

Whale Tales & Whale Facts

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2016: Moriches Whale Stranding

- The whale, which was first reported feeding in Seatuck Cove, stranded in very shallow water (1 to 2 feet) in Hart's Cove. Riverhead Foundation attempted to help move the whale off the sandbar on Sunday afternoon, but was unsuccessful. The whale wasn't able to free itself during the subsequent high tide cycles, and efforts to create wave action by boat to aid the animal's movements also failed.
- This stranding led to the development of a coordinated whale response for future strandings.

Protecting Menhaden

- In 2019 New York State passed legislation to prevent the use of “purse seines,” the enormous nets being used by industrial fishing operations, to harvest Atlantic menhaden (also known as “bunker”) in New York State waters.





Menhaden Success



Ghost Gear Impacts Whales

- July 2020
- NOAA Fisheries was notified by the U.S Coast Guard of distressed humpback whale in the Ambrose Channel of New York on Monday, July 27. The team successfully disentangled the whale on July 30 ending a multi-day response.

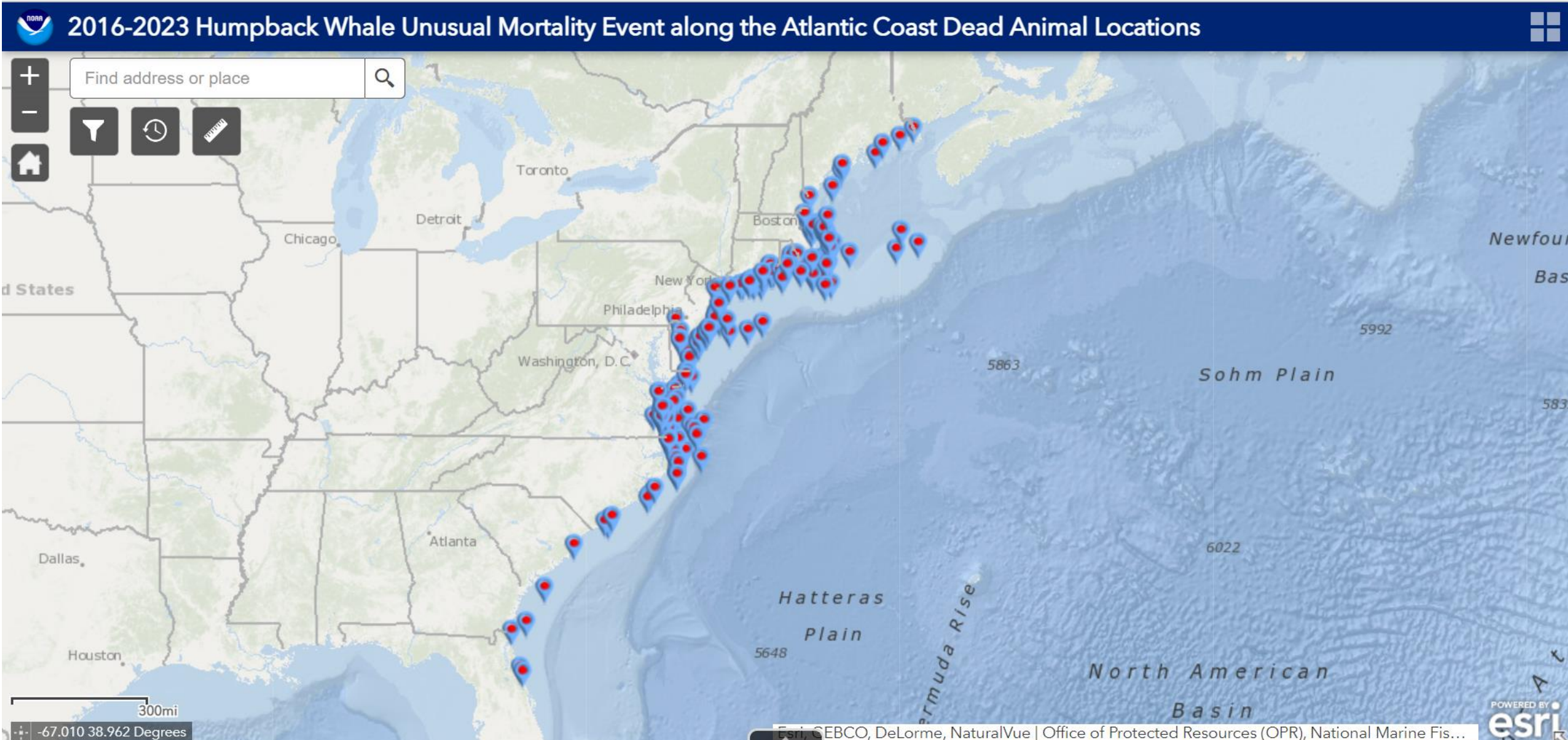


Ship Traffic

- Ship traffic has increased more than 34 percent in the last five years. This increases ship strikes on whales.



Humpback Whale Unusual Mortality Event



Whale Population Increasing

- In August 2022, researchers at Gotham Whale, a nonprofit citizen-science organization that tracks whale populations around New York Harbor, indicated they spotted more than 260 whales (mostly juvenile humpback whales) in the New York City area so far that year. A decade ago, it was just five whales.

