

Whale, leatherback sea turtles and basking shark entrapments in fishing gear in Newfoundland and Labrador and a summary of the Whale Release and Strandings Program during 2005

A report to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

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Introduction

Assistance to fishers who have marine animals entrapped in their fishing gear has been provided throughout the Newfoundland region since 1979 (Lien 1980). The purpose of the program is: (1) to assist fishermen to release whales from fishing gear thus decreasing fishing downtime and damage to fishing gear, (2) to release entrapped marine animals as quickly and safely as possible, (3) to communicate with fishermen and communities about marine animals, including species at risk, which inhabit their waters, and (4) to add to scientific knowledge on various cetaceans and leatherback sea turtles. The program has typically catered to economically marginalized inshore fishermen who see financial benefits by having a group release entrapped animals thus decreasing downtime from fishing and damage to gear inflicted by entanglements during short fishing seasons. However assistance is provided both inshore and offshore.

Whale, leatherback sea turtle and basking shark entanglements in fishing gear and strandings and sightings of marine animals were reported to the Release and Strandings Program in 2005 by calling an advertised toll free number which can be accessed 24 hours a day seven days a week. A trained release team responds by providing suitable, safe advice or sending expert personnel to the site for needed assistance. The program was funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Reports of entangled humpback whales were low (n=2). Entrapped minke whales (n=4) reports were consistent with other years. A bowhead (n=1) gear entrapped in Baffin Bay was also reported. Inshore fishermen reporting seeing fewer humpbacks inshore during 2005.

The number of leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) entrapments and sightings in 2005 was up from previous years. Ice entrapments and strandings of cetaceans and seals were also reported. A necropsy was conducted on a bowhead (*Balaena mysticetus*), a northern bottlenose (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*) whale and four white beaked dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*).

A phone survey of 100 fishermen in the less than 35 foot boat sector (the inshore sector) was conducted in an attempt to get an understanding of the total whales possibly entrapped in fishing gear but not reported. During 2004 a similar number of fishermen were surveyed in the greater than 35 foot fleet sector (the offshore sector). This survey focused on whale and leatherback sea turtle entanglements, strandings and sightings.

The Release and Strandings Group worked on projects with local scientific agencies such as the Whale Research Group of Memorial University and the Marine Mammal scientific staff of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, St. John's and collaborated with other national groups including the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) on minke and Sowerby's beaked whale status and USA scientific groups from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), the National Aquarium in Boston, and College of the Atlantic- Allied Whale with information on bowhead, humpbacks, northern bottlenose, Sowerby's beaked and minke whales. Several talks were given on the disentanglement program and media interviews were given

regarding the same. A paper is being prepared for publication on a bowhead whale stranding on the southern Avalon and the northern bottlenose whale stranding in Milltown.

Methods

The Release and Strandings Program was conducted as a free service to fishermen during 2005 and funded by the Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. A toll-free number, accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, was available to fishermen and the general public. This number was posted in all Fisheries and Oceans and Coast Guard and Harbour Authority offices. Calls about entanglements, strandings and dead floating animals were forwarded to the group by Conservation Officers of DFO, Coast Guard Centres, fishers, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Crime Stoppers and the general public. A trained crew was equipped and ready to deploy immediately with an inflatable zodiac and necessary tools for disentanglement of whales, leatherback sea turtles and basking sharks. The objectives of each disentanglement are the safe, clean release of the whale or other marine animals and minimal or no damage to the fishing gear involved in the entrapment. This crew also responded to whale and leatherback sea turtle strandings.

Results of reports to the Release and Strandings Program in 2005

Six large whales were reported entrapped in fishing gear in 2005 in Newfoundland and Labrador waters and one bowhead whale from Baffin Bay (Table 3). Two humpback whales (Table 1) and four minke whales (Table 2) were gear entrapped. This is the lowest amount of gear entrapped whales reported to the program since 2000.

There was one report of a gear entrapped basking shark (Table 4).

