

NOAA
FISHERIES

Vessel Based Right Whale Research

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Distribution

Population Structure

Occurrence

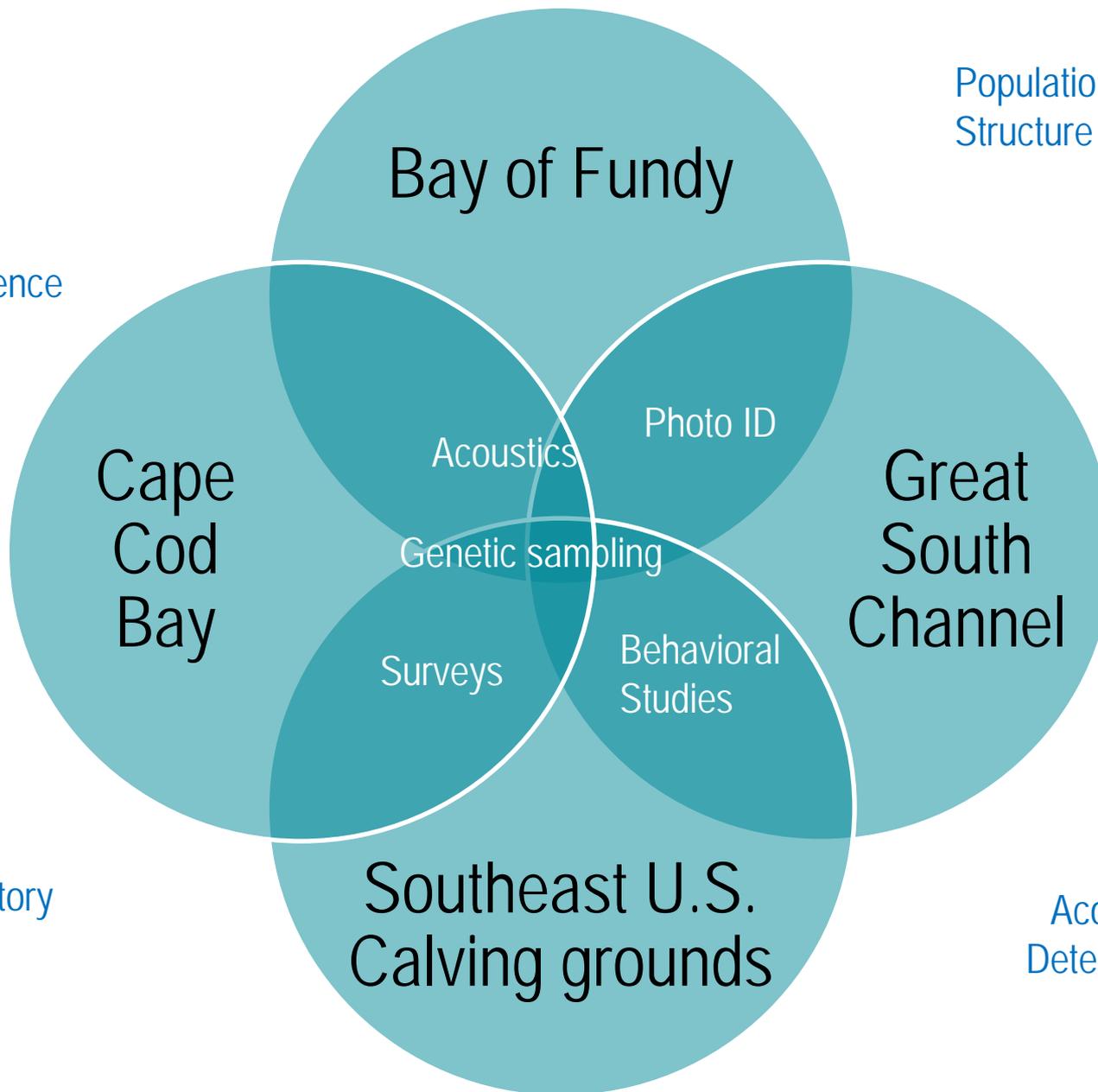
