

General Board

Michael Asaro, NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, United States

Mike Asaro is currently the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Branch Chief at the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office. In this capacity, he administers federal conservation programs for North Atlantic right whales under both the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act in the Greater Atlantic Region. Mike earned his PhD in Public Policy/Ecological Economics from Northeastern University studying how stakeholders receive, process, and act upon scientific information to protect the North Atlantic right whale.

Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, United States

Mark Baumgartner is a marine ecologist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution who has studied right whale and zooplankton ecology for the past 20 years. He is the outgoing chair of the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium, co-vice chair of the Ropeless Consortium, and a member of the U.S. Northeast Implementation Team for Right Whale Recovery. Mark's most recent work focuses on near real-time passive acoustic monitoring of baleen whales from autonomous platforms and the development of ropeless fishing technology and methods.

Peter Corkeron, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium, United States

Peter Corkeron recently started work with the whale research team at the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium. Prior to this move, he spent 8 years with the large whale research group at NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole. Peter's PhD, awarded by the University of Queensland, was on the behavior and ecology of inshore dolphins in southeast Queensland, Australia. Since then, he's studied whales, dolphins, dugongs and seals at various places around the world. The aim of his work has always been to use science for marine conservation. He has been involved in research on North Atlantic right whales for over a decade, and on right whales since 1991. Previously, he was the NMFS representative on the Consortium Board.

Genevieve Davis, Boston University/Northeast Fisheries Science Center, United States

Genevieve served on the NARWC board as the Student Representative for the last three years, helping arrange the student roundtables for the annual meetings among the other board duties. She's attended the NARWC meeting every year since 2011, when she started working at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and has been an active presenter at the annual meeting over the last four years while attending UMass Boston for her PhD. Her research focuses on passive acoustic monitoring, contributing to our understanding of NARW distributions and movements, and she's part of the team working on creating an acoustic detections database for the NARWC.

Tim Frasier, St. Mary's University, Canada

I have been conducting genetic analyses on the North Atlantic right whale for over 20 years. My laboratory houses the archival North Atlantic right whale tissue and DNA bank, and generates and curates the genetic data. My primary goal is to use the genetic data to aid population assessment and monitoring efforts, as well as to understand the influence of genetic characteristics on the fitness of individuals and the recovery potential of the species as a whole.

Clay George, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, United States

Clay George has coordinated the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' marine mammal program since 2004. Clay currently serves on the right whale Southeast Implementation Team and Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, and was a NARWC board member from 2008 to 2016. He is a Level 5 disentanglement responder, the Georgia state stranding coordinator and PI of a NMFS research permit used to collect the majority of the Southeast's right whale photo-ID data, sighting data and biopsy samples. Clay has a MS in Wildlife Ecology and Management from the University of Georgia.

Katie Jackson, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, United States

I am a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (a state government agency). I have been conducting right whale research and monitoring in the Southeast U.S. calving area for 15 years and have attended NARWC meetings for nearly as long. I have experience with aerial and small vessel surveys, photo-ID, biopsy sampling, disentanglement, strandings, long-term database management, meeting facilitation, and multi-agency collaboration. I have a thorough understanding of the NARWC photo and data submission protocols as well as health assessment and necropsy guidelines. I believe I could use this knowledge and experience to be an effective member of the NARWC board and would be happy to serve.

Zack Klyver, Bar Harbor Whale Watch, United States

I would like to join the NARWC board to be a representative from both the education and conservation fields. I have worked for 30 seasons as a whale watch naturalist out from mid-coast Maine. On my tours we encountered right whales on dozens of trips, and I was able to introduce thousands of passengers to right whales. My new venture is co-founding an ocean conservation and policy business called Blue Planet Strategies. The work I am doing now is focused on the conservation of the NARW. The consortium has played a very large part in my education and I would like to contribute to its continued success.

My first encounter with NARW's came as a COA student on a whale watching trip to the Grand Manan Basin where we saw a mother and calf and nine right whales in 1986. I have participated in NARW consortium meetings for over twenty years. During the 1990's and 2000's I worked for ten seasons as a NARW observer on ships (and occasionally on planes) between North Carolina and Florida during the winter. I helped coordinate winter right whale surveys off the coast of Maine in 2010 and 2011 with the NEAQ and Canadian Whale Institute. I also participate in the right whale workshop at the Society for Marine Mammalogy in New Zealand in 2013.

