

# North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog Update and Whale Naming Results

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# What is the Catalog and how has it changed



New England Aquarium Special Section:

## The North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog

[Return to Right Whale Projects](#)



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This web site was developed by researchers at the [New England Aquarium](#) who serve as the curators of all North Atlantic right whale photographs for the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium.



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# Catalog Break Down

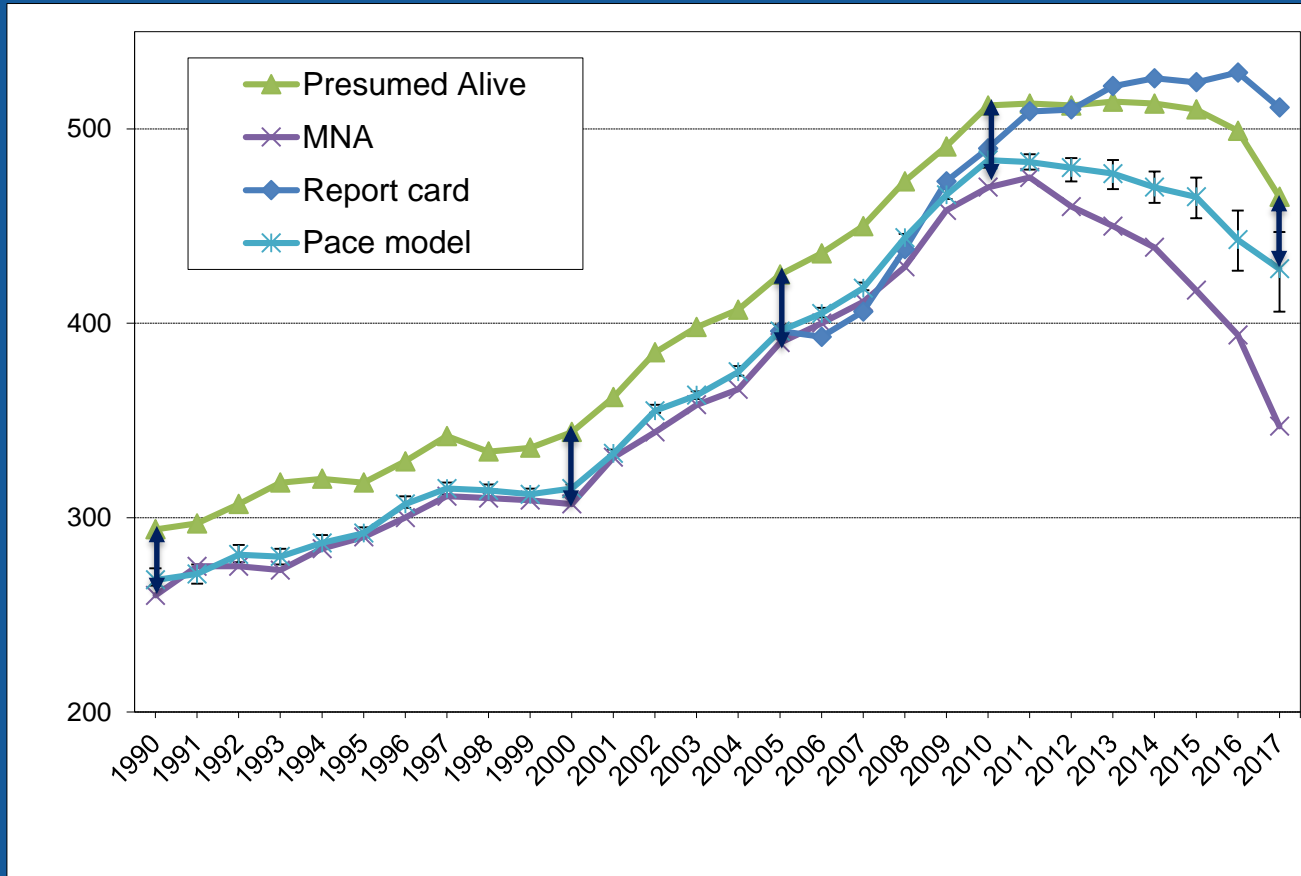
## All Cataloged Whales

Female	306	← 46.6% of known sex
Male	350	
Unknown sex	78	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>734</b>	

