NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE CONSORTIUM

2026 Annual Meeting

DRAFT Agenda

Day 1

Monday, November 16, 2026

8-830AM **Check-In**

0830AM **Opening**

Heather Pettis, North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Chair

0900AM **Session 1: Population Status Updates**
Moderated by: Philip Hamilton, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium

01.01.01 **North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog Update** (Full)
- *Lindsey Jones, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium*

01.01.02 **North Atlantic Right Whale Attached Gear Entanglements and Response 2026** (Speed**)**
- *Élizabeth Melis, Canadian Whale Institute*

01.01.03 **North Atlantic Right Whale Mortality events 2026** (Speed)
- *William McLellan, University of North Carolina Wilmington*

01.01.04 **North Atlantic Right Whale Injuries: 2026 Monitoring and Determinations** (Full)
- *David Lockwood, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium*
- *Allison Henry, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

01.01.05 **Update on the North Atlantic Right Whale Unusual Mortality Event: 2017-Present** (Speed)
- *Deborah Fauquier, National Marine Fisheries Service*

01.01.06 **North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Sightings and Effort Database Update** (Speed)

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- *Bethany Roberts, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium*

01.01.07 **Update on the WhaleMap System for Near Real-time Collation and Dissemination of Right Whale Survey Data** (Speed)

- *Hansen Johnson, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium*

01.01.08 **North Atlantic Right Whale Genetics Update 2026** (Full)

- *Tim Frasier, St. Mary's University*

1030AM BREAK

1100AM Session 2: Life History, Health, and Physiology
Moderated by: Tim Frasier, St. Mary's University

01.02.01 **A Retrospective Analysis of Odontocete Tooth-rake Scarring on North Atlantic Right Whales: Prevalence, Acquisition Rates, Timing, Severity, and Species Attribution, 2004-2024** (Speed)

- *Brigid McKenna, NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

01.02.02 **North Atlantic Right Whales Exhibit Long Sighting Gaps Prior to Calving in the SE United States: Do They Calve Outside the Seasonal Management Area?** (Full)

- *Philip Hamilton, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium*

01.02.03 **Plate Update: Reproductive Histories Revealed Through North Atlantic Right Whale Baleen Analysis** (Full)

- *Nadine Lysiak, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium*

01.02.04 **Update on the North Atlantic Right Whale Health Assessment Strategy**

- *Shasta McClenahan, National Marine Fisheries Service*

01.02.05 **Forensic Analysis of the Postmortem Interval for North Atlantic Right Whales**

- *Megan Stolen, Blue World Research Institute*
- *Jen Jakush, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

01.02.06 **Oral Entanglement's Effects on Baleen Filtration Fluid Dynamics, Feeding Ecology, and Conservation of Critically Endangered North Atlantic Right Whales**

- *Alexander Werth, Hampden-Sydney College*

1200PM LUNCH

0115PM Poster Session A

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0215PM **Session 3: Data Collection and Data Management**
Moderated by: Rob Schick, Southall Environmental Inc.

01.03.01 **Lobster Vessel Tracking Data: A Tool for Accessing Potential Responses and Risk Following North Atlantic Right Whale Detections** (Full)
- *Anna Dorrance, Maine Department of Marine Resources*

01.03.02 **Visualizing North Atlantic Right Whale Anthropogenic Injury Data: Introducing the RWAVE Platform** (Full)
- *Heather Pettis, Anderson Cabot Cener for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium*

01.03.03 **Is Flying Higher "Right" for Aerial Surveys?** (Full)
- *Orla O'Brien, Anderson Cabot Cener for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium*

01.03.04 **Factors Influencing Right Whale Detectability: Insights from a Multi-Year Analysis of Whale and Observer Behavior During CCS Aerial Surveys**
- *Ryan Schosberg, Center for Coastal Studies*

0315PM **BREAK**

0345PM **Session 4: Emerging Science**
Moderated by: Kim Davies, University of New Brunswick

01.04.01 **Advances in ARGOS Telemetry Enable Finer-scale Ecological Inference From North Atlantic Right Whale Satellite Tags** (Full)
- *Christian Ramp, Department of Fisheries and Oceans*

