Belugas

Belugas were reported to occur in two distinct populations: the first off Churchill (Manitoba) and the second near Repulse Bay. Hunters suggested that the southern population routinely migrates north, where they are intercepted by hunters from Arviat, Whale Cove, and Rankin Inlet. Belugas also migrate southward from Repulse Bay and are primarily responsible for any that are caught by the community of Chesterfield Inlet.

Some hunters believe that many of the larger marine mammals are moving away from the coast, and out of reach of hunters, due to noise, pollution and turbulence related to increased shipping activity through the inlet toward Baker Lake. Ringed Seal and Beluga were both reported as decreasing in number. Ringed Seal in particular was reported to have poor body condition and not as tasty as in the past. Beluga decreases were thought to be related to shipping noise and near-shore blasting.

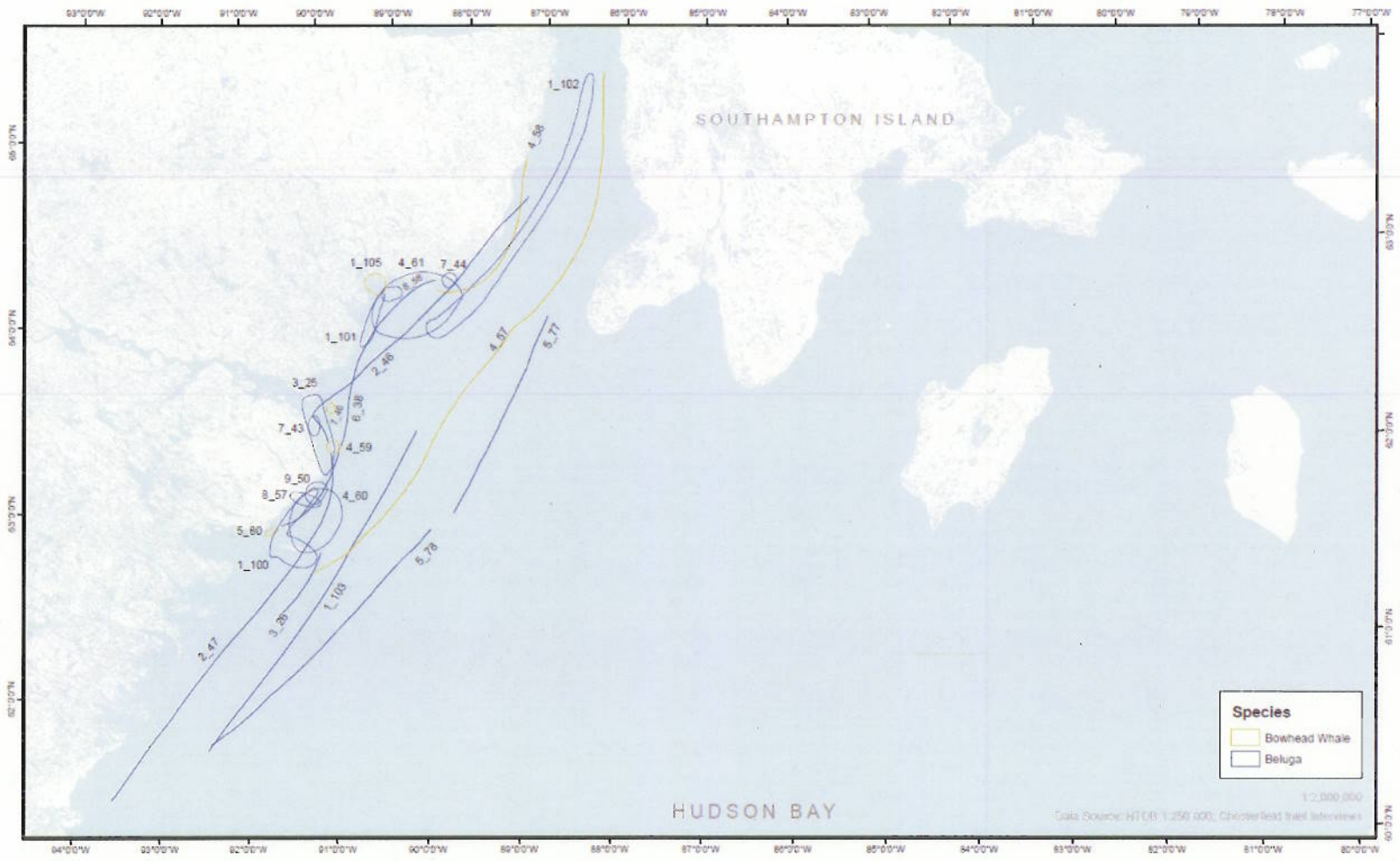

Figure 1: Areas of occupation for Bowhead and Beluga

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Table 20: Areas of occupation for Bowhead and Beluga.

