



**STATUS AND ABUNDANCE** Fundamental to monitoring, status and abundance can be difficult to measure due to remote locations, shared jurisdictions and lack of sufficient resources. For polar bears, adequate scientific trend data exist for only three of the subpopulations, fair trend data for five and poor or no trend data for the remaining 11 subpopulations.

**Development of a pan-arctic monitoring plan for polar bears**  
CAFF Monitoring Series Report  
Dag Vongraven and Elizabeth Peacock



## CIRCUMPOLAR BIODIVERSITY MONITORING PROGRAM

### MARINE MAMMALS

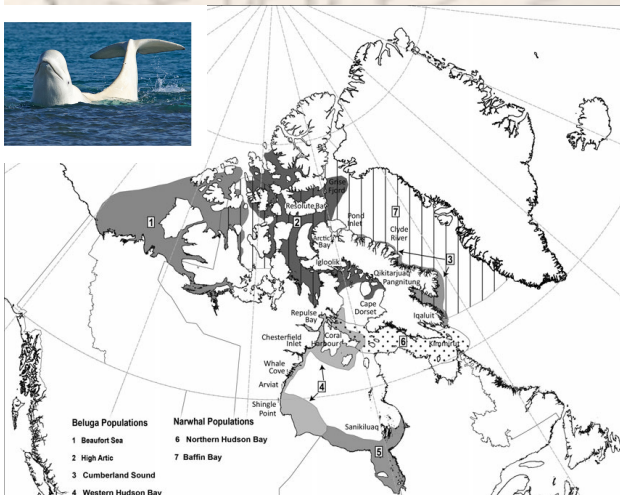
**SUBSISTENCE HARVEST** Arctic marine mammals are an integral part of northern marine ecosystems and are important resources for indigenous peoples across the circumpolar Arctic. Incorporating harvest data will help track trends in the availability of subsistence resources and document the continuing importance of subsistence across the Arctic.

#### POPULATION IDENTIFICATION

Information from each country provides important contributions to the centralized data base, such as the catalogue of Arctic Beluga stocks in Canada

Part of the CAFF Biodiversity Monitoring Program, each Arctic nation is represented on the Marine Mammal Experts Network (MMEN). The goals of the MMEN are to identify and compile data from Arctic nations for all species of Arctic marine mammals into a centralized database that can be used to monitor trends. Existing data sources will be used as building blocks. A key starting point is the comprehensive analysis of Arctic marine mammals led by K. Laidre (see *A circumpolar assessment of Arctic marine mammals, sea ice loss and conservation priorities*, presented in the session: *Circumpolar marine biodiversity in the Arctic*)

**MMEN:** Rosa H. Meehan (United States), Stas Belikov (Russia), Steve Ferguson, (Canada) Kristin Laidre (Greenland), Peter O. Thomas (United States), Fernando Ugarte, (Greenland), Dag Vongraven (Norway)



**Circumpolar Ringed Seal (*Pusa hispida*) Monitoring**  
CAFF's Ringed Seal Monitoring Network  
Kit M. Kovacs (ed.)

**HEALTH PARAMETERS** The Arctic Council supported an international workshop to review current ringed seal research and monitoring activity and to select key monitoring parameters that could be consistently collected at key sites. The recommended suite of monitoring parameters addressed both population assessment and health, recognizing that as climate changes, vectors for disease transmission also change. A recent unusual mortality event centered in northern Alaska highlighted the need for coordinated monitoring and information sharing.