

IWC WHALE POPULATION ESTIMATES. Because of the considerable scientific uncertainty over the numbers of whales of different species and in different geographical stocks the International Whaling Commission decided in 1989 that it would be better not to give whale population figures except for those species/stocks which have been assessed in detail, and for which there is statistical certainty with respect to the numbers. At present, the International Whaling Commission is prepared to give the following figures for best estimates of the present abundance of the following whales (rounded to the third significant figure of the upper confidence limit).

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	Under revision	The Commission is unable to provide reliable estimates at the present time. A major review is underway by the Scientific Committee.
North Atlantic (excluding Canadian East Coast)	1987-95	Approx.149,000	120,000 - 182,000
North West Pacific and Okhotsk Sea	1989-90	25,000	12,800 - 48,600
BLUE WHALES			
Southern Hemisphere	1980-2000	400-1,400	CV=0.4
FIN WHALES			
North Atlantic	1969-89	47,300	27,700 - 82,000
GRAY WHALES			
Eastern North Pacific*	1997/98	26,300	21,900 - 32,400
Western North Pacific	Current	less than 100	n/a
* Assuming a constant rate of increase, 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.			
BOWHEAD WHALES			
Bering-Chukchi - Beaufort Seas stock	1993	8,000	6,900 - 9,200
The net rate of increase of this population from 1978 to 1993 has been estimated as 3.2% per year (95% confidence interval 1.4% - 5.1%).			
HUMPBACK WHALES			
Western North Atlantic	1992/93	11,570	CV= 0.069
A rate of population increase of 3.1% (SE=0.005) was obtained from the Gulf of Maine for the period 1979-1993			
Southern Hemisphere south of 60S in summer (i.e. incomplete)	1988	10,000	5,900-16,800
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%)			
PILOT WHALES			
Central & Eastern North Atlantic	1989	780,000	440,000 - 1,370,000

Source: International Whaling Commission (<http://www.iwcoffice.org/Estimate.htm>)