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Whale Population Estimates

The International Whaling Commission's most recent information on estimated abundance

Population	Year(s) to which estimate applies	Approximate point estimate	Approximate 95% confidence limits
MINKE WHALES			
Southern Hemisphere	1982/83 - 1988/89	761,000	510,000 - 1,140,000
	Current	<i>The Commission is unable to provide reliable estimates at the present time. A major review is underway by the Scientific Committee.</i>	
North Atlantic (excluding Canadian East Coast)	1987-95	Approx. 149,000	120,000 - 182,000
North West Pacific and Okhotsk Sea	1989-90	25,000	12,800 - 48,600
BLUE WHALES			
Southern Hemisphere	1980-2000	400-1,400	CV=0.4
FIN WHALES			
North Atlantic	1969-89	47,300	27,700 - 82,000
GRAY WHALES			
Eastern North Pacific	1997/98	26,300	21,900 - 32,400
<i>Assuming a constant rate of increase, the population was increasing at a rate of 3.2% (95% confidence interval 2.4% - 4.3%) over the period 1967/68 - 1987/88 with an average annual catch of 174 whales.</i>			
Western North Pacific	Current	less than 100	n/a
BOWHEAD WHALES			
Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock	1993	8,000	6,900 - 9,200
<i>The net rate of increase of this population from 1978 to 1993 has been estimated as 3.2% per year (95% confidence interval 1.4% - 5.1%).</i>			
HUMPBACK WHALES			
Western North Atlantic	1992/93	11,570	CV= 0.069
<i>A rate of population increase of 3.1% (SE=0.005) was obtained from the Gulf of Maine for the period 1979-1993</i>			
Southern Hemisphere south of 60S in summer (i.e. incomplete)	1988	10,000	5,900-16,800
<i>Rates of increase. East Australia: 1981-96 12.4% (95%CI 10.1-14.4%). West Australia: 1977-91 10.9% (7.9-13.9%)</i>			
PILOT WHALES			
Central & Eastern North Atlantic	1989	780,000	440,000 - 1,370,000