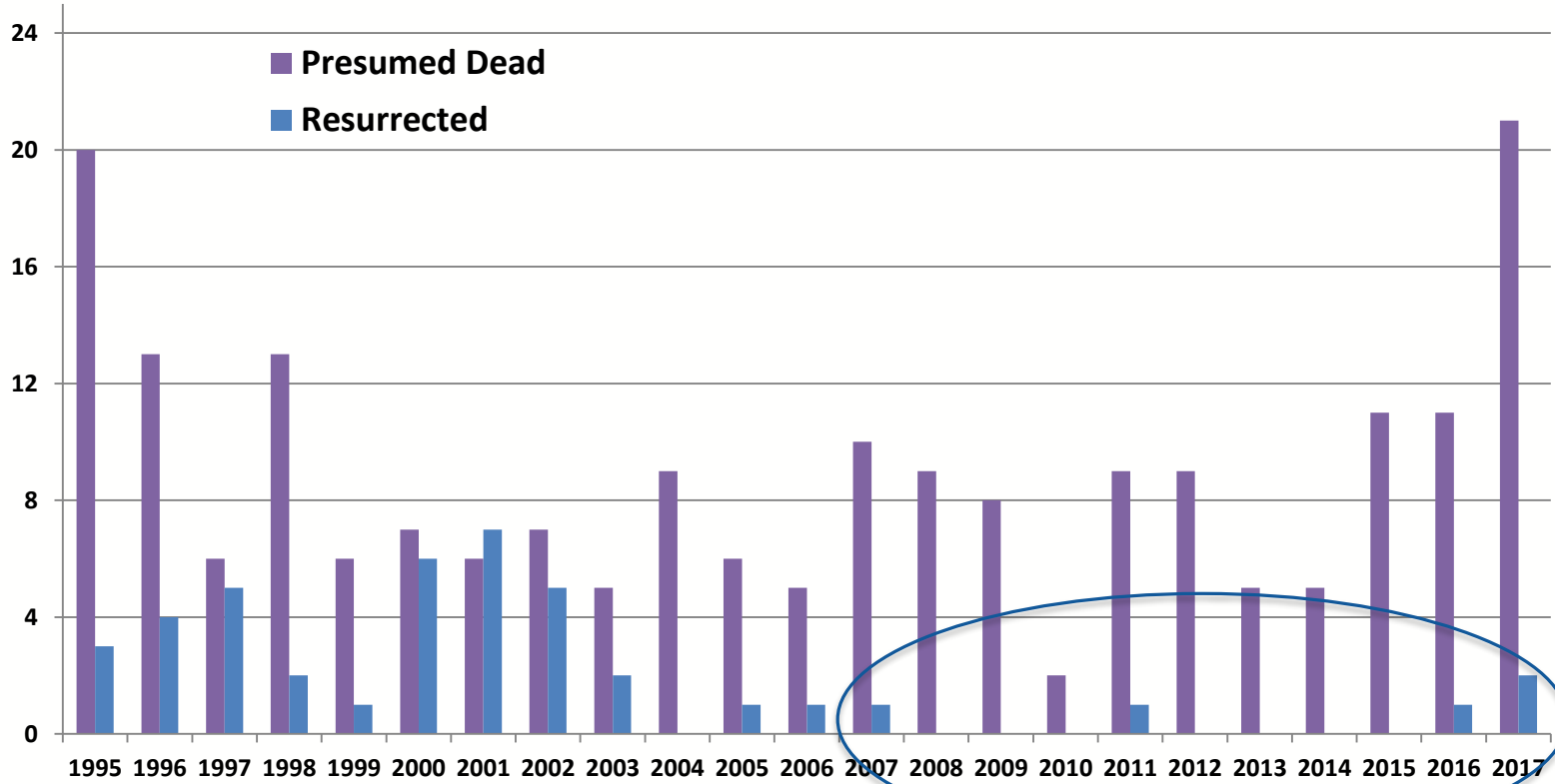
## Whales Presumed Alive in 2017

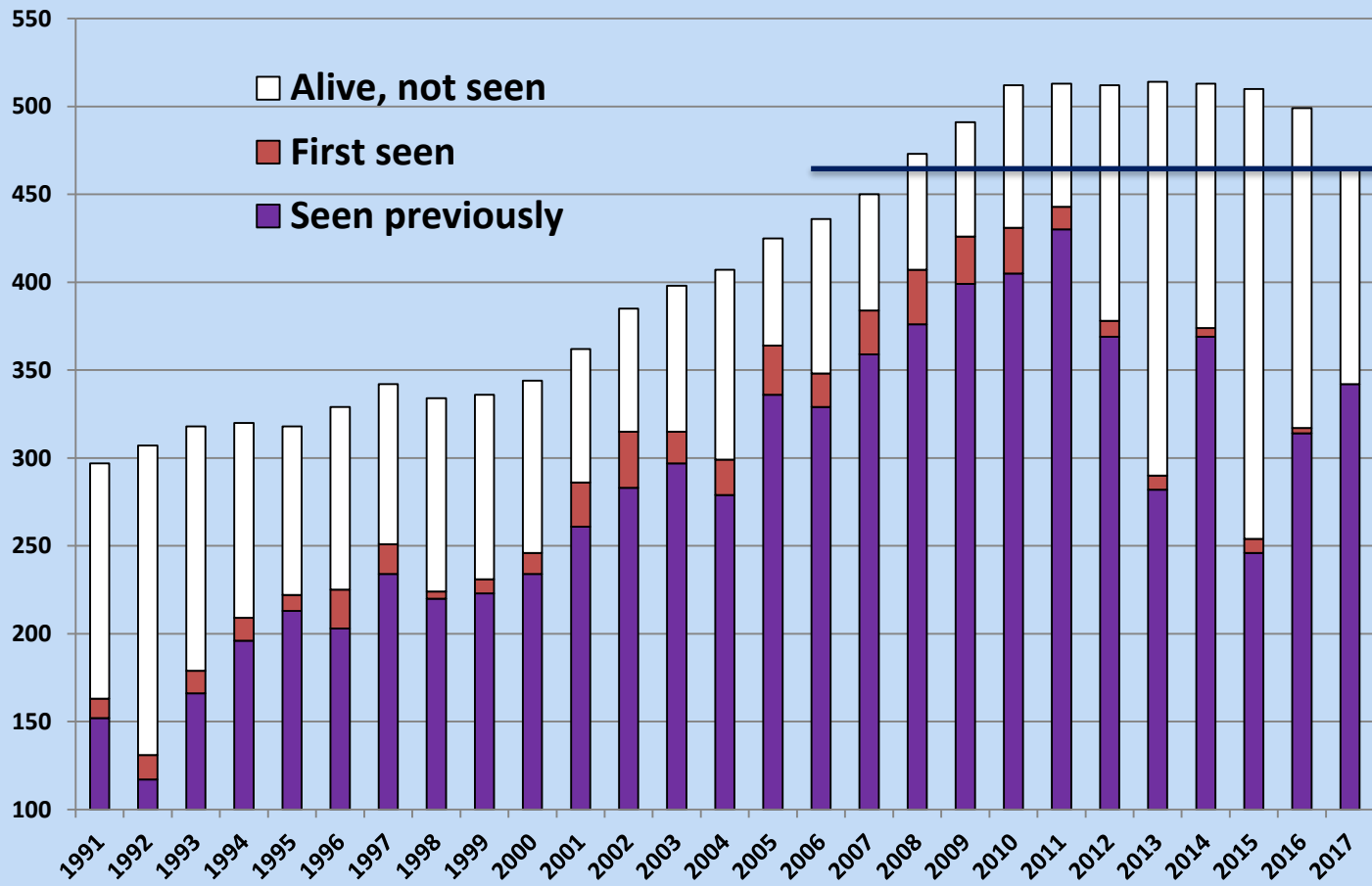
	Adult	Juvenile	Unknown	
Female	134	41	4	179 ← 40.9% of known sex
Male	220	39	0	259
Unknown sex	17	3	7	27
<b>Totals</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>465</b>
				58 Known dead by the end of 2017
				211 Presumed dead
				<b>734 Total in Catalog</b>

