

MESOPLODON BEAKED WHALES (*Mesoplodon* spp.): Western North Atlantic Stock

STOCK DEFINITION AND GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Within the genus *Mesoplodon*, there are four species of beaked whales that reside in the northwest Atlantic. These include True's beaked whale, *Mesoplodon mirus*; Gervais' beaked whale, *M. europaeus*; Blainville's beaked whale, *M. densirostris*; and Sowerby's beaked whale, *M. bidens* (Mead 1989). These species are difficult to identify to the species level at sea; therefore, much of the available characterization for beaked whales is to genus level only. Stock structure for each species is unknown.

The distribution of *Mesoplodon* spp. in the northwest Atlantic is known principally from stranding records (Mead 1989; Nawojchik 1994). Off the northeast USA coast, beaked whale (*Mesoplodon* spp.) sightings have occurred principally along the southern edge of Georges Bank (CETAP, 1982; Waring *et al.* 1992; NMFS unpublished data). Most sightings were in late spring and summer. In addition, beaked whales were also sighted in Gulf Stream features during NEFSC 1990-1995 surveys (Waring *et al.* 1992; Anon 1994; Tove 1995; NMFS unpublished data).

True's beaked whale is a temperate-water species that has been reported from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, to the Bahamas (Leatherwood *et al.* 1976; Mead 1989). It is considered rare in Canadian waters (Houston 1990).

Gervais's beaked whales are believed to be principally oceanic, and strandings have been reported from Cape Cod Bay to Florida, into the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico (Leatherwood *et al.* 1976; Mead 1989; NMFS unpublished data). This is the commonest species of *Mesoplodon* stranded along the USA Atlantic coast. The northernmost stranding was on Cape Cod.

Blainville's beaked whales have been reported from southwestern Nova Scotia to Florida, and are believed to be widely but sparsely distributed in tropical to warm-temperate waters (Leatherwood *et al.* 1976; Mead 1989, Nicolas *et al.* 1993). There are two records of strandings in Nova Scotia which probably represent strays from the Gulf Stream (Mead 1989). They are considered rare in Canadian waters (Houston 1990).

Sowerby's beaked whales have been reported from New England waters north to the ice pack, and individuals are seen along the Newfoundland coast in summer (Leatherwood *et al.* 1976; Mead 1989). Furthermore, a single stranding occurred off the Florida west coast (Mead 1989). This species is considered rare in Canadian waters (Lien *et al.* 1990).

POPULATION SIZE

The total number of *Mesoplodon* spp. beaked whales off the eastern USA and Canadian Atlantic coast is unknown.

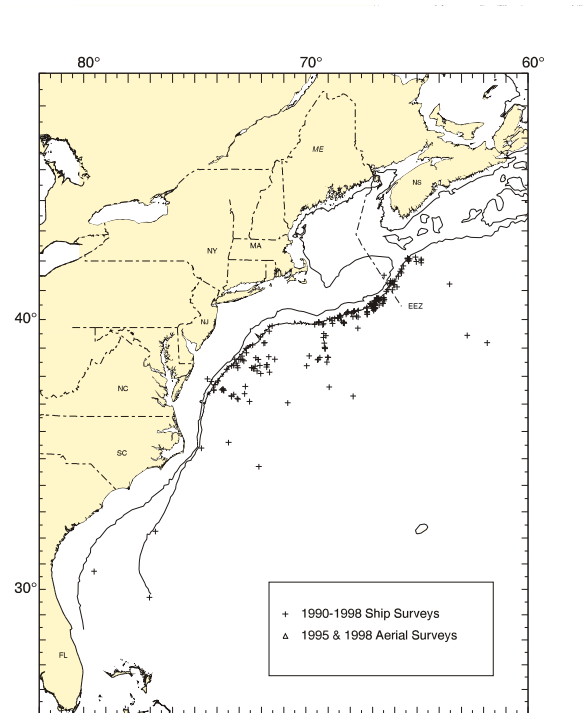


Figure 1. Distribution of beaked whale sightings from NEFSC and SEFSC shipboard and aerial surveys during the summer in 1990-1998. Isobaths are at 100 m and 1,000 m.