Four leatherback sea turtles (Table 5) were entrapped in fishing gear in 2005.

Fifteen sightings of free swimming leatherback sea turtles (Table 6) were reported during 2005.

There were twenty-one stranded cetaceans (Table 7) reported during 2005 and six reports of other cetaceans (Table 8) other than the common humpback, minke and fin whale.

There were a number of calls to the group on possible entanglements and strandings which checked out to be negative. Seals were also reported to the program but are not listed in this report, however this information was passed on to the appropriate individuals in the Marine Mammal Section of Fisheries and Oceans.

A juvenile bowhead whale stranded dead at Witless Bay and was necropsied. The entire skeleton was retained. A northern bottlenose whale live stranded and later died at Milltown on the South Coast and was necropsied. Separate papers are being prepared for on both those animals.

Whale entrapments

Two humpbacks were reported entrapped in fishing gear in 2005 (Table 1). Both of those were in the inshore sector. One of those whales towed away the fishing gear and could not be relocated again and the other whale was released alive. The low number of reported humpback entrapments may be due to the low numbers of humpbacks in inshore waters during 2005, less fishing gear in the water during the whale season or under reporting of entangled whales. Thirty one percent of fishermen phone surveyed in the inshore said they saw fewer whales inshore this year than in other years.

Four minke whales were reported gear entrapped (Table 2). Two of those were released alive and two released dead from gear. It is common for fishermen to release minkes from their fishing gear. A fifth minke whale washed ashore dead at Blanc Sablon with rope scars on its peduncle. It can be assumed that at one time this animal was entrapped in fishing gear, whether it died as the result of this is unknown. This animal is listed in Table 7. The importance of releasing an animal completely cleaned of gear is the communicated goal of the Release and Strandings team.

A juvenile bowhead was reported to the Release and Strandings Program during 2005 (Table 3). The whale was caught in a net set for narwhals in Baffin Bay and assistance was sought from Fisheries and Oceans, Winnipeg in disentangling the whale. Before a rescue attempt could be organized the whale broke free towing the net. The animal was not relocated.

Basking shark entrapments

One basking shark was reported during 2005 (Table 4) and a sample was taken and sent to the Dr. Jane Sarginson, University of Aberdeen, Department of Zoology in Scotland. The sample will be used for comparative DNA basking shark distribution. There has been no effort in recent years to understand the amount of entrapments of basking sharks in this region. Fishermen see no incentive for reporting this information as the animal is usually dead and there has been no expressed interest in the scientific community on basking sharks in this region.

Leatherback sea turtle entrapments and sightings

Four (4) leatherback sea turtles were gear entrapped during 2005 (Table 5). All of those animals were released alive. All four were caught at the surface around the pectoral fins and head. A passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag was placed in the right front shoulder muscle of one entrapped turtle and a biopsy taken from the same animal. The carapace was also measured. There were no reports of stranded leatherbacks during 2005.

There were eighteen (18) reported sightings to the Program of leatherbacks during 2005 (Table 6). Four of those were 2004 sightings from fishermen who called in regarding the 2005 season sightings. All turtle sightings are entered in a sightings data base at Fisheries and Oceans.

Strandings

There were twenty (20) individual reports of stranded or floating cetaceans during 2005 (Table 7). Some of those reports involved multiple animals as in the two separate ice-entrapments of white beak dolphins where groups of seven (7) and fourteen (14) animals were entrapped during two occasions. Some of the whales reported in the strandings table are of dead floating whales called in by ships and too distant from the ship to verify species. Fishing vessels will often call the dead whale into Coast Guard Traffic as a danger to navigation and be moved on or off channel when we try to reach the vessel for as positive identification of the whale. Those are listed as ‘dead floating’. Necropsies were conducted on a juvenile bowhead which stranded dead at Camel Beach, Witless Bay on the southern Avalon in April and northern bottlenose whale which stranded at Milltown on the south Coast (paper in progress). The entire skeleton was collected. The stomach was removed from a sperm whale which stranded dead during December 2005. Stomach contents revealed numerous squid beaks and a large ball of fishing gear. Analysis of the squid beaks is being conducted by Jon Joy of the College of the North Atlantic.

