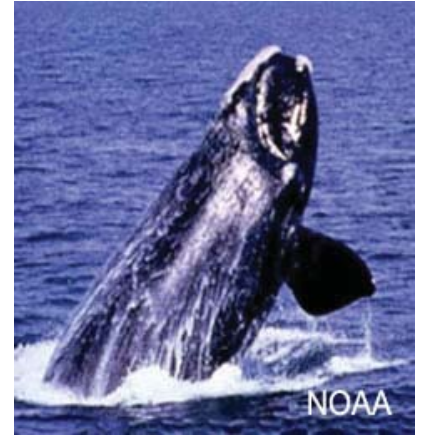


North Atlantic Right Whales

Description:

Large, dark whale with a broad back and no dorsal fin. The lower jaw line is strongly arched and callosities are visible on the head. Callosities are roughened dark tissue covered with cyamids (small, light-colored crustaceans) that give the head a white, “bumpy”, appearance. Callosities patterns are unique to each whale and provide scientists with a means to photo identify each right whale. Flukes are all black with a smooth edge. Distinctive V-shaped spout.



Status: Endangered under the ESA and Depleted under the MMPA.

Length: 13.7 – 16.7 m (45 - 55 feet)

Weight: up to 70 tons

Species Population: <400

Life Span: 65+ years

Prey: dense concentrations of zooplankton, particularly copepods

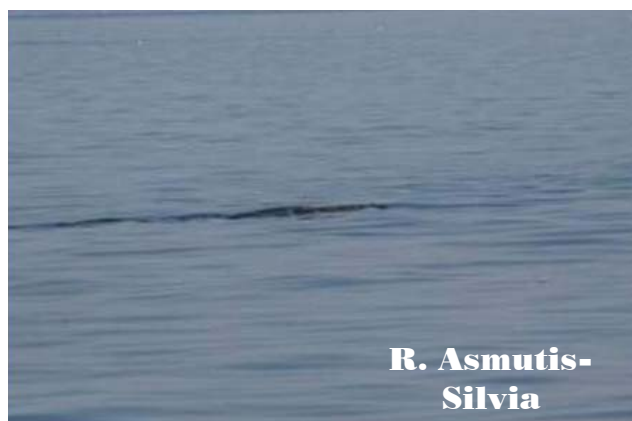
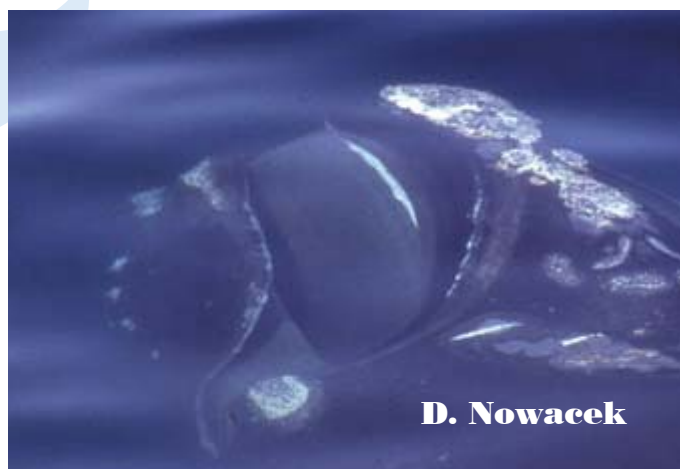
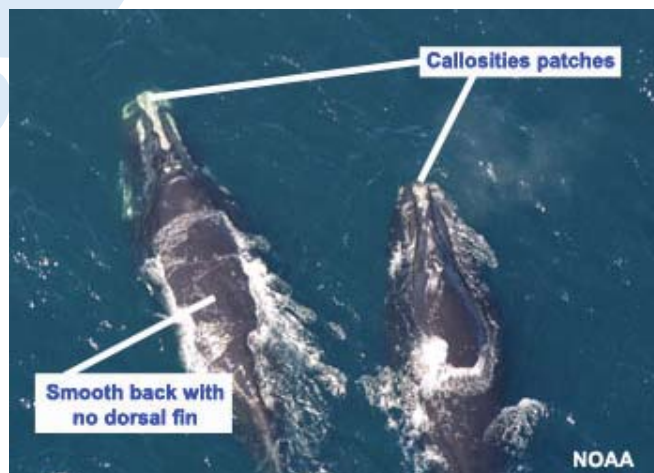
Distribution: Year round, right whales can be found from Cape Cod to Nova Scotia – an area they use for feeding and mating. Each fall, pregnant females travel from this area to their only known calving area in the warm, calm coastal waters off the Southeast Atlantic Coast. Here they give birth and nurse their young. When spring arrives, mothers and their calves make the long journey back north.

Major Threats: Entanglement & Shipstrike

Approach Restrictions: Approaching or remaining within 500 yards of a right whale is against Federal law. This applies to operators of all types of watercraft (motorized and non-motorized) and aircraft, as well as swimmers and divers.



Recognizing North Atlantic Right Whales



D. Nowacek

Regina A. Asmutis-Silvia

R. Asmutis-Silvia

R. Asmutis-Silvia