However, eight estimates of the undifferentiated complex of beaked whales (*Ziphius* and *Mesoplodon* spp.) from selected regions of the habitat do exist for select time periods. Sightings were almost exclusively in the continental shelf edge and continental slope areas (Figure 1). An abundance of 120 (CV=0.71) undifferentiated beaked whales 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 (CETAP 1982). An abundance of 442 (CV=0.51) undifferentiated beaked whales 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 (Anon. 1990; Waring *et al.* 1992). An abundance of 262 (CV=0.99) undifferentiated beaked whales 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 (Waring *et al.* 1992; Waring 1998). An abundance of 370 (CV=0.65) and 612 (CV=0.73) undifferentiated beaked whales was estimated from line transect aerial surveys conducted from August to September 1991 using the Twin Otter and AT-11, respectively (Anon. 1991). As recommended in the GAMMS Workshop Report (Wade and Angliss 1997), estimates older than eight years are deemed unreliable, therefore should not be used for PBR determinations. Further, due to changes in survey methodology these data should not be used to make comparisons to more current estimates.

An abundance of 330 (CV=0.66) undifferentiated beaked whales 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.

An abundance of 99 (CV=0.64) undifferentiated beaked whales was estimated from an August 1994 shipboard line transect survey conducted within a Gulf Stream warm-core ring located in continental slope waters southeast of Georges Bank (Table 1; Anon. 1994). Data were collected by two alternating teams that searched with 25x150 binoculars and an independent observer who searched by naked eye from a separate platform on the bow. Data 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.

An abundance of 1,519 (CV=0.69) undifferentiated beaked whales 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 *et al.* in review). Total track line length was 32,600 km. The ships covered waters between the 50 and 1000 fathom depth 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 depth contour line, the southern Gulf of Maine, and shelf waters off Nova Scotia from the coastline to the 1000 fathom depth contour line. Data collection and analysis methods used were described in Palka (1996).

An abundance of 2,600 (CV=0.40) for undifferentiated beaked whales was estimated from a line transect sighting survey conducted during July 6 to September 6, 1998 by a ship and plane that surveyed 15,900 km of track line in waters north of Maryland (38° N) (Figure 1; Palka *et al.* in review). Shipboard data were analyzed using the modified direct duplicate method (Palka 1995) that accounts for school size bias and $g(0)$, the probability of detecting a group on the track line. Aerial data were not corrected for $g(0)$.

An abundance of 596 (CV=0.50) for undifferentiated beaked whales was estimated from a shipboard line transect sighting survey conducted between 8 July and 17 August 1998 that surveyed 5,570 km of track line in waters south of Maryland (38°N) (Figure 1; Mullin in review). Abundance estimates were made using the program DISTANCE (Buckland *et al.* 1993; Laake *et al.* 1993) where school size bias and ship attraction were accounted for.

The best available abundance estimate for undifferentiated beaked whales is the sum of the estimates from the two 1998 USA Atlantic surveys, 3,196 (CV=0.34), where the estimate from the northern USA Atlantic is 2,600 (CV=0.40) and from the southern USA Atlantic is 596 (CV=0.50). This joint estimate is considered best because together these two surveys have the most complete coverage of the species' habitat.

Although the 1990-1998 surveys did not sample exactly the same areas or encompass the entire beaked whale habitat, they did focus on segments of known or suspected high-use habitats off the northeastern USA coast. The collective 1990-98 data suggest that, seasonally, at least several thousand beaked whales are occupying these waters, highest levels of abundance in the Georges Bank region. Recent results suggest that beaked whale abundance may be highest in association with Gulf Stream and warm-core ring features.

Because the estimates presented here were not dive-time corrected, they are likely negatively biased and probably underestimate actual abundance. Given that *Mesoplodon* spp. prefers deep-water habitats (Mead 1989) the bias may be substantial.

Table 1. Summary of abundance estimates for the undifferentiated complex of beaked whales which include *Ziphius* and *Mesoplodon* spp. Month, year, and area covered during each abundance survey, and resulting abundance estimate (N_{best}) and coefficient of variation (CV).