Map Code	Map Label	Species	Present – P Historic – H	Special Coding	Months	Comments
Bel_1	9_50	Beluga	P			
Bel_2	9_52	Beluga	P		August and September	
Bel_1	9_57	Beluga	P		August and September	
Bel_1_AH	7_44	Beluga	H	A	July to September	
Bel_1_AP	7_47	Beluga	P	A	July to September	
Bel_2	4_61	Beluga	P		July and August	
Bel_1_AP	4_60	Beluga	P	A	August and September	
Bel_1	7_35	Beluga	P		August and September	
Bel_2_AP	1_100	Beluga	P	A		
Bel_1_AP	1_101	Beluga	P	A		
Bel_4_AMP	1_102	Beluga	P	A, M		
Bel_3_AMP	1_103	Beluga	P	A, M		
Bel_1	6_72	Beluga	P		July to September	All along the coast, more in the past than recently.
Bel_4_MP	5_78	Beluga	P	M	June to October	
Bel_3_MP	5_77	Beluga	P	M	June to October	
Bel_2_MP	5_76	Beluga	P	M	August and September	
Bel_3_MP	1_47	Beluga	P	M	Year round	Migrating from Foxe Basin.
Bel_2_MP	1_46	Beluga	P	M	Year round	Migrate from Western Hudson Bay.
BW_1_H	7_46	Bowhead Whale	H			1970's
BW_1_H	5_80	Bowhead Whale	H		June	Saw about two years ago near Rankin Inlet.
BW_1	4_59	Bowhead Whale	P		July to October	
BW_1_H	1_105	Bowhead Whale	H			
BW_1	4_58	Bowhead Whale	P		July to October	Wintering ground for bowhead whales, also a traditional whaling area.
BW_1	4_57	Bowhead Whale	P		July to October	

"Everywhere" Coded Data — Bowhead and Beluga.

Interview	Map Code	Species	Present – P Historic – H	Months	Comments
1	Bel_1_Ap_e	Beluga	P	--	
5	Bel_2_e	Beluga	P	July to September	
8	Bel_2_e	Beluga	P	August, September	All along coast.
1	Bel_1_e	Beluga	P	Year round	All along coast.
8	BW_1_e	Bowhead Whale	P	August, September	Seen outside of Chesterfield Inlet in early fall.

