

Sei Whale

(*Balaenoptera borealis*)

Description:

Medium, dark whale with a sickle shaped dorsal fin and pointed snout. Body is often covered with ovalshaped scars (pock marks) or subtle mottling. Often confused for Bryde's whales, can be distinguished by a small ridge on the rostrum. Size of juvenile fin whale. Right jaw dark.

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

Length: 12-18 m (40 – 60 feet)

Weight: up to 50 tons

Nova Scotia Stock Population: >386

Life Span: > 50 years

Prey: dense concentrations of zooplankton, particularly copepods, krill

Can be Confused With: Bryde's whale, juvenile fin whale



Photo: WDCS

Recognizing Sei Whales



Photo: NEFSC & WHOI



Photo: NEFSC & WHOI



Photo: WDCS