01.04.02 **Combining Aerial Surveillance and Quantitative Photogrammetry of North Atlantic Right Whales** (Full)
- *Katherine McKenna, Anderson Cabot Cener for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium*

01.04.03 **Oceanographic Drivers of North Atlantic Right Whale Prey Aggregation in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence** (Speed)
- *Halyna Klymentieva, University of New Brunswick*

01.04.04 **Towards Using Distributed Acoustic Sensing for Endangered Whale Monitoring: A Case-Study Performance Evaluation in the St. Lawrence Estuary**
- *Marie-Ève Clark, Institut des sciences de la mer, Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR)*

01.04.05 **Estimating the Probability of Detecting North Atlantic Right Whales in Satellite Imagery**
- *Cody Carlyle, University of New Brunswick*

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01.04.06 **Poomba: A Drone-deployed Fecal Sampler to Accelerate Non-invasive Assessment of Large Whale Health**

- *Kelsey Howe, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium*

0445PM **Session 5: Acoustic Detections**

Moderated by: Genevieve Davis, NOAA/NMFS NEFSC

01.05.01 **Characterizing North Atlantic Right Whale Calls Along Migration Routes** (Speed)

- *Zoe Farris, Duke University*

01.05.02 **80,000 Upcalls Under the Sea: Teaching AI to Hear North Atlantic Right Whales** (Full)

- *Naama Marom-Yochai, Deep Voice Foundation*

01.05.03 **Detection of North Atlantic Right Whale Surface Active Groups through Passive Acoustic Monitoring** (Speed)

- *Sara Tennant, Syracuse University*

01.05.04 **Understanding Vocal Activity Near an Unprecedented North Atlantic Right Whale Aggregation in Jeffreys Basin** (Speed)

- *Hannah Jasinski, Maine Department of Marine Resources*

01.05.05 **Understanding North Atlantic Right Whale Up-calls in the Southern New England Wind Energy Area** (Full)

- *Rob Schick, Southall Environmental Associates, Inc.*

01.05.06 **Spatial and Temporal Variation in North Atlantic Right Whales PAM Detections in Southern New England**

- *Jessica Taylor, JASCO Applied Sciences*

01.05.07 **Case Study on Song Production by the North Atlantic Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) in the Gulf of Maine**

- *Cathryn Wood, Maine Department of Marine Resources*

0600PM **Day 1 Wrap-up**

0615PM **Reception**

Attendees on own for dinner

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Day 2

0800AM **Check-In**

0830AM **Business Meeting**

0900AM **Session 1: Distribution**
Moderated by: Erin Meyer-Gutbrod, University of South Carolina

02.01.01 **North Atlantic Right Whale Density from Florida through the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 1999–2023** (Full)
- *Jason Roberts, Duke University*

02.01.02 **Assessing North Atlantic Right Whale Spatiotemporal Trends in the Gulf of Maine Using Passive Acoustic Monitoring** (Full)
- *Nicole Velandia, Maine Department of Marine Resources*

02.01.03 **The Right Predictions: From Habitat Models to Conservation Action** (Speed)
- *Arnaud Mosnier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

02.01.04 **Estimates of North Atlantic Right Whale Occupancy in Major Habitats Off Massachusetts, USA** (Speed)
- *Leah Crowe, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries*

02.01.05 **Using Historic Right Whale Sightings and Prey Availability to Improve Individual Movement Model Estimates**
- *Abigail Kreuser, University of South Carolina*

02.01.06 **North Atlantic Right Whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) Exhibit Variable Response Mechanisms to Changing Ocean Conditions**
- *Jonathan Syme, Bigelow Laboratory*

1000AM **Session 2: Feeding Ecology**
Moderated by: Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

02.02.01 **Advective Supply and Retention of *Calanus finmarchicus* as Drivers of North Atlantic Right Whale Foraging Habitat** (Full)
- *Cameron Thompson, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS)*

02.02.02 **Characterizing Right Whale Foraging Habitat South of Nantucket Shoals in January** (Speed)
- *Christopher Orphanides, NOAA Fisheries*

02.02.03 **Who Moved the Buffet? Diel Trends in Right Whale Feeding and Copepod Prey During July in the Gulf of St. Lawrence** (Full)
- *Jay Kirkham, Dalhousie University*

