

North Atlantic Right Whale

The North Atlantic Right Whale is extremely endangered, with only about 400 known individuals. Every winter pregnant females migrate to the coast of Georgia and Florida to give birth to calves. During this time, the whales can often be seen close to shore.

As the whales move along shipping channels they face the risk of collisions with ships. Over 30% of right whale deaths are due to this cause. To help prevent this, the Marine Resource Council has established a volunteer monitoring program to report the whales. This information is then relayed to the Navy. If you see a Right Whale please report it to 1-800-97-Whale.

IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF THE RIGHT WHALE

- Usually only a small portion of the head & body is above water
- Look for whale spouts on the head
- There is no dorsal (back) fin
- The blow hole is V-shaped

PLEASE REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Location (city, lat./long., near major landmarks)
- Direction of travel
- Dolphins present?
- Your name & call-back number

NOTE: The legal approval limit for a Right Whale is 500 yards. Please maintain this distance.

For more information about the North Atlantic Right whale, please visit the Marine Resources Council website at: www.mrcirl.org