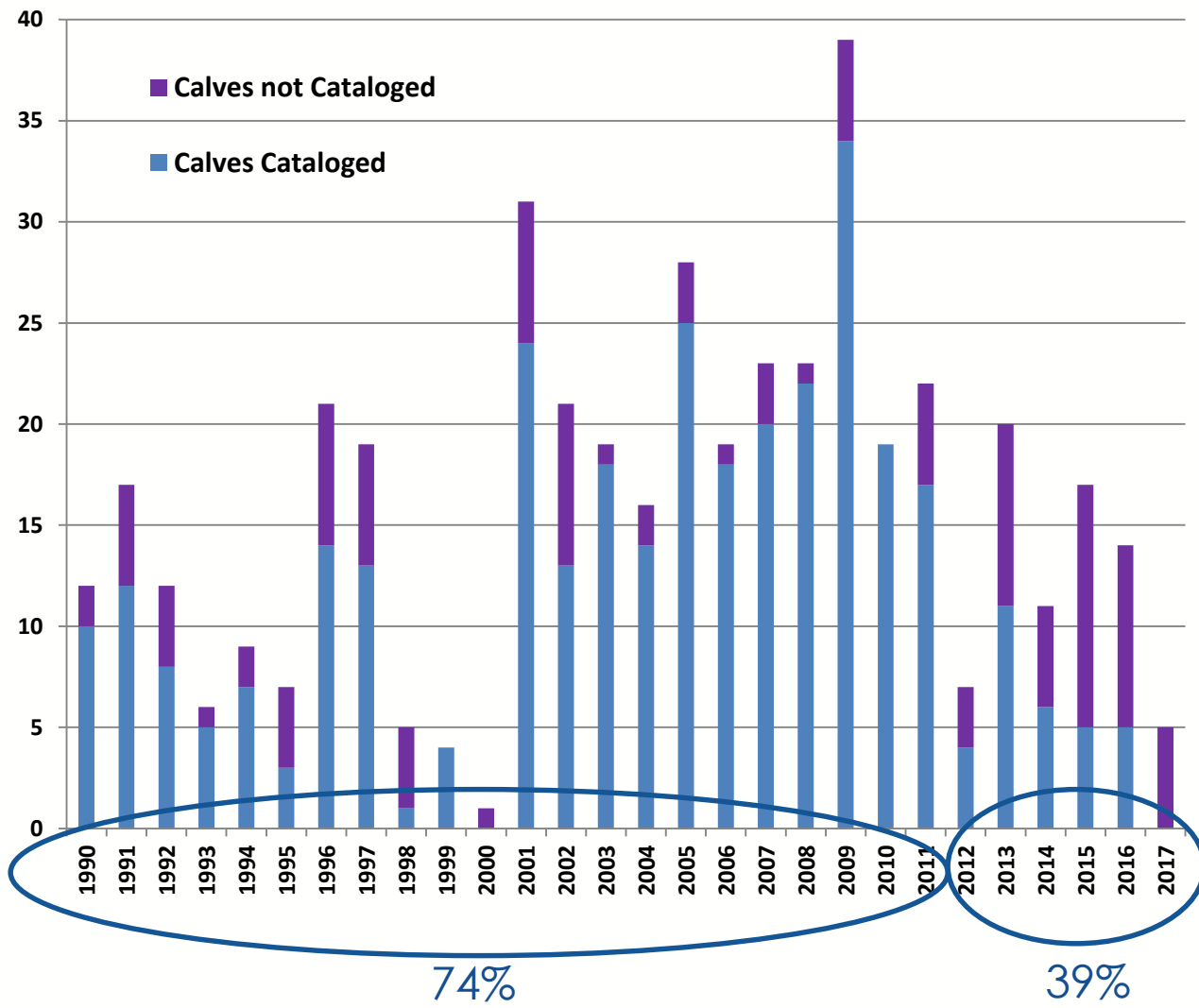
# An average of 35 whales presumed alive in any year are actually dead



# Presumed Deaths and Resurrections: 1995 to 2017







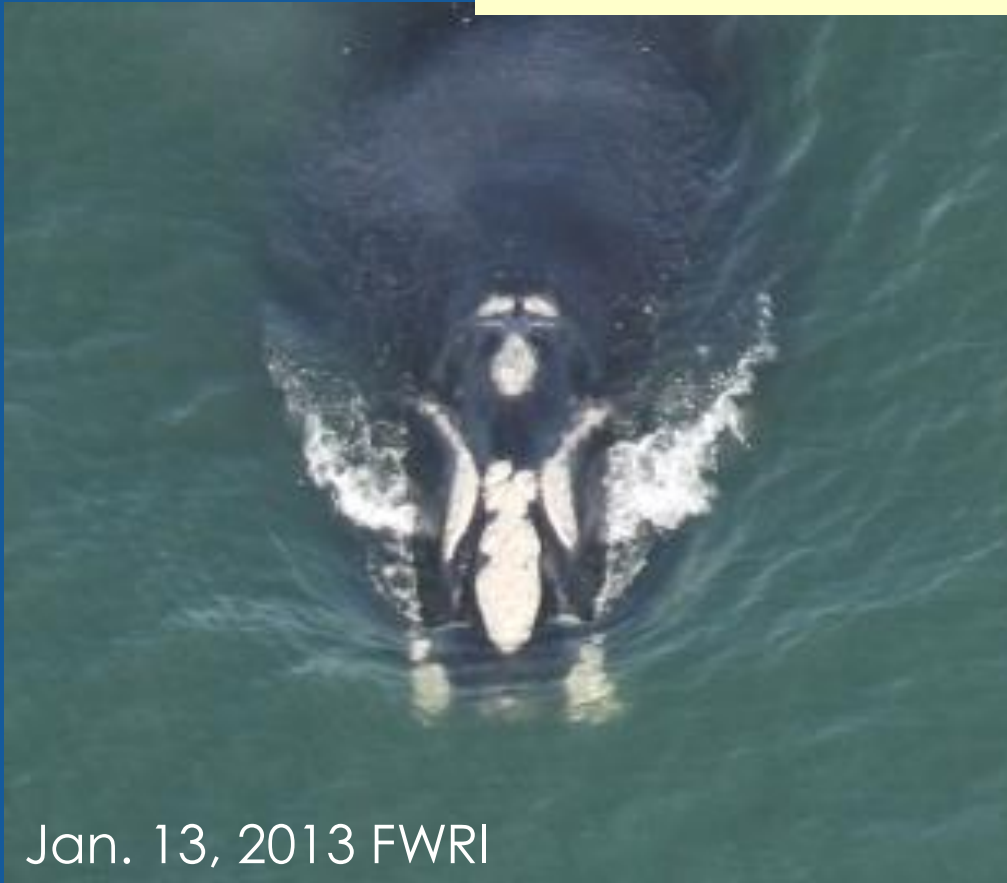
# Added to the Catalog since 2016 Consortium meeting

Sex		First year sighted	
Female	8	1956	1
Male	6	2010	1
Unknown sex	6	2011	2
	20*	2012	1
		2013	2
		2014	3
Age Class			
Adult	0	2015	8
Juvenile	14	2016	2
Unknown age class	6		

\*Another 13 whales that died as calves were added to the Catalog, but are not included here



# New whale #4350



Jan. 13, 2013 FWRI



Mar. 21, 2017 NEA

EGNo	Year	Month	Day	Obs	Area	Behaviors
4350	2013	1	13	FWRI/SEWS	FL	LINEAR TRAVEL
4350	2017	3	21	NEA/A	SNE	
4350	2017	4	9	NEA/A	SNE	
4350	2017	4	23	NEFSC/T	SNE	SUB FEED
4350	2017	4	24	NEFSC/T	SNE	SKIM & SUB FEED