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02.02.04 **Integrating Prey Dynamics and Survey Effort to Interpret North Atlantic Right Whale Habitat Use in the New York Bight** (Speed)
- *Stephanie Nehasil, Stony Brook University*

1100AM BREAK

1130AM Session 3: Vessel Interactions and Mitigation
Moderated by: William McLellan, University of North Carolina Wilmington

02.03.01 **From Compliance to Conservation Outcomes: Quantifying Risk to North Atlantic Right Whales Under Mandatory and Voluntary Speed Restrictions in the High-use New York Bight** (Full)
- *Stephanie Adamczak, Wildlife Conservation Society*

02.03.02 **Static and Dynamic Vessel Speed Limits Provide Critical and Complementary Vessel Strike Risk Reduction for North Atlantic Right Whales** (Speed)
- *Erin Meyer-Gutbrod, University of South Carolina*

02.03.03 **Lethal Vessel Strike Risk for North Atlantic Right Whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada** (Full)
- *Amanda Belanger, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

02.03.04 **Risk Reduction of Vessel Strike From Slowdowns in the Gulf of St. Lawrence**
- *Alexandra Mayette, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

02.03.05 **A Model-Based Tool for Vessel Strike Risk Reduction Technology Evaluation**
- *Casey Corrado-Kirsch, MITRE*

1230PM Session 4: Fisheries Interactions and Mitigation
Moderated by: Sarah Sharp, International Fund for Animal Welfare

02.04.01 **Evolution of Entangled Whale Response in the Canadian Maritimes and Quebec: 1999-2026** (Full)
- *Moira Brown, Canadian Whale Institute*

02.04.02 **Estimated Co-occurrence of North Atlantic Right Whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) with snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*) and Lobster (*Homarus americanus*) Buoylines in Canada's Gulf of St. Lawrence**
- *Shiva Jian-Javdan, Canadian Whale Federation*

02.04.03 **Preliminary Evaluation of Weak Link Performance in Commercial Gillnet Operations: A Collaborative Study from New Jersey Waters**
- *Mackenzie Peacock, New Jersey Marine Resources Administration*

02.04.04 **Field Evaluation of Colored Fishing Ropes as a Mitigation Strategy for North Atlantic Right Whale Entanglement**

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- *Jeff Fasick, The University of Tampa*

0115PM **Lunch/Breakout Sessions**

Student/Early Career Roundtables
Join professionals in the right whale community as they share their career journeys and experiences. Host bios are provided in the abstract booklet. Look for reserved tables for onsite hosts. Details for a Remote session will be updated closer to the meeting.

0215PM **Poster Session B**

0315PM **Session 5: Management**
Moderated by: Amy Knowlton, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium

02.05.01 **Estimating Spatiotemporal Variation in Competing Injury and Mortality Risks with a Broad-scale Movement Model** (Speed)
- *Daniel Linden, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

02.05.02 **Fisheries and Oceans Canada: An Update on Key Research and Monitoring Activities for North Atlantic Right Whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*)**
- *Adèle Labbé, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

02.05.03 **Advancing North Atlantic Right Whale Protection in Canada Through Adaptive Fishery Management and Whalesafe Fishing Gear Pilots**
- *Melissa Landry, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

02.05.04 **Canada's Whalesafe Fishing Gear Strategy 2026**
- *Haley Welsh, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

02.05.05 **Transport Canada Update on North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Management Measures**
- *Chantal Bois, Transport Canada*

0400PM **SHORT BREAK**

0415PM **Session 6: Collaborations and Strategies to Advance Conservation**
Moderated by: Nadine Lysiak, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium

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02.06.01 **Triggering Dynamic Management for Right Whale Conservation Using Near Real-time Detections: Lessons From the Robots4Whales Program** (Full)

- *Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

02.06.02 **Collaboration and North Atlantic Right Whale Recovery: Outcomes from Working Across Lines to Further Shared Goals** (Full)

- *Diane Borggaard, National Marine Fisheries Service*

02.06.03 **Assessing Harvester and Community Attitudes Towards Potential North Atlantic Right Whale Risk Reduction Measures in Downeast Maine's Lobster Fishery** (Full)

