

## LONG-FINNED PILOT WHALE (*Globicephala melas*): Western North Atlantic Stock

### STOCK DEFINITION AND GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

There are two species of pilot whales in the Western Atlantic — the Atlantic or long-finned pilot whale, *Globicephala melas*, and the short-finned pilot whale, *G. macrorhynchus*. These species are difficult to identify to the species level at sea; therefore, some of the descriptive material below refers to *Globicephala* spp., and is identified as such. The species boundary is considered to be in the New Jersey to Cape Hatteras area. Sightings north of this area are likely *G. melas*.

Pilot whales (*Globicephala* spp.) are distributed principally along the continental shelf edge in the winter and early spring off the northeast U.S. coast, (CeTAP 1982; Payne and Heinemann 1993). In late spring, pilot whales move onto Georges Bank and into the Gulf of Maine and more northern waters, and remain in these areas through late autumn (CeTAP 1982; Payne and Heinemann 1993). In general, pilot whales generally occupy areas of high relief or submerged banks. They are also associated with the Gulf Stream north wall and thermal fronts along the continental shelf edge.

The long-finned pilot whale is distributed from North Carolina to Iceland and possibly the Baltic Sea (Sergeant 1962; Leatherwood *et al.* 1976; Abend 1993). The stock structure of the North Atlantic population is currently unknown (Anon. 1993); however, several recently initiated genetic studies and proposed North Atlantic sighting surveys will likely provide information required to delineate stock boundaries.

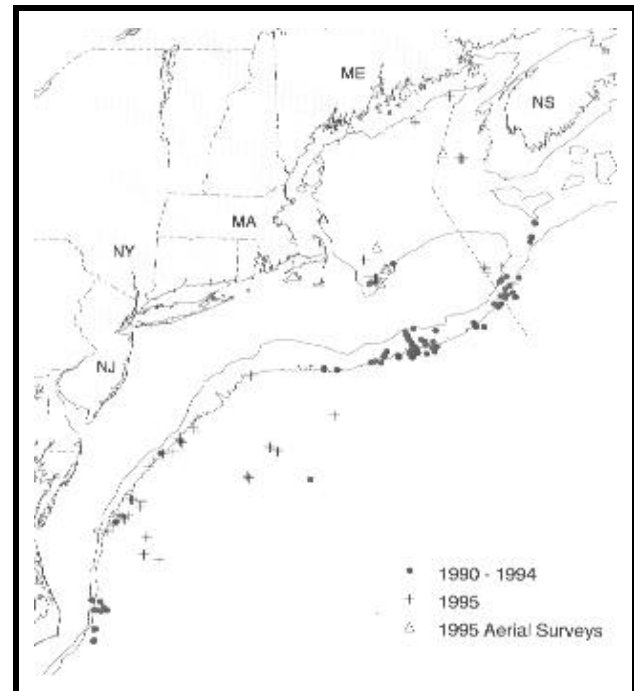
### POPULATION SIZE

The total number of long-finned pilot whales off the eastern U.S. and Canadian Atlantic coast is unknown, however, eight estimates are available (Table 1; Figure 1). Two estimates were derived from catch data and population models that estimated the abundance of the entire stock. Six seasonal estimates are available from selected regions in U.S. waters during spring, summer and autumn 1978-82, August 1990, June-July 1991, August-September 1991, June-July 1993, and July-September 1995. Because long-finned and short-finned pilot whales are difficult to identify at sea, seasonal abundance estimates were reported for *Globicephala* spp., both long-finned and short-finned pilot whales.

Mitchell (1974) used cumulative catch data from the 1951-61 drive fishery off Newfoundland to estimate the initial population size (ca. 50,000 animals).

Mercer (1975), used population models to estimate a population in the same region of between 43,000-96,000 long-finned pilot whales, with a range of 50,000-60,000 being considered the best estimate.

