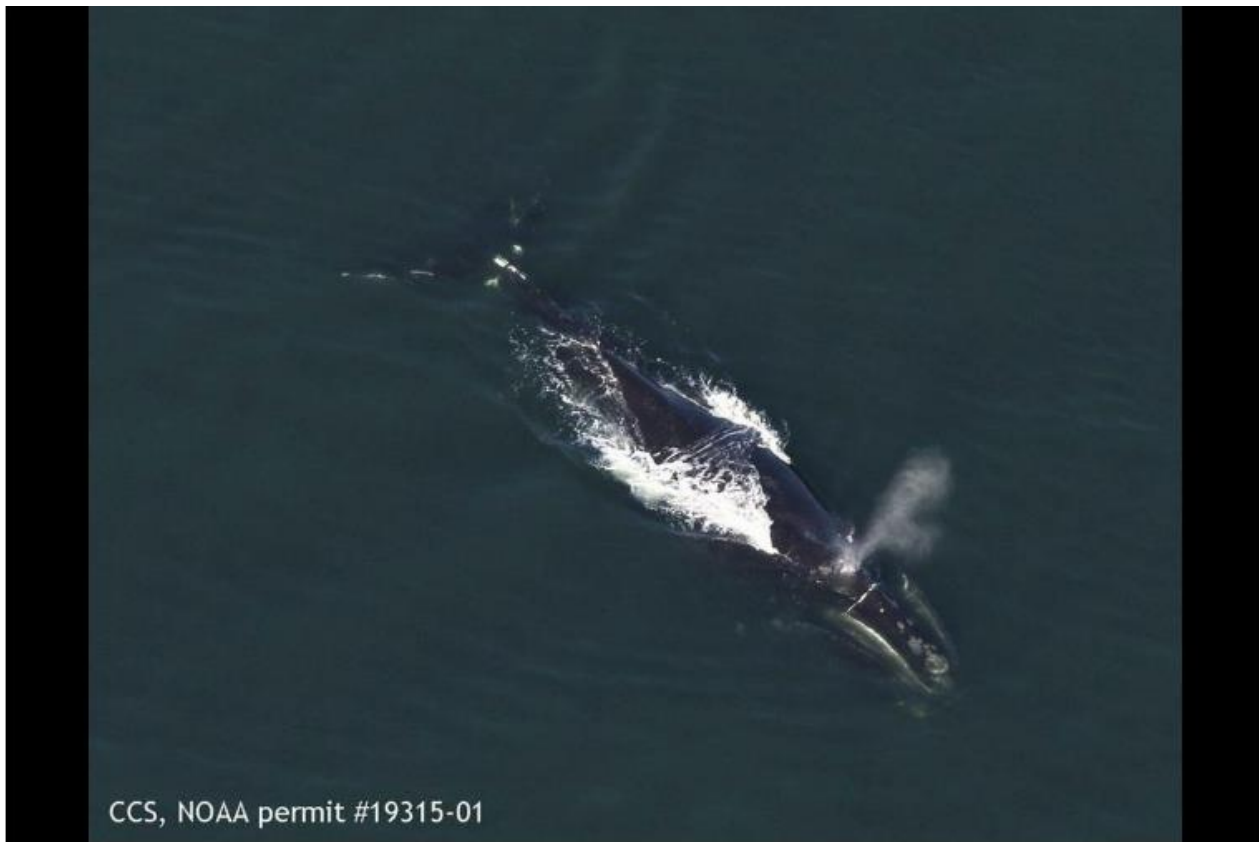


Right Whale Sightings Extend Slowdowns for Vessels South of Nantucket

By Mary Ann Bragg Feb 24, 2019



North Atlantic right whale #1403, Meridian, feeding in Cape Cod Bay, December 11, 2018. The white marks on the tail and the white line in front of the blowholes are entanglement scars. Center for Coastal Studies image under NOAA permit #19315-01.

NANTUCKET — In response to the sighting of 19 North Atlantic right whales, a voluntary slowdown announcement for vessels traveling south of Nantucket has been extended through March 5, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service. The whales were first sighted February 17.

Mariners are asked to travel around the area or transit through at 10 knots or less.

North Atlantic right whales are considered imperiled and at risk of extinction because of their declining population, which is currently estimated at 411. Ship strikes can kill or injure the whales, according to researchers.

In addition to the notice for the area south of Nantucket, which is a voluntary choice for mariners, mandatory speed restrictions of 10 knots or less for larger vessels are in effect in Cape Cod Bay through May 15.

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/news/20190224/right-whale-sightings-extend-slowdown-for-vessels-south-of-nantucket>