

MARINE MAMMAL RISK MITIGATION

MISSION IN BRIEF

Research and study marine mammal behaviour in order to mitigate risk to marine mammals.

OVERVIEW

For more than a decade, CMRE has conducted research on marine mammals to provide information and tools to NATO navies. During this time, the Centre has developed:

- A habitat model for marine mammals in areas where NATO ships typically operate
- Hardware and software tools to help detect marine mammals
- Policies, protocols, and guidelines for planning operations
- Public outreach and education programmes

The Centre continues research through three tasks that address the following questions:

Where do marine mammals live? Task: Continue development of habitat models and databases.

Are marine mammals in a given area? Task: Continue development of monitoring technologies and systems that can be used to assess the presence of animals, including using autonomous underwater vehicles for persistent monitoring.

What effect does sound, and in particular sonar, have on marine mammals? Task: Stay abreast of the latest research into the effects of sound on marine mammals and serve as a collection centre for data on this topic.

CONTACT

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Top: Cuvier's beaked whale, a deep diving whale that is particularly sensitive to sound, has been studied extensively at the Centre. Bottom: Towed behind a ship, the Compact Passive Acoustic Monitor "listens" for Cuvier beaked whales to identify their locations.