Evaluating Methods

Monitoring Seasonal Behavior

Population Genetics

Life History

Acoustic Detectability



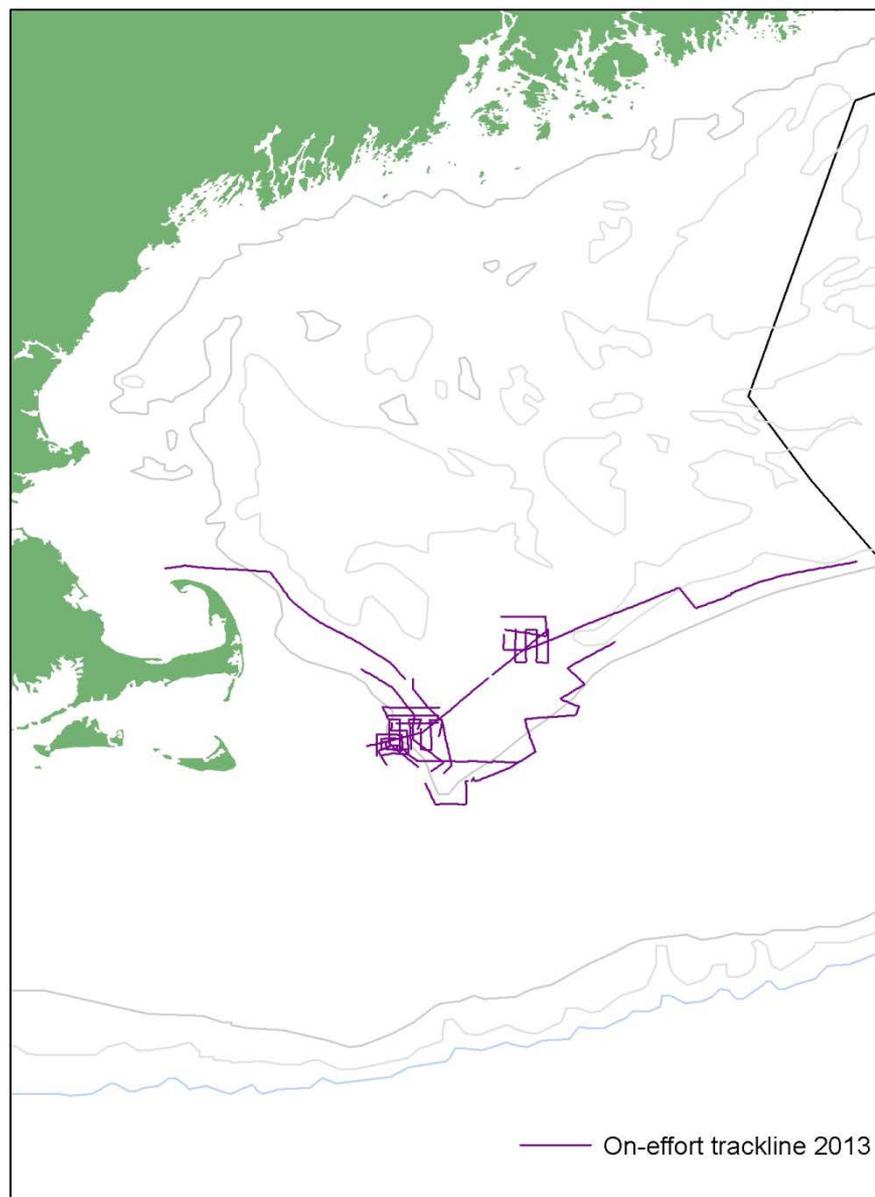