# Status of Matching

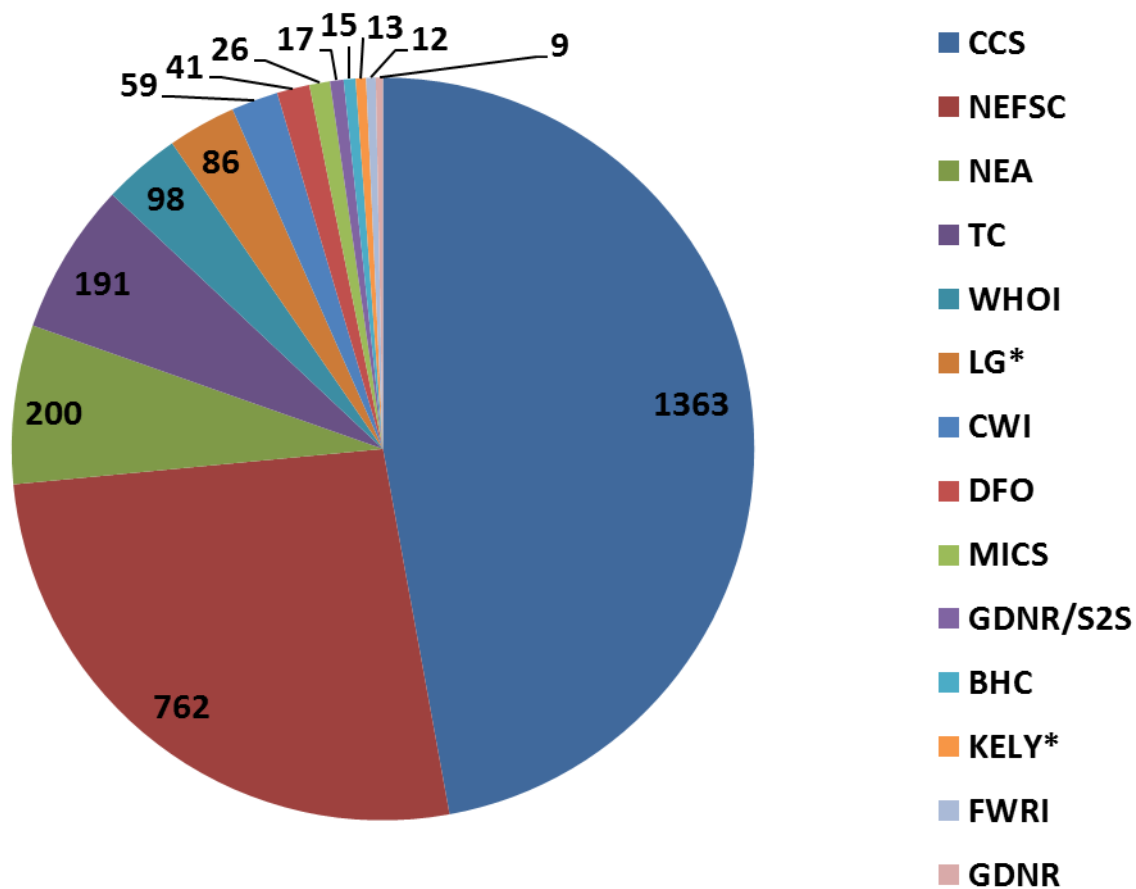
Year	Not Matched	Awaiting Confirmation	Matched	Confirmed Unmatchable	Total	Percent Complete
2005	7		3261	140	3408	99.8%
2006	22		2675	104	2801	99.2%
2007	37		3592	120	3749	99.0%
2008	12		4000	135	4147	99.7%
2009	60		4518	120	4698	98.7%
2010	25		3140	66	3231	99.2%
2011	62	1	3309	107	3479	98.2%
2012	65		2004	58	2127	96.9%
2013	103		1738	64	1905	94.6%
2014	132	1	2184	82	2399	94.5%
2015	138	4	1564	65	1771	92.0%
2016	193	5	1977	24	2199	91.0%
2017	1526	308	1137	43	3014	39.2%

# Changes in contributions to the Catalog

Region	No. of Sightings	Percent of Total			
		in 2017	in 2016	in 2015	in 2014
NE	1757	58.3%	39.7%	66.3%	63.7%
NRTH	694	23.0%	6.2%	5.5%	2.4%
MIDA	287	9.5%	0.5%	4.3%	3.3%
GSC	137	4.5%	7.4%	3.8%	7.4%
BOF	68	2.3%	23.1%	2.5%	20.2%
SEUS	54	1.8%	17.9%	14.9%	25.3%
GOM	10	0.3%	5.0%	1.9%	3.4%
JL	6	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
RB	1	0.0%	0.1%	0.8%	4.4%
EAST		0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%
	3014				

