

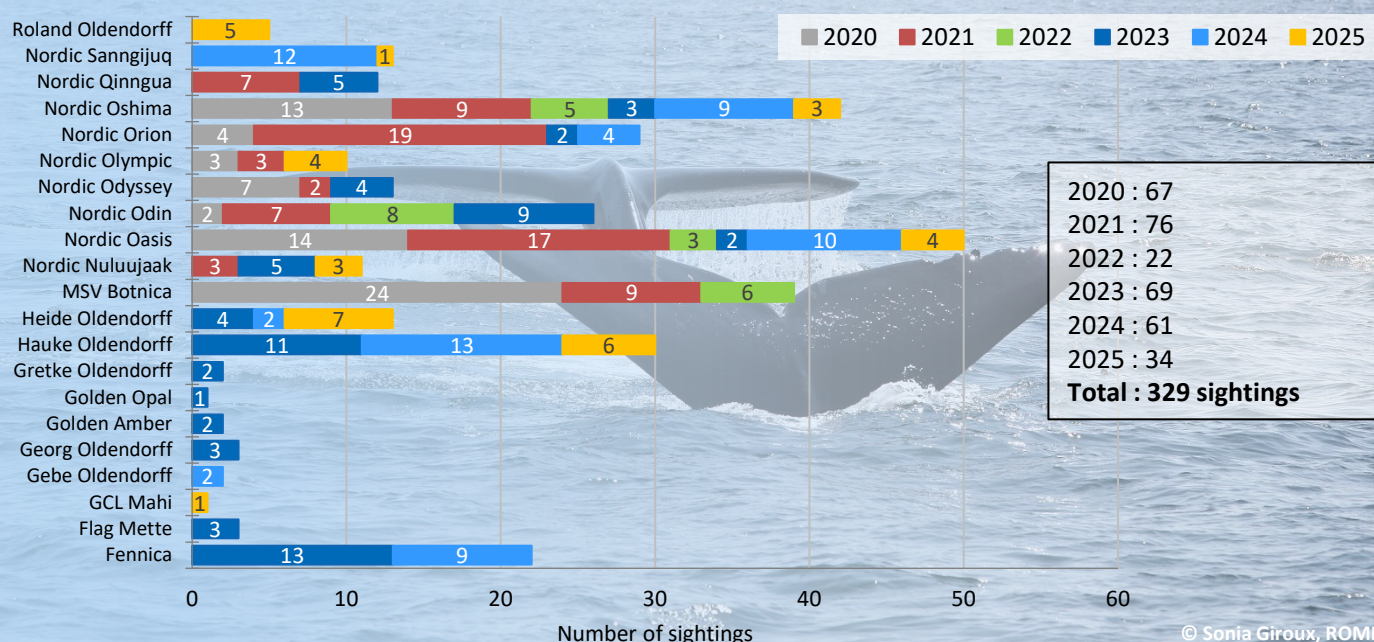
BAFFINLAND'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATION NETWORK (MMON) DATA COLLECTION PROJECT – SAISON 2025

SIX YEARS OF DATA COLLECTION!

The 2025 season marks the sixth year of Baffinland's involvement in the MMON marine mammal data collection program. Between July 25 and October 13, nine vessels reported 34 marine mammal sightings, bringing the cumulative total to 329 since 2020 (Figure 1). The vessels *Nordic Oshima* and *Nordic Oasis* have contributed to the program every year. The observations submitted by mariners continue to enhance our understanding of seasonal marine mammal distribution in a rapidly changing environment and support ongoing research, management, and conservation initiatives. We gratefully acknowledge Baffinland's outstanding commitment and commend their valuable contribution to marine mammal conservation.



Figure 1. Annual Distribution of Marine Mammal Sightings Collected by Baffinland Vessel Crews (2020 – 2025)



FOUR MONTHS OF DATA COLLECTION

Figure 2 illustrates the number of monthly sightings compared with the number of days on which observations were recorded by participating Baffinland crews. A total of 34 sightings were reported over 20 days across a four-month period – 97% of which occurred during the summer season (July to September). Most observations were collected in September (53%; 18/34) over a span of 10 days, while August accounted for 10 sightings (29%) recorded over 6 days. In July, 5 sightings were documented over 3 days. Only one observation was made in October, by the *Nordic Olympic*.