Shipboard Surveys Great South Channel

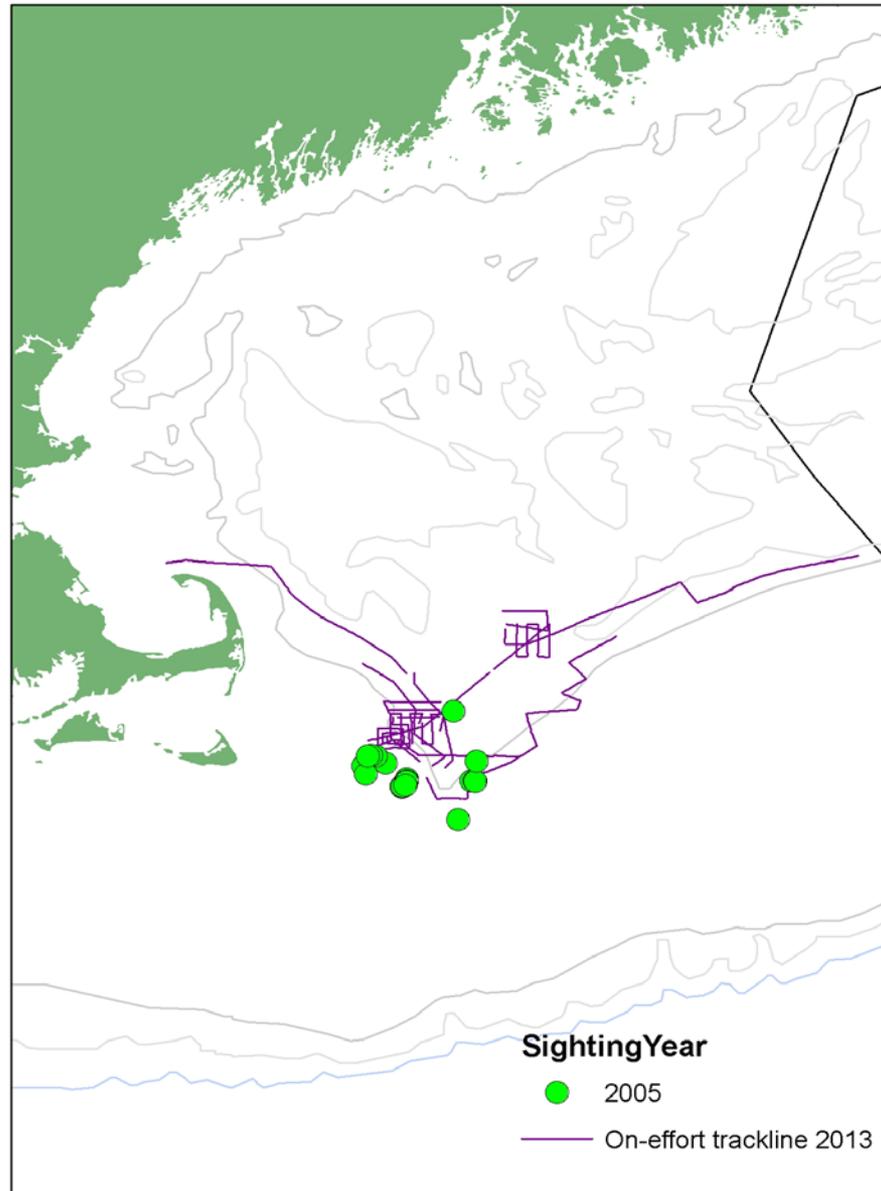
NOAA Ships

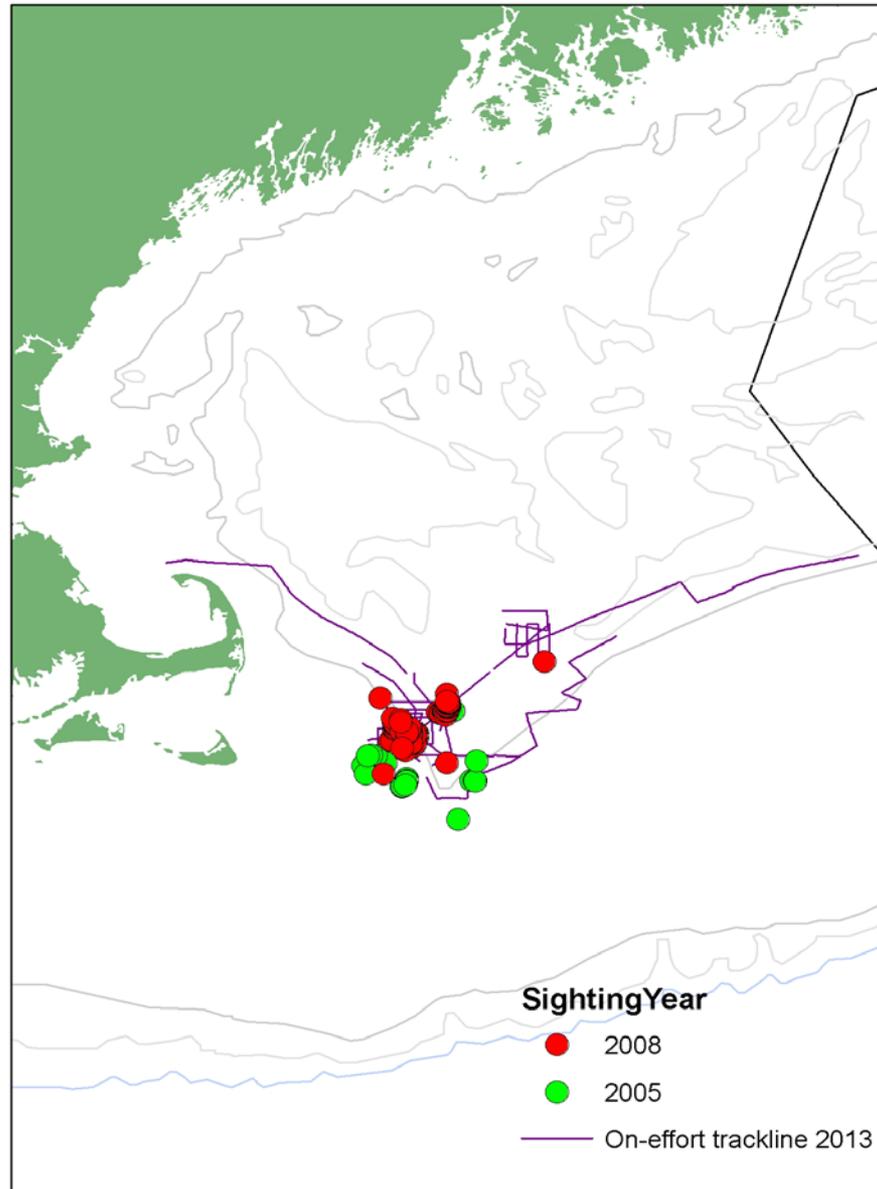
Collaborations with NGOs
Collaborations within the NEFSC