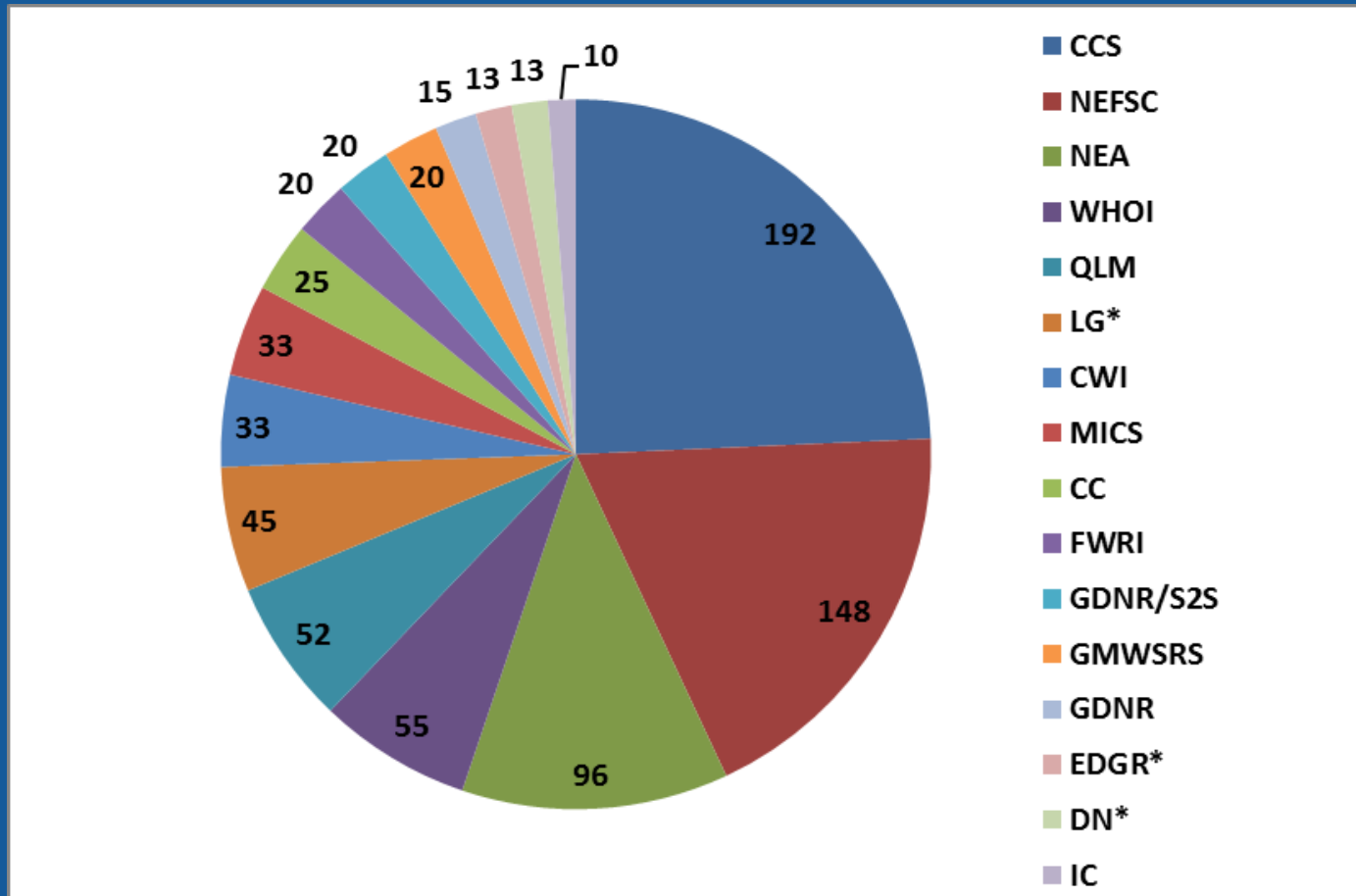
# Who Contributed 2017 Sightings

(only those who contributed 9 or more sightings listed below)



# Unique Whales ID'd by Group: 2016

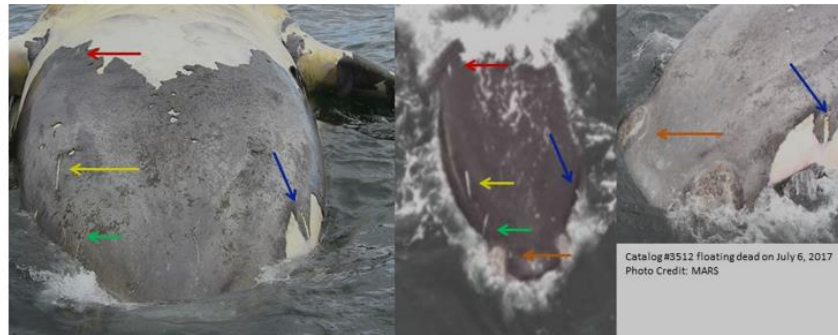
(only those who saw 10 or more whales listed below)



# Other Catalog Related News

## Dead whale photographing protocol 4 pages, available on the Consortium web site under Resources

**Examples of how small details can lead to successful matches** - Matches like this (below) can only be accomplished when all aspects of a whale are photographed and cataloged. This includes photographs that are obscure, distant or even out of focus.



Catalog #3512 floating dead on July 6, 2017  
Photo Credit: MARS

Catalog #3512 floating dead on July 6, 2017 Photo Credit: MARS

Catalog #3512 alive in 2011 Photo Credit: FWC



Right mandible of #1911

Photo: DFO/ Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Center



Photo: Center for Coastal Studies

Photo: Sea to Shore Alliance

# Other Catalog Related News

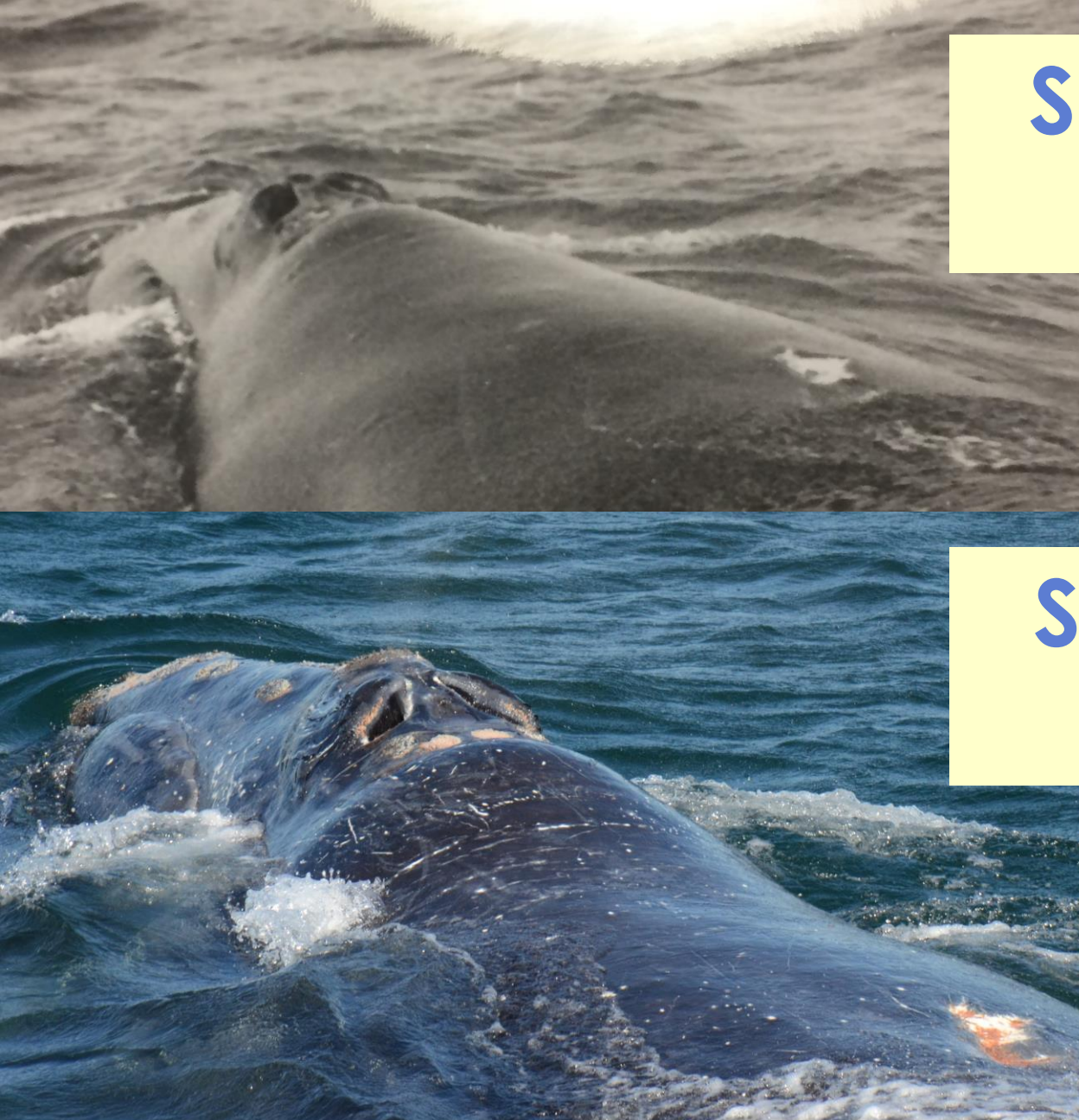
## Twenty old Watkins and Schevill sightings added: 1955- 1973