The data collected throughout the year provide valuable information that helps improve our understanding of the seasonal distribution and abundance of marine mammals in Canadian waters.

Figure 2. Comparison of monthly sightings with the number of observation days reported by Baffinland in 2025

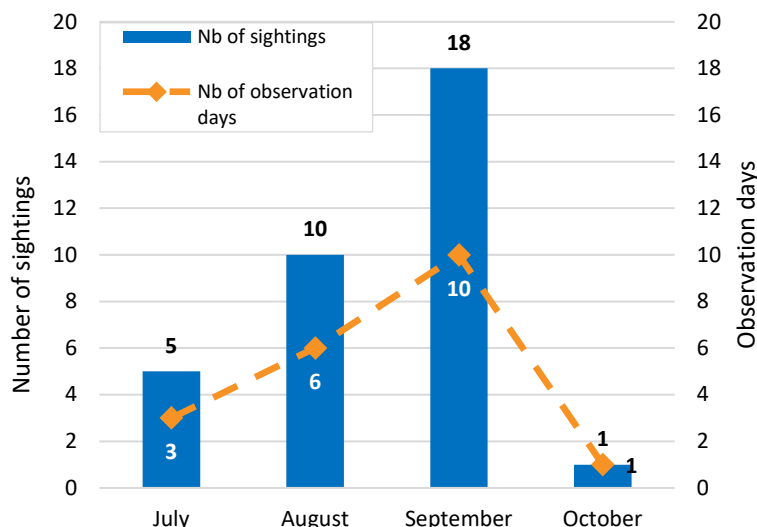
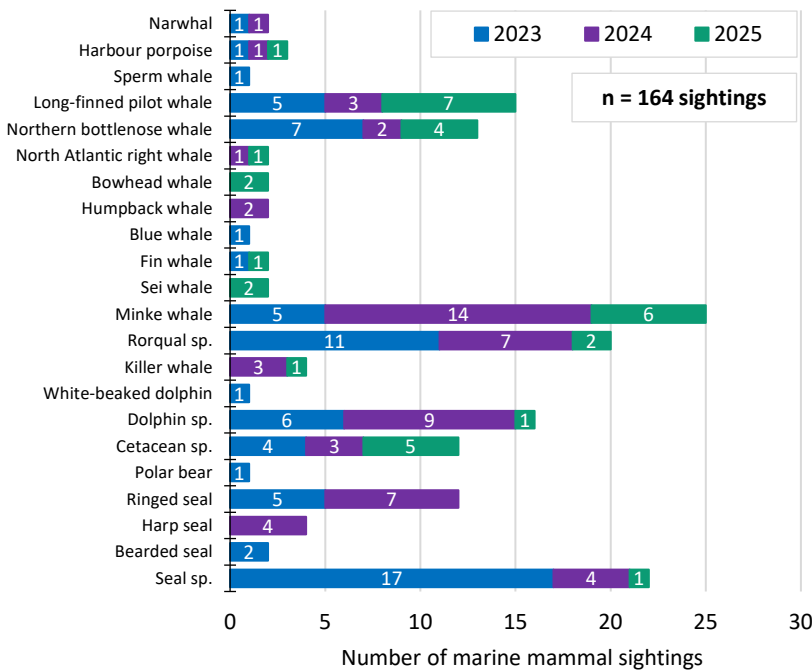