Table 1. Humpback whale reported entrapments in fishing gear in Newfoundland and Labrador during 2005

Date	Area	Gear type	Description
3 June	Sagona Island, Harbour Breton	Mackerel net	Whale towed gear away and could not be located
26 August	St. Lewis, Labrador	Toad crab pot rope	Released alive. Whale was bridled through its mouth with multiple tail wraps in surface rope

Table 2. Minke whales reported entangled in fishing gear in Newfoundland and Labrador during 2005

Date	Area	Gear type	Description
2 August	Bellview, Trinity Bay	Salmon net	Released alive. Whale was bridled in the mouth with a loop of twine around its head and multiple tail wraps
15 August	Cartwright, Labrador	Whelk pots	Released dead
20 August	Quirpon, Great	Mackerel trap	Released alive,

	Northern Peninsula		whale was free swimming in trap
24 August	Bridgeport, New World Island	Toad crab pots	Released dead with a rope bridle, flipper and tail wraps

Table 3. Other whales reported entangled in fishing gear during 2005

Date	Area	Gear type	Description
5 August	Baffin Bay	Narwhal net	Bowhead whale towed the net away before response could be attempted

Table 4. Basking sharks reported entangled in fishing gear in Newfoundland and Labrador during 2005

Date	Area	Gear type	Description
21 July	Pools Cove, South Coast	Cod gill nets	Released dead. Sample taken and sent to University of Aberdeen, Dept of Zoology, Scotland

Table 5. Leatherback sea turtle reported entrapments in fishing gear in Newfoundland and Labrador during 2005

Date	Area	Gear type	Description
Last week July	14 nautical miles southeast of Fermuese, Southern Shore	Crab pot haul-up rope	Released alive. Turtle was caught at surface around flipper
8 August	Fortune, Fortune Bay	Cod gillnet	Released alive. Turtle caught at surface around head and flipper. PIT tag inserted and biopsy taken
11 August	Cape Ray, Southwest Coast	Mackerel net	Released alive. Turtle caught at surface around

			flipper and head
12 Sept.	Cape St. Mary's, Placentia Bay	Cod gillnets	Released alive. Turtle caught at surface

Table 6. Leatherback sea turtle sightings reported in Newfoundland and Labrador during 2005

Date	Area	Description
18 July	46°49'N, 52°36'W (14 nautical mile Southeast Fermuese on the Southern Shore)	Reported free swimming by crab fisherman
5 August	Fox Head and Conche, Northern Peninsula	Free swimming close to shore
1 st week August	Off Boxey Point off English Harbour West	Reported free swimming by cod fishers
20 August	Between Danzig Point and Fortune, Fortune Bay	Four turtles sighted by Conservation Officers of DFO patrol boat (they were not sited together)
24 August	65 nautical miles southeast Calvert on Southern Shore	Tagged turtle from Anguilla free swimming
26 August	Off Danzig Point. In Fortune Bay	Free swimming
Last week August	L'Anse Amour, Labrador	Swimming about cove for two days
30 August	Green Isle, Fortune Bay	Reported free swimming by light keeper
Last week August	Cape St. Mary's, Placentia Bay	Free swimming
3 September	Little Barachois, Placentia Bay	Reported free swimming by fisherman
Mid-September	Five nautical miles off Ferryland Head, Southern Shore	Free swimming
2004 sighting	Fortune Head, Fortune Bay	Free swimming
2004 sighting	Boxey Point, Fortune Bay	Free swimming
2004 sighting	Between Grand Bank and St. Pierre	Free swimming
2004 sighting	Green Isle, Fortune Bay	Free swimming