Month/Year	Area	N_{best}	CV
Jun-Jul 1993	Georges Bank to Scotian shelf, shelf edge only	330	0.66
Aug 1994	warm-core ring SE of Georges Bank	99	0.64
Jul-Sep 1995	Virginia to Gulf of St. Lawrence	1,519	0.69
Jul-Sep 1998	Maryland to Gulf of St. Lawrence	2,600	0.40
Jul-Aug 1998	Florida to Maryland	596	0.50
Jul-Sep 1998	Gulf of St. Lawrence to Florida (COMBINED)	3,196	0.34

* 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 undifferentiated beaked whales is 3,196 (CV=0.34). The minimum population estimate for the undifferentiated complex of beaked whales (*Ziphius* and *Mesoplodon* spp.) is 2,419 (CV=0.34). It is not possible to determine the minimum population estimate of only *Mesoplodon* beaked whales.

Current Population Trend

There are insufficient data to determine the population trends for these 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: length at birth is 2 to 3 m, length at sexual maturity 6.1 m for females, and 5.5 m for males, maximum age for females were 30 growth layer groups (GLG's) and for males was 36 GLG's, which may be annual layers (Mead 1984).

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 (MMPA Sec. 3. 16 U.S.C. 1362; Wade and Angliss 1997). The minimum population size for the undifferentiated complex of beaked whales is 2,419 (CV=0.34). 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 all species in the undifferentiated complex of beaked whales (*Ziphius* and *Mesoplodon* spp.) is 24. It is not possible to determine the PBR for only *Mesoplodon* beaked whales.

ANNUAL HUMAN-CAUSED MORTALITY AND SERIOUS INJURY

The 1994-1998 total average estimated annual fishery-related mortality of beaked whales in the USA EEZ was 9.5 (CV=0.04).

Fishery Information

There is no historical information available that documents incidental mortality in either USA or Canadian Atlantic coast fisheries (Read 1994).

Current data on incidental takes in USA 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 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 currently provides observer coverage of vessels fishing south of Cape Hatteras.

Total fishery-related mortality and serious injury cannot be estimated separately for each beaked whale species because of the uncertainty in species identification by fishery observers. The Atlantic Scientific Review Group advised adopting the risk-averse strategy of assuming that any beaked whale stock which occurred in the USA Atlantic EEZ might have been subject to the observed fishery-related mortality and serious injury.

Bycatch has been observed by NMFS Sea Samplers in the pelagic drift gillnet fishery, but no mortalities or serious injuries have been documented in the pelagic longline, pelagic trawl, Northeast multispecies sink gillnet, mid-Atlantic coastal sink gillnet, or North Atlantic bottom trawl observed fisheries.

Pelagic Drift 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, 1995, 1996, and 1998 were 233, 243, 232, 197, 164, 143, and 113 respectively. In 1996 and 1997, NMFS issued management regulations which prohibited the operation of this fishery in 1997. Further, in January 1999 NMFS issued a Final Rule to prohibit the use of driftnets (*i.e.*, permanent closure) in the North Atlantic swordfish fishery (50 CFR Part 630). Fifty-nine different vessels participated in this fishery at one time or another between 1989 and 1993. Since 1994, between 10 and 13 vessels have participated 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, 99% in 1995, 64% in 1996, and 99% in 1998. 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 bycatch, for each year from 1989 to 1993, were obtained using the aggregated (pooled 1989-1993) catch rates, by strata (Northridge 1996). Estimates of total annual bycatch for 1994 - 1998 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. Bycatch of beaked whales has only occurred from Georges Canyon to Hydrographer Canyon along the continental shelf break and continental slope during July to October. Forty-six fishery-related beaked whale mortalities were observed between 1989 and 1998. These included: 23 Sowerby's; 4 True's; 1 Cuvier's; and 18 undifferentiated beaked whales. Recent analysis of biological samples (genetics and morphological analysis) have been used to determine species identifications for some of the bycaught animals. Estimation of bycatch mortality by species is still underway, therefore the following estimates are for undifferentiated beaked whales. The estimated annual fishery-related mortality (CV in parentheses) was 60 in 1989 (0.21), 76 in 1990 (0.26), 13 in 1991 (0.21), 9.7 in 1992 (0.24), 12 in 1993 (0.16), 4.8 in 1994 (0.08), 9.1 in 1995 (0), 13 in 1996 (0.12), NA in 1997, and 11 in 1998 (0) (Table 2). During July 1996, one beaked whale was entangled and released alive with "gear in/around a single body part". Annual mortality estimates do not include any animals injured and released alive. The 1994-1998 total average estimated annual fishery-related mortality of beaked whales in the USA EEZ was 9.5 (CV=0.04) (Table 2), assuming the 1996 injured beaked whale was not a serious injury.

