

Where Do Walrus Live in Hudson Bay?

There are three distinct walrus populations that live in the Hudson Bay ecosystem:

1. Foxe Basin
2. Hudson Bay-Davis Strait
3. South and East Hudson Bay

More maps like the one above can be found in the full Arctic Marine Atlas. Find it online at www.oceansnorth.org.

Physical copies are also available to view at the Hamlet office, Kaajuuq youth centre and HTO office. Available in English, French and Inuktitut.

Did You Know?

Walruses are Hard to Count!

Because walruses are sometimes in the water and sometimes on land, it is hard to visually account for their total numbers, and we still don't know exactly how many there are.

Aerial and boat surveys trying to estimate population numbers started in the mid-1950s. The latest large-scale survey happened in 2017, but these results are not available yet.

There is a lot of uncertainty around the Hudson Bay-Davis Strait and the South and East Hudson Bay population numbers. The best estimates available are below:

- **Foxe Basin**
About 8,000-13,500
- **Hudson Bay-Davis Strait**
About 1000-7,000 (limited data)
- **South and East Hudson Bay**
About 200-500 (limited data)

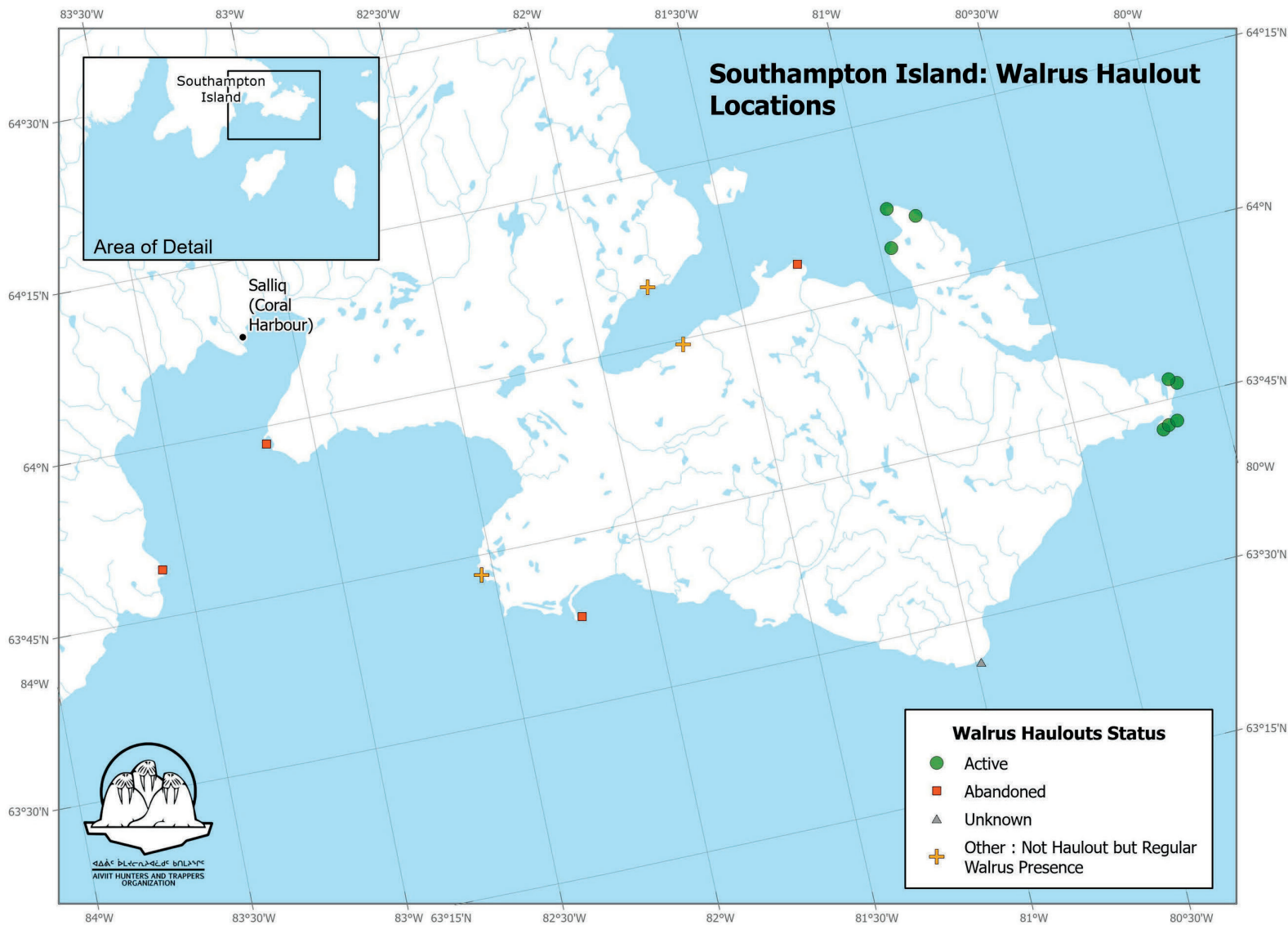


Research News

New Report on Walrus in North Hudson Bay

Oceans North has commissioned an in-depth report that looks at the Northern Hudson Bay walrus population. The report summarizes what is known about walruses and this specific population from both western science and documented Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We welcome any feedback on this report.

