

North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium
Annual Meeting - Business meeting
October 25th, 2023

Board Elections

Heather Pettis thanked the outgoing NARWC Board members and welcome those newly elected members.

Outgoing:

Scott Kraus	New England Aquarium, Emeritus
Sean Brilliant	Canada Wildlife Federation
Genevieve Davis ¹	Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Michael Moore	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Sarah Sharp	International Fund for Animal Welfare
Tonya Wimmer	Marine Animal Response Society

INMFS Liaison

Board elections to take place post Annual Meeting.

2023 Data Access Requests

Heather Pettis reviewed data access requests made to the NARWC in 2023. In total, there were 36 requests to date: 8 management, 22 publication, and 6 others (education, news stories, images)

Data Sharing/Access Working Group

Heather Pettis shared a summary update of the Data Sharing/Access Working Group. The group initially met in June 2022 with three primary points of discussion related to data access and data contributor engagement.

Goals outlined by working group and status:

1. Data Access

- Migrating to more efficient access management system - **DONE**
 - Working group identified platform (Monday.com); working on migration post meeting - **DONE**
- Revising access protocols – **In Progress**
 - Updates to review of management requests
 - Data requirements for journal publications
 - Clarity around specificity in access request detail

2. Data Contributors

- Better contributor notification – **In Progress**
 - 800+ contributors
- Tracking point rep for orgs – **In Progress**
 - Need to ensure data can be tracked back to source
- Working group of data contributors and curators – **In Progress**

3. Report Card published

- Setting up DOI and host on WHOI's open access library – **DONE**
 - Accessible by direct link and linked on the NARWC.org site

Annual Report Card

To Be posted online early 2024

Obtaining DOI and host on WHOI's open access library

2024 Meeting

Overwhelming support of the move to Halifax for this year's meeting.

Heather opened the floor for a discussion on hybrid meeting feedback as well as discussion about 2024 venue:

- General Meeting Feedback
 - To keep opportunities for discussion, abstract process to be more rigorous, there will be more abstracts that don't make the cut
 - Interactions between remote and onsite audiences greatly improved meeting experience for all.
 - 1 minute summaries of pre-recorded talks were great
 - Attendees felt there was a good balance of pre-recorded and live talks
 - Question posed about the size of the meeting
 - Approaching Biennial level commitment between RC and NARWC meetings
 - Are we getting what we need out of this meeting at this size?
 - General consensus is yes. As the population continues to be challenged, interest and engagement will go up and we need to adapt to supporting the needs of a larger community
 - Poster sessions
 - Well received
 - Remote session was a little wonky
 - Would like to explore the software platform where avatars move about the room
 - Similar to what we used for the ice breaker/remote trivia during the first remote meeting
 - Distribution of digital copies of posters in advance – well received and continue
 - Workshops
 - Definitely keep
- 2024 Location
 - Suggestions to do two years in the US, 1 in Canada for rotation
 - Suggestions for
 - DC area
 - Raleigh Durham
 - Providence
 - Boston
 - SEUS
 - Concern about a Florida venue in light of multiple groups issuing travel advisories for LGBTQ and minorities in the state.
 - Cost will and should play a role in the decision
 - Need to consider timing and location for increased industry engagement
 - Federal and state participation will likely always be an unknown until late in the game and so need to move forward with planning
- Will send out post meeting survey for feedback on meeting as well as 2024 location