

Supplemental data: Saving Endangered Whales at No Cost**Ransom A. Myers, Stephanie A. Boudreau, Robert D. Kenney, Michael J. Moore, Andrew A. Rosenberg, Scott A. Sherrill-Mix, Boris Worm****Supplemental Text: Seasonal distribution of right whales in the Gulf of Maine**

Monthly effort-corrected relative abundance of right whales in the Gulf of Maine was estimated using sightings data from aerial and shipboard surveys (Fig. S1). The correction for effort is only an approximation because many surveys were directed towards known right whale habitats.

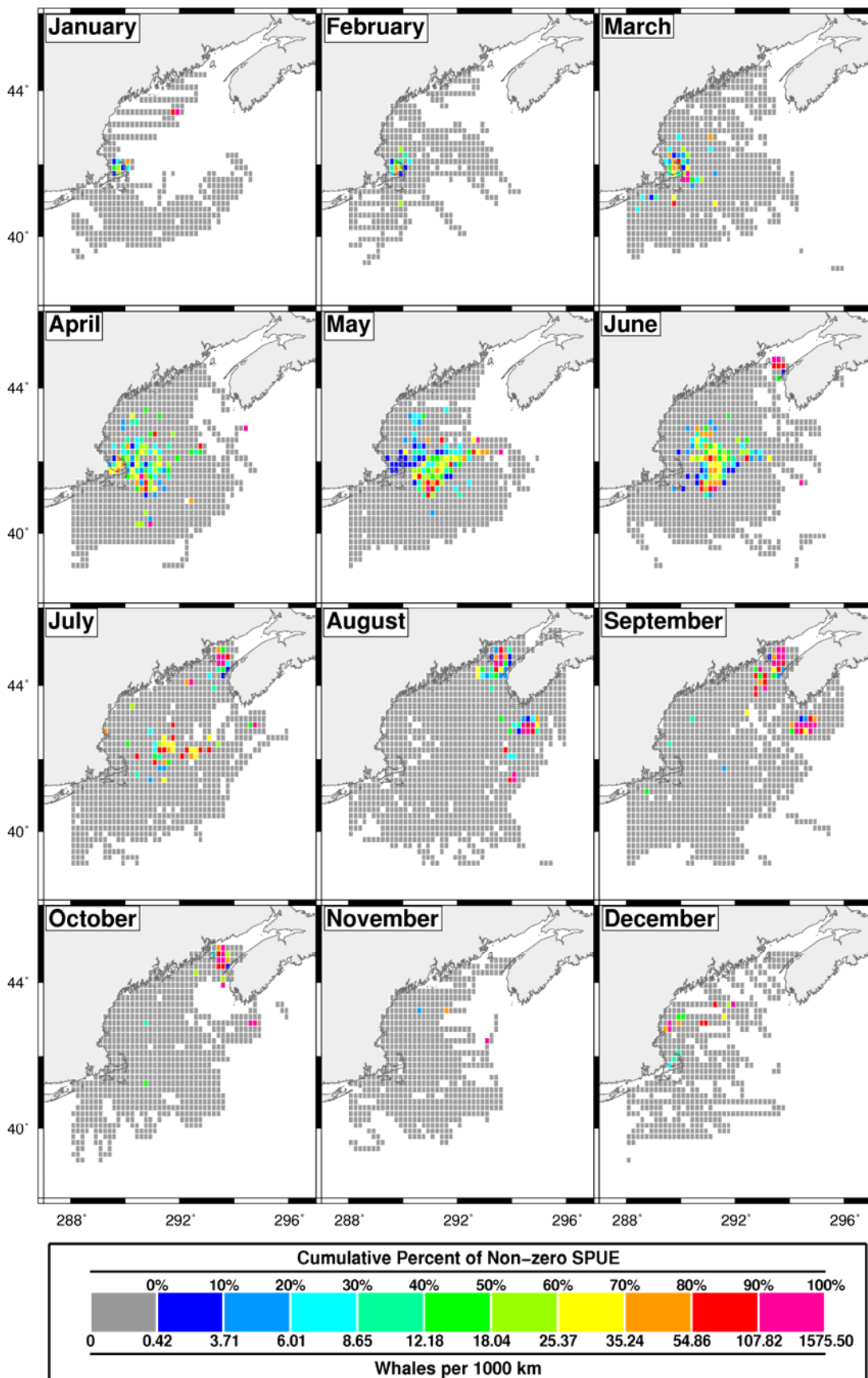


Figure S1. Monthly right whale SPUE (sightings per unit effort, as number of right whales sighted per 1,000 km of survey track) in 10-minute cells off New England and Nova Scotia in 1978-2005. The distributions are based on all available aerial and shipboard surveys included in the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium database. Valid survey effort is defined as track segments conducted with clear visibility of at least 3.7 km (2 nautical miles), sea states of Beaufort 3 or below, at least one observer on watch, and (for aerial surveys) altitude below 366 m (1200 feet). The total effort represented is over 822,000 km. Blank cells were never surveyed during that month (effort = 0), while gray cells were surveyed (effort > 0) but had no right whales sighted (SPUE = 0). Cells with whales sighted (SPUE > 0) were ranked into ten equal classes. Survey effort distribution is not random with respect to right whale distribution, since many survey programs are specifically targeted at known right whale habitats, but the SPUE method corrects as much as possible for this bias by scaling for the amount of effort expended in each 10-minute cell.