

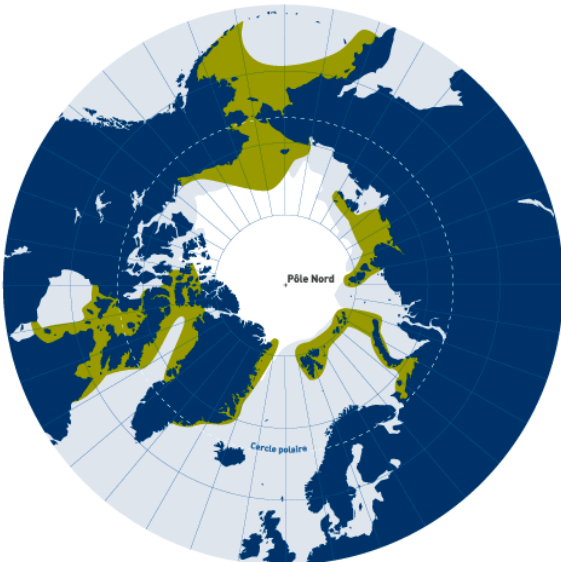
AMPHIBIAN MAMMALS

Walrus, seals and sea lions (otaries) are carnivorous marine mammals. Like their cousins found in Antarctica, they belong to the order of Pinnipedia ("feet like flippers"). They are perfectly amphibian and are just as at home in the water (flippers, streamlined shape, food mainly fish molluscs and crustaceans) as on land (lungs, birth in the open air).

SEALS AND SEA LIONS

In the Arctic Ocean live several species of seals (bearded seal, ringed seal, etc.) and sea lions (Steller sea lion, fur seal). To avoid confusing them, remember that only sea lions have visible ears and fold their back "legs" to walk on land; seals crawl on the ground. Orcas and polar bears are their natural predators.

LES AIRES DE REPARTITION DU MORSE
(*Odobenus rosmarus*)



D'après CAFF 2001

THE WALRUS, SENTINE OF THE ARCTIC

The walrus is a large potbellied (they can weight up to 1,200 kg) mammal with huge tusk teeth (evolved from canines) that lives in herds along the edge of the Arctic. It has very stiff "tactile" whiskers around its muzzle. The walrus digs around on the sea bed with its tusks, stirring up molluscs that it crunches before sucking them up. Walruses also occasionally eat seals.

LES AIRES DE REPARTITION DU PHOQUE BARBU
(*Erignathus barbatus*)



D'après CAFF 2001

A NEW THREAT : POLLUTION

Many Inuit depend almost entirely on seals for their livelihood. There is a seal-based civilisation: seals provide their food, clothes, tools, etc., but they husband local seal stocks. On the other hand, certain species of pinniped have been decimated by hunters coming to the Deep North to exploit them for oil and furs. And today they face a new, and more insidious threat: the chemical waste from human activities is accumulating in their body fat.