# #1010: New 1956 whale



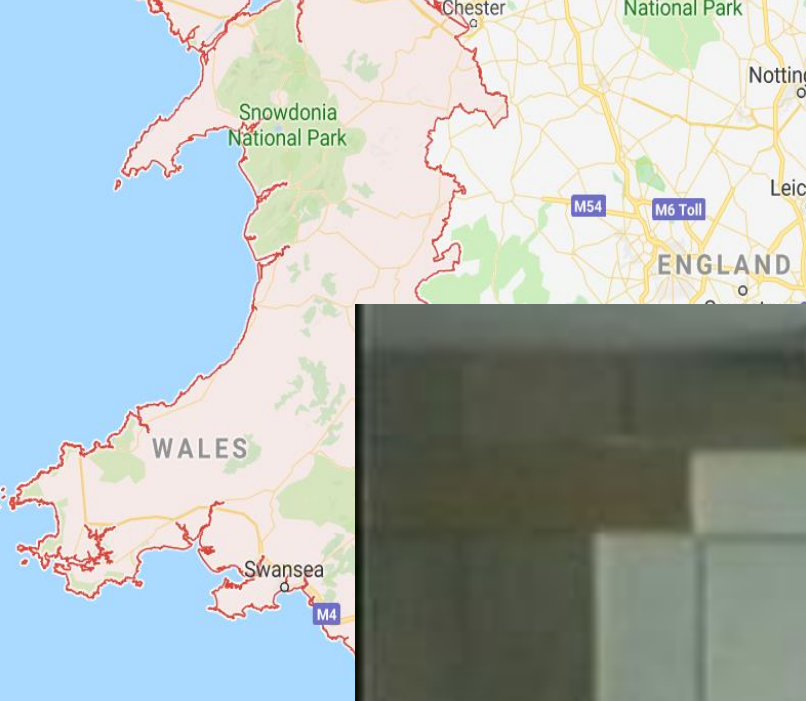




**Scoop- April  
13, 1956**

**Scoop- Sep.  
12, 2016**

# Naming Wales



# Naming Whales

- 235 nominations of 225 names!
- 22 people from 12 organizations nominated
- 19 people voted 1<sup>st</sup> round, 18 2<sup>nd</sup> round
- 11 out of 16 successfully named (69%)



# #1409 "Cairn"



Apr. 7, 2014 NEFSC/T



Apr. 22, 2016 NEFSC/T

# #1412 “Iceland”

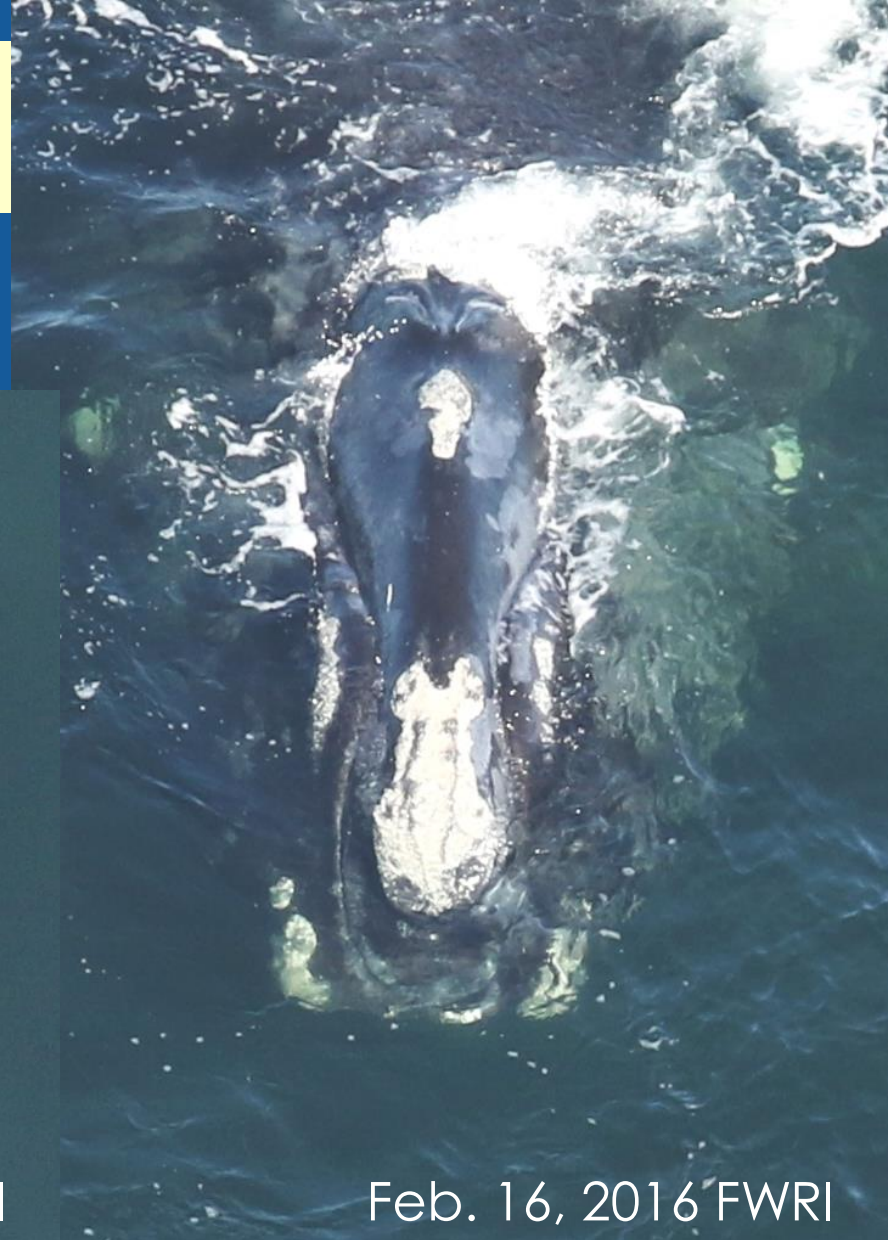
Apr. 20, 2017 NEFSC/S



# #1812 "War"



Feb. 28, 2016 FWRI



Feb. 16, 2016 FWRI

# #1820 “Cello”

Jul. 26, 2012 NEFSC

Aug. 20, 2016 NEA



#2681  
"Hyphen"

