

BAFFINLAND PARTICIPATION IN THE DATA COLLECTION PROJECT FOR THE MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATION NETWORK (MMON) – SEASON 2024

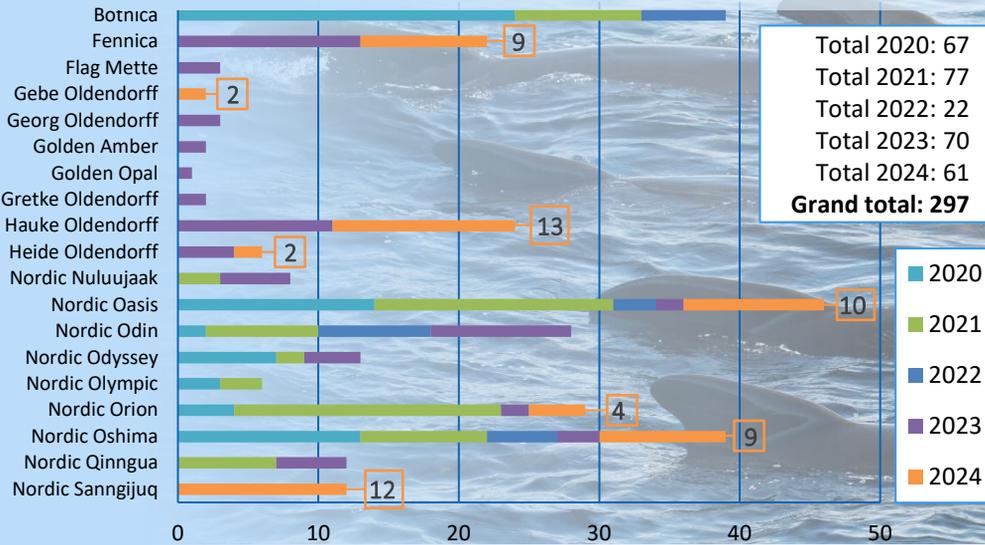
FIVE YEARS OF COLLABORATION!

Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation has been contributing to the marine mammal observation data collection project of MMON for the past five years. In 2024, marine mammal sighting data were collected on eight vessels, including two new ones, bringing the total participating fleet to 19 ships since 2020. Through the efforts of the various crews, Baffinland has been able to collect a total of 61 marine mammal sightings in the waters of Baffin Bay, Davis Strait and the Labrador Sea. Over five consecutive years of data collection, the company has amassed a grand total of 297 sightings (Figure 1). Baffinland’s data continue to provide valuable information on the different species of marine mammals encountered and has made considerable contributions to further scientific knowledge on the distribution and relative abundance of these species.



© ruud coster
Marinetraffic.com

Figure 1. Number of sighting data collected by different Baffinland’s ships between 2020 and 2024



© Hilary Moors-Murphy

FOUR MONTHS OF DATA COLLECTION

Baffinland’s sighting data collection was conducted between July 10th and October 13th of 2024. The monthly ratios of marine mammal sightings are depicted in Figure 2. The highest number of sightings recorded occurred during the months of August and September, with 34% (21/61) and 33% (20/61) of this year’s sightings, respectively. Several sightings were noted in July as well (25% ; 15/61). There were also five marine mammal sightings reported in October (8%), a period during which little information is collected, making this data particularly valuable for science

Figure 2. Monthly ratios of marine mammal sightings collected by Baffinland’s crews in 2024

