The following mammals are common in the Hudson Bay Complex area; however, other species may also be seen. It is possible for marine mammals to venture outside of their common habitat ranges and be seen elsewhere.

**Harp Seal**
- **Length:** Up to 2 m
- **Appearance:** Grey grey body with black or brown head and long, black “harp-shaped” saddle on the back.
- **Behaviour:** When migrating, the seals leap out of the water, like dolphins.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** JFMAMJASON
- **Status:** Not assessed

**Beluga Whale**
- **Length:** 2–5 m
- **Appearance:** Adults are white, and young are grey. No dorsal fin, only a small portion of the body is visible out of the water. Blow is low and hardly visible.
- **Behaviour:** Found in small groups, but sometimes in groups of hundreds to thousands during annual migrations.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** Unknown
- **Status:** Not at risk

**Hooded Seal**
- **Length:** Up to 1.5 m
- **Appearance:** Dark grey body with white ring on the back and silver colouring on the front.
- **Behaviour:** Solitary but form small groups during mating and moulting.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** JFMAMJASON
- **Status:** Data deficient

**Bearded Seal**
- **Length:** Up to 3 m
- **Appearance:** Dark grey-white with dark blotches. Males have a black “hood” on forehead and inflated balloon-like nasal cavity.
- **Behaviour:** Solitary, except during pupping, mating and moulting.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** JFMAMJASON
- **Status:** Not at risk

**Killer Whale**
- **Length:** 7–9 m
- **Appearance:** Black body with white throat, belly and underside, and white patch behind eye. Triangular dorsal fin up to 2 m tall.
- **Behaviour:** Typically form groups of 2–25.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** JFMAMJASON
- **Status:** Special concern

**Bowhead Whale**
- **Length:** 13–19 m
- **Appearance:** The body is predominantly black with some white (non-pigmented) regions appearing on the chin, eyelids, flipper insertions, tail stock and flukes.
- **Behaviour:** Often alone but sometimes in groups of 2–10.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** JFMAMJASON
- **Status:** Special concern

**Minke Whale**
- **Length:** 2–5 m
- **Appearance:** Two small dorsal fins and small eyes.
- **Behaviour:** Slow swimming. Usually observed near the surface during the winter and retreats to deeper waters (180–500 m) during the summer.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** Unknown
- **Status:** Not assessed

**Narwhal**
- **Length:** 4–5 m
- **Appearance:** Adults are speckled grey and white while young are dark grey or black. Males have a spiraled tusk up to 3 m long. No dorsal fin. Blow is puffy. Not much of the body is visible out of the water.
- **Behaviour:** Often in small groups in summer (<10 individuals) but may be hundreds during spring and fall migrations.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** JFMAMJASON
- **Status:** Special concern

**Ringed Seal**
- **Length:** Up to 1.5 m
- **Appearance:** Dark grey body with light rings on the back and silver colouring on the front.
- **Behaviour:** Associated with ice floes and pack ice. Maintain breathing holes throughout winter.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** JFMAMJASON
- **Status:** Special concern

**Greenland Shark**
- **Length:** 2–5 m
- **Appearance:** May be brown, black, grey or a spotted mix of all three. Two small dorsal fins and small eyes.
- **Behaviour:** Slow swimming. Usually observed near the surface during the winter and retreats to deeper waters (180–500 m) during the summer.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** Unknown
- **Status:** Not assessed

**Walrus**
- **Length:** 2–4 m
- **Appearance:** Brown skin. Broad flat muzzle, white whiskers and two distinctive tusks.
- **Behaviour:** Occur in tight groups on ice floes or on land.
- **Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):** JFMAMJASON
- **Status:** Special concern

**Hudson Bay Complex Mariners’ Guide**

**Recommended Distance Around Marine Mammals**

(Changes in navigation should not be assumed if they compromise safe operations)

- **Slow down and avoid abrupt course changes**
- **Do not approach or position vessel toward any marine mammal**
- **Keep drones at a min. 300 m vertical distance and 1/2 nautical mile (900 m) radius from animals.**
- **Refrain from drone flight maneuvers, including: taking off, landing, altering course or altitude.**

Scan for a digital version with references
WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

Walrus Haulouts
- Maintain a setback of 5 km seaward of a walrus haulout, any time during the year.

