December 2025 General Board Member Nominee Bios

Jessica Aschettino, HDR Inc.

Jessica Aschettino has spent the past 20 years as a field biologist with the last 11 years in Virginia Beach, VA wearing many hats as a project manager with HDR working on the U.S. Navy's Marine Species Monitoring program. While her graduate work focused on Hawaiian cetaceans, since moving to Virginia, her work has primarily centered around large whale studies off the Mid-Atlantic. In recent years, HDR has increased survey effort in this region, resulting in an increase in NARW sighting data. Through the use of drones, photo-ID, aerial and vessel surveys, and the collection of telemetry data, she and her colleagues are excited to be contributing important data to help fill some of the information gaps about NARWs in the Mid-Atlantic. Jessica has also attended the NARWC meetings for the last 5 years, both in-person and virtually. She has presented multiple times on HDR's NARW efforts, including an overview of sightings from 2018 to 2023, as well as on a late spring 2024 aggregation off Virginia. As a Massachusetts native, Jessica has been a long-time NARW enthusiast and is excited for the opportunity to contribute to the great work that the NARWC does for right whale conservation.

Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Mark Baumgartner is a Senior Scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution who has studied the ecology of right whales for over 25 years. He leads the Robots4Whales program to monitor right whales using near real-time passive acoustics from gliders and buoys, and he has been active in conservation efforts around ship strikes, fishing gear entanglements and offshore wind energy development.

Dr. Elizabeth Burgess, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at New England Aquarium

Dr. Liz Burgess is a Senior Scientist and Chair of the Wildlife and Ocean Health Program at the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium. She leads a multidisciplinary conservation physiology program focused on developing and applying health and reproductive assessment tools for marine megafauna. Her research spans endocrine biomarkers, innovative sampling methods, and long-term health surveillance frameworks that support the management and recovery of endangered species - especially the North Atlantic right whale.

Jordan Carduner, Equinor

Jordan has worked on regulatory and management issues related to North Atlantic right whales for the past 13 years. He spent nine years at the NMFS Office of Protected Resources where he worked on nationwide ESA sec 7 consultations and MMPA incidental take authorizations. He also has over four years of experience working on permitting and compliance as a protected species lead in the offshore wind industry. Jordan has permitted one of the first large scale offshore wind projects in the US, and has a unique perspective having worked on both the regulatory and industry side of the permitting process. In his role as protected species lead, his

responsibility has been ensuring that the project proceeds safely and in compliance with permits, while avoiding impacts to the marine environment and in particular North Atlantic right whales. Jordan engages regularly with the research community to leverage the latest scientific research on right whales and marine mammal monitoring technology to minimize potential impacts to NARWs. He believes that marine renewable energy in the Atlantic can coexist with NARWs and that increased collaboration and cooperation between the industry, regulatory agencies and the scientific community is critical for this coexistence to occur. Jordan holds a Masters of Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University.

Dr. Leah Crowe, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Leah is currently the Science and Monitoring Lead in the Protected Species Program at the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MADMF) in New Bedford, MA. In this role, she conducts research on protected marine species to help craft effective management. Specific to research of North Atlantic right whales, Leah currently leads MADMF's Passive Acoustic Monitoring Project and works closely with the Center for Coastal Studies' visual monitoring survey. After seeing her first right whale in 2009, she has flown in many airplanes and stood on many boats between Florida and Newfoundland looking for right whales while working for several different government agencies and non-profit research organizations. Leah recently completed her PhD at the University of Otago in Aotearoa/New Zealand exploring size and growth, distribution, and population dynamics of the Critically Endangered Fiordland bottlenose dolphin. Before this, she worked as a contractor for almost a decade at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, MA on the Large Whale and Sea Turtle Ecology Teams involved in projects related to dynamic management, distribution, movement, and behavior of right and humpback whales, as well as loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles. Born and raised on the shores of Lake Erie, Leah earned her Bachelor of Science from Ohio University in 2009. She is cycling off her term on the NARWC board as the student representative and looks forward to drawing on her varied experiences to continue supporting this community.

