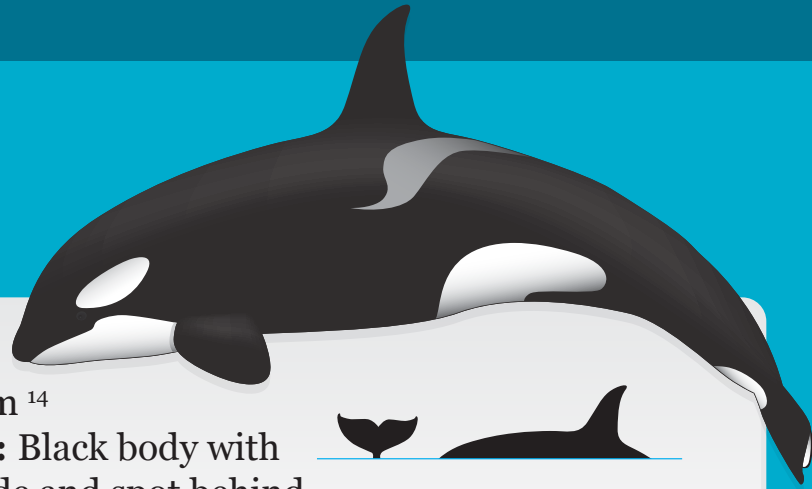




Eastern Arctic Mariners' Guide

The following mammals are common in the eastern Arctic; however, sightings of other species may also occur. It is possible for marine mammals to venture outside of their common habitat ranges and be seen elsewhere.



Killer Whale

Length: 7-9 m¹⁴

Appearance: Black body with white underside and spot behind the eyes. Tall and triangular dorsal fin in the middle of the back. Blow is tall and column-like; approximately 4 m in height.¹⁴

Behaviour: Typically form groups of 2-25.¹⁵

Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment): JFMAMJJASOND

Status: Special concern¹⁴



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.¹

Behaviour: Often alone but sometimes in groups of 2-10.

Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment): JFMAMJJASOND¹

Status: Special concern²



Minke Whale

Length: 6-10 m¹⁶

Appearance: Dark grey, black or brown back with a white spot on each pectoral fin. Large hook-shaped dorsal fin. Relatively small tail.¹⁶

Behaviour: Mainly solitary. Snout appears first when they surface to breathe. Occasionally breach out of the water.

Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment): Unknown

Status: Not at risk¹⁷



Hooded Seal

Length: 2-3 m⁷

Appearance: Silvery-white with dark blotches. Males have a black "hood" on forehead and inflatable balloon-like nasal cavity.⁷

Behaviour: Solitary, except during pupping, mating and moulting.⁷

Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment): JFMAMJJASOND⁷

Status: Not at risk



Polar Bear

Length: Up to 3 m¹⁸

Appearance: White, but can appear yellow or light brown.¹⁸

Behaviour: Solitary, except during breeding and cub rearing. Majority of time is spent on sea ice.

Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):

JFMAMJJASOND¹⁹

Status: Special concern¹⁸



Beluga Whale

Length: 2-5 m³

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.³

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): JFMAMJJASOND³

Status: Special concern³



Bearded Seal

Length: 2-3 m⁸

Appearance: Grey with brown tinge on the head and lighter colouring on the underside. Long, white whiskers and square-shaped front flippers.

Behaviour: Solitary but form small groups during mating and moulting.

Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment): JFMAMJJASOND⁸

Status: Data deficient⁹



Harp Seal

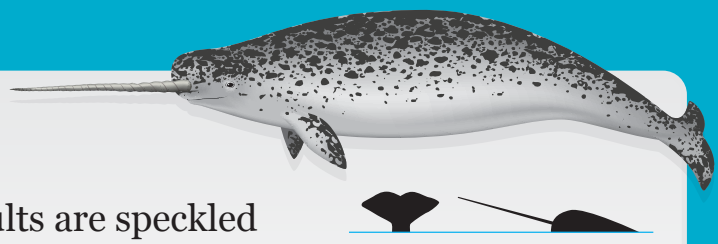
Length: Up to 2 m¹⁰

Appearance: Light 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): JFMAMJJASOND^{10,11}

Status: Not assessed



Narwhal

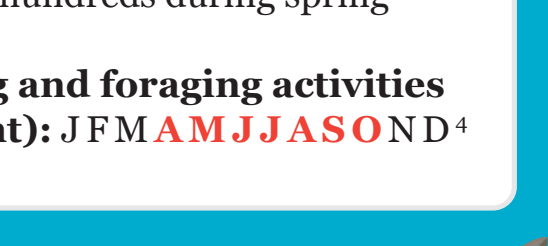
Length: 4-5 m⁴

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.⁴

Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment): JFMAMJJASOND⁴

Status: Special concern⁴



Ringed Seal

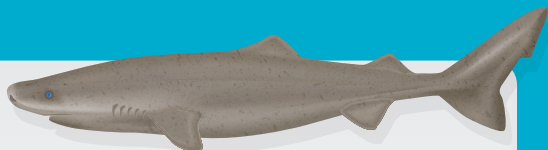
Length: Up to 1.5 m¹²

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): JFMAMJJASOND¹³

Status: Special concern¹²



Greenland Shark

Length: 2-5 m⁵

Appearance: May be brown, black, grey or a spotted mix of all three. Two small dorsal fins and small eyes.⁶

Behaviour: Slow swimming. Usually observed near the surface during the winter and retreats to deeper waters (180-550 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.²⁰

Behaviour: Occur in tight groups on ice floes or on land.

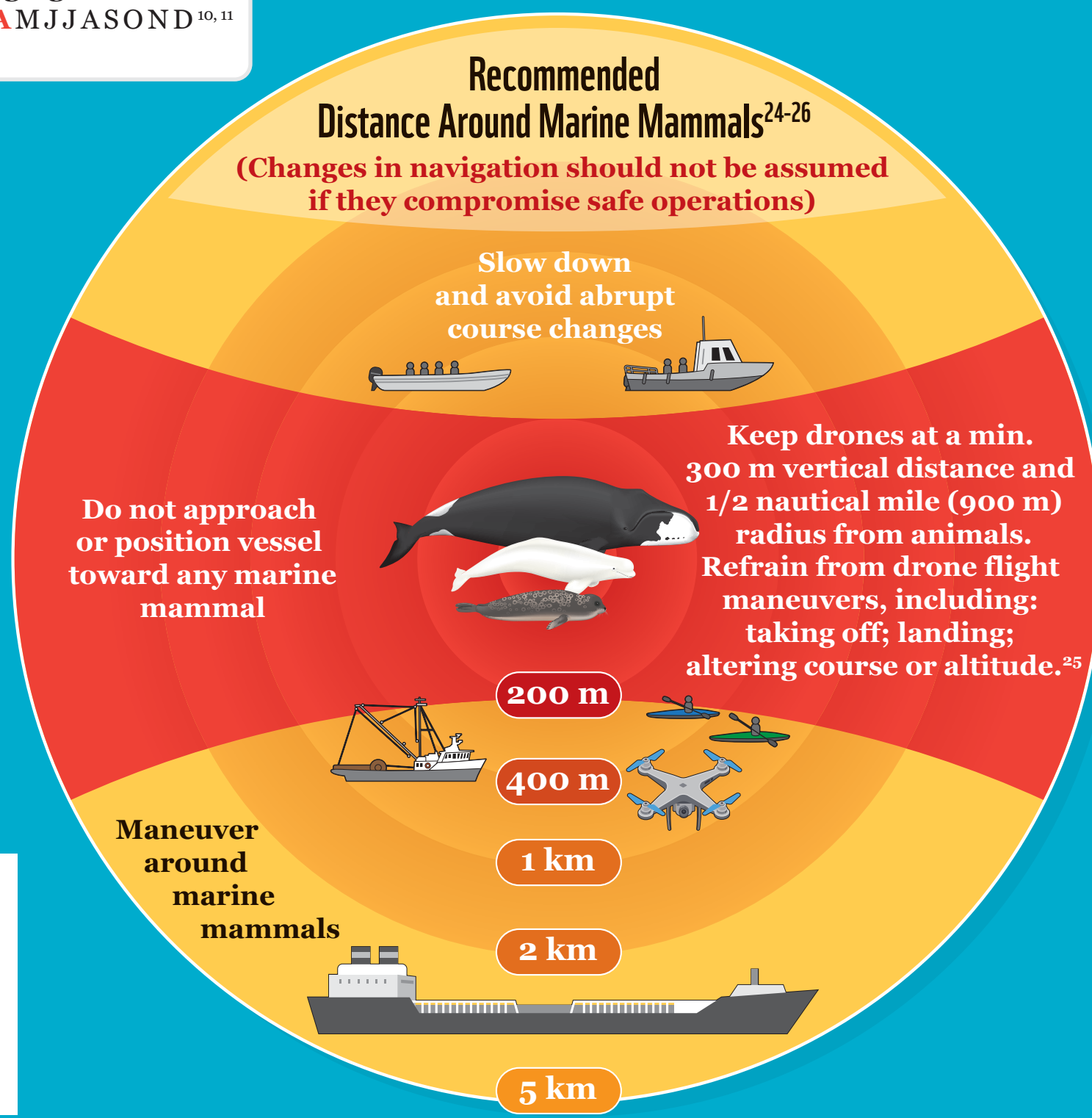
Sensitive months (calving and foraging activities and risk of ice entrapment):

