Waring et al. 2016; 81 FR 4837, January 27, 2016; 50 CFR 224.105.