Whale Sensitive Habitats
- Be cautious in whale calving, foraging and migration areas from mid-July to mid-September and follow mitigation procedures in the vicinity of marine mammals.39
  - Wildlife will be given right of way.
  - Adhere to setback distances (see chart on first page).
  - Maintain a straight course and constant speed, avoiding erratic maneuvers.
  - When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stopping movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area.

Polyynes (Ikirasag)
- Avoid shipping and icebreaking activities, particularly through inlets, between mid-November to mid-July (Ukiaq to Upingaaq seasons).40

Floe edges (Sinaaq)
- Avoid shipping through and around floe edges during mid-March to mid-July (Upingaksaaq and Upingaaq seasons).40

Discharges and Dumping
- Avoid discharging operational wastes within or near protected area boundaries.37

Reduce Black Carbon
- Avoid using heavy fuel oil and use distillate fuels and a particulate filter or cleaner alternative fuels.37

Icebreaking
- Avoid icebreaking during ice formation and breakup.39
  - Avoid crossing Inuit on-ice community travel routes, unless accompanied by ice bridging plan and having consulted with municipal councils, HTOs and regional wildlife organizations within a 300 km radius of the route.40
  - Avoid icebreaking through caribou sea-ice crossings during mid-November to mid-July (beginning of Ukiaq to end of Upingaaq seasons).40

Speeds
- When within 100m of a marine mammal, reduce speed to less than 7 knots. Avoid abrupt course changes.39

Seabird Colonies
- When birds are present, year round:
  - 500 m setback for ships from seabird colonies.
  - 100 m setback from seabird colonies for zodiacs, kayaks and other small launch vessels.
  - 2 km setback distance from Ivory gull breeding sites.

Seal Pupping (Whelping)
- Avoid seal whelping (delivery and nursing of seal pups) areas from late-February to early-July.40

Local Community and Livelihood Areas
- Give right of way.
- Do not approach or take photographs of harvesting activities.
LOCAL COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS & HUNTER AND TRAPPER ORGANIZATIONS:

Contact the nearest community Hunters and Trappers Organization/Association for local knowledge of marine mammals.

- Avik Hunters & Trappers, Coral Harbour: 867-932-8622
- Aiviq Hunters & Trappers, Kimmirut: 867-897-8241
- Amaruq Hunters & Trappers, Iqaluit: 867-979-6848
- Aujigiq Hunters & Trappers, Chesterfield Inlet: 867-898-9063
- Arviat Hunters & Trappers, Arviat: 867-857-2636
- Iqaluit Municipality Hall: 819-922-9940
- Kangiqsujuq Municipality Office: 819-398-3342
- Mayalalik Hunters & Trappers, Kimmirut: 867-939-2335
- Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board: 819-254-8667
- Pangnirtung Hunters & Trappers, Pangnirtung: 867-473-8751
- Rankin Inlet Hunters & Trappers, Rankin Inlet: 867-645-2350
- Regional Nunavimmi Umajuiliijituq Katusijaitigininga / Nunavik Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Organization: 819-904-0645
- Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers, Sanikiluaq: 867-266-8709
- Town of Churchill: 204-675-8781

ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY CONTACT

Canadian Coast Guard Marine Communication and Traffic Services Iqaluit (Iqaluit MCTS):

- Contact information to report a marine environmental emergency, such as an oil spill or oiled wildlife: 867-979-3269

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

Canadian Wildlife Service contact information:

- Phone: 1-800-668-6707
- Email: ec.priseaccessoire-incidentaltake.ec@canada.ca

NATIONAL PARKS

Ukkusiksalik National Park:

- Phone: 867-462-4500
- Email: ukkusiksalik.info@pc.gc.ca

Auyuittuq National Park:

- Pangnirtung Office
  - Phone: 867-473-2300
  - Email: nunavut.info@pc.gc.ca
- Qikiqtarjuaq Office
  - Phone: 867-927-8834
  - Email: nunavut.info@pc.gc.ca

WWF-CANADA CONTACT

Please contact for errors, omissions, comments or additions.