JFMAMJJASOND²⁰

Status: Special concern²⁰



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Eastern Arctic Mariners' Guide

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:¹⁹
 - 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.

Polynyas (Ikirasaq)

- Avoid shipping and icebreaking activities, particularly through inlets, between mid-November to mid-July (Ukiaq to Upingaaq seasons).¹⁹

Floe edges (Sinaaq)

- Avoid shipping through and around floe edges during mid-March to mid-July (Upingakaaq and Upingaaq seasons).²⁷

Discharges and Dumping

- Avoid discharging operational wastes within or near protected area boundaries.²⁸

Reduce Black Carbon

- Avoid using heavy fuel oil and use distillate fuels and a particulate filter or cleaner alternative fuels.²⁸

Icebreaking

- Avoid icebreaking during ice formation and breakup.²⁹
- 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.¹⁹
- Avoid icebreaking through caribou sea-ice crossings.¹⁹
- Avoid icebreaking in Northwest Passage/Coronation Gulf between Victoria Island and the Mainland (Dolphin & Union caribou).¹⁹
- Avoid icebreaking in Peel Sound and Franklin Strait (Peary caribou).¹⁹
- Avoid icebreaking in narrow seaways between Bathurst Island and the Small Islands north of Bathurst Island (Peary caribou).¹⁹

Speeds

- When within 100m of a marine mammal, reduce speed to less than 7 knots. Avoid abrupt course changes.³⁰