A population size of 11,120 (CV=0.29) *Globicephala* spp. was estimated from an aerial survey program conducted from 1978 to 1982 on the continental shelf and shelf edge waters between Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and Nova Scotia (Table 1; CeTAP 1982). The estimate is based on an inverse variance weighted pooling of spring, summer and autumn data. An average of these seasons were chosen because the greatest proportion of the population off the northeast U.S. coast appeared in the study area during these seasons. This estimate does not include a correction for dive-time or  $g(0)$ , the probability of detecting an animal group on the track line. This estimate may not reflect the current true population size because of its high degree of uncertainty, its old age, and it was estimated just after cessation of extensive foreign fishing operations in the region.



**Figure 1.** Distribution of pilot whale sightings from NEFSC shipboard and aerial surveys during the summer in 1990-1995. Isobaths are at 100 m and 1,000 m.

A population size of 1,043 (CV=0.78) *Globicephala* spp. was estimated from an August 1990 shipboard line transect sighting survey, conducted principally along the Gulf Stream north wall between Cape Hatteras and Georges Bank (Table 1; Waring *et al.* 1992). Data were collected by one team that searched by naked eye and analyzed using DISTANCE (Buckland *et al.* 1993; Laake *et al.* 1993). Estimates include school size-bias, if applicable, but do not include corrections for  $g(0)$  or dive-time. Variability was estimated using bootstrap resampling techniques.

A population size of 4,110 (CV = 0.35)<sup>2</sup> *Globicephala* spp. was estimated from a June and July 1991 shipboard line transect sighting survey conducted primarily between the 200 and 2,000m isobaths from Cape Hatteras to Georges Bank (Table 1; Waring *et al.* 1992). Data were collected by one team that searched by naked eye and analyzed using DISTANCE (Buckland *et al.* 1993; Laake *et al.* 1993). Estimates include school size-bias, if applicable, but no corrections for  $g(0)$  or dive-time. Variability was estimated using bootstrap resampling techniques.

A population size of 3,668 (CV=0.28) and 5,377 (CV=0.53) *Globicephala* spp. was estimated from line transect aerial surveys conducted from August to September 1991 using the Twin Otter and AT-11, respectively (Table 1; Anon. 1991). The study area included that covered in the CeTAP study plus several additional continental slope survey blocks. Due to weather and logistical constraints, several survey blocks south and east of Georges Bank were not surveyed. The data were analyzed using DISTANCE (Buckland *et al.* 1993; Laake *et al.* 1993), where the CV was estimated using the bootstrap option. The abundance estimates do not include  $g(0)$  and were not pooled over platforms because the inter-platform calibration analysis has not been conducted.

A population size of 668 (CV=0.55) *Globicephala* spp. was estimated from a June and July 1993 shipboard line transect sighting survey conducted principally between the 200 and 2,000m isobaths from the southern edge of Georges Bank, across the Northeast Channel to the southeastern edge of the Scotian Shelf (Table 1; Anon. 1993). Data were collected by two alternating teams that searched with 25x150 binoculars and were analyzed using DISTANCE (Buckland *et al.* 1993; Laake *et al.* 1993). Estimates include school size-bias, if applicable, but do not include corrections for  $g(0)$  or dive-time. Variability was estimated using bootstrap resampling techniques.

A population size of 8,176 (CV=0.65) *Globicephala* spp. was estimated from a July to September 1995 sighting survey conducted by two ships and an airplane that covered waters from Virginia to the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Table 1; Palka and Waring, in prep.). Total track line length was 32,600 km (17,600 nmi). The ships covered waters between the 50 and 1000 fathom contour lines, the northern edge of the Gulf Stream, and the northern Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy region. The airplane covered waters in the Mid-Atlantic from the coastline to the 50 fathom contour line, the southern Gulf of Maine, and shelf waters off Nova Scotia from the coastline to the 1000 fathom contour line. Shipboard data were collected using a two independent sighting team procedure and were analyzed using the product integral method (Palka 1995) and DISTANCE (Buckland *et al.* 1993). Shipboard estimates were corrected for  $g(0)$  and, if applicable, also for school size-bias. Standard aerial sighting procedures with two bubble windows and one belly window observer were used during the aerial survey. An estimate of  $g(0)$  was not made for the aerial portion of the survey. Estimates do not include corrections for dive-time. Variability was estimated using bootstrap resampling techniques.