Table 7. Stranded cetaceans reported in Newfoundland and Labrador during 2005

Date	Area	Species	Description
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2 February	Chamberlains, Conception Bay	White sided dolphin	Dead stranded female. Examined by W.Ledwell
9 February	Miquelon	Humpback	Dead stranded
31 January	Bonavista	Five white beaked dolphins	Ice-entrapped. Two were moved by ski- doo to ice free Trinity Bay and three died
20 March	New Chelsea, Trinity Bay	Fourteen white beaked dolphins	Eight died, seven transported to ice free waters. Examined by W.Ledwell
15 April	Camel Beach, Witless Bay, Southern Shore	Bowhead	Dead stranded. Examined by W.Ledwell
22 June	Blanc Sablon, Quebec	Minke	Dead with rope scars
25 June	150 nautical miles northeast of Cartwright, Labrador	Unknown	Small dead whale reported by shrimp trawler
1 July	Southeast Grand Banks	Unknown	Large dead whale floating by fishing vessel
8 July	Freshwater Bay, St. John's	Harbour porpoise	Dead, drifting
10 July	Holyrood, Conception Bay	Two harbour porpoise	Dead, examined by W.Ledwell
21 July	Bay Bulls, Southern Shore	Harbour porpoise	Dead and drifting
4 August	Milltown, South Coast	Northern bottlenose	Live stranded and died, examined by W.Ledwell
6 August	Little Danzig Cove, Fortune Bay	Long-fin pilot	Dead stranded
Late August	Forrester's Point, Great Northern Peninsula	Humpback	Examined by W. Ledwell 29 November
13 September	Blanc Sablon, Labrador	Fin	Possible ship strike- lower jaw broken
5 September	Blanc Sablon	Humpback	Dead stranded. Catalogue Identified as 'Lobo'
20 October	Natuashish	Humpback	Small dead hump
14 November	St. Lawrence,	Harbour porpoise	Dead drifting collected

	Placentia Bay		by DFO
20 November	Bottle Cove, West Coast	Long-fin pilot	Dead stranded
3 December	Marnham Island, St. Lewis, Labrador	Blue/fin	Dead stranded. Sample taken for DNA
10 December	Fox Island River, Port aux Port Peninsula	10m sperm	Dead stranded. Examined and stomach removed by W.Ledwell, Jon Joy and Phil Sargeant

Table 8. Other cetaceans reported in Newfoundland and Labrador during 2005

Date	Area	Species	Description
18 July	Long Point, Twillingate	Group killer whales	Free swimming
6 August	Off Fairhaven, Placentia Bay	Sperm	Free swimming
20 August	Old Bonaventure, Trinity Bay	Beluga	Swimming about the harbour
Late August	St. Pierre Bank, Laurentian Channel	Two killer whales	Free swimming
Mid-late August	Cape John	Group of killer whales	Free swimming
3 December	47°16'N, 059°22'W (19 nautical miles from Port aux Basques)	Four killer whales	Free swimming

Appendix 1

Telephone Survey of Inshore Fishermen, November 2005

One hundred inshore fishermen fishing in the less than 35 foot boat category were surveyed by telephone in their homes by the Release and Strandings Program in November 2005. The purpose of this survey was to further understand the incidental by-catch of whales, sharks, and leatherback sea turtles in inshore fishing gear in the Newfoundland Region. Additional information about the extent of fishermen's knowledge about the Release and Strandings Program, willingness to call for assistance in freeing a whale from their gear, and sightings of leatherback sea turtles was gathered.

Fishermen were selected randomly throughout the entire Newfoundland region. It was a challenge was to get hold of people and it was often necessary to phone people back several times and/or continue down the list of inshore fishermen until 100 interviews were successfully completed. The most effective times of day to reach people were 12:30-1:30 PM and 6:00-7:00PM.

