

## **General Board Member Nominees**

### **Dr. Sean Brilliant, Canadian Wildlife Federation**

Sean Brilliant is the Senior Conservation Biologist for Marine Programs at the Canadian Wildlife Federation and an Adjunct in the Department of Oceanography at Dalhousie University in Halifax NS. In 2007, Sean began working to reduce harmful interactions between human activities and marine wildlife, focusing on North Atlantic right whales. Projects related to this effort have included establishing methods for trialing ropeless gear co-developed with fish harvesters, the creation of a fishing gear lending program for commercial fisheries (canFish), studies on movement patterns of NARW, the development of ongoing dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, and contributing to the mitigation of entanglements and ship strikes through evidence-based risk modeling. Sean has a PhD in experimental marine ecology, and is originally from Saint John NB, where he spent his school years exploring, studying, fishing, and freezing in the Bay of Fundy.

### **Dr. Kim Davies, University of New Brunswick**

Dr Kimberley Davies is an oceanographer and Associate Professor at the University of New Brunswick in Saint John, Canada. She began working on North Atlantic right whales with the goal of improving our understanding of the oceanographic processes affecting their habitat use from very fine scales to climate scales. In 2014, she transitioned to working with electric gliders and remote sensing data to explain habitat relationships and measure changes in distribution. This led to a greater emphasis on right whale conservation research, including partnering with government institutions to support adaptive conservation management of right whales through near real-time acoustic monitoring.

### **Dr. Laura Ganley, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium**

Laura Ganley is a Research Scientist in the Spatial Ecology and Mapping Program (EcoMap) at the New England Aquarium. She has been studying large whales in the Gulf of Maine since 2005. Laura has extensive aerial survey experience, having flown right whale surveys in the southeast U.S., Cape Cod Bay, and in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. Laura's Ph.D. centered on estimating right whale abundance from aerial surveys and determining the environmental and biological mechanisms driving variations in abundance. In EcoMap Laura uses species distribution and mechanistic modeling techniques to understand the impacts of climate change and wind energy development on large whales, assess the utility of protected species observer data collected by wind energy developers, and analyze the economic tradeoffs between right whale conservation and wind energy development.

### **Dr. Roxanne Gillett, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

Roxanne is the lead Senior Recovery Biologist for North Atlantic right whales in the Species at Risk Program at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Her work focuses on developing, amending, and facilitating implementation of the recovery strategy and action plan for this species under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). She also sits on the United States Northeast Implementation Team, which works to advise NOAA Fisheries on issues related to the status and conservation of North Atlantic right whales in the Northeastern United States. She has a strong interest in understanding and taking into consideration the best available science to identify and address conservation issues for this species in Canadian waters. Prior to joining Fisheries and Oceans Canada, she obtained her PhD, conducting research on the health and reproduction of North Atlantic right whales using genetic methods.

**Dr. Caroline Good, National Marine Fisheries Service**

Dr. Caroline Good is a large whale ecologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Protected Resources, Cetacean and Pinniped Conservation team in Washington, DC. She leads the agency's efforts on North Atlantic right whale vessel strike related conservation and management. Prior to joining NMFS, Caroline was a scientific consultant in Washington, DC, and Officer with the Lenfest Ocean Program, at The Pew Charitable Trusts. She previously served on NMFS' Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team which is tasked with addressing right whale entanglement in fishing gear and was a Presidential Management Fellow at NMFS. Caroline holds a Bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College, a Master's degree in Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University and a Ph.D. in marine ecology from Duke University.

She currently leads efforts at NMFS to modify current vessel speed regulations to further reduce the incidence of lethal vessel strikes in U.S. waters. Her work includes scientific analysis, regulatory development and drafting, conservation planning and general coordination with internal and external partners. All of her work is focused on conservation and recovery of North Atlantic right whales and other large whale species.

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

Hansen is a research scientist in the Kraus Marine Mammal Conservation Program at the New England Aquarium (NEAq). The team has been leaders in right whale research and conservation for over 40 years. Much of his work within the team focuses on facilitating data collection and conducting analyses to inform right whale conservation and management. He also developed and maintains WhaleMap and remains involved in a variety of other research activities. Prior to joining NEAq he completed his PhD at Dalhousie University, which focused on advancing baleen whale monitoring and conservation with passive acoustics, habitat ecology, and new technology.

**Jennifer Kelly, Whale and Dolphin Conservation**

Jen Kelly has been teaching marine science conservation for over 14 years. Her most recent position is with Whale & Dolphin Conservation as Education Department Chair. Over the past year, she has led her team to reach over 10,000 people of all ages, teaching them about right whales and the importance of marine mammal conservation. It is her belief that people have a natural affinity for whales and that through inclusive and robust educational programming, we can inspire youth to be right whale & ocean advocates. Today's youth are the next generation of adults and are imperative to the future of right whales and the entire planet. Reports have shown that underserved communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change. In addition, underserved youth are just as interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering, & math) subjects and careers as other students but are less likely to succeed in them and often score poorly in high school STEM classes. When students are introduced to science during elementary school, they are more likely to pursue STEM careers. For over 14 years, Jen has been dedicated to inspiring youth and community members to be marine science advocates and she will continue this for years to come due to the importance of marine mammal conservation and providing inclusive, robust inquiry-based STEM education programs to all youth and community members.

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

Amy Knowlton is a Senior Scientist with the Kraus Marine Mammal Conservation Program at the Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center and has been studying right whales for over 40 years. She has a

bachelor's degree in Geography and a master's degree in marine policy. She has been involved in all aspects of research on this species including aerial and vessel-