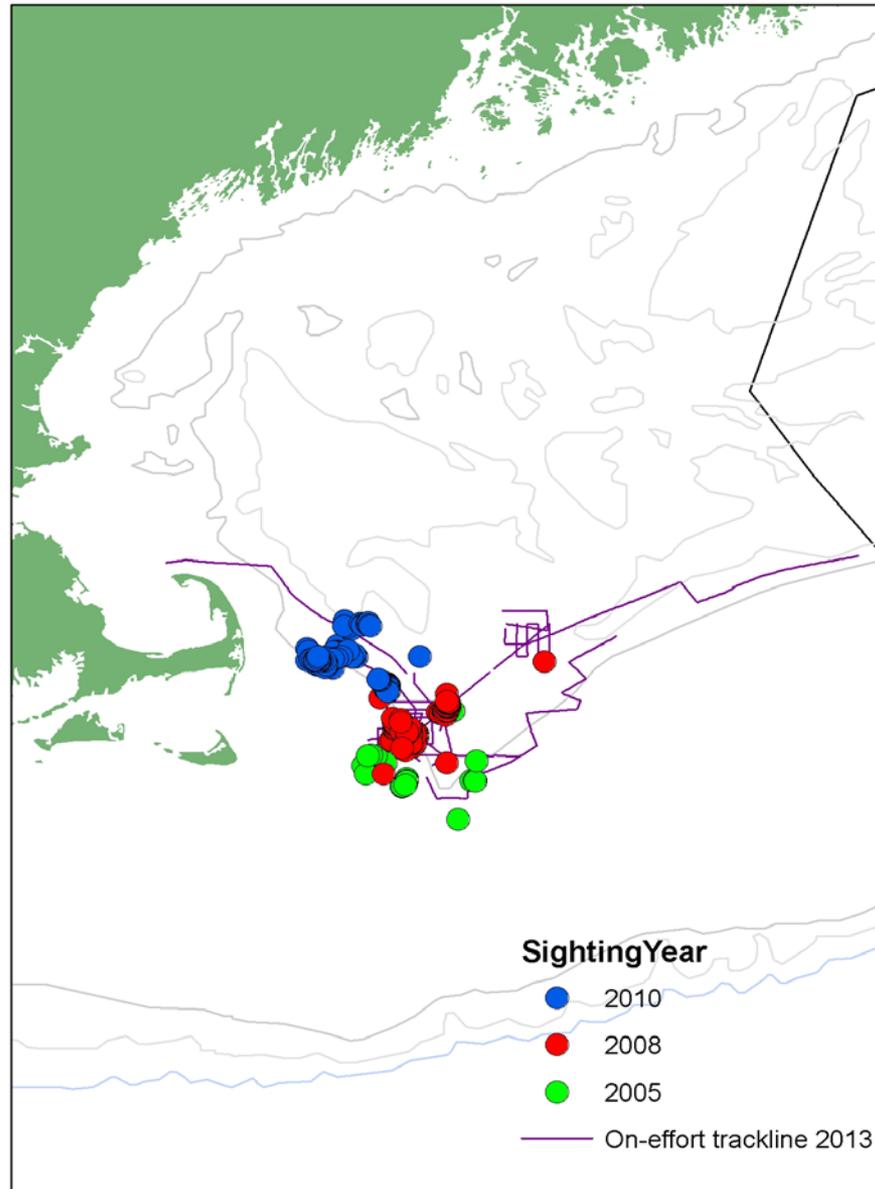


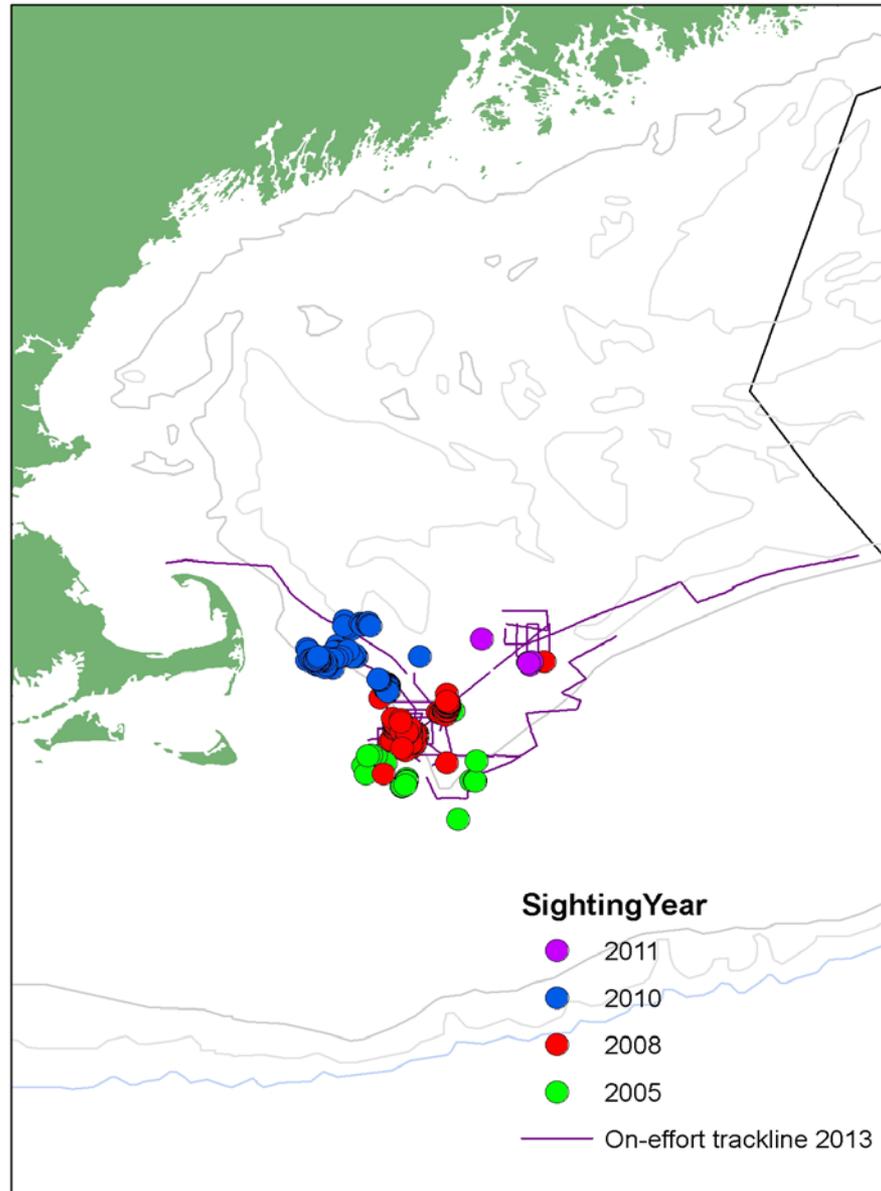
Example track
From 2013 cruise

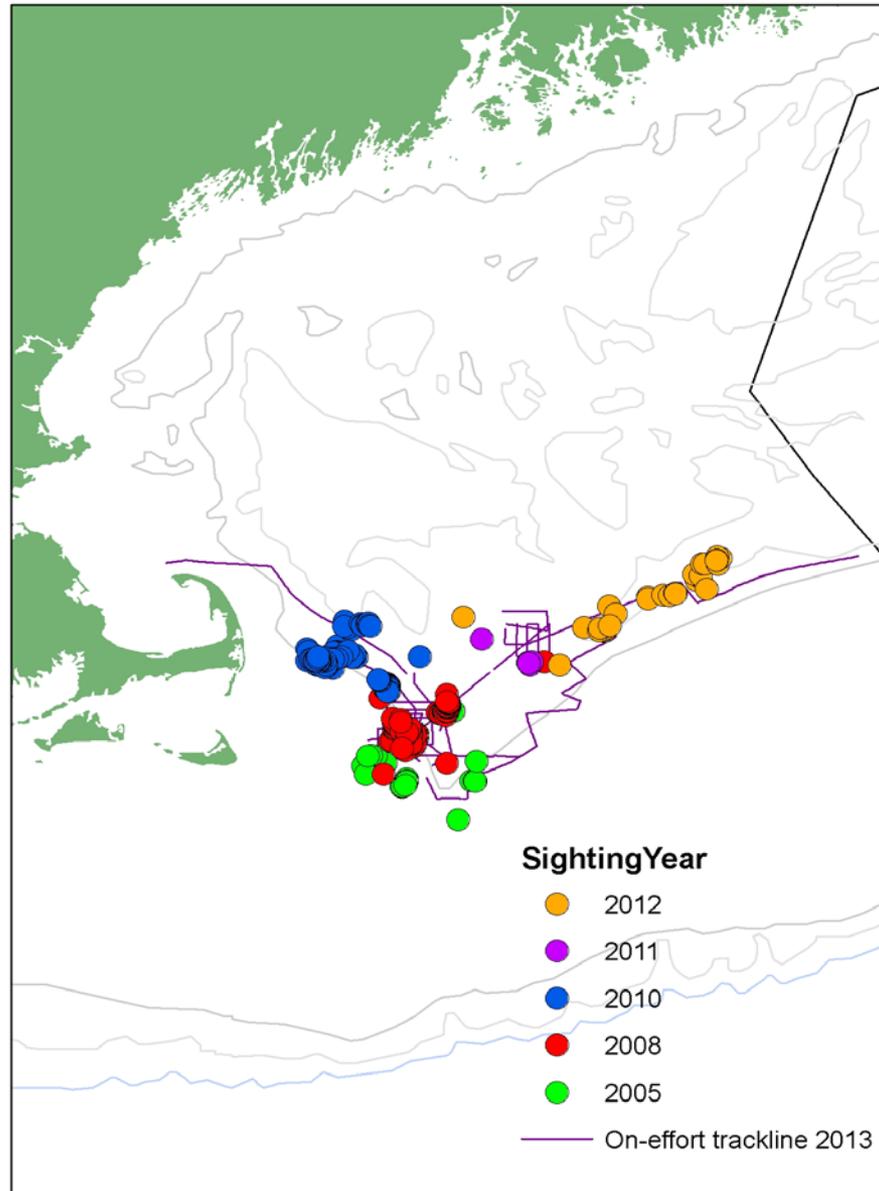


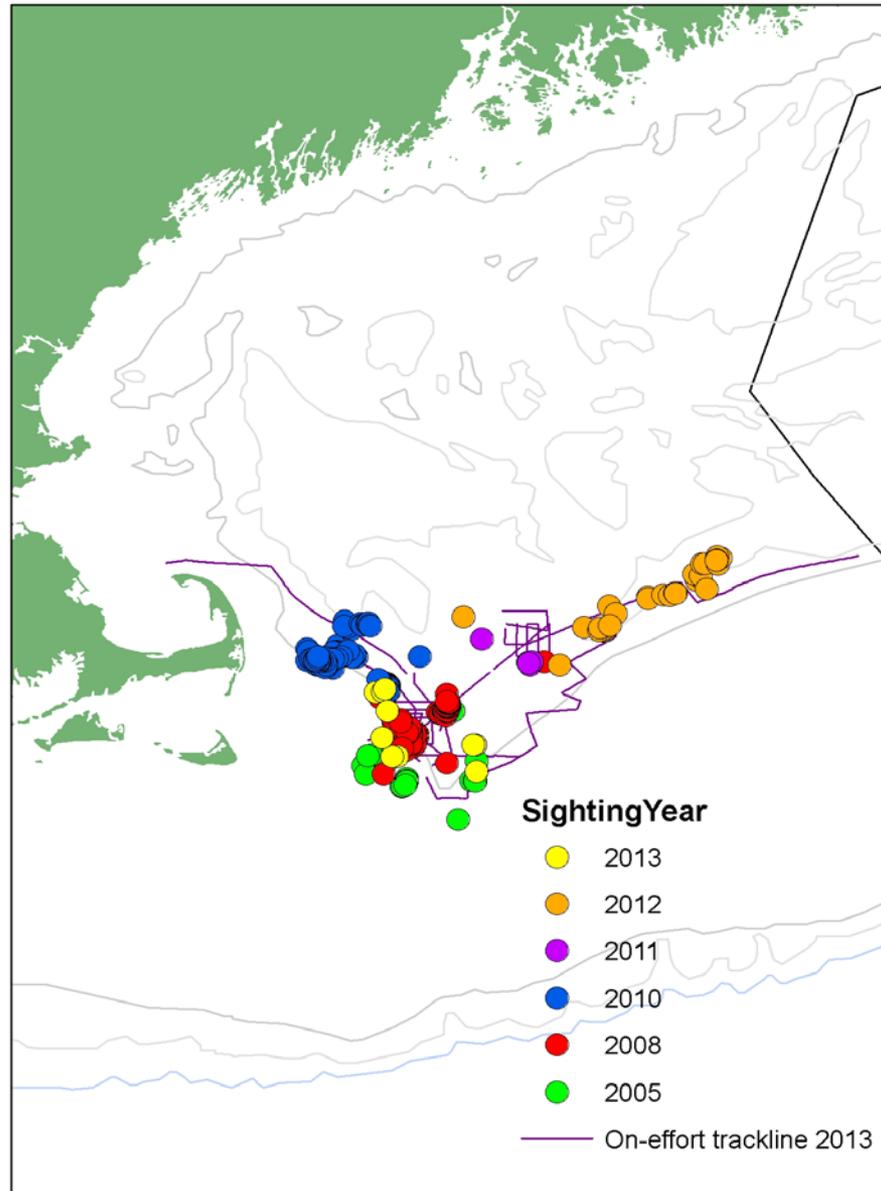












Some Results



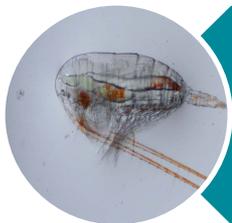
415 Photo ID submitted
To Catalog



13 Genetic samples
Of previously unsampled Eg



58 Right Whales suction-cup
tagged



296 plankton profiles taken in
proximity to tagged whales



Biopsy Sampling

Northeast Fisheries Science Center
In Cooperation in SEUS with:
Georgia DNR
Florida FWC
SERO



Contributing to :
NOAA archive
Trent University
NOAA HQ

Overarching Goals

- Calf Survival Rates
- Mortality
- Capture individuals unique to habitat
- Maternity/Paternity