Phone Survey Results

- When asked if they are aware of the Release and Strandings Program:
 - 70% said yes
 - 24% said somewhat
 - 6% said no

- When asked who they would contact if they had a whale or other unwanted marine animal caught up in their gear:
 - 61% said they would call DFO/Fisheries
 - 27% said they would call the Program / the toll-free # / Wayne Ledwell
 - 6% said they wouldn't know whom to call
 - 5% said they would not call anybody
 - 1% said they would call Coast Guard

- When asked if they had the phone # for the Release and Strandings Program:
 - 38% said yes, they had the toll-free #
 - 42% said they would know where to get it
 - 20% said they would not know where to get the number

- When asked if they had any whales, sharks, or turtles caught up in their gear this year:
 - 93% said they didn't have anything caught up in their gear this year
 - 2% said they had a large whale caught up
 - 2% said they had caught dolphins
 - 3% said they had one or more sharks/sunfish caught up

- When asked if they had heard of anyone else getting any whales, sharks, or turtles caught up in their gear this year:
 - 84% said no
 - 11% said yes (whale)
 - 4% said yes (shark) and (sunfish)
 - 1% said yes a whale last year

- Of the 11 cases re: knowing about someone else with a whale/shark caught up:
 - 8 fishermen said no, they didn't believe the Program was contacted
 - 3 fishermen said they did not know whether or not the Program was contacted

- When asked about sightings of leatherback sea turtles:

- 59% said they had never seen one
- 27% said yes, not this year, but other years
- 9% said yes, this year, some of those were sightings of multiple animals
- 5% said yes, this year and other years

Discussion

During 2005 there were over 7000 licensed fishing enterprises in the less than 35 foot fleet sector (inshore) in Newfoundland and Labrador and over 1000 licensed fishing enterprises in the greater than 35 foot sector (offshore) (DFO communication). We conducted a random telephone survey of fishing enterprise license holders in order to get some idea of the actual numbers of whales and other marine animals of concern that were entrapped or sighted in the inshore area due to the actual number of reported entrapments being low in the 2005 season.

There have been changes to the program over the past five years and we wanted to know if fishermen were familiar with the program and if they knew who to contact if they had an entrapped whale, leatherback sea turtle or basking shark. When asked if they were aware of the entrapment assistance program 77% of the offshore fishermen surveyed in 2004 and 70% of the inshore fishermen surveyed in 2005 replied they were aware of the program.

Assuming the survey sample is representative this survey allows us to consider the factors relating to the low number of reported entrapments and based on this information we can decide if a more detailed investigation of the release and strandings program is warranted. The survey gives an indication that the actual number of animals entrapped in the area in 2005 was greater than was reported to the Release and Strandings Program. Previous under reporting of gear entrapped humpbacks in Newfoundland and Labrador has been estimated at 10% and as high as 25-30% for minke (Lien 1994).

The two humpbacks reported to the Release and Strandings Program as entrapped in fishing gear during 2005 represent the lowest number of gear entrapped humpbacks since the entrapment assistance program began in 1979. We wanted to get an idea of the actual number of gear entrapments that may have occurred in which fishermen released the animals themselves, or released them with the help of another group aside from the Release and Strandings Program, or if a self release occurred. When asked if they had a whale caught in their gear during 2004, 2% of the offshore fishermen replied they had (one of those had been reported to the Release and Strandings Program) (Ledwell and Huntington 2004). Based on this survey 20 large whales could have been caught by the offshore fleet or vessels greater 35 ft. in 2004. When asked if they had heard of someone else with a gear entrapped whale 10 % surveyed replied they had.

In 2005, 2% of the inshore fleet or vessels less than 35 ft. replied they had caught a large whale in their gear (neither of those entrapments had been reported to the Release and Strandings Program) (Table 9). Based on this 2005 phone survey 140 large whales could have been caught in fishing gear in 2005 and not reported. Based on both the 2004 and

2005 phone surveys it is possible 160 whales were caught in fishing gear and not reported to the program.