Narwhal

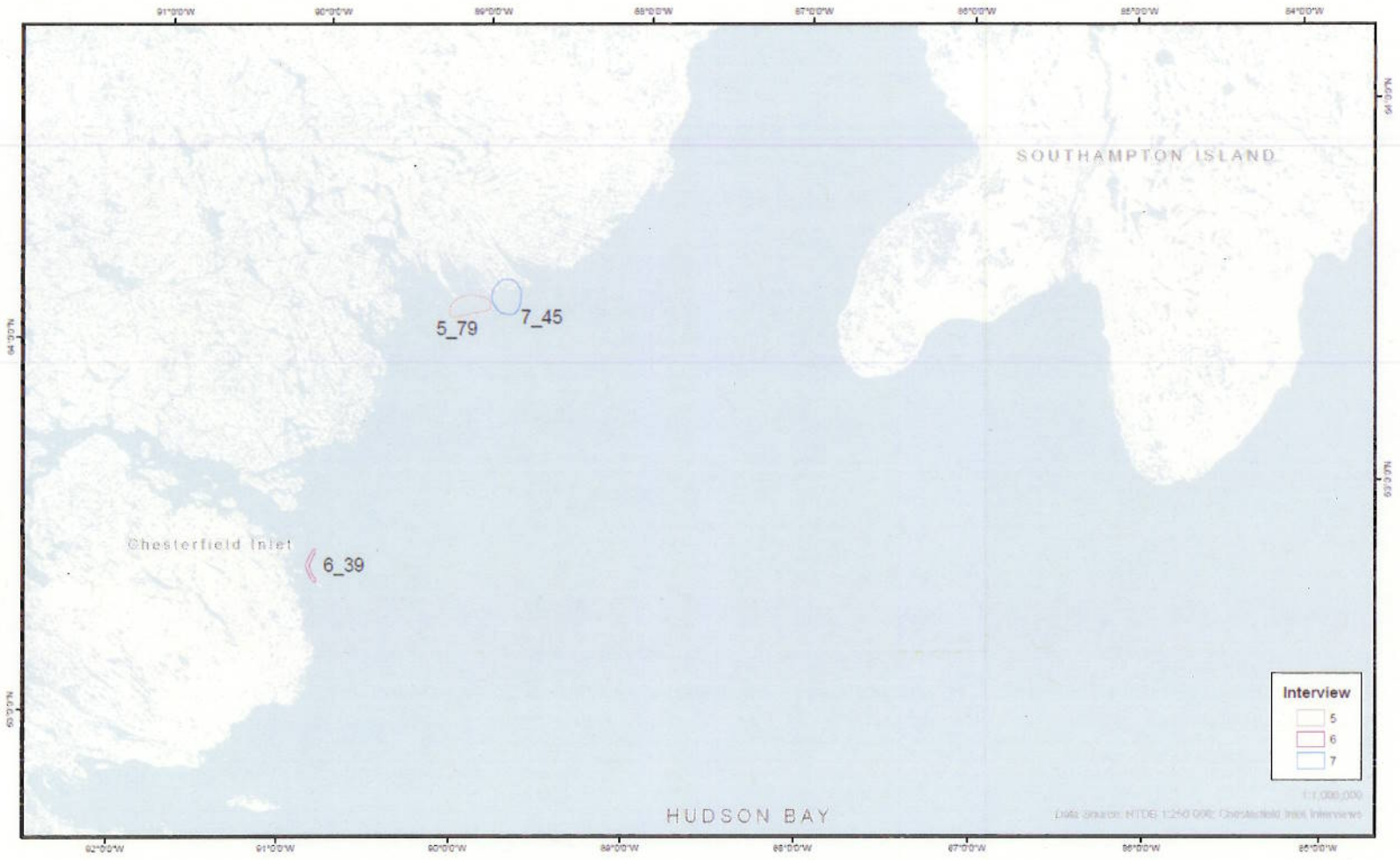

Figure 2: Areas of occupation for Narwhal

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Table 21: Areas of occupation for Narwhal

Map Code	Map Label	Species	Present – P Historic – H	Special Coding	Months	Comments
NW_1_H	7_65	Narwhal	H			Between 1960 and 1969.
NW_1_H	8_70	Narwhal	H			Twenty years ago in the inlet.
NW_1_H	8_70	Narwhal	H		May and June	Saw one over 10 years ago.

Walrus

Some interviewees consider it unhealthy to eat walrus killed in the vicinity of Rankin Inlet, due to runoff from mining activities in that area.

Species abundance estimates were sometimes provided from indirect information (or from what might be considered to be secondary sources). Cockles and clams were reported as present and abundant, based on evidence contained in the stomachs of walrus, from siphon holes noted on the sea floor, and from the presence of empty shells in the intertidal zone or washed up on beaches. This was also true for sea cucumbers, which were recorded in the stomachs of bearded seals. The nature of these indirect observations makes the conclusion that "shellfish are becoming more abundant", somewhat problematic.

