

# Characteristics of Grey and Harbour Seals



Male (behind) and female grey seal

Males measure up to 2.3 m (7.5 ft) in length  
- weigh 300-350 kg (660-770 lbs)

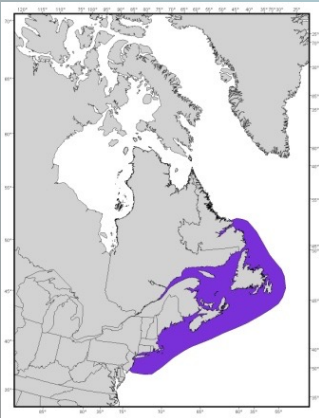
Females measure up to 2.0 m (6.6 ft)  
- weigh 150-200 kg (330-440 lbs)

Range – Gulf of St. Lawrence  
south to Virginia

Pups are born in early winter

Feed on

Life span 30-40 years



Harbour Seals

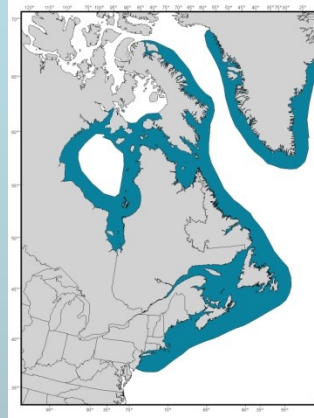
Males and females about the same size  
- measure up to 1.5m (4.9 ft) in length  
- weigh about 100 kg (220 lbs)

Range – Greenland and eastern  
Arctic south through Canadian  
Maritimes to Virginia

Pups are born May to mid June

Feed on small fish – e.g. herring,  
sand lance, fish, consume 6-8% of  
body weight daily

Life span males 20-25 years  
females 30-35 years





# Differences between Grey Seals and Harbour Seals

Female grey seal



Female harbour seal



- Grey Seals
- long, arched roman nose
  - 'horsehead' profile
  - wide set nostrils for a parallel or "II" pattern



Harbour seals are often seen lying on their belly or sides with head and hind flippers raised – banana-like appearance



## Harbour Seals

- Small head with dip in forehead
- Short muzzle, dog like profile
- nostrils look heart or V-shaped

## Credits:

Photographs: Danielle Dion/Quoddy Link Marine

Text: Moira Brown and Jerry Conway/Canadian Whale Institute

Range Maps: Jean Francois Gosselin and Michael Hammill/Fisheries and Oceans Canada