Table 2. Summary of the incidental mortality for the undifferentiated complex of beaked whales which include Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*), and *Mesoplodon* beaked whale, 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 ¹	Data Type ²	Observer Coverage ³	Observed Mortality	Estimated Mortality ⁴	Estimated CVs ⁴	Mean Annual Mortality
Pelagic Drift Gillnet	94-98 ⁶	1994=12 1995=11 1996=10 1998=13	Obs. Data Logbook	.87, .99, .64, NA, .99	4, 9, 8, NA, 11	4.8, 9.1 ⁵ , 13, NA, 11	.08, 0, .12, NA, 0	9.5 ⁶ (.04)
TOTAL								9.5 (.04)

- ¹ 1994 - 1996 shown, other years not available on an annual basis.
- ² 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, and the data are collected at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC).
- ³ The observer coverage and unit of effort for the Pelagic Drift Gillnet is a set.
- ⁴ 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). Because observer coverage increased substantially from 1994-1996, bycatch rates for this period are single year estimates.
- ⁵ 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 0.8 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 0.1 animals.
- ⁶ The fishery did not operate in 1997; the average mortality is based on the number of years (4; 1994-1998) that the fishery operated.

Other Mortality

From 1992- 1998, a total of 49 beaked whales stranded along the USA Atlantic coast between Florida and Massachusetts (NMFS unpublished data). This includes: 28 (includes one tentative identification) Gervais' beaked whales (one 1997 animal had plastics in esophagus and stomach, and Sargassum in esophagus; two 1998 animals that stranded in September in South Carolina showed signs of fishery interactions); 2 True's beaked whales; 5 Blainville's beaked whales; 11 Cuvier's beaked whales (one 1996 animal showed signs of human interactions propeller marks) and 4 unidentified animals.

STATUS OF STOCK

The status of *Mesoplodon* beaked whales relative to OSP in USA Atlantic EEZ is unknown. These species are not listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. There are insufficient data to determine population trends and the level of human-caused mortality and serious injury is unknown because of uncertainty regarding species identification in observed fisheries. If one were to assume that the incidental fisheries mortality of the four *Mesoplodon* spp. and *Z. cavirostris* was random with respect to species (*i.e.*, in proportion to their relative abundance), then the minimum population estimate for all of those stocks would need to sum to at least 950 in order for an annual mortality of animals not to exceed the PBR of any one of these species. Because an assumption of unselective incidental fishing mortality is probably overly optimistic and represents a best case situation, it is likely that a combined minimum population estimate of substantially greater than 950 in order for an annual mortality of 9.5 animals not to exceed the PBR of any one of these species. The largest recent abundance estimate available for beaked

whales in the western North Atlantic was 3,196 (CV=0.34) which would result in a minimum population estimate of 2,419 beaked whales; however, this estimate does not include a correction factor for submerged animals which may be substantial. Although a species specific PBR cannot be determined, the total fishery mortality and serious injury for this group 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 of uncertainty regarding stock size and evidence of fishery-related mortality and serious injury.