Dana Cusano, Syracuse University

Dana has worked with North Atlantic right whales in many capacities over the last 15 years, resulting in six publications and 16 contributed conference presentations. She was a member of the steering committee for the BOEM NARW Predictive Modelling Workshop and authored the associated technical report. Her research has primarily focused on NARW vocal and behavioral ecology using suction-cup tags, which has led to collaborations with researchers from the New England Aquarium, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Duke University, Cornell University, and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

Her current research focuses on the presence of NARWs in the New York and New Jersey Bights using passive acoustics with funding from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Starting in January, she will begin her recently funded NSF project to study the movement behavior of tagged NARWs outside of a protected habitat (Cape Cod Bay) where they overlap considerably with shipping traffic, and after the close of the seasonal management

area vessel speed restrictions. The ultimate goal of this 4-year collaborative project with the International Fund for Animal Welfare is to determine the environmental conditions and prey correlates that can predict the presence of NARWs, to monitor these conditions using remote sensing, and to deliver this information to vessels using AIS push alerts and the WhaleAlert app to help prevent vessel collisions.

Tim Frasier, Saint Mary's University

Tim Frasier is a Professor in the Department of Biology at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He has been studying North Atlantic right whales (and other marine mammals) since 1999. His research focuses on using genetic analyses to better understand and conserve endangered species. He maintains an archival tissue and DNA bank for North Atlantic right whales, and works closely with the photo-identification teams to ensure that the genetic and photo-identification data are closely linked. These data are then used to aid population monitoring efforts (e.g., genetically identifying dead whales, identifying paternities), and to better understand reproduction and the impact of genetic characteristics on species recovery.

Laura Ganley, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium

Laura Ganley is a Research Scientist in the Spatial Ecology Mapping Assessment Photogrammetry Department (EcoMAP) at the New England Aquarium. She has been studying large whales in the Gulf of Maine since 2005. She has extensive aerial survey experience, having flown right whale surveys in the southeast U.S., Cape Cod Bay, and southern New England. She has also flown surveys in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas directed at bowhead, gray, and beluga whales. Laura's Ph.D. dissertation centered on estimating right whale abundance from aerial surveys (Ganley et al. 2019) and using mechanistic models to determine environmental and biological drivers of variations in abundance (Ganley et al. 2022). In EcoMAP, Laura uses species distribution and mechanistic models to further our understanding of the impacts of climate change on whale distribution. Most recently, Laura has used these models to determine climate change is lengthening the right whale season in Cape Cod Bay (Pendleton et al. 2022), define the environmental drivers of cetacean species diversity along the eastern U.S. seaboard (Hodge et al. 2022), assess changing species diversity in the Bay of Fundy, develop species distribution models for large whales in the Wind Energy Area near Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket (Ganley et al., *in review*) and Cape Cod Bay, and assess the utility of Protected Species Observer data in species distribution models (Ganley et al. *2024*).

Katie Jackson, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Katie is a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (a state government agency) and has been conducting right whale research and monitoring in the Southeast U.S. calving area since 2004. Katie is accepting this nomination in hopes of continuing to have SEUS representation on the board after Nathan (previously on the board) departed FWC. Her focus for the last 20+ years has been right whale research, and she has experience with aerial and small vessel surveys, photo-ID, biopsy sampling, UAS,

disentanglement, and strandings as well as long-term database management and multi-agency collaboration.

Dan Linden, NOAA Fisheries

Dan Linden is a Research Statistician in the Whale Ecology Branch at the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He works on large whale population monitoring and estimation methods, including the stock assessment for North Atlantic right whales. As a member of the Population Evaluation Tool subgroup, he contributed to the development of an assessment framework for quantifying extinction risk of right whales and continues to support the tool's application and advancement.

Dan joined NOAA Fisheries in 2016 after postdoctoral appointments at the University of Maine and Cornell University (both at USGS Cooperative Research Units). At the regional office in Gloucester, he worked on fisheries monitoring and bycatch estimation, contributing to the design and development of electronic monitoring programs. He holds a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Management from the University of Rhode Island, as well as an M.S. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University in Fisheries and Wildlife, and in Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior.