Feb. 29, 2012 CCS



Apr. 20, 2017 CCS

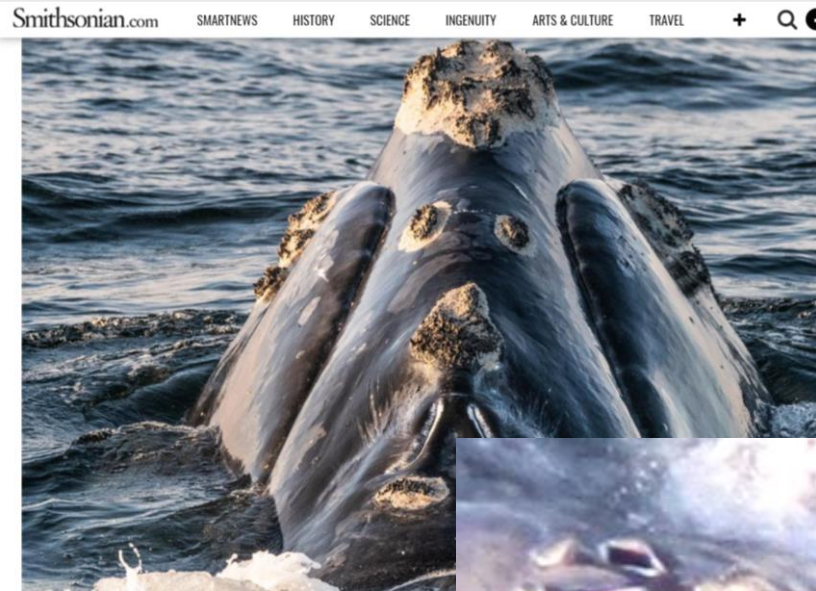




# #2930 "Specs"

Nick Hawkins from Smithsonian  
article Oct. 29, 2018

Jul. 20, 2017 NEFSC



Mar. 23, 2012 CCS



Jun. 27, 2017 NEFSC

#3232  
"Lobster"