Although the 1990-1995 surveys did not sample the same areas or encompass the entire pilot whale habitat, they did focus on segments of known or suspected high-use habitats off the northeastern U.S. coast. The collective 1990-95 data suggest that, seasonally, at least several thousand pilot whales are occupying these waters; however, survey coverage to date is not judged adequate to provide a definitive estimate of pilot whale abundance in the western North Atlantic.

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<sup>2</sup>In June 1997, a coding error was found in the 1991 shipboard data file which impacted the stratification component of the DISTANCE analysis. The revised value reflects this correction, it does not represent a new analysis of the 1991 survey data. This error occurred in the analysis of pilot whales, common dolphins, Risso's dolphins and offshore bottlenose dolphins. The revised numbers **have not** been reviewed by the Atlantic Scientific Review Group or the Atlantic Offshore Take Reduction Team. Details are contained in G. Waring, Memo to The Record, August 1997.

The best available current abundance estimate for *Globicephala* spp. is 8,176 (CV=0.65) as estimated from the July to September 1995 line transect survey (Palka and Waring, in prep.) because this survey is recent and provided the most complete coverage of the known habitat.

Table 1. Summary of abundance estimates for the western North Atlantic *Globicephala* spp. Month, year, and area covered during each abundance survey, and resulting abundance estimate ( $N_{best}$ ) and coefficient of variation (CV). Unk=unknown.

Month/Year	Area	$N_{best}$	CV
1951-1961	Newfoundland	50,000	unk
1951-1961	Newfoundland	50,000-60,000	unk
spring, summer & autumn 1978-82	Cape Hatteras, NC to Nova Scotia	11,120	0.29
Aug 1990	Gulf Stream	1,043	0.78
Jun-Jul 1991	Cape Hatteras, NC to Georges Bank, shelf edge only	4,110	0.35
Aug-Sep 1991	Cape Hatteras, NC to Nova Scotia	3,668 and 5,377*	0.28 and 0.53*
Jun-Jul 1993	Georges Bank to Scotian shelf, shelf edge only	668	0.55
Jul-Sep 1995	Virginia to Gulf of St. Lawrence	8,176	0.65

\* from data collected on the Twin Otter and AT-11, respectively.

### Minimum Population Estimate

The minimum population estimate is the lower limit of the two-tailed 60% confidence interval of the log-normally distributed best abundance estimate. This is equivalent to the 20th percentile of the log-normal distribution as specified by Wade and Angliss (1997). The best estimate of abundance for *Globicephala* spp. is 8,176 (CV=0.65). The minimum population estimate for *Globicephala* spp. is 4,968 (CV=0.65).

### Current Population Trend

There are insufficient data to determine the population trends for this species.

### CURRENT AND MAXIMUM NET PRODUCTIVITY RATES

Current and maximum net productivity rates are unknown for this stock. Life history parameters that could be used to estimate net productivity include those from animals taken in the Newfoundland drive fishery: calving interval 3.3 years; lactation period about 21-22 months; gestation period 12 months; births mainly from June to November; length at birth is 177 cm; mean length at sexual maturity, 490 cm, males; and 356 cm, females; age at sexual maturity is 12 years for males and 6 years for females, and mean adult length is 557 cm for males and 448 cm for females; and maximum age was 40 for males, and 50 for females (Sergeant 1962; Kasuya *et al.* 1988). Analysis of data recently collected from animals taken in the Faroe Islands drive fishery produced higher values for all parameters (Bloch *et al.*

1993; Desportes *et al.* 1993; Martin and Rothery 1993). These differences are likely related, at least in part, to larger sample sizes and newer analytical techniques.