Amy Knowlton, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium, United States

I am a scientist with the New England Aquarium and have been focused on right whale research since 1983. My main focus is assessing human impacts of fishing gear entanglements and vessel strikes on right whales and putting forward ideas for policy changes to mitigate these threats. I also have been involved in curation of the photo-id catalog on behalf of the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium and have lead field efforts from Florida to the Gulf of St Lawrence. I am presently an invited member of the Southeast U.S. Implementation Team, an alternate member on the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, and member of the Population Evaluation Team subgroup of the recently formed Northeast U.S. Implementation Team.

Mike Lane, South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Association (SSFLA), United States

I am a fulltime lobsterman for the last 30 years, vice president of the SSFLA, delegate for the MLA, alternate on the TRT for MLA, been involved in reduced breaking strength line testing with New England Aquarium and SSFLA, presently working with Edge Tech on developing ropeless fishing technology.

Bill McLellan, University of North Carolina, Wilmington, United States

Bill McLellan is a Research Biologist at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He is the NC State Stranding Coordinator and Master Necropsy Team Leader for NOAA that has responded to marine mammal events in all US coastal states and multiple countries. He serves on all five Take Reduction Teams currently open in the Atlantic, the Northeast Implementation Team and Southeast Implementation Team and has served two previous terms on the RWC Board. He supports a constitutional amendment banning all NARW mortality.

Lyne Morissette, M-Expertise Marine, Canada

Lyne Morissette is a marine ecologist who graduated from the University of British Columbia with a PhD in zoology, specialized in marine mammals and fisheries interactions. She has worked as a wildlife conservationist in different parts of the world, with different endangered marine species, and has lead research conservation teams in Africa, the Caribbean and for the European Union. She has specialized in environmental mediation and focused her work on North Atlantic Right Whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and is involved with the NARWC since 2010. Her research is based on a holistic and integrated approach, including ecosystem modelling, behavioural studies and migration tracking of NARW and other endangered whales of the Atlantic. She is also involved in education, ocean literacy, and outreach projects in different médias, schools and coastal communities in North America. She leads a program called Fishers Helping Whales, aiming to develop conservation strategies and new technologies of fishing gear and detection to better understand and protect NARW in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Atlantic coast of Canada. She closely works with the stakeholders of the fishing and shipping industries, as well as governmental and academic scientists focusing on NARW biology and ecology.

Susan Parks, Syracuse University, United States

Susan Parks is an Associate Professor in the Biology Department at Syracuse University located in Syracuse, NY. Her research focuses on the behavior and acoustic communication of North Atlantic right whales. She has participated in the right whale consortium for the past 20 years, and has previously served on the NARWC board as a general member, as Vice Chair and as Chair of the Consortium.

Dan Pendleton, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium, United States

Dan Pendleton is a Research Scientist at the New England Aquarium. He has developed an intimate knowledge of the NARWC through his own requests to the Board for data, and is familiar with many details, formats and caveats of Sightings Database data. Dan has spent more hours than he would care to admit studying *The North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Database: A Guide for Users and Contributors*, by Robert Kenney. Dan has participated in most (all?) NARWC meetings since 2005. He has ongoing collaborations with several members of the

Consortium. His primary research interests include climate-induced phenological change (especially for right whales), space-based remote sensing, ocean model outputs, species distribution modeling and risk assessment. Dan has participated in the NEAQ Bay of Fundy vessel surveys since 2006. Dan earned his BS at Minnesota State University (Mathematics), and his MS (Soil Science) and PhD (Natural Resources) at Cornell University. He worked as a Postdoctoral Associate at the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center before officially joining NEAQ in 2012.

Sharon Young, Humane Society of the U.S., United States

Sharon Young is the Senior Strategist for Marine Issues with The Humane Society of the US (the HSUS). She is appointed to serve on a number of federal task forces regarding marine mammal conservation and recovery including the SE Right Whale Recovery Plan Implementation Team and the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, which is charged with reducing entanglement risk to North Atlantic right whales. She also holds an appointed seat on the Congressionally mandated Atlantic Scientific Review Group, charged with annually reviewing the NMFS stock assessments, including that of North Atlantic right whales. Sharon has taught or guest-lectured at several NE universities regarding marine mammal conservation and has co-authored publications on whale conservation.