Health Assessment

- Pathology for injured or sick whales
- Baseline data from healthy whales

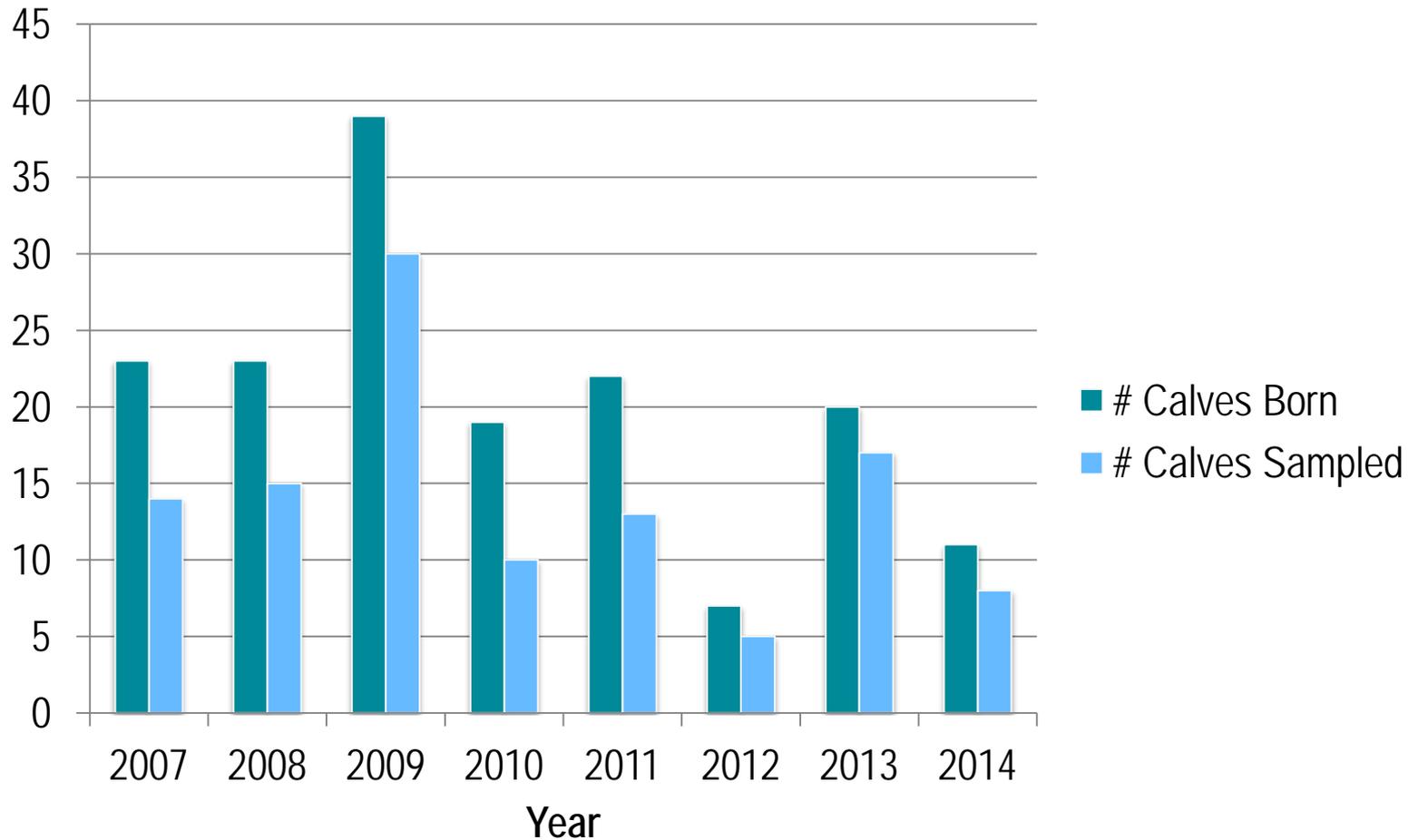


ASWH-Joy Hampp

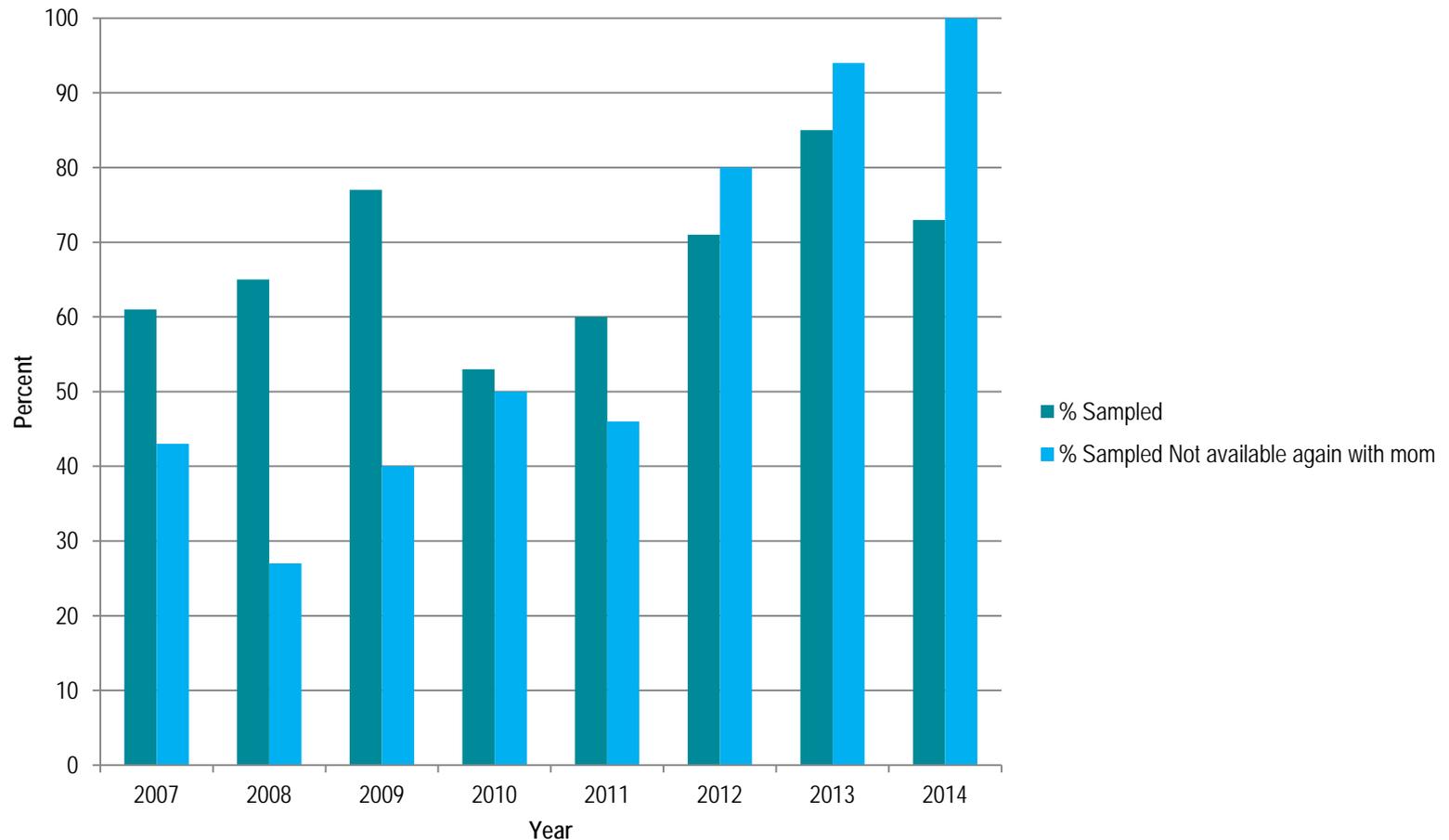


Sample Distribution:
Trent University
NOAA archive
Rosel - NOAA
Rotstein - NOAA

Calves sampled in the SEUS



Percent of calves sampled, unavailable to sample elsewhere during time associated with mom



Continuance of calf biopsy efforts in the SEUS is crucial



to NOAA long term goals of producing calf survival estimates based on whole year data

Ontogeny of Right Whale Calves

Acoustic and Behavioral



Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Syracuse University

Studying Right Whale mother and calf pairs across three habitats. Looking at calf development from birth to ~ 9 months of age.