For purposes of this assessment, the maximum net productivity rate was assumed to be 0.04. This value is based on theoretical modeling showing that cetacean populations may not grow at rates much greater than 4% given the constraints of their reproductive life history (Barlow *et al.* 1995).

### **POTENTIAL BIOLOGICAL REMOVAL**

Potential Biological Removal (PBR) is the product of minimum population size, one-half the maximum productivity rate, and a “recovery” factor (Wade and Angliss 1997). The minimum population size for *Globicephala* spp. is 4,968 (CV=0.65). The maximum productivity rate is 0.04, the default value for cetaceans. The “recovery” factor, which accounts for endangered, depleted, threatened stocks, or stocks of unknown status relative to optimum sustainable population (OSP) is assumed to be 0.5 because this stock is of unknown status. PBR for the western North Atlantic *Globicephala* spp. is 50.

### **ANNUAL HUMAN-CAUSED MORTALITY**

Pilot whales have a propensity to mass strand throughout their range, but the role of human activity in these events is unknown. Between two and 120 pilot whales have stranded annually either individually or in groups in the NMFS Northeast Region (Anon. 1993b) since 1980.

Foreign fishery observers documented 436 pilot whale mortalities in Atlantic mackerel and squid fisheries (Waring *et al.* 1990; Waring 1995). Between 1989 and 1995, sixty-eight mortalities were observed in the large pelagic drift gillnet fishery, twenty-nine in the pelagic pair trawl fishery (1989-1995), and one each in the pelagic longline and groundfish trawl fisheries (NMFS unpublished data; see below). Although only one mortality has been observed in the U.S. large pelagic longline fishery, 24 pilot whales were released alive, two injured, after becoming entangled or hooked in this gear. Pilot whales are frequently observed to feed on hooked fish, particularly big-eye tuna (NMFS unpublished data). One mortality was observed in New England groundfish trawl fisheries in 1990 and one released alive and uninjured in 1993. Two were released alive and injured in 1992 and 1993 in the pelagic drift gillnet fishery. There were no takes in the New England multispecies sink gillnet fishery. An unknown number of pilot whales have also been taken in Newfoundland and Labrador, and Bay of Fundy, groundfish gillnets, Atlantic Canada and Greenland salmon gillnets, and Atlantic Canada cod traps (Read 1994).

Total fishery-related mortality and serious injury cannot be estimated separately for the two species of pilot whales in the U.S. Atlantic EEZ because of the uncertainty in species identification by fishery observers. The Atlantic Scientific Review Group advised adopting the risk-averse strategy of assuming that either species might have been subject to the observed fishery-related mortality and serious injury. Total estimated annual fishery-related mortality of pilot whales from NMFS-observed fisheries was the sum of integer-rounded annual mortality estimates across the pelagic longline (1992-1993), pelagic drift gillnet (1991-1995), pelagic pair trawl (1992-1995), and North Atlantic trawl fisheries (1991-1995) and was 42 pilot whales, *Globicephala* spp. (CV = 0.11) (Table 2).

### **Fisheries Information**

Prior to 1977, there was no documentation of marine mammal by-catch in distant-water fleet (DWF) activities off the northeast coast of the U.S. A fishery observer program, which has collected fishery data and information on incidental by-catch of marine mammals, was established in 1977 with the implementation of the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA). DWF effort in the Atlantic coast EEZ under MFCMA has been directed primarily towards Atlantic mackerel and squid. An average of 120 different foreign vessels per year (range 102-161) operated within the Atlantic coast EEZ during 1977 through 1982. In 1982, there were 112 different foreign vessels; 18 (16%) were Japanese tuna longline vessels operating along the U.S. Atlantic coast. This was the first year that the Northeast Regional Observer Program assumed responsibility for observer coverage of the longline vessels. The number of foreign vessels operating within the U.S. Atlantic EEZ each year between 1983 and 1991 averaged 33 and ranged from nine to 67. The number of Japanese longline vessels included among the DWF vessels averaged six and ranged from three to eight between 1983 and 1988. MFCMA observer coverage on DWF vessels was 25-35% during 1977-82, increased to 58%, 86%, 95%, and 98%, respectively, during 1983-86, and 100% observer coverage was maintained from 1987-91. Foreign fishing operations for squid ceased at the end of the 1986 fishing season and, for mackerel, at the end of the 1991 fishing season.