Assuming that a representative sample of fishermen was interviewed and there was no fear of reporting entrapments or other biases in reporting by those interviewed then we may consider that the possibility of such a large number of non reported entrapments certainly warrants that the actual reported number of two entrapped whales is low and that this is figure is actually lower than the number of whales entrapped in the Newfoundland Region.

On the question relating to ‘having heard of anyone with an entrapped whale’ there are recognized basic errors with regards to the answers to this survey question which may lead to the multiple reporting of a single entrapped whale. When asked if they had heard of someone else with a gear entrapped whale, 11% replied they had (Table 10). This could be considered hearsay which makes it unknown whether these entrapments actually occurred or whether the entrapments did occur and they were entrapments of the same animal in the same gear. However on further investigation we determined the fishermen surveyed are from different areas, the animals are reported caught in different types of gear and some fishermen have reported that the whales they ‘heard’ of as entrapped were in different areas as well.

The fishermen were also asked questions whether they had seen leatherback sea turtles in 2005 or any year before (Table 11). Nine percent of the fishermen surveyed in 2005 said they had sighted one or more leatherback sea turtles for a total of at least 14 animals sighted in 2005. Those leatherback sea turtles were sighted in the area from southern Labrador to southern Newfoundland. Extrapolated to the entire inshore fleet this becomes 630 sightings. Of course there is a need for further investigation because one animal could be sighted by different fishermen and therefore one sighting does not mean 630 individuals, however it does demonstrate that the number of turtles sighted may indicate a higher number in the area than are actually called in to the program. In the 2004 survey 5% of fishermen in vessels larger than 35 ft (offshore) reported seeing leatherback sea turtles. (Ledwell and Huntington 2004).

These telephone surveys provide us with a basis for further investigation to determine the true number of entrapped and sighted animals in the Newfoundland Region. From the information gathered it can be probably be concluded that more entrapments are occurring than is reported to the program.

Table 9. Phone survey details of whales and sharks caught in 2005

WHALES CAUGHT 2005	DETAILS
Robert's Arm	Had a humpback in their herring seine (tore it); got it out themselves (around Robert's Arm, earlier this summer)

Cape Broyle	(but had a whale move/tear up a lump net, July 10th)
St. Bride's	No whales, had two dead dolphins in his 6-in mesh nets he uses to catch white hake
Fox Roost	(open line fishing, never had a whale caught up in 35 years; in bait gear you may get the odd dolphin)
Sharks CAUGHT 2005	DETAILS
Fogo	No whale (shark)
Channel Port aux Basques	(caught a few sharks, dead, in his trawl)
Red Bay	No whale, (sunfish)

Table 10. Phone survey details of whales and sharks caught by others in 2005

OTHERS whales 2005	DETAILS
Robert's Arm	Guy in the area had a live whale caught in his mackerel gear; got it out himself
Cartwright	whale in whelk gear in Sandwich Bay area, dead, Fisheries helped them take care of it
Noddy Bay	heard of someone with a minke caught in a herring trap; he released it himself
Fogo 2 years ago	heard of a guy who had a humpback whale caught up in crab gear two years ago 20 mile north Funk Islands; dead when he hauled it up, just cut it loose
Port aux Port	this November heard about fellas [not sure who], had a humpback in their herring seines; "rolled it out themselves before it did much damage"
Grate's Cove	humpback caught up in rope of crab pot in July (name: Burt Anthony); fellas cut him out and he swam away
St. David's	just recently; had whale in seine, fellas dropped the seine and let it go, no problems

Cottlesville	earlier this year; in crab pots, in Twillingate area; cut it out themselves (it was dead); doesn't know what kind of whale and doesn't have a contact name
Cartwright	not sure of the details, thinks DFO helped out
St. Lewis Released by W.Ledwell	in St. Lewis Bay in September, humpback in crab gear, he himself contacted DFO, not sure if Whale Release Program was contacted, believes it was cut out alive
Cape Broyle	No (but knows of another fella who also lost a net to a whale)
OTHERS sharks 2005	DETAILS
McCallum	dead basking shark in gillnet, farther up the coast from McCallum; cut it out themselves
Port aux Basques	heard tell of two basking sharks, caught in mackerel nets, one dead, one that was towed in and then released
Duntara	No (but talking to lump gear fishers he heard of a number of sharks caught)
Red Bay	had a sunfish caught in gillnets, alive, got it out himself