- *Alexa Dayton, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries*

02.06.04 **Repairing Relationships Between People Involved in the Entanglement of North Atlantic Right Whales in Commercial Lobster Fishing Gear** (Speed)

- *Kate Behrens, University of Maine*

02.06.05 **Informing North Atlantic Right Whale Governability: Case Studies of Conservation Successes** (Full)

- *Grace Akinrinola, Dalhousie University*

02.06.06 **A Growing Network for Collaborative Conservation: Passive Acoustic Monitoring of North Atlantic Right Whales Along the Western Newfoundland Coast**

- *Simone Cominelli, Edgewise Environmental, Inc.*

02.06.07 **Improving Communications to Reduce Vessel Strikes: Insights From a Large-scale Survey of U.S. Atlantic Boaters**

- *Rachel Bratton, FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute*

0530PM Discussion/Meeting Wrap-Up

0600PM Adjourn Meeting

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Updated 10/28/26

2026 NARWC POSTER Sessions

Day 1 (Session A)

Data Collection and Data Management

1A. A Near Real-time Tool for North Atlantic Right Whale Survey Coverage Assessment and Planning

- *Natasha Telschow, State of Maine Department of Marine Resources*

Emerging Science

2A. Potential of Satellite Imagery for NARW's Monitoring

- *Guy Seguin, INSARSAT, Inc.*

3A. Drift Hindcast Trajectory Modelling in Support of Understanding Risks to the North Atlantic Right Whale in the Gulf of St. Lawrence

- *Nancy Soontiens, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)*

Acoustics

4A. Whale Acoustic Slocum Program: Monitoring North Atlantic Right Whales in Critical Habitat and Beyond

- *Robyn Walker, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)*

5A. Updates From Out West: New Insights and Results From Right Whale Research in the North Pacific

- *Jessica Crance, Marine Mammal Lab, AFSC/NMFS/NOAA*

6A. Predicting Impacts of Noise from Proposed Nova Scotia Offshore Wind Energy Farm Developments on the North Atlantic Right Whale through Comprehensive Noise Modelling

- *Wilfried Beslin, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)*

Distribution

7A. Biologically Important Areas for North Atlantic right whales: An Interactive Mapping Exercise

- *Erin LaBrecque, Marine Mammal Commission*

8A. Using Joint Species Distribution Modeling to Investigate Variable Right Whale Demographic Response to Climate Change

- *Kyle Oliveira, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences*

9A. Environmental Conditions Associated with Recent Whale Aggregations in the Mid-Atlantic Bight

- *Isabella Moore, Rutgers University*

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10A. DFO Maritimes Region's Cetacean-Focused Research and Monitoring Efforts in Offshore Wind Energy Areas Designated off Nova Scotia

- *Hilary Moors-Muphy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)*

Day 2 (Session B)

Feeding Ecology

1B. Multiscale Mechanisms of Copepod Aggregation

- *Michael Faran, Princeton University*

2B. North Atlantic Right Whales in Southern New England: Foraging behavior and prey sources

- *Sabine Angier, University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography*

3B. Spatiotemporal Variability of North Atlantic Right Whale Prey in Migratory Corridors: Assessments Via Ecoglider-based Survey Methods

- *Ashley M. Hann, Rutgers University, Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences*

Vessel Interactions and Mitigation

4B. From Snapshot to Surveillance: Persistent Aerial Sensing for Right Whale Ship-Strike Prevention

- *Skipper Darlington, PlanetASAP*

5B. Real-Time Vessel Messaging via AIS Aids-to-Navigation: Direct Speed Advisories in North Atlantic Right Whale Seasonal Management Areas

- *Greg Reilly, IFAW*

6B. From Whale Alert to the Bridge: Advancing NMEA 2000 and IHO S-124 Standards for Real-Time Right Whale Risk Communication to Marine Navigation Systems

- *Virgil Zetterlind, Conserve.IO*

7B. North Atlantic Right Whale Tracking Using Random Finite Sets

- *Jeffrey Manzik, The MITRE Corporation*

Management

8B. The Female Factor: Why Annual Calf Counts May Overestimate Population Improvement

- *Kara Shervanick, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office*

9B. Highlights from Nearly a Decade of DFO Aerial Monitoring for North Atlantic Right Whales, 2017–2026

- *Anne Provencher St-Pierre, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)*

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