During 1977-1991, observers in this program recorded 436 pilot whale mortalities in foreign-fishing activities (Waring *et al.* 1990; Waring 1995). A total of 391 (90%) were taken in the mackerel fishery, and 41 (9%) occurred during *Loligo* and *Illex* squid-fishing operations. This total includes 48 documented takes by U.S. vessels involved in joint venture fishing operations in which U.S. captains transfer their catches to foreign processing vessels. Due to temporal fishing restrictions, the by-catch occurred during winter/spring (December to May) in continental shelf and continental shelf edge waters (Fairfield *et al.* 1993; Waring 1995); however, the majority of the takes occurred in late spring along the 100 m isobath. Two animals were also caught in both the hake fishery and tuna longline fisheries (Waring *et al.* 1990).

The Atlantic Canadian and Greenland salmon gillnet fishery is seasonal, with the peak from June to September, depending on location. In southern and eastern Newfoundland, and Labrador during 1989, 2,196 nets 91 m long were used. There are no effort data available for the Greenland fishery; however, the fishery was terminated in 1993 under an agreement between Canada and North Atlantic Salmon Fund (Read 1994).

The groundfish gillnet fishery is widespread and important. Many fisherman hold groundfish gillnet licenses but the number of active fishermen is unknown. In 1989, approximately 6,800 licenses were issued to fishermen along the southern coast of Labrador, and northeast and southern coast of Newfoundland. In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, there were about 3,900 licenses issued in 1989, while in the Bay of Fundy and southwestern Nova Scotia 659 licenses were issued.

There were 3,121 cod traps operating in Newfoundland and Labrador during 1979, and about 7,500 in 1980 (Read 1994). This fishery was closed at the end of 1993 due to collapse of Canadian groundfish resources.

The distribution of long-finned pilot whale, a northern species, overlaps with that of the short-finned pilot whale, a predominantly southern species, between 35°30'N to 38°00'N (Leatherwood *et al.* 1976). Although long-finned pilot whales are most likely taken in the waters north of Delaware Bay, many of the pilot whale takes are not identified to species and by-catch does occur in the overlap area. In this summary, therefore, long-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*) and unidentified pilot whales (*Globicephala* spp.) are considered together.

Data on current incidental takes in U.S. fisheries are available from several sources. In 1986, NMFS established a mandatory self-reported fisheries information system for large pelagic fisheries. Data files are maintained at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC). The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Sea Sampling Observer Program was initiated in 1989, and since that year several fisheries have been covered by the program. In late 1992 and in 1993, the SEFSC provided observer coverage of pelagic longline vessels fishing off the Grand Banks (Tail of the Banks) and provides observer coverage of vessels fishing south of Cape Hatteras.

By-catch has been observed by NMFS Sea Samplers in the pelagic drift gillnet, pelagic longline, and pelagic pair trawl fisheries, but no mortalities or serious injuries have documented in the New England multispecies sink gillnet or mid-Atlantic coastal sink gillnet.

