

WHALE POPULATION ESTIMATES

The IWC's figures for estimated whale populations

At present, these are the best estimates (and associated confidence intervals) for some species and areas.

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/conservation/estimate.htm>

| 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 (Central & Northeastern) | 1996-2001 | 174,000 | 125,000 - 245,000 |
| West Greenland | 2005 | 10,800 | 3,600 - 32,400 |
| North West Pacific and Okhotsk Sea | 1989-90 | 25,000 | 12,800 - 48,600 |
| BLUE WHALES | | | |
| Southern Hemisphere (excluding pygmy blue) | 1997/98 | 2,300 | 1,150 - 4,500 |
| <i>The estimated rate of increase is 8.2% (95% confidence interval 3.8-12.5%) per year between 1978/79 and 2003/04</i> | | | |
| FIN WHALES | | | |
| North Atlantic (Central & Northeastern) | 1996-2001 | 30,000 | 23,000 - 39,000 |
| West Greenland | 2005 | 3,200 | 1,400 - 7,200 |
| GRAY WHALES | | | |
| Eastern North Pacific | 1997/98 | 26,300 | 21,900 - 32,400 |
| <i>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 | 2007 | 121 | 112 - 130 |
| BOWHEAD WHALES | | | |
| Bering-Chukchi- Beaufort Seas stock | 2001 | 10,500 | 8,200 - 13,500 |
| <i>The net rate of increase of this population since 1978 has been estimated as about 3.2% per year (95% confidence interval 1.4% - 5.1%).</i> | | | |
| Off West Greenland | 2006 | 1,230 | 490 - 2,940 |

HUMPBACK WHALES

| | | | |
|---|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Western North Atlantic | 1992/93 | 11,600 | 10,100 - 13,200 |
| <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) | 1997/98 | 42,000 | 34,000 - 52,000 |
| <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> | | | |
| North Pacific | 2007 | at least 10,000 | not yet available |
| <i>Rates of increase of about 7% have been reported for the eastern North Pacific, 1990-2002.</i> | | | |

RIGHT WHALES

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| Western North Atlantic | 2001 | about 300 | not available |
| Southern Hemisphere | 1997 | about 7,500 | not available |
| <i>There is evidence of increase rates of 7-8% for populations of Argentina, Australia and South Africa</i> | | | |

BRYDE'S WHALES

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|
| Western North Pacific | 1998-2002 | 20,501 (CV=0.337) | not available |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|

PILOT WHALES

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|---------|---------------------|
| Central & Eastern North Atlantic | 1989 | 780,000 | 440,000 - 1,370,000 |
|----------------------------------|------|---------|---------------------|