Student Rep

Simone Cominelli, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

Over the past two years I have been a volunteer for the Whale Release and Stranding group in Newfoundland, carrying out education and outreach at various events as well as responding to standings. I am originally from Italy and started conducting research on marine mammals in collaboration with CIMA research foundation (<https://www.cimafoundation.org/>) in 2012. During my two years at CIMA, I contributed to dedicated photo-id surveys of Cuvier's beaked whales and to the collection of opportunistic sightings of marine mammals in the Mediterranean Sea using ferries as platforms of opportunity. While at CIMA, I concluded my MSc thesis in marine conservation ecology (University of Parma) analyzing the opportunistic data set to understand fin whale temporal trends within Pelagos Sanctuary, a marine protected area dedicated to the conservation of marine mammals. Later, I moved to the UK and became a volunteer for Sea Watch Foundation (<https://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/>). Here, I contributed to the Cardigan Bay Monitoring Project and collected photo-id data on a resident population of bottlenose dolphins. Besides data collection, I organised public engagement events and updated the foundation's photo-id catalog. In 2015 I moved to Newfoundland and started a MSc in the Geography Department at Memorial University investigating the impacts of vessel noise on the Southern Resident Killer Whale population in the Salish Sea. Until October 2018, I was part of the HQP for the Noise Exposure to the Marine Environment from Ships Project (NEMES - <https://nemesproject.com/>). As a contribution to the NEMES project my colleagues and I conducted a study on noise pollution from vessels transiting in the Cabot Strait. Over the past year my research moved from the west to the east coast of Canada. In 2019, I worked as a consultant for the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), both for the Pacific and Atlantic region. Currently, I am a PhD student supported by DFO working under the supervision of Dr. Jack Lawson. My research focuses on characterizing the acoustic environment of Placentia Bay (Newfoundland), with an emphasis on marine mammals and their interactions with sources of anthropogenic noise. One of the objectives of the project is to increase our chances of detecting NARW entering the Gulf of St.

Lawrence using passive acoustic monitoring. I hope to keep contributing to the conservation of NARW and to play an active role in the Consortium for the years to come.

Genevieve Davis, Boston University/Northeast Fisheries Science Center, United States

Genevieve served on the NARWC board as the Student Representative for the last three years, helping arrange the student roundtables for the annual meetings among the other board duties. She's attended the NARWC meeting every year since 2011, when she started working at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and has been an active presenter at the annual meeting over the last four years while attending UMass Boston for her PhD. Her research focuses on passive acoustic monitoring, contributing to our understanding of NARW distributions and movements, and she's part of the team working on creating an acoustic detections database for the NARWC.

Laura Ganley, University of Massachusetts, Boston, United States

Since graduating from the University of New Hampshire with a B.S. in zoology Laura has spent over 1000 hours flying aerial surveys first in the Southeast U.S., then as flight coordinator for the Center for Coastal Studies, and now as an observer for the Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals in the Alaskan Arctic. Laura was the flight coordinator for the Right Whale Ecology Program at the Center for Coastal Studies, and worked extensively with their humpback whale program and the marine animal entanglement response team assisting with large whale and sea turtle disentanglements. Currently, Laura is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her dissertation is centered on quantifying right whale abundance in and around Cape Cod Bay, and identifying local, regional, and basin-scale drivers of habitat use. Laura is also a fellow at the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center where she is working with Automatic Identification System (AIS) data to quantify spatio-temporal variations in ship strike risk to large whales.

Hansen Johnson, Dalhousie University, Canada

I started working with North Atlantic right whales in 2014 as a research assistant for Dr. Mark Baumgartner at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The following year I began a PhD in biological oceanography at Dalhousie University under the combined supervision of Dr. Chris Taggart and Dr. Baumgartner. My graduate work broadly seeks to address knowledge gaps in baleen whale acoustic and habitat ecology in the Northwest Atlantic, with the goal of improving monitoring and conservation outcomes. It relies heavily on interdisciplinary collaborations and a combination of new and standard approaches such as passive acoustic monitoring from autonomous platforms, shipboard and aerial photo-ID surveys, zooplankton sampling, and more. Some of the research projects in which I am currently involved include quantifying right whale acoustic detection range, comparing visual and acoustic surveys for informing dynamic management, and characterizing right whale acoustic ecology and habitat in the southern Gulf of St Lawrence. I also developed and maintain WhaleMap (whalemap.ocean.dal.ca); an online tool for collating and disseminating the latest baleen whale survey data in Atlantic Canada.