The estimated total number of hauls in the pelagic drift gillnet fishery increased from 714 in 1989 to 1,144 in 1990; thereafter, with the introduction of quotas, effort was severely reduced. The estimated number of hauls in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 were 233, 243, 232, 197 and 164 respectively. Fifty-nine different vessels participated in this fishery at one time or another between 1989 and 1993. In 1995 there were 11 vessels in the fishery (Table 2). Observer coverage, expressed as percent of sets observed, was 8% in 1989, 6% in 1990, 20% in 1991, 40% in 1992, 42% in 1993, 87% in 1994 and 99% in 1995. Effort was concentrated along the southern edge of Georges Bank and off Cape Hatteras. Examination of the species composition of the catch and locations of the fishery throughout the year, suggested that the pelagic drift gillnet fishery be stratified into two strata, a southern or winter stratum, and a northern or summer stratum. Estimates of the total by-catch, from 1989 to 1993, were obtained using the aggregated (pooled 1989-1993) catch rates, by strata (Northridge 1996). Estimates of total annual by-catch for 1994 and 1995 were estimated from the sum of the observed caught and the product of the average bycatch per haul and the number of unobserved hauls as recorded in self-reported fisheries information. Variances were estimated using bootstrap re-sampling techniques (Bisack, in prep.). The annual fishery-related mortality (CV in parentheses) was 77 in 1989 (0.24), 132 in 1990 (0.24), 30 in 1991 (0.26), 33 in 1992 (0.16), 31 in 1993 (0.19), 20 in 1994 (0.06), and 9.1 in 1995 (0); average annual mortality between 1991-1995 was 24.6 pilot whales (0.09) (Table 2). The 1991-1995 period provides a better characterization of this fishery (i.e., fewer vessels and increased observer coverage). Table 3 summarizes the number of animals released alive and classified as injured or non-injured. It also includes the ratio of observed to estimated mortalities for this fishery. Because animals released alive may have subsequently died due to injuries received during entanglement, pilot whales that were released were included in the mortality estimates. Pilot whales were taken along the continental shelf edge, northeast of Cape

Hatteras in January and February. Takes were recorded at the continental shelf edge east of Cape Charles, Virginia, in June. Pilot whales were taken from Hydrographer Canyon along the Great South Channel to Georges Bank from July-November. Takes occurred at the Oceanographer Canyon continental shelf break and along the continental shelf northeast of Cape Hatteras in October-November.

Effort in the pelagic pair trawl fishery has increased during the period 1989 to 1993, from zero hauls in 1989 and 1990, to an estimated 171 hauls in 1991, and then to an estimated 536 hauls in 1992, 586 in 1993, 407 in 1994, and 440 in 1995, respectively. The fishery operated from August-November in 1991, from June-November in 1992, from June-October in 1993, and from mid-summer to November in 1994 and 1995. Sea sampling began in October 1992, and 48 sets (9% of the total) were sampled in that season, 102 hauls (17% of the total) were sampled in 1993. In 1994 and 1995, 52% and 54%, respectively, of the sets were observed. Twelve vessels have operated in this fishery. The fishery extends from 35°N to 41°N, and from 69°W to 72°W. Approximately 50% of the total effort was within a one degree square at 39°N, 72°W, around Hudson Canyon. Examination of the locations and species composition of the by-catch, showed little seasonal change for the six months of operation and did not warrant any seasonal or areal stratification of this fishery (Northridge 1996). Five pilot whale (*Globicephala* spp.) mortalities were reported in the self-reported fisheries information in 1993. In 1994 and 1995 observers reported one and twelve mortalities, respectively (Table 2).

The estimated fishery-related mortality to pilot whales in the U.S. Atlantic attributable to this fishery in 1994 was 2.0 (CV=0.49) and 22 (CV=0.33) in 1995 (Bisack, in prep.). The average mortality between 1992 and 1995 was 6 (CV=0.31) for this fishery. Table 3 summarizes the number of animals released alive and classified as injured or non-injured. It also includes the ratio of observed to estimated mortalities for this fishery.