GOALS include

- Quantify the behavior of mother and calf pairs
 - Visually
 - Acoustically
- Characterize the evolution of their acoustic communication system in multiple habitats through the developmental period of the calf
- Estimate acoustic detection ranges in all three habitat areas

Study Locations

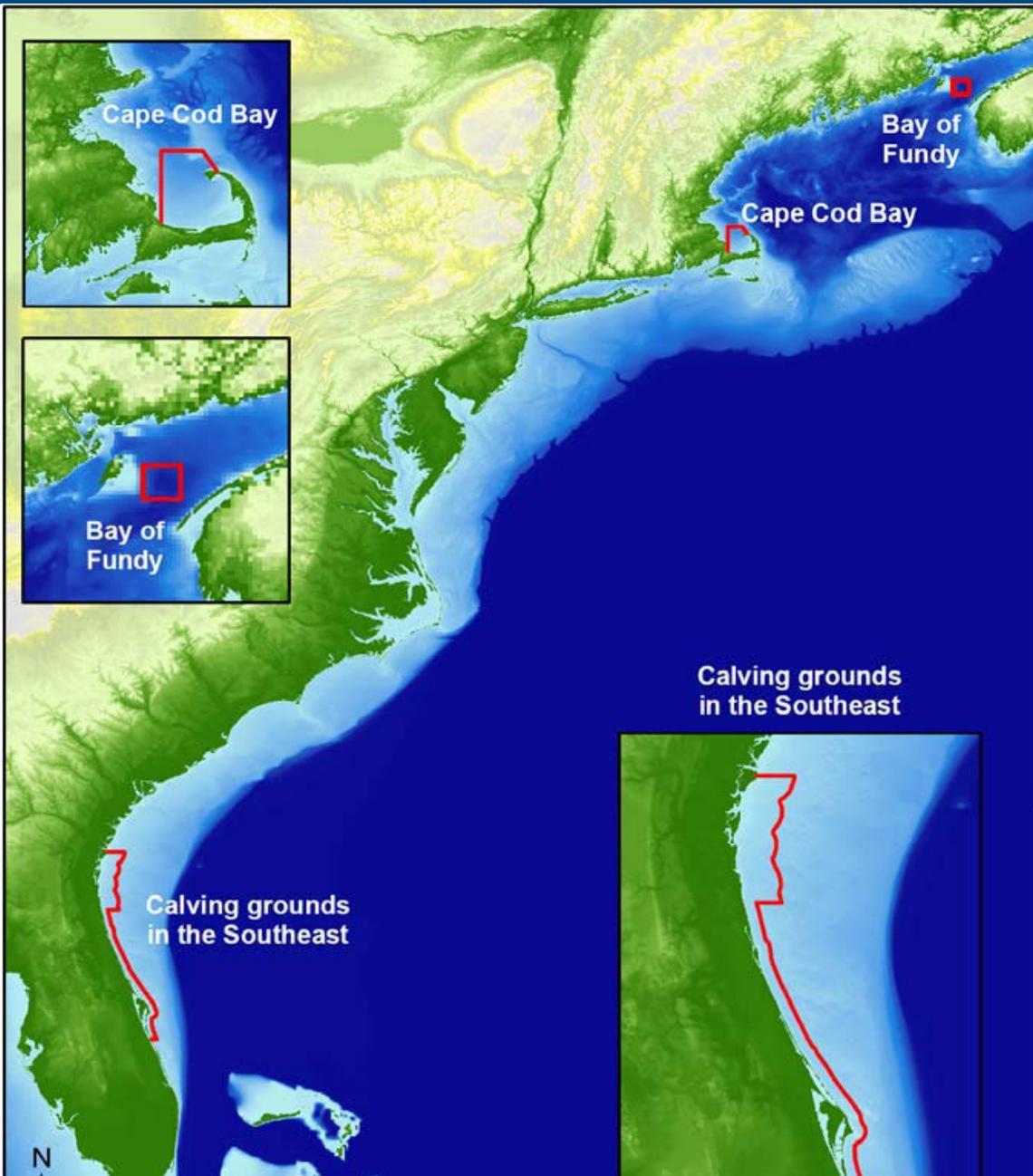


Figure courtesy of
M. Thompson/SBNMS

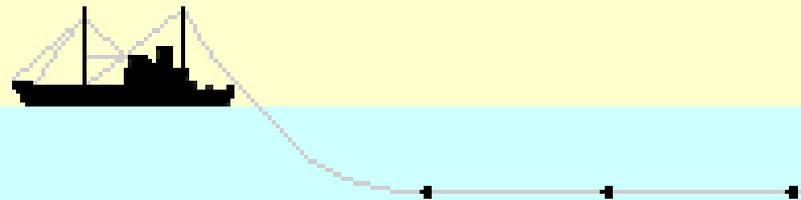
Behavioral Follows

with simultaneous recordings



32 unique pairs followed
14 with multiple follows
131 hours behavioral data
122 hours of acoustic recordings





STRENGTHS

NOAA Ships

Strong Small Boat Program

Highly Experienced Field Biologists

High Level of Collaborations Within
and Outside of Agency

CHALLENGES

NOAA Ships

Strong Small
Boat Program

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue Calf Biopsy Work

Work to Maintain ability for SB work from NOAA ships

Continue Emphasis on Contributions from Offshore habitats

High Level of Collaborations Within and Outside of Agency

Support Right Whale Catalog