Table 11. Phone survey details of leatherback sea turtle sightings and entrapments from 2005 survey

Date	# of turtles	Area	Description
July/Aug 2005	2	Hermitage Bay, South Coast 3PSa	Free swimming couple miles out of McCallum
Fall 2005	1	Fogo 3Ki	Free swimming in Fogo harbour
June/July 2005		Fifty nautical miles South St. Lawrence 3PS	Sees one or two most years outside of 10 mile
Late summer 2005		L'Anse au Loup 4Ra	Has heard of a sighting in area
July 2005	1	Four nautical miles off Ramea 3PSa	Sees turtles other years also
Late summer 2005	1	Ten nautical miles off Point Riche	

		4Ra	
Summer 2005	1	Mouth Trinity Bay 3Lb	Has heard of sighting
Aug/Sept 2005	4	Fortune 3PSb	Sees turtles most years
July/Aug 2005	4-5	Marystown 3PSc	Saw two on one day in July
2004	1	One nautical mile from entrance to Grey River 3PSa	Free swimming
2004	6	Between Burgeo and Port aux Basques 3PN-3PSa	Sightings more frequent near Port aux Basque and when seas are calm
2004	1	Old Perlican 3Lb	Has seen them other years but not common
July 2004	1	Twenty nautical miles out in Conception Bay 3Lf	Video taped
Summer 2004	1	Three to four nautical miles off Long Point Twillingate 3Ki	Free swimming
Summer 2004		McCallum 3PSa	Dead entangled in rope and balloon at surface caught around neck and flippers
Aug 2003	1	Port aux Basques 3PN	Free swimming close to harbour
Fall 2003	1	20-25 East of Lumsden Bonavista Bay 3Ki	Free swimming
Aug 2002 or 2003	1	Change Islands 3Ki	Free swimming a couple of miles from Change Islands
Aug 2002 or 2003	1	Cape La Hune, Francois 3PSa	Free swimming couple miles from Cape
2002 or 2003	1	Little Harbour Point Trinity Bay 3Lb	Free swimming
2002 or 2003	1	Grand Bruit 3PN	Dead. Heard of one live turtle in 2005 in area
Aug 2002	1	Tail of Grand Banks 3NO	Free swimming
Sept. 2002	1	Three nautical miles off Cape St. Francis 3Lf	Free swimming
July or Aug 2001 or 2002	1	Eighty nautical miles east Cape Bonavista 3Ki	Free swimming
Sept. 2001 or 2002	1	Five nautical miles off Grand Bank 3PSc	Free swimming
July/Aug 2001	1	Two to three nautical miles off Ramea	Free swimming

Aug 2000 or 2001	1	Conception Bay 3Lf	Free swimming
2000 or 2001	1	St. Mary's Bay 3Lq	Entrapped in flounder nets-Released alive
June/July 2000 or 2001	1	Fifteen nautical miles off mouth Trinity Bay 3Lb	Free swimming
2000 or 2001	1	Six and a half nautical miles off Cape St. George 4Rc	Free swimming
1995 or 1996	1	Cape Pine 3PSc	Free swimming
Late 1980s	1	Three nautical miles off St. Shotts 3Lq	
Early 1980s	1	¼ mile off Baccalieu Island 3Lf	Free swimming
Early fall 1980s	1	Brigus South 3Lj	Free Swimming
1951 or 1952	1	Grand Banks	Free swimming turtle brought onboard a navy ship for observation and released again alive
		Twillingate area 3Ki	Hasn't seen one but knows several fishermen who have
		Petite Forte area 3PSc	Hasn't seen one but they have been seen in the area by other fishermen

Literature cited

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