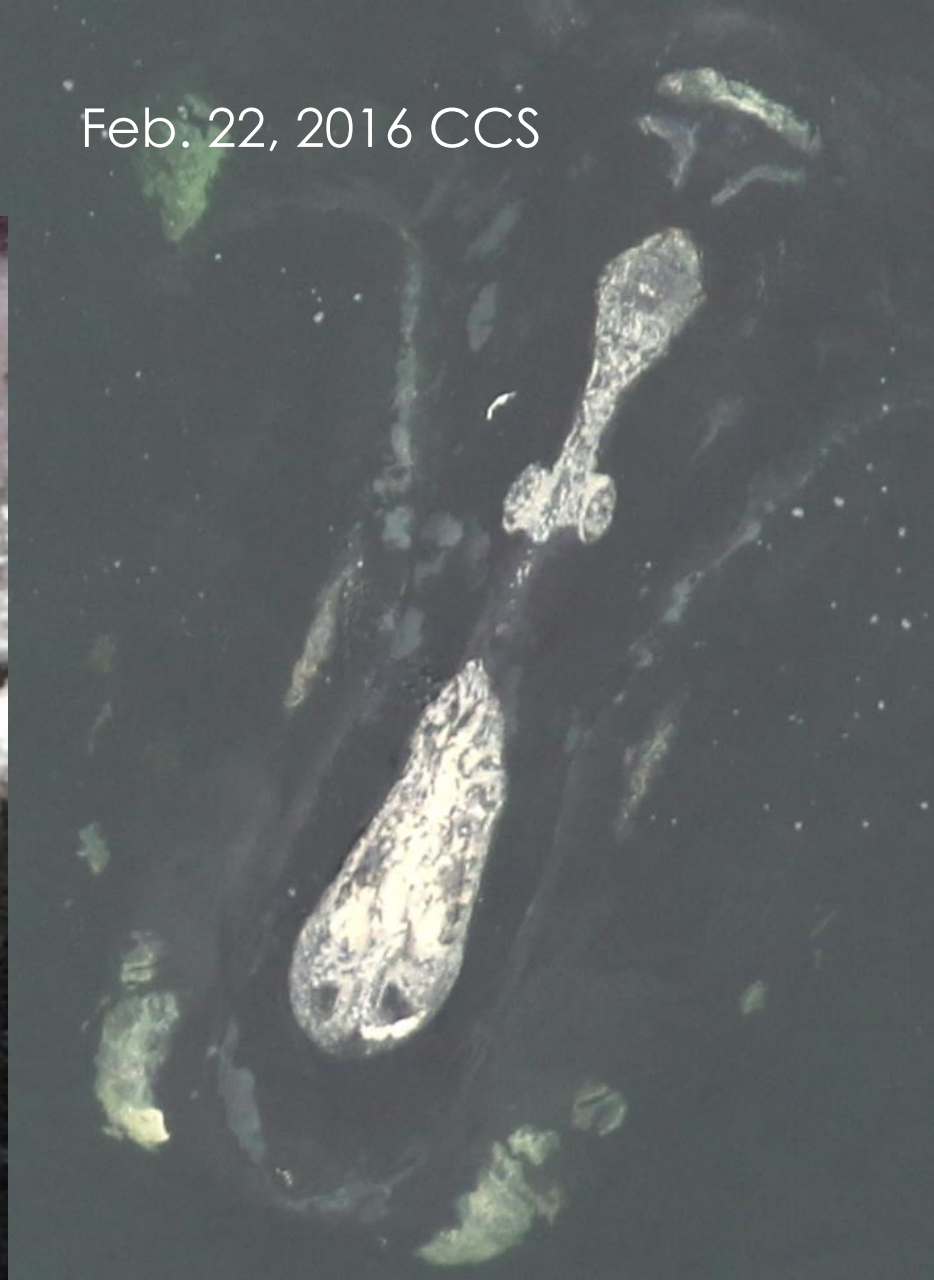
Jun. 27, 2017 NEFSC

#3317 No name

Feb. 22, 2016 CCS



Jul. 21, 2017 NEFSC



# #3320 “Braces”



Feb. 29, 2012 CCS

#3740 No name



May. 26, 2016 NEFSC

# #3830 “Garlic”

May 10, 2017 NEFSC



Apr. 9, 2017 CCS

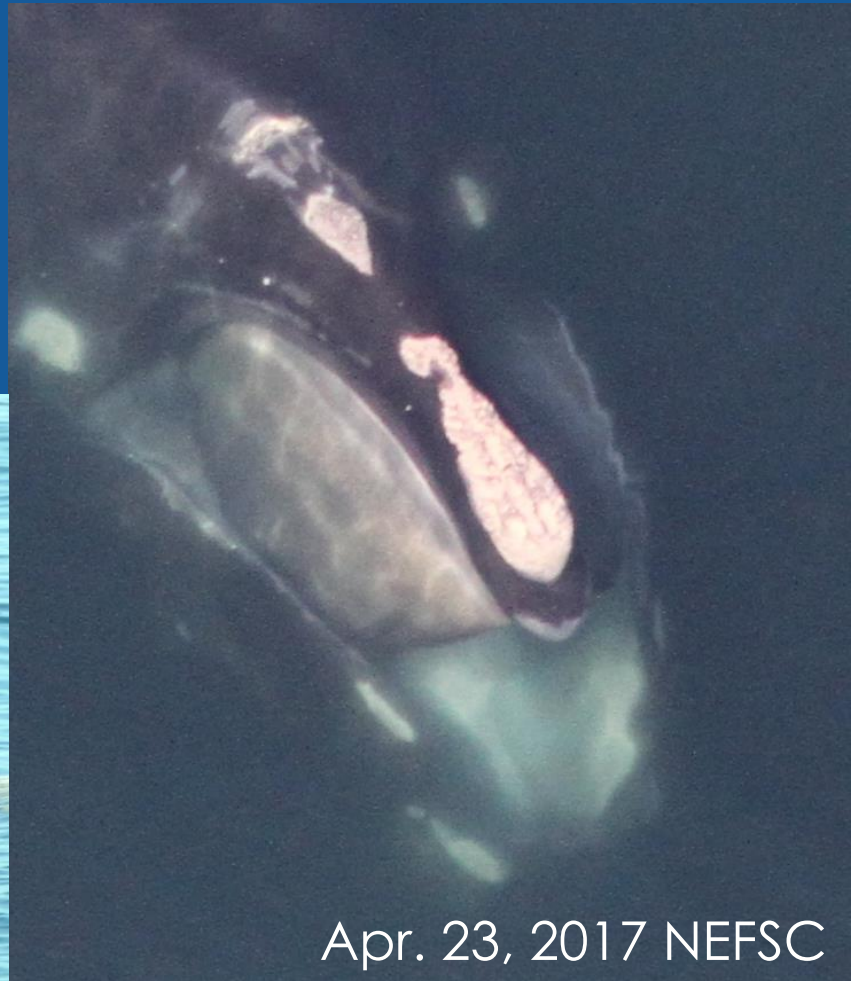


# #3903 No name

Jan. 20, 2012 S2S

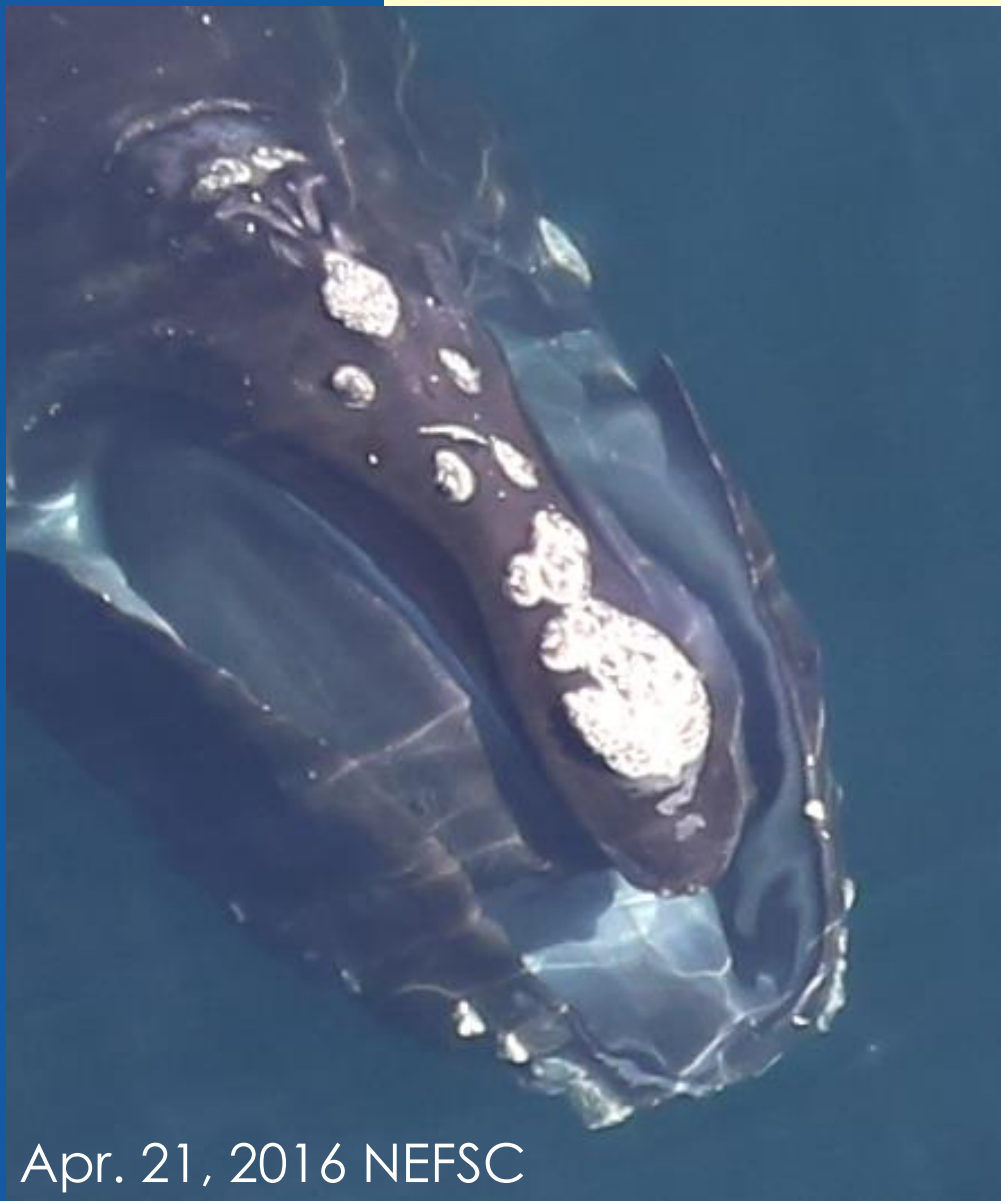


Aug. 2, 2017 NEA



Apr. 23, 2017 NEFSC

# #3940 “Koala”



Apr. 21, 2016 NEFSC



# #4129 No name

Jul. 8, 2017 NEFSC



Jul. 26, 2017 NEFSC



# #4140 “Casper”



May 19, 2016 NEFSC



May 19, 2016 NEFSC

# #4145 No name



Apr. 24, 2017 NEFSC



Apr. 28, 2017 NEFSC

Thanks to:

- this extraordinary community of dedicated, passionate, collaborative people,
- to the Consortium for providing the glue, and
- to NMFS for the long-standing support of the Catalog maintenance

# Acknowledgements