The pelagic longline fishery operates in the U.S. Atlantic (including Caribbean) and Gulf of Mexico EEZ (SEFSC unpublished data). Interactions between the pelagic longline fishery and pilot whales have been reported; however, a vessel may fish in more than one statistical reporting area and it is not possible to separate estimates of fishing effort other than to subtract Gulf of Mexico effort from Atlantic fishing effort, which includes the Caribbean Sea. This fishery has been monitored with about 5% observer coverage, in terms of trips observed, since 1992. Total effort for the pelagic longline fishery (Atlantic, including the Caribbean), based on mandatory self-reported fisheries information, was 11,279 sets in 1991, 10,605 sets in 1992, and 11,538 in 1993 (Cramer 1994). The fishery has been observed nearly year round within every statistical reporting area within the EEZ and beyond. Twenty four animals were released alive, but two were injured. One mortality was observed between 1990 and 1993. January-March by-catch was concentrated on the continental shelf edge northeast of Cape Hatteras. By-catch was recorded in this area during April-June, and takes also occurred north of Hydrographer Canyon off the continental shelf in water over 1,000 fathoms during April-June. During the July-September period, takes occurred on the continental shelf edge east of Cape Charles, Virginia, and on Block Canyon slope in over 1,000 fathoms of water. October-December by-catch occurred along the 20 to 50 fathom contour lines between Barnegatt Bay and Cape Hatteras. Estimated take was based on a generalized linear model (Poisson error assumption) fit to the available observed incidental take and self-reported incidental take and effort data for the fishery (SEFSC unpublished data). The estimated fishery-related mortality to pilot whales in the U.S. Atlantic attributable to this fishery occurred in 1992 and was 22 (CV = 0.23); average annual mortality between 1992-1993 was eleven pilot whales (0.33) (Table 2). Table 3 summarizes the number of animals released alive and classified as injured or non-injured. It also includes the ratio of observed to estimated mortalities for this fishery.

Vessels in the North Atlantic bottom trawl fishery, a Category III fishery under the MMPA, were observed in order to meet fishery management needs, rather than marine mammal management needs. An average of 970 (CV = 0.04) vessels (full and part time) participated annually in the fishery during 1989-1993. The fishery is active in New England in all seasons. One mortality was documented in 1990 and one animal was released alive and uninjured in 1993. Table 3 summarizes the number of animals released alive and classified as injured or non-injured. It also includes the ratio of observed to estimated mortalities for this fishery.

The mid-Atlantic mackerel and squid trawl fisheries were combined into the Atlantic mid-water trawl fishery in the revised proposed list of fisheries in 1995. The fishery occurs along the U.S. mid-Atlantic continental shelf region between New Brunswick, Canada, and Cape Hatteras year around. The mackerel trawl fishery was classified as a Category II fishery since 1990 and the squid fishery was originally classified as a Category II fishery in 1990, but was reclassified as a Category III fishery in 1992. The combined fishery was reclassified as a Category II fishery in 1995. Three fishery-related mortality of pilot whales were reported in self-reported fisheries information from the mackerel trawl fishery between 1990-1992.

Table 2. Summary of the incidental mortality of pilot whales (*Globicephala sp*) by commercial fishery including the years sampled (Years), the number of vessels active within the fishery (Vessels), the type of data used (Data Type), the annual observer coverage (Observer Coverage), the mortalities recorded by on-board observers (Observed Mortality), the estimated annual mortality (Estimated Mortality), the estimated CV of the annual mortality (Estimated CVs) and the mean annual mortality (CV in parentheses).

Fishery	Years	Vessels	Data Type <sup>1</sup>	Observer Coverage <sup>2</sup>	Observed Mortality	Estimated Mortality	Estimated CVs	Mean Annual Mortality
Pelagic Drift Gillnet	91-95	1994=12 <sup>3</sup> 1995=11	Obs. Data Logbook	.20, .40, .42, .87, .99	4, 14, 11 <sup>4</sup> , 17, 9	30, 33, 31, 20, 9.1 <sup>5</sup>	.26, .16, .19, .06, 0	24.6 (.09)
Pelagic Pair Trawl	92-95	12	Obs. Data Logbook	.09, .17, .52, .54	0, 0 <sup>6</sup> , 1, 12	0, 0, 2, 22	0, 0, .49, .33	6.0 (.31)
Longline <sup>7</sup>	92-93		Obs. Data Logbook	.05	1	22	.23	11 (.33)
TOTAL								41.6 (.11)

<sup>1</sup> Observer data (Obs. Data) are used to measure bycatch rates, and the data are collected within the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Sea Sampling Program. Mandatory logbook (Logbook) data are used to measure total effort for the pelagic drift gillnet and longline fishery, and these data are collected at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC).

