

# 2018 NARWC Business Meeting

08 November 2018

## I. Board elections

Board elections were held electronically prior to the Annual Meeting. The four successful nominees were:

Scott Landry	Center for Coastal Studies
Hilary Moors-Murphy <sup>+</sup>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Martin Noel	Association of Professional Crab Fishermen Acadians Inc.
Angelia Vanderlaan	Bedford Institute of Oceanography

They join the existing Board members below

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### AFFILIATION

<b>Chair:</b>	Mark Baumgartner	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
<b>Vice-chair:</b>	Scott Kraus	Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at NEAq
<b>Exec. Admin:</b>	Heather Pettis	Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at NEAq

### BOARD MEMBERS

### AFFILIATION

Bob Kenney	University Rhode Island
Philip Hamilton	Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at NEAq
Moira Brown	Canadian Whale Institute
Amy Knowlton	Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at NEAq
Mike Lane	South Shore Lobstermen's Association
Bill McLellan	University of North Carolina, Wilmington
Genevieve Davis <sup>^</sup>	University of Massachusetts, Boston/NOAA/NMFS
Kim Davies	Dalhousie University
Allison Henry <sup>!</sup>	Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Michael Moore	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Tonya Wimmer	Marine Animal Response Society

<sup>!</sup>NMFS Liaison      <sup>+</sup>DFO Liaison      <sup>^</sup>Student Representative

We thank outgoing members **Tim Gowan, Lyne Morissette, Rosalind Rolland,** and **Julie van der Hoop** for their substantial contributions to the NARWC.

## II. Annual Report Card

The draft 2018 report card was presented to the membership. The Purpose of the Annual Report Card is to provide a summary of:

- Essential population monitoring and priorities
- Population status
  - Estimate of living population
  - Reproduction
  - Mortalities
  - Live entanglement cases and vessel strikes
- Impact of injury on the health of right whales

- Survey sightings
- Research and management activities
- Right whale publications and reports

The population estimate for the end of 2017 is **411**. The Report Card will be finalized at year's end and will be published on the NARWC website and distributed via the NARWC email newsletter.

### **III. Data Access Requests**

There were 34 requests (to date) made to various NARWC databases in 2018. These include 13 management requests, 17 publication requests, and 4 other types of request (educational, artists). Data access requests are summarized in the Annual Report Card each year and [HERE](#).

### **IV. Adding Acoustic Database**

Mark Baumgartner summarized efforts to compile and analyze existing sources of acoustic data and the desire to work these sources into a database that can be more widely accessible. He proposed to make this database a Consortium-curated database, accessible through the Consortium data request mechanism. A discussion followed, including general support of the idea with a few details for the acoustic database steering committee to work out. The steering committee, currently comprised of Mark Baumgartner, Genevieve Davis, Sofie Van Parijs, Hansen Johnson, will move forward with database development.

### **V. Regional Representation**

There is presently no representation on the NARWC Board from the southeast U.S., yet there are significant data contributors from this region. The concern that data requests will be submitted for data collected by organizations in the southeast U.S., but no one from these organizations will review the data requests was raised. Questions posed to the membership were:

1. If this is a concern, should we reserve seats on the board for regional or institutional representation?
2. Alternatively, should we officially allow ad-hoc reviewers that do not sit on the board to review data access requests?

The overall consensus was that there is no need to designate specific seats on the Board for particular regions and/or institutions. Rather, there was support for using ad-hoc reviewers on an as-needed basis. Language will be added to the existing data access protocol document to reflect this.

### **VI. Meeting Format & Location**

Registration for the 2018 Annual Meeting hit venue capacity in late September and more abstracts than available presentation slots were submitted. Clearly if interest in the Annual Meeting remains high, and we suspect that it will, a larger venue is needed going forward.

The question of whether or not we should move to a three-day meeting or remain a two-day meeting with an expanded poster session was raised to the membership. There was little support for a 3-day meeting (particularly if it is paired with the Ropeless Consortium meeting), but someone did voice the idea of having a 2.5 day meeting. This latter option would allow attendees to take early evening flights home without missing presentations at the end of the day. Overall, there was more support for keeping

a 2-day meeting format, but include an expanded poster session, speed talks, consolidate similar talks into shorter punchier talks, transferring some information from talks to appendices in the program, and offering remote viewing as options.

In terms of meeting location, there was support for having the meeting in Canada in 2019, with some voiced concerns that some U.S. participants won't be able to come because of travel expenses and/or some agencies restrict international travel. The issue, however, works in reverse with Canadian participants indicating that there would be more Canadian representation at the meeting if it was held in Canada. The general consensus was to alternate the meeting venue between Canada and the US. Whether we alternate every 2 or 3 years remains up for discussion. The NARWC Board will continue to evaluate options and make a decision regarding the venue for 2019 as soon as possible.