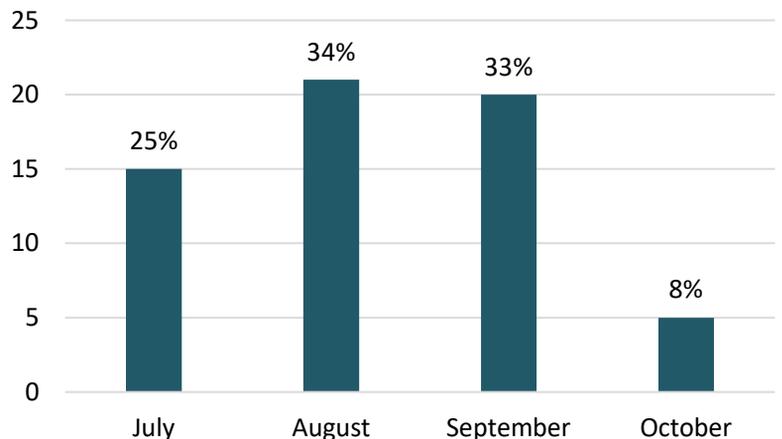
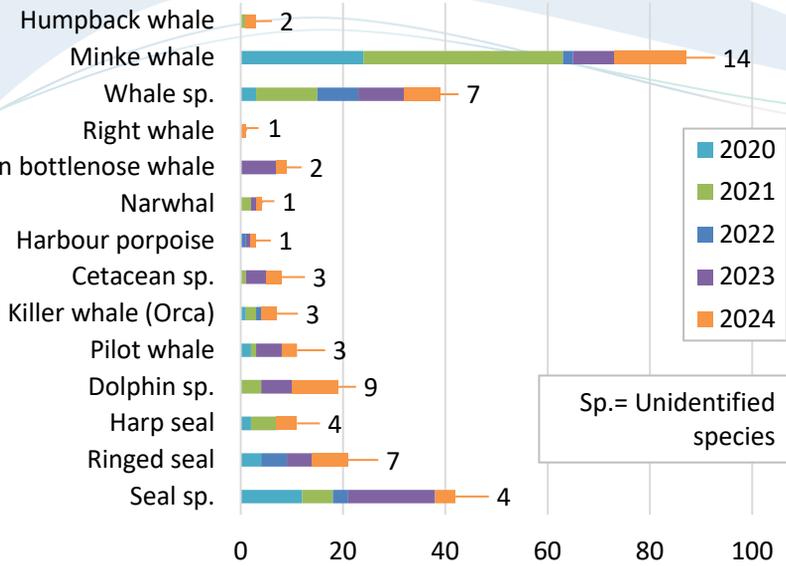


Figure 3. Total number of sightings by species collected by Baffinland between 2020 and 2024

SPECIES SIGHTED

The species sighted by Baffinland in 2024 are shown in Figures 3 and 4. The most frequently sighted species was the Minke whale (14/61; 23%), followed by the Ringed seal (7/61; 11%). Several non-identified animals were also sighted amongst the dolphins (9/61; 15%), whales (7/61; 11%) and seals (4/61; 7%). A few notable sightings of endangered species, such as the North Atlantic right whale, an endangered species, and the narwhal, which is a species of special concern, were also reported. Sightings of Pilot whales, Orcas and the elusive Northern bottlenose whale are worth mentioning as well. All of 2024 sighting's locations are displayed on Map 1 below. Note that sightings with a level of uncertainty on the identification have been classified as Whale sp., Cetacean sp., Dolphin sp. or Seal sp.



Map 1. Distribution of marine mammal sightings collected by Baffinland's crews in 2024