Dr. Nadine Stewart Lysiak, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at New England Aquarium

Dr. Nadine Stewart Lysiak is a Research Associate in the Wildlife and Ocean Health Lab within the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium. She has over 20 years of experience studying North Atlantic right whales in the field and laboratory. Her research program investigates chemical markers, like stable isotopes and hormones, in right whale baleen to study movement patterns, stress physiology, reproductive cycles, and most recently – reproductive failure - in the NARW population. This work draws upon several Consortium datasets, including the Sightings, Necropsy, Visual Health, Genetic, and Anthropogenic databases. Nadine is also deeply invested in marine science education and outreach about North Atlantic right whales. To that end, she holds a faculty appointment at the Shoals Marine Laboratory/University of New Hampshire and is a volunteer for the Maine Coalition for North Atlantic Right Whales.

Dr. Doug Nowacek, Duke University

Doug Nowacek is a University Professor in the Nicholas School of the Environment and the Pratt School of Engineering at Duke. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1991 and his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1999. Nowacek has focused on the bioacoustics and behavioral ecology of marine mammals, primarily cetaceans, for over 30 years including right whales since 1999, and his work also includes technology development for marine conservation research. In his joint appointments in the Schools of Environment and Engineering, Nowacek works to bring new technologies to compelling marine science and conservation research

questions. One of the current marine conservation issues that is an emphasis of his work is ocean noise and its impacts on marine animals, particularly mammals but also fish and turtles. Nowacek has authored or co-authored more than 100 papers in the peer reviewed literature, publishing in top journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, and the *Journal of Experimental Biology*.

Dr. Daniel Palacios, Center for Coastal Studies

Dr. Daniel M. Palacios is the Director of the Right Whale Ecology Program at the Center for Coastal Studies(CCS) in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and specializes in marine mammal ecology with a focus on large whale species. He received his B.Sc. in Marine Biology from the University of Bogotá Jorge Tadeo Lozano in 1994 and completed his Ph.D. in Oceanography at Oregon State University in 2003. With over 35 years of experience, his research has extensively explored the environmental drivers of marine mammal populations in diverse ecosystems, including the Amazon River, the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, the eastern tropical Pacific, the eastern North Pacific, Alaska, Hawaii, and most recently, the western North Atlantic. Throughout his career, Dr. Palacios has held positions in non-profit, government, and academic sectors. He has authored or co-authored more than 150 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and technical reports. Dr. Palacios currently serves as a member of several advisory groups, including the Marine Mammal Commission's Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals; the Aquatic Mammals Working Group of the Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species; and the International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission's Cetacean Specialist Group. He is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission. His editorial roles have included Editor-in-Chief of the Latin American Journal of Aquatic Mammals, Associate Editor for Marine Mammal Science, and Review Editor for Frontiers in Marine Science. More information on Dr. Palacios and his research can be found at https://linktr.ee/danielequs.

My work intersects with North Atlantic right whales through my current role as Director of the Right Whale Ecology Program at CCS. In this capacity, I lead CCS's long-term aerial survey, habitat, and prey sampling efforts in Cape Cod Bay—one of the most critical seasonal habitats for right whales in the North Atlantic. These efforts generate foundational data on distribution, habitat use, and foraging ecology that inform science-based management and conservation. Through my broader background in oceanography, species-habitat modeling, and migration ecology of large whales, I aim to contribute to multi-institutional efforts to understand how environmental change and human activities intersect with right whale recovery.

Ryan Schosberg, Center for Coastal Studies

Ryan Schosberg is a Research Associate with the Center for Coastal Studies, where he has worked in the Right Whale Ecology Program (RWEP) for five years. He currently manages RWEP's right whale photo-identification and sightings databases, one of the longest-running and most comprehensive North Atlantic right whale datasets, and regularly supports data sharing and collaborative research efforts. Ryan serves as a primary field scientist on RWEP's aerial and vessel survey teams, with additional right whale aerial survey experience from the

Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute. His main research interests focus on understanding North Atlantic right whale population dynamics through demography, spatial habitat use, and individual site fidelity. His current work applies RWEP's long-term datasets to examine population trends and support contemporary conservation and dynamic management efforts. He holds a bachelor's degree in Marine Science from Boston University and a master's degree in Marine Science and Management from the University of Sydney.