

Sei Whale

Balaenoptera borealis (Atlantic Population)



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Species Description

The Sei Whale is a large, slim, baleen whale that reaches an adult size of 12-15m long. It has a tall, slender dorsal fin. There may be considerable colour variation between individuals, however it is generally dark blue-grey with lighter colouration on its sides and towards the rear of its underside. The underside of its chin, extending to its stomach, is white.



Illustration by Gary Taylor, DFO

Key ID Features: * tall, slender dorsal fin * fine baleen * white chin

STATUS



Endangered COSEWIC

Not listed

SARA

Sei Whales occur in every ocean in the world. However, the Atlantic population of Sei Whales extends from Baffin Island to the border between Canadian and U.S. waters. There are numerous occurrences in the Bay of Fundy and the Scotian Shelf.

Population Range



Interesting Points

- Its baleen is much finer than most other whales, making it a reliable indicator of species when trying to identify a dead whale.
- It is thought to migrate to higher-latitude summer foraging grounds from lower-latitude wintering grounds.
- It is the third largest baleen whale.

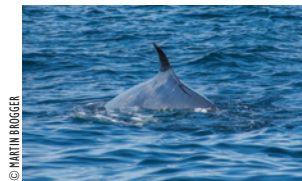
Threats

- Acoustic disturbance (seismic surveys, shipping and military exercises).
- Vessel strikes.
- Entanglement in fishing gear.

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Tall, slender dorsal fin

Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

Contact: DFO SAR Program 1-902-244-7212 / 1-866-891-0771 or dfo.marsara-lepmar.mpo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Info: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes; www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Sighting Reports: xmarwhalesightings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; Whale Alert App

Stewardship: MARS (Distressed or dead whales) 1-866-567-6277 or mars@marineanimals.ca or VHF Channel 16