Seabird Colonies

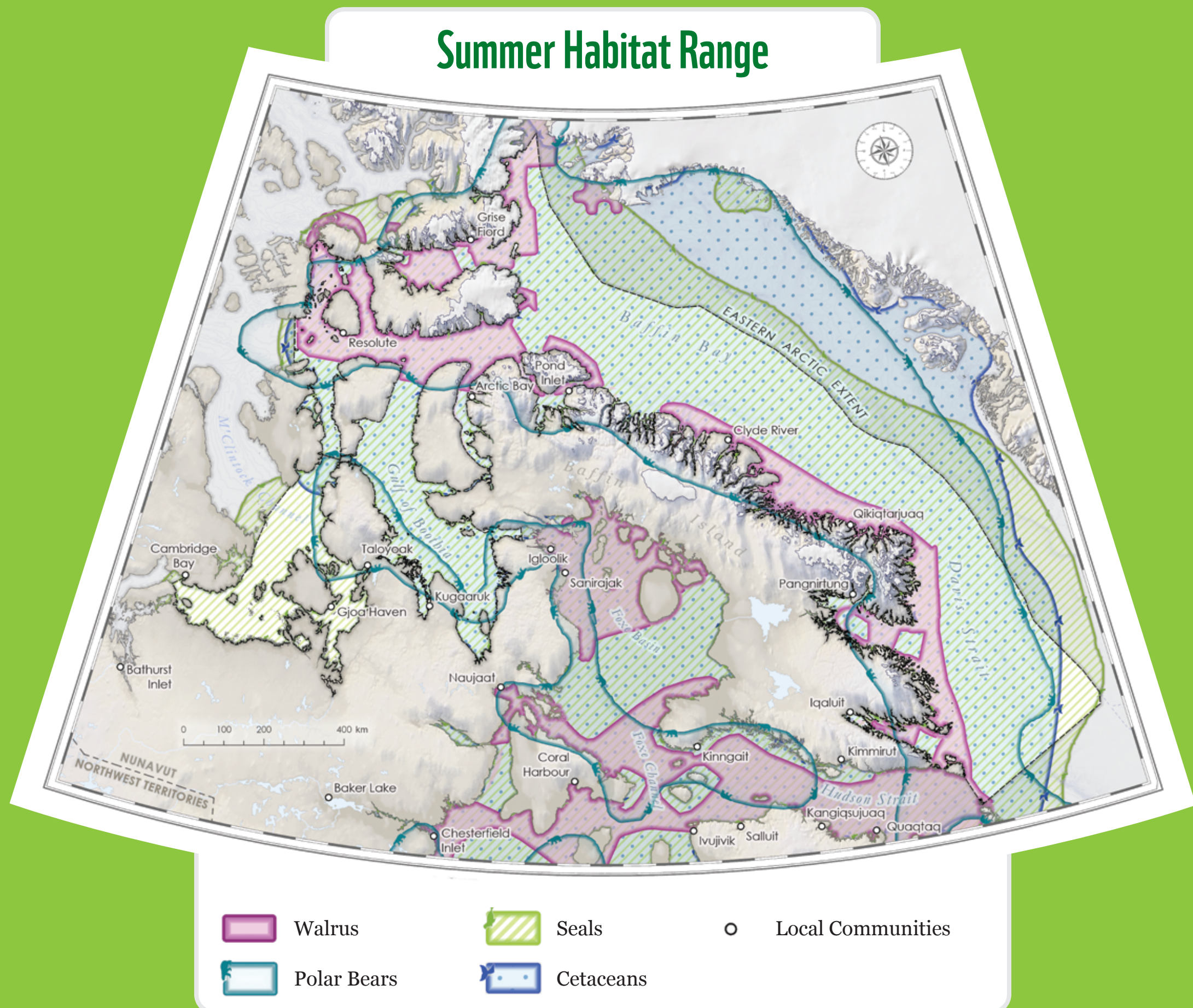
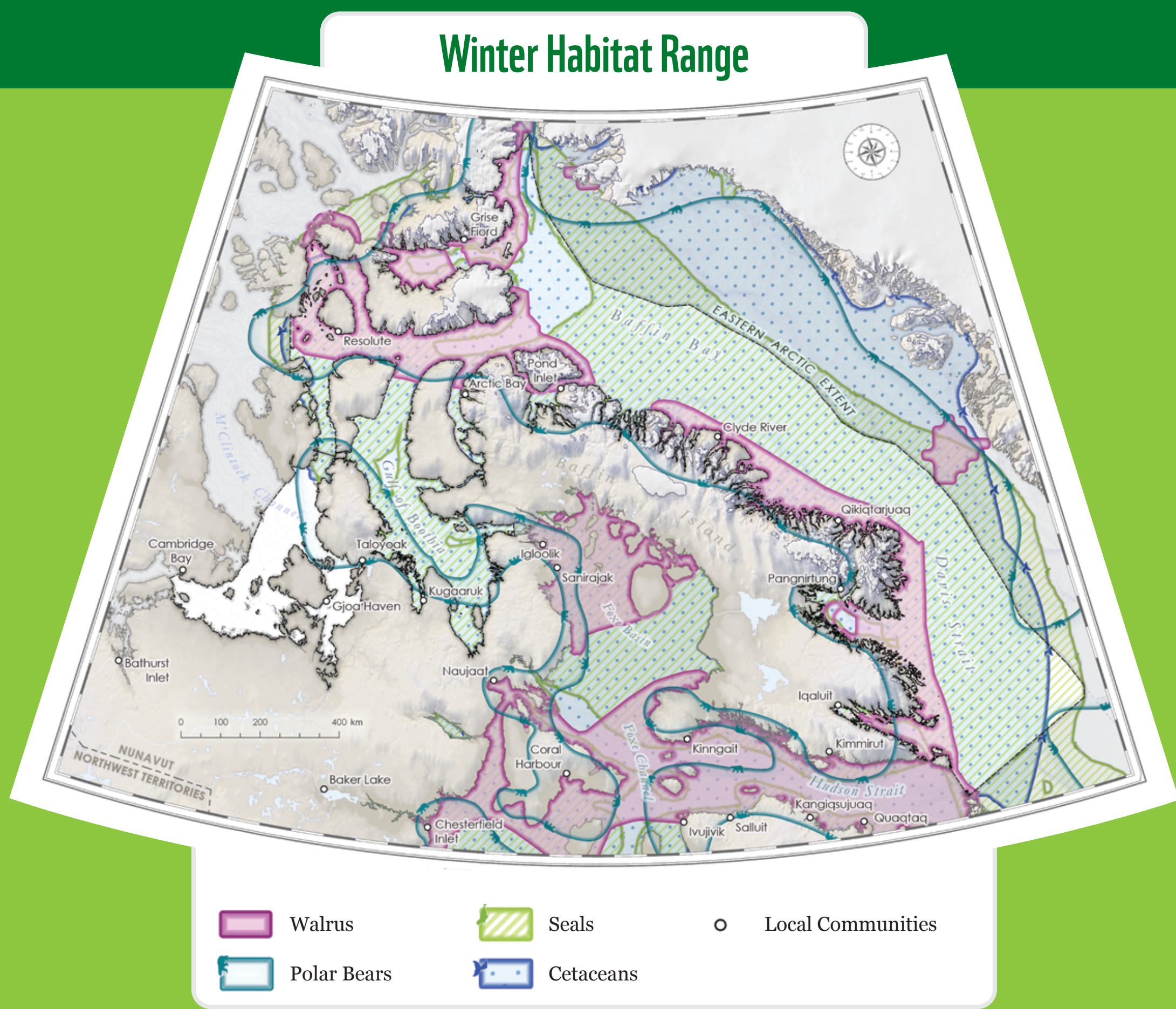
- When birds are present, year round:
 - 500 m setback for ships from seabird colonies.
 - 100 m setback from seabird colonies for zodiacs, kayaks and other small launch vessels.
 - 2 km setback distance from Ivory gull breeding sites.