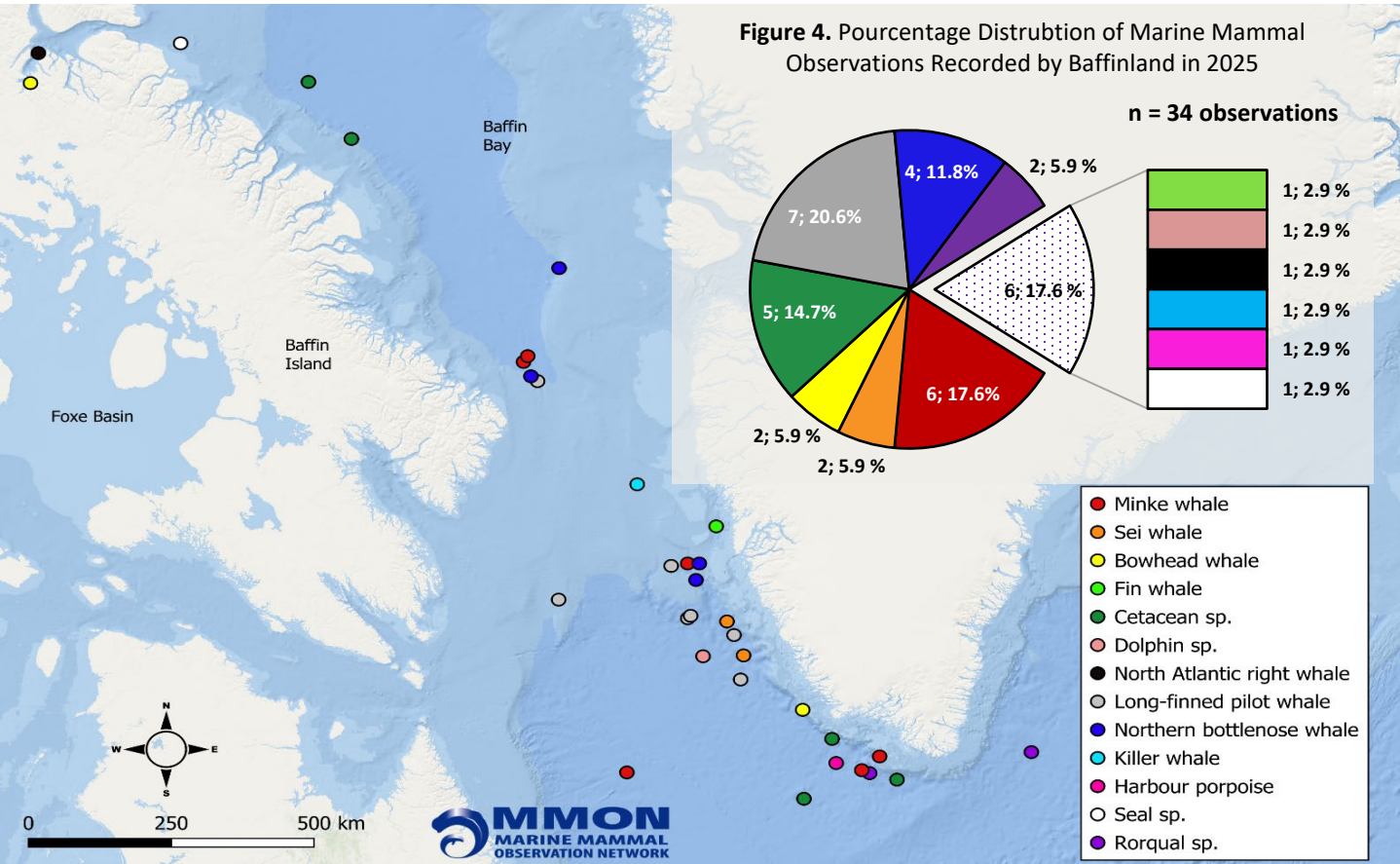
Figure 3. Yearly Distribution of Marine Mammal Observations by Species Reported by Baffinland (2023 – 2025)



NINE SPECIES OBSERVED IN 2025

Figure 3 shows the number of marine mammals observed by Baffinland from 2023 to 2025. The northern bottlenose whale was most frequently observed in 2023, the minke whale in 2024, and the long-finned pilot whale in 2025. Across the three-year period, the minke whale was the most observed species, accounting for 15% of all sightings ($n = 25/164$). Figure 4 presents the proportion (%) of marine mammal sightings per species. The long-finned pilot whale represented 20.6% of observations ($n = 7/34$), followed by the minke whale at 17.6% ($n = 6/34$). Occasional sightings of at-risk species, including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, were also reported. Sightings with a certainty level of 2 (identification uncertain) were grouped into broader taxonomic categories (e.g. *cetacean sp.*, *rorqual sp.*, *dolphin sp.*, *seal sp.*), representing 26.4% of all 2025 observations ($n = 9/34$). The map below shows the geographic distributions of the sightings documented in 2025.

Map 1. Distribution of Marine Mammal Observations by Baffinland in 2025



DATA AND TOOLS AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Visit [Vigie Marine Visualization Tool](#) to view the data collected by Baffinland vessel crews. This tool allows you to consult your own marine mammal observations as well as those of other members. In addition, training on marine mammal identification is also offered.