REFERENCES

- Anon. 1990. Cruise results, NOAA Ship CHAPMAN, Cruise No. 90-05. Marine Mammal Sighting Survey. NOAA, NMFS, NEFSC, Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA. 5 pp.
- Anon. 1991. Northeast cetacean aerial survey and interplatform study. NOAA, NMFS, SEFSC & NEFSC, 4 pp. Available from NEFSC, Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.
- Anon. 1993. Cruise results, NOAA ship DELAWARE II, Cruise No. DEL 93-06, Marine mammal Survey. NOAA NMFS NEFSC, Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA. 5 pp.
- Anon. 1994. Cruise results, NOAA ship RELENTLESS, Cruise No. RS 9402, Marine Mammal Survey/Warm Core Ring Study. NOAA NMFS NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA. 8 pp.
- Barlow, J., S. L. Swartz, T. C. Eagle and P. R. Wade. 1995. U.S. Marine Mammal Stock Assessments: Guidelines for Preparation, Background, and a Summary of the 1995 Assessments. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-OPR-6, 73 pp.
- Buckland, S. T., D. R. Andersen, K. P. Burnham and J. L. Laake. 1993. Distance sampling: Estimating abundance of biological populations. *Chapman and Hall*, New York, 446 pp.
- CETAP. 1982. A characterization of marine mammals and turtles in the mid- and north Atlantic areas of the U.S. outer continental shelf. Cetacean and Turtle Assessment Program, University of Rhode Island. Final Report #AA551-CT8-48 to the Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC, 538 pp.
- Houston, J. 1990. Status of Blainville's beaked whale, *Mesoplodon densirostris*, in Canada. *Can. Field Nat.* 104(1): 117-120.
- Laake, J. L., S. T. Buckland, D. R. Anderson and K. P. Burnham. 1993. DISTANCE user's guide, V2.0. Colorado Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colorado, 72 pp.
- Leatherwood, S., D. K. Caldwell and H. E. Winn. 1976. Whales, dolphins, and porpoises of the western North Atlantic. A guide to their identification. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA Tech. Rep. NMFS Circ. 396, 176 pp.
- Lien J., F. Barry, K. Breeck, and U. Zuschlag. 1990. Status of Sowerby's Beaked Whale, *Mesoplodon bidens*, in Canada. *Can. Field Nat.* 104(1): 125-130.
- Mead, J. G. 1984. Survey of reproductive data for the beaked whales (*Ziphiidae*). *Rep. int Whal. Commn.* Special Issue 6:91-96.
- Mead, J. G. 1989. Beaked whales of the genus *Mesoplodon*. Pages 349-430 in: S. H., Ridgway and R. Harrison (eds), Handbook of marine mammals, Vol. 4: River Dolphins and toothed whales. *Academic press*, San Diego, 442 pp.
- Mullin, K. D. (in review). Abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the southern U.S. Atlantic Ocean during summer 1998. *Fish. Bull., U.S.*
- Nawojchik, R. 1994. First record of *Mesoplodon densirostris* (Cetacea: Ziphiidae) from Rhode Island. *Mar. Mammal. Sci.* 10: 477-480.
- Nicolas, J., A. Williams and G. Repucci. 1993. Observations of beaked whales (*Mesoplodon* spp.) in the western North Atlantic Ocean. Proceedings of the Tenth Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, Nov. 11-15, 1993, Galveston, TX (Abstract).
- Palka, D. 1995. Abundance estimate of the Gulf of Maine harbor porpoise. *Rep. int Whal. Commn.* (Special Issue 16):27-50.

- Palka, D., G. Waring and D. Potter. (in review). Abundances of cetaceans and sea turtles in the northwest Atlantic during summer 1995 and 1998. *Fish. Bull., U.S.*
- Northridge, S. 1996. Estimation of cetacean mortality in the U.S. Atlantic sword fish and tuna drift gillnet and pair trawl fisheries. Final report to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Contract No. 40ENNF500160.
- Read, A. J. 1994. Interactions between cetaceans and gillnet and trap fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic. *Rep. int Whal. Commn.* (Special Issue 1): 133-147.
- Trove, M. 1995. Live sighting of *Mesoplodon CF. M. Mirus*, True's Beaked Whale. *Mar. Mammal Sci.* 11(1): 80-85.
- Wade, P. R., and R. P. Angliss. 1997. Guidelines for assessing marine mammal stocks: Report of the GAMMS Workshop April 3-5, 1996, Seattle, Washington. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-OPR-12, 93 pp.
- Waring, G. T. 1998. Results of the summer 1991 R/V Chapman marine mammal sighting survey. NOAA NMFS NEFSC, Lab. Ref. Doc. No. 98-09, 21 pp. Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.
- Waring, G. T., C. P. Fairfield, C. M. Ruhsam and M. Sano. 1992. Cetaceans associated with Gulf Stream features off the northeastern USA shelf. *ICES C.M.* 1992/N:12 29 pp.