Seal Pupping (Whelping)

- Avoid seal whelping (delivery and nursing of seal pups) areas from late-February to early-July.³¹

Local Community and Livelihood Areas

- Give right of way.
- Do not approach or take photographs of harvesting activities.



Scan for a digital version with references

NOTE: For navigation purposes, please use charts provided by the Canadian Hydrographic Service.



Eastern Arctic Mariners' Guide

LOCAL COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS & HUNTER AND TRAPPER ORGANIZATIONS:

Contact the nearest community Hunters and Trappers Organization/Association for local knowledge of marine mammals:³²

- Aiviit Hunters & Trappers, Coral Harbour: 867-925-8622
- Aiviq Hunters & Trappers, Kinngait: 867-897-8214
- Amaruq Hunters & Trappers, Iqaluit: 867-979-6848
- Aqigiq Hunters & Trappers, Chesterfield Inlet: 867-898-9063
- Clyde River Hunters & Trappers, Clyde River: 867-924-6202
- Ekaluktutiak Hunters & Trappers, Cambridge Bay: 867-983-2426
- Gjoa Haven Hunters & Trappers, Gjoa Haven: 867-360-6028
- Igloolik Hunters & Trappers, Igloolik: 867-934-8807
- Kangiqsujuaq Municipality Hall: 819-338-3342
- Mayukalik Hunters & Trappers, Kimmirut: 867-939-2355
- Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers, Pond Inlet: 867-899-8856
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Iqaluit, Nunavut: 867-975-7300
- Pangnirtung Hunters & Trappers, Pangnirtung: 867-473-8751
- Resolute Bay Hunters & Trappers, Resolute Bay: 867-252-3170

ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY CONTACT

**Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories & Nunavut**

- Contact information to report a marine environmental emergency, such as an oil spill or oiled wildlife: 867-920-8130

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

Canadian Wildlife Service contact information:

- Phone: 1-800-668-6767
- 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: 867-473-2500
 - Email: nunavut.info@pc.gc.ca
- Qikiqtarjuaq Office
 - Phone: 867-927-8834
 - Email: nunavut.info@pc.gc.ca

Sirmilik National Park:

- Phone: 867-899-8092
- Email: sirmilik.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



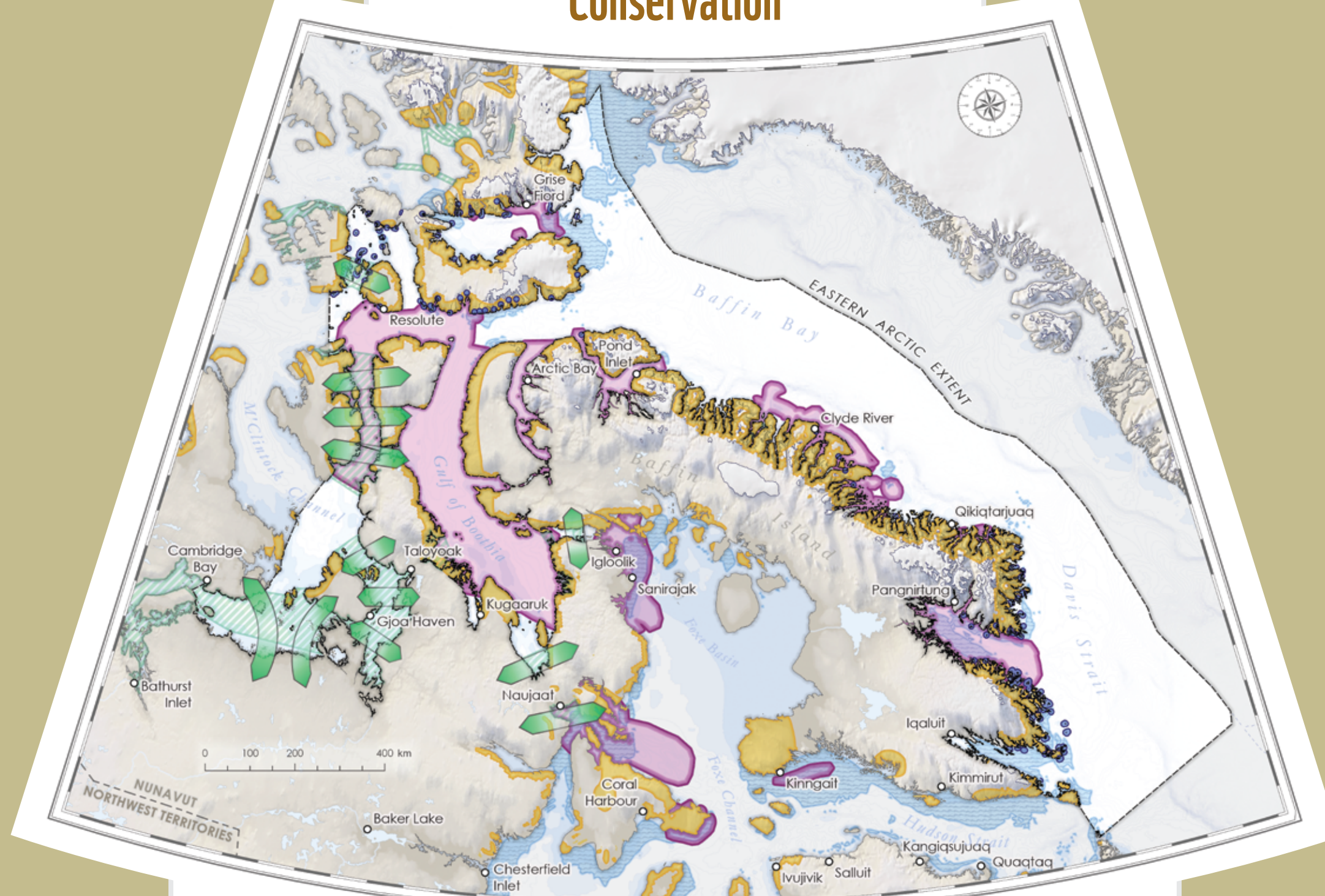
Scan for a digital version with references and additional community contacts