Sam Davin, Senior Specialist, Wildlife & Industry, WWF-Canada: sdavin@wwfcanada.org

MARINE WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS, ENCOUNTERS & INCIDENTS

Report to: Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Steve Ferguson, 204-983-5057, steve.ferguson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

You may be asked to provide:

- Date and time you found the animal or witnessed the incident
- Specific location, including latitude and longitude (if available) or driving directions (if accessible by land)
- Species or type of animal, including a description of the size, colour, features
- Condition of the animal: alive, sick, injured, recently dead, badly rotting
- Number of animals involved
- Your contact information, including name and phone number

Scan for a digital version with references and additional community contacts

NOTE:

For navigation purposes, please use charts provided by the Canadian Hydrographic Service.
COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Aiviit Hunters & Trappers, Coral Harbour: 867-925-8622
- Aiviq Hunters & Trappers, Kinngait: 867-897-8214
- Akulivik Hunters, Fishermen & Trappers Association: 819-496-2222
- Amaruq Hunters & Trappers, Iqaluit: 867-979-6848
- Aqigiq Hunters & Trappers, Chesterfield Inlet: 867-898-9063
- Arviat Hunters & Trappers, Arviat: 867-857-2636
- Attawapiskat First Nation: 705-997-2375
- Aupaluk Municipality Hall: 819-491-7070
- Baker Lake Hunters & Trappers, Baker Lake: 867-793-2520
- Chisasibi Local Cree Trappers’ Association, Chisasibi: 819-855-2878
- Eastmain Local Cree Trappers’ Association, Eastmain: 819-977-2165
- Fort Severn First Nations: 807-478-2515
- Hall Beach Hunters & Trappers, Sanirajak: 867-928-8994
- Igloolik Hunters & Trappers, Igloolik: 867-934-8807
- Inukjuak Administration: 819-254-8822
- Issatik Hunters and Trappers, Whale Cove: 867-896-9944
- Ivujivik Municipality Hall: 819-922-9940
- Kangiqsualujjuaq Municipality Hall: 819-337-5271
- Kangiqsujuuaq Municipality Hall: 819-338-3342
- Kangirsuk Municipality Hall: 819-935-4388
- Kashechewan First Nation: 705-275-4440
- Kurtairjuark Hunters & Trappers, Pelly Bay, Kugaaruk: 867-769-7002
- Kuujjuaq Municipality Hall: 819-964-2943
- Mayukalik Hunters & Trappers, Kimmirut: 867-939-2355
- Moose Cree First Nation, Moosonee: 705-658-4619
- Nain Inuit Community Government: 709-922-2842
- Nattivak Hunters & Trappers, Qikiqtarjuaq: 867-927-8836
- Naujaat Hunters & Trappers, Naujaat: 867-462-4334
- Northern Village of Umiujaq: 819-331-7191
- Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board: 819-254-8667
- Pangnirtung Hunters & Trappers, Pangnirtung: 867-473-8751
Puvirnituq Municipality Hall: 819-988-2825
Quaqtaq Municipality Hall: 819-492-9912
Rankin Inlet Hunters & Trappers, Rankin Inlet: 867-645-2350
Regional Nunavimmi Umajuliriijit Katujiqatigininga / Nunavik Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Organization: 819-964-0645
Salluit Municipality Hall: 819-255-8953
Sanikiluaq Hunters & Trappers, Sanikiluaq: 867-266-8709
Tasiujaq Municipality Hall: 819-633-9924
Town of Churchill: 204-675-8871
Waskaganish Local Cree Trappers’ Association Office, Waskaganish: 819-895-2030 EXT; 3822
Weenusk First Nation, Peawanuck: 705-473-2554
Wemindji Local Cree Trappers’ Association Office, Wemindji: 819-978-3005
Whapmagoostui First Nation, Kuujjuarapik: 819-929-3384
REFERENCES


