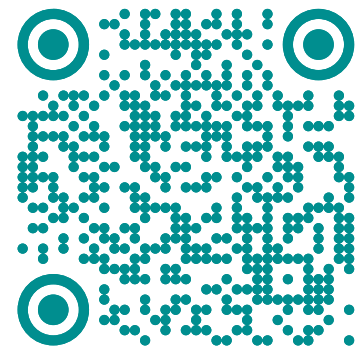




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# Connecting the dots

## Citizen science for conservation

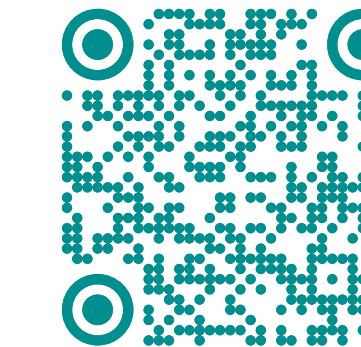
Virginie Wyss, Arnaud Conne, Laurent Bouveret, Frederick Wenzel, Pedro López Suarez, Liliana Betancourt, Kim Beddall, Jodi Frediani, Tanya Lubansky, Lindsey S. Jones, Valerie Chosson.



MARINE & FRESHWATER  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Glacialis Expedition's  
11'000 km itinerary



ET-15

For more than 52 years, the **North Atlantic Humpback Whale Catalog** (NAHWC) has identified more than **12,000 humpback whale** (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) individuals based on their fluke ventral side pattern (Smith et al, 1999).

> **5 feeding grounds located in the Arctic and sub-Arctic waters** (namely Norway and Iceland in the Eastern North Atlantic, and West Greenland, Canada and the Gulf of Maine in the western North Atlantic)

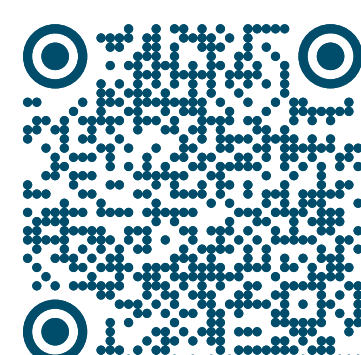
> **3 breeding grounds located in the tropical waters of the North Atlantic ocean** (namely the Cabo Verde Islands (CVI) for the East, and the Lesser Antilles and the Greater Antilles for the West) have been identified.

Based on historical data, their interconnectivity follows a clear pattern:

> The **Western feeding grounds** have connection with only the **Western breeding grounds**.

> The **Eastern feeding grounds** have connection with **all known breeding grounds on both sides of the North Atlantic Ocean** (Jones et al, 2025).

Read the article: « **Ocean basin-wide movement patterns of North Atlantic humpback whales** ».



In recent years, **Atlas Expeditions** (NGO) coordinated **two expeditions off the western coast of Greenland** : the **Glacialis** expedition in 2021 & the **SILA** expedition in 2023.

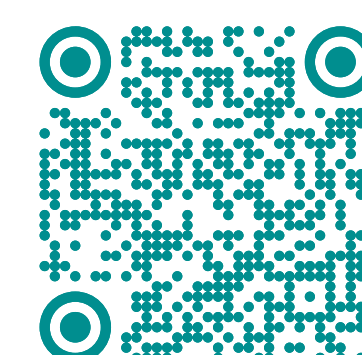
> **A total of 48 humpback whale individuals were identified**: 25 during the Glacialis expedition and 23 during the Sila expedition.

> **All data collected were shared** with a team of international scientists.

We report here, **9 connections between the West Greenland feeding ground and all the known breeding grounds of the North Atlantic** (Recapture rate of 18 %), Samana Bay and the Silver Bank for the Greater Antilles, Guadeloupe for the Lesser Antilles and the endangered breeding population of CVI. **Visit poster AD82 for more details !**

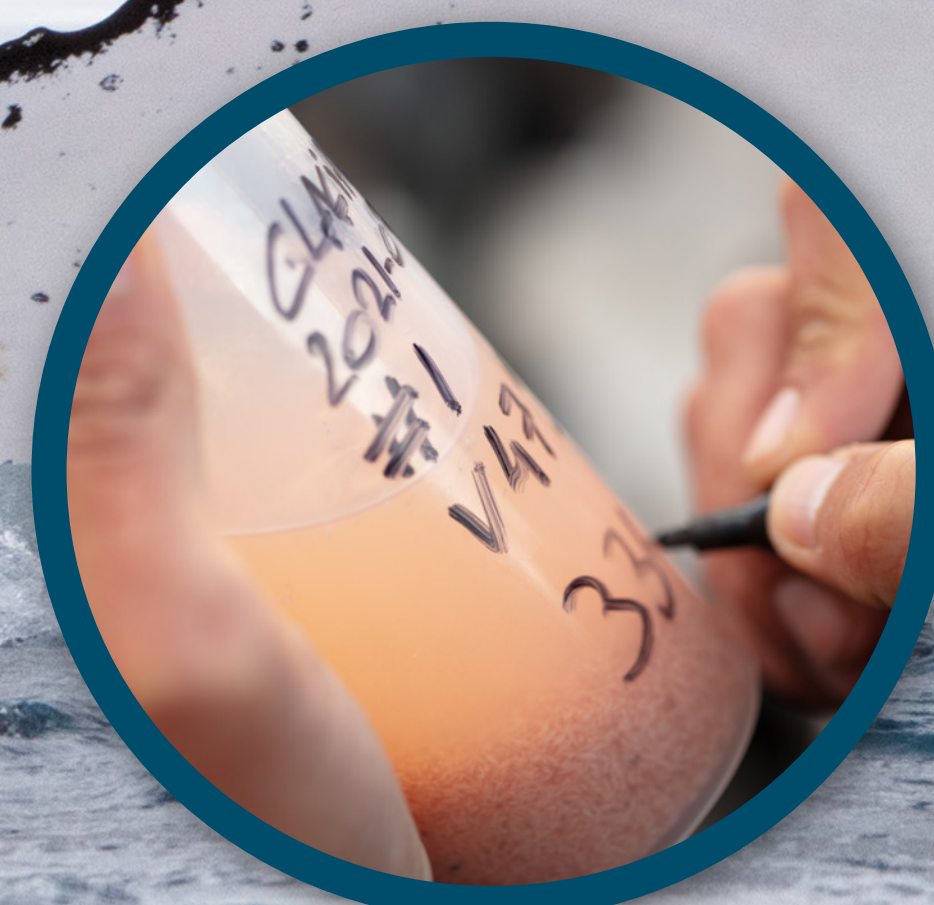
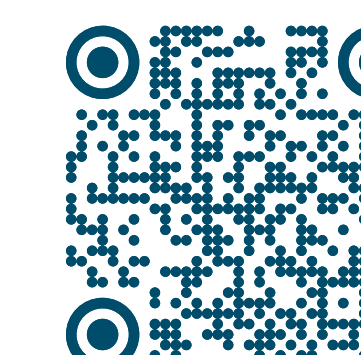
« *This case emphasizes the importance of citizen science and NGO support in data collection in a rapidly changing environment.* »

Our **knowledge of West Greenland humpback whale migratory dynamics has been challenged by these expeditions**, as is our understanding of the humpback whale migration patterns in the North Atlantic Ocean.



[www.atlasexpeditions.org](http://www.atlasexpeditions.org)

« **Latitudes of Change** »  
Documentary movie trailer !



#### Affiliations:

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Their conviction and determination to bring about change have borne fruit.