Management



- Local Communities
- Marine Protected and Conserved Areas
- Shipping Routes
- Floe Edges
- Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
- National Parks
- On-Ice Travel Routes
- Hunting Areas
- No Icebreaking
- Polynyas

Conservation



- Local Communities
- Caribou Sea Ice Crossing
- Calving Areas
- Walrus Haulouts
- Polar Bear Denning
- Polynyas

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COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Aiviit Hunters & Trappers, Coral Harbour: 867-925-8622
- Aiviq Hunters & Trappers, Kinngait: 867-897-8214
- Amaruq Hunters & Trappers, Iqaluit: 867-979-6848
- Aqigiq Hunters & Trappers, Chesterfield Inlet: 867-898-9063
- Baker Lake Hunters & Trappers, Baker Lake: 867-793-2520
- Clyde River Hunters & Trappers, Clyde River: 867-924-6202
- Ekaluktutiak Hunters & Trappers, Cambridge Bay: 867-983-2426
- Gjoa Haven Hunters & Trappers, Gjoa Haven: 867-360-6028
- Hall Beach Hunters & Trappers, Sanirajak: 867-928-8994
- Igloodik Hunters & Trappers, Igloodik: 867-934-8807
- Ikajutit Hunters & Trappers, Arctic Bay: 867-439-8483
- Iviq Hunters & Trappers, Grise Fiord: 867-980-9063
- Ivujivik Municipality Hall: 819-922-9940
- Kangiqsujuaq Municipality Hall: 819-338-3342
- Kurtairujuark Hunters & Trappers, Pelly Bay, Kugaaruk: 867-769-7002
- Mayukalik Hunters & Trappers, Kimmirut: 867-939-2355
- Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers, Pond Inlet: 867-899-8856
- Nattivak Hunters & Trappers, Qikiqtarjuaq: 867-927-8836
- Naujaat Hunters & Trappers, Naujaat: 867-462-4334
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Iqaluit, Nunavut: 867-975-7300
- Pangnirtung Hunters & Trappers, Pangnirtung: 867-473-8751
- Quaqtac Municipality Hall: 819-492-9912
- Resolute Bay Hunters & Trappers, Resolute Bay: 867-252-3170
- Salluit Municipality Hall: 819-255-8953
- Taloyoak Hunters & Trappers, Taloyoak: 867-561-5066



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