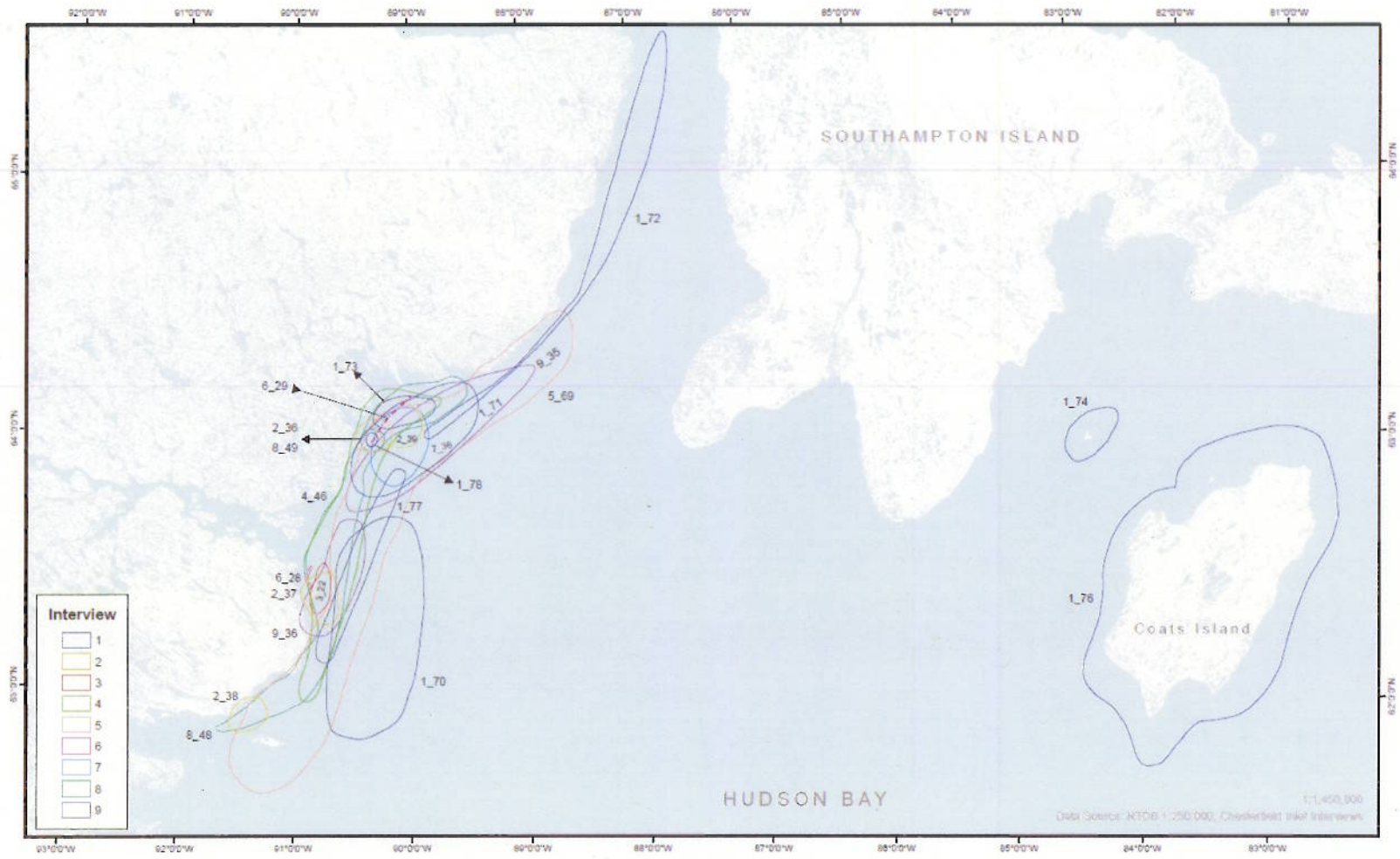

Figure 3: Areas of occupation for Walrus
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Table 16: Areas of occupation for Walrus.

Map Code	Map Label	Species	Present – P Historic – H	Special Coding	Months	Comments
Wal_1	1_76	Walrus	P		Year round	Ivus is considered to be walrus hunting season.
Wal_1	1_75	Walrus	P		Year round	Ivus is considered to be walrus hunting season.
Wal_1_AP	2_69	Walrus	P	A	December to March, May and June	
Wal_1	2_67	Walrus	P		February, March, May, June	Along the flow edge during spring.
Wal_1_AH	7_76	Walrus	P	A		
Wal_1	4_52	Walrus	P		October to April	Seen at flow edge.
Wal_1	5_49	Walrus	P		May and June	When ever there is ice.
Wal_1	4_66	Walrus	P		Year round	
Wal_1	2_52	Walrus	P		May and June	
Wal_1	1_79	Walrus	P		Year round	
Wal_1	1_76	Walrus	P		Year round	Seen them at Tikitiq (place name) Year round; as long as there is a flow edge.
Wal_1	1_67	Walrus	P		Year round	
Wal_1	1_68	Walrus	P		Year round	Between Marble Island and Rabbit Island.
Wal_1	1_71	Walrus	P		December, May, June	Seen mostly in June.
Wal_1_AP	1_70	Walrus	P	A	May and June	Seen mostly in June at Depot Island.
Wal_1	1_72	Walrus	P		May and June	
Wal_1_AP	1_72	Walrus	P	A	May and June	
Wal_1	1_77	Walrus	P		May and June	
Wal_1	1_71	Walrus	P		May and June	
Wal_1_H	1_76	Walrus	H		May and June	
Wal_1_H	1_76	Walrus	P		May and June	
Wal_1_H	6_58	Walrus	H		December to June	This is where he used to go on walrus hunting before he got sick; about ten years ago.

"Everywhere" Coded Data — Walrus.

Interview	Map Code	Species	Present – P Historic – H	Months	Comments
1	Wal_1_1	Walrus	P	May and June	All along coast.