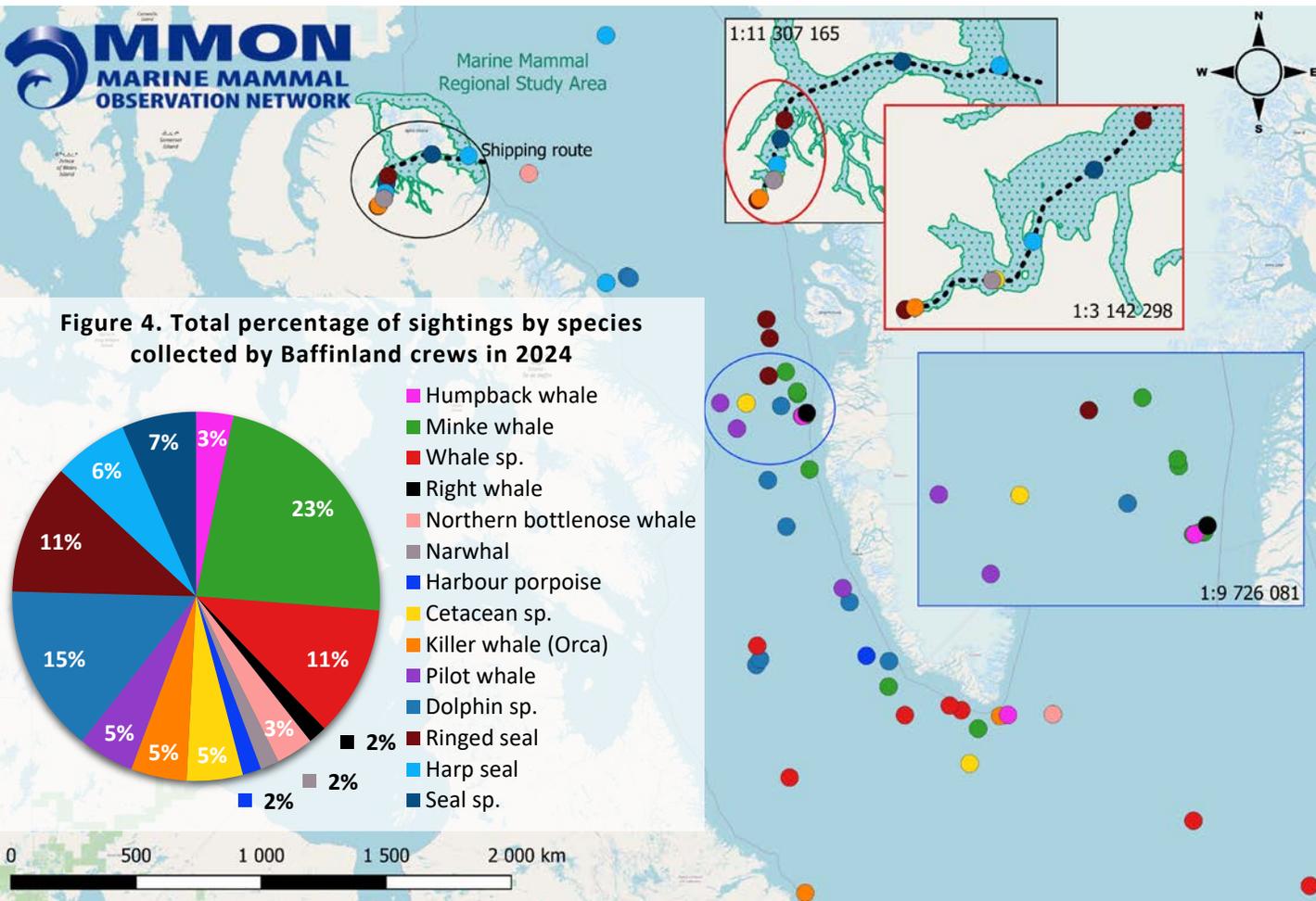
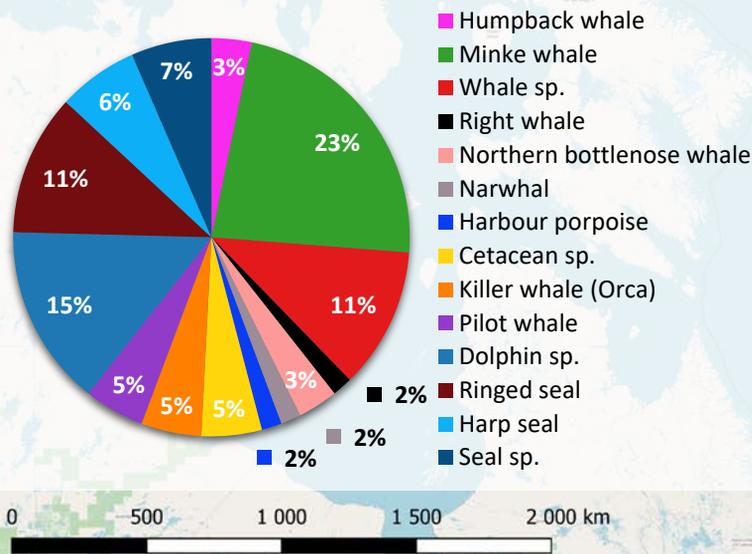


Figure 4. Total percentage of sightings by species collected by Baffinland crews in 2024



DATA IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ONLINE

The data collected by Baffinland's crews provide valuable information to research organizations. They help better understand the geographic distribution and abundance of different whale species. Visit navigatingwhales.ca to view or enter data online. Training and information are available through the portal for shipowners. Thank you for your participation in 2024!



Pêches et Océans
Canada

Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



This project was carried out with the financial support of the Government of Canada, in collaboration with the OGSL and the Green Marine.