

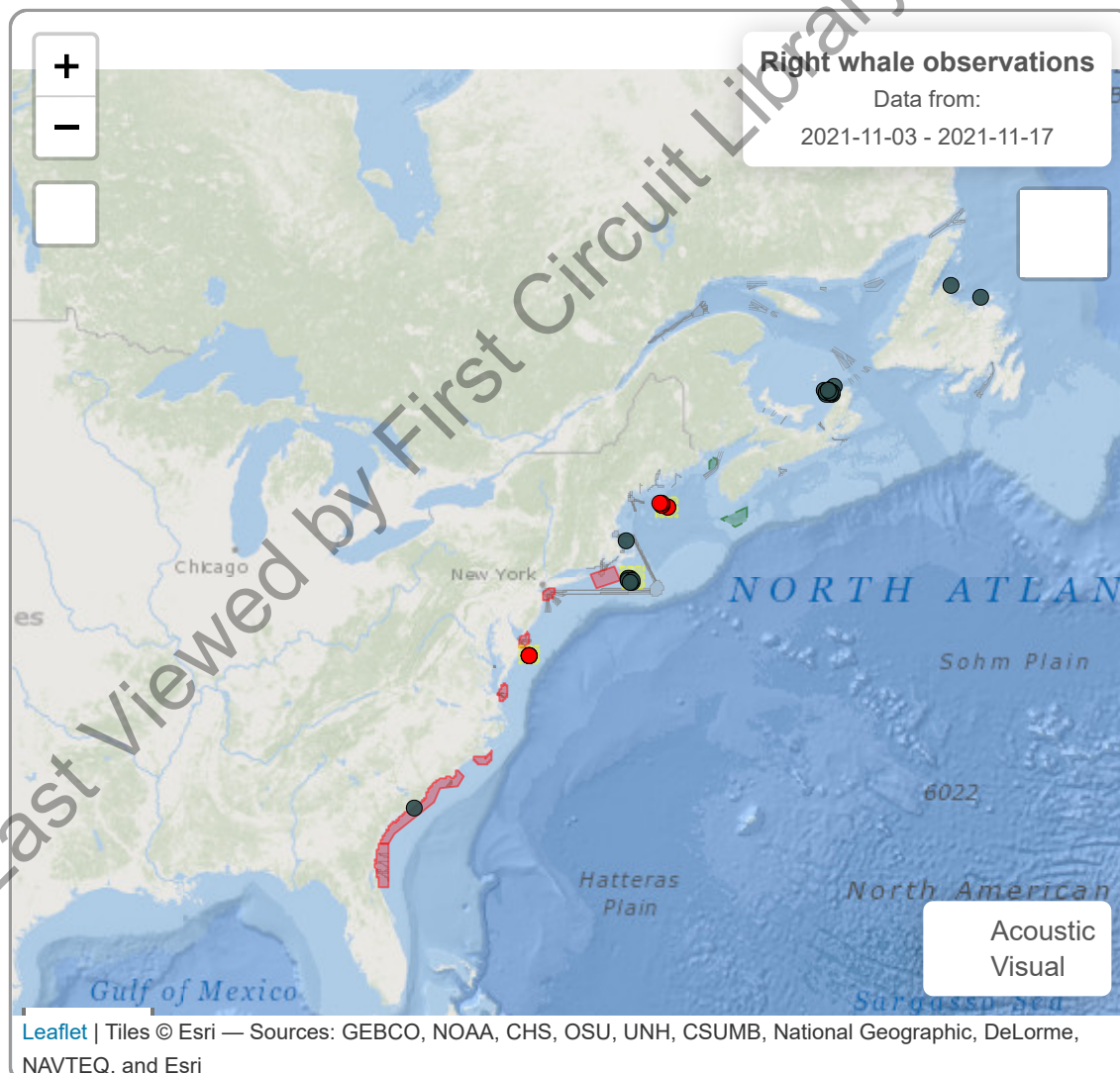


# NOAA FISHERIES

## Northeast Fisheries Science Center

# NOAA RIGHT WHALE SIGHTING ADVISORY SYSTEM

This map should not be used for management purposes as detections are not effort corrected. [Please report all right whale sightings](#) from Virginia to Maine to 866-755-6622, and from Florida to North Carolina to 877-WHALE-HELP. Right whale sightings in any location may also be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard via channel 16 or through the WhaleAlert app available through the [Apple Store](#) and [Google Play](#). For more information about right whale protection zones and ship strike regulations, please visit the [National Marine Fisheries Service shipstrike webpage](#).



Johnson, HD (2018). WhaleMap. Available at: <https://whalemap.org>.

Interactive map of North Atlantic right whale detections contributed to the [North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium](#) and [WhaleMap](#). Click on the map symbols for more information on each item (red dot=confirmed acoustic detection, gray dot=sighting, tan box=right whale slow zone). Display of seasonal management zones and other data can be controlled using the layer icon in the upper right. A more fully interactive version of WhaleMap with additional information can be found [here](#).

When using this map to view current detections please keep in mind:

- Because whales swim continuously, exact locations are obsolete within minutes of a detection.
- A specific date range may contain few or no detections. This does not mean right whales were not present. The majority of the North Atlantic right whale population lives along the U.S. eastern seaboard for much of the year, but effort to find them is typically limited to seasonal whale watches or researchers dedicated to locating seasonal habitats. The whereabouts of most of the individuals in the population is unknown for much of the year.
- Right whales are likely to be present within seasonal and dynamic slow zones even if no detections are illustrated.

Mariners are urged to use caution and proceed at safe speeds in areas where right whales occur. U.S. Law (50CF 224.105) prohibits operating vessels 65 feet (19.8 meters) or greater in excess of 10 knots in Seasonal Management Areas (SMAs) along the U.S. east coast. Mariners are also requested to route around voluntary speed reduction zones (Dynamic Management Areas—DMAs) or transit through them at 10 knots or less. Approaching right whales closer than 500 yards is a violation of federal and state law.

Visit the [North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium](#) for further information regarding data access and [NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center Protected Species Branch](#) for more information on right whale surveys and partners.