<sup>2</sup> Observer coverage for the pelagic drift gillnet, pair trawl and longline fishery are in terms of sets.

<sup>3</sup> 1994 and 1995 shown, other years not available on an annual basis.

<sup>4</sup> For 1991-1993, pooled bycatch rates were used to estimate bycatch in months that had fishing effort but did not have observer coverage. This method is described in Northridge (1996). In 1994 and 1995, observer coverage increased substantially, and bycatch rates were not pooled for this period (Bisack, in prep).

<sup>5</sup> One vessel was not observed and recorded 1 set in a 10 day trip in the SEFSC mandatory logbook. If you assume the vessel fished 1.4 sets per day as estimated from the 1995 SS data, the point estimate may increase by 0.84 animals. However, the SEFSC mandatory logbook data was taken at face value, and therefore it was assumed that 1 set was fished within this trip, and the point estimate would then increase by 0.06 animals.

<sup>6</sup> In 1993, 5 pilot whales were taken on a tow without an observer. An estimate could not be made based on unobserved tows.

<sup>7</sup> Assessments for 1994 and 1995 are not completed but are expected to be in the marine mammal stock assessment report next year.

Table 3. Summary of pilot whales (*Globicephala sp*) released alive, by commercial fishery, years sampled (Years), ratio of observed mortalities recorded by on-board observers to the estimated mortality (Ratio), the number of observed animals released alive and injured (Injured), and the number of observed animals released alive and uninjured (Uninjured).

Fishery <sup>1</sup>	Years	Ratio	Injured	Uninjured
Pelagic Drift Gillnet	91-95	4/30, 14/33, 11/31, 17/20,9/9.1	0, 1 <sup>2</sup> , 1 <sup>3</sup> , 0, 0	0
North Atlantic Bottom Trawl	91-95	0, 0, 0, 0, 0	0, 0, 0, 0, 0	0, 0, 1, 0, 0

<sup>1</sup>Pilot whales have been caught and released alive in the longline fishery. However, assessments have not been completed at this time but are expected by next year.

<sup>2</sup> Released alive with moderate injury.

<sup>3</sup> Released alive with condition unknown.

### Other Mortality

A potential human-caused source of mortality is from polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and DDT, moderate levels of which have been found in pilot whale blubber (Taruski 1975; Muir *et al.* 1988). The effect of the observed levels of such contaminants is unknown.

From 1992-1995, 53 long-finned pilot whale stranded between Virginia and Maine, including 22 animals that mass stranded in 1992 along the Massachusetts coast (NMFS unpublished data).

### STATUS OF STOCK

The status of long-finned pilot whales relative to OSP in U.S. Atlantic EEZ is unknown, but stock abundance may have been affected by reduction in foreign fishing, curtailment of the Newfoundland drive fishery for pilot whales in 1971, and increased abundance of herring, mackerel, and squid stocks. There are insufficient data to determine the population trends for this species. The species is not listed under the Endangered Species Act. In Canada, the Cetacean Protection Regulations of 1982, promulgated under the Standing Fisheries Act, prohibit the catching or harassment of all cetacean species. The total fishery-related mortality and serious injury for this stock is not less than 10% of the calculated PBR and, therefore, cannot be considered to be insignificant and approaching zero mortality and serious injury rate. This is a strategic stock because the 1991-95 estimated average annual fishery-related mortality to pilot whales, *Globicephala* spp., will likely exceed PBR when the 1994-95 longline data analyses are complete.

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