Read it on the Oceans North website or ask for a copy from the HTO.

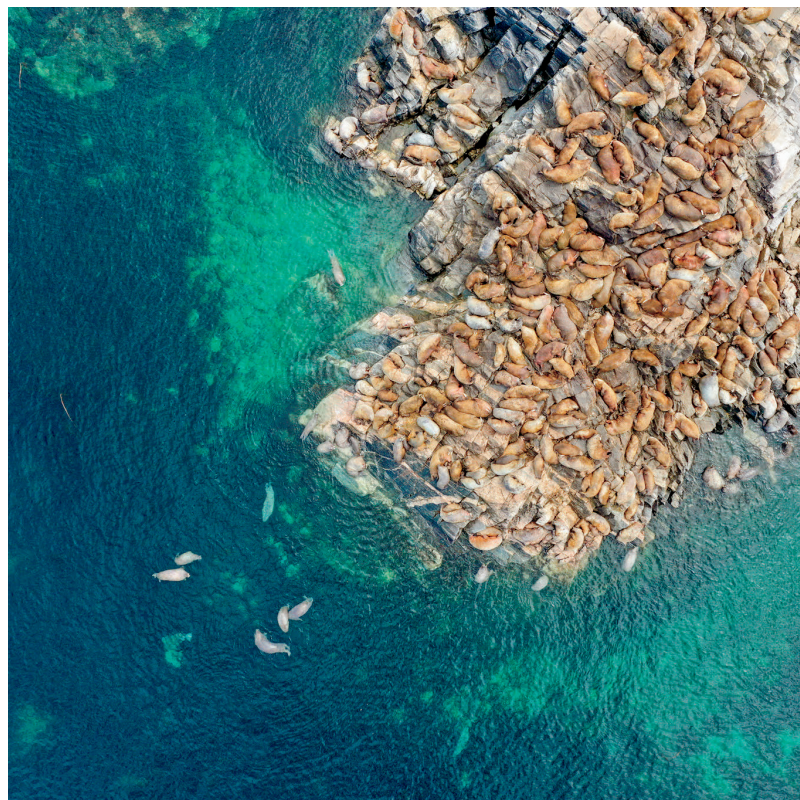


Research News

Walrus Uglit (Haulouts): Active or Abandoned?

The Aiviit HTO has updated a local walrus uglit (haulout) map that includes Coats Island, Walrus Island and Southampton Island. This map includes whether haulouts are: **active** or **abandoned** or their status is **unknown**.

If you have current knowledge about haulouts and wish to contribute to the maps, please email colleenturlo@oceansnorth.ca or visit the HTO office.



(Photo Credit: Grant Gillcrest)

Walrus Behaviour:

SAFETY TIP!

When a walrus goes upside down on the water's surface and waves its rear flippers in the air, be careful! This is a sign of aggression and you should **stay away**. These are often lone walrus with no others for company. They are extremely dangerous. From their upside-down position, they can set off to take a shallow dive then propel themselves at your boat in an effort to overturn the vessel. Stay safe and steer clear of walrus behaving this way.



Walrus Tales

“We once hunted a magnificent walrus off the shores of Walrus Island. He had two huge, old males as bodyguards. Every time the one we were targeting had a breath of air his big bodyguards smothered him and covered his torso to protect him from our hunting implements.”

– Story submitted by: Leonard Netser

SUMMER FISHING DERBY PHOTO WINNERS!

Congratulations to last year's fishing derby youth photo contest winners!





New Support for Hunters Who Collect Data

Oceans North and the Aiviit HTO have a program to encourage more data collection on local beluga and walrus populations. The data sheets are available at the HTO and the information will help both the HTO and the community better understand these important species.

A fully completed data sheet with an accompanying photo of the harvested animal will be compensated with **\$150**. There is a maximum of 5 harvest sheets per family, per year.

A community meeting will be held in the fall/winter to discuss the successes and challenges of this program. Your feedback will help to improve it for the next season.

Stay tuned: We will announce the meeting on Facebook and at the HTO office.

Don't forget: DFO is also looking for data and samples! Ask Natasha Ottokie at the HTO for more details. Compensation for complete DFO data cards and sampling kit is **\$120**.

Harvest Sheet: \$125/animal

Harvested Mammal Information

Sex: Male Female Pregnant (yes or no) _____ **Age:** Adult Juvenile Calf

Skin colour: Brown Dark Grey Light Grey White

Fat colour: White Yellow

Fat/Blubber Thickness: Fat Normal Skinny _____ inches

***Stomach contents:** Empty Some food Full Didn't check

Stomach contents description (or photo): _____

Measurements:
 Body Length: _____ feet _____ inches Body Width (at widest spot): _____ feet _____ inches
 Tusk(s) Length: _____ feet _____ inches Tusk Width (at widest spot): _____ feet _____ inches

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Other Comments/Observations:



Photo by Lenny Emiktaut. Taken at Walrus Island, Summer 2018.

SEND US YOUR WALRUS STORIES & PHOTOS!

If you have an interesting story about walrus or a nice picture of a walrus, please send it to us and we may feature it in our next newsletter. The featured stories and photos will also get a small prize!

Email your stories and photos to: colleenturlo@oceansnorth.ca. For photos, please be sure to include: Your name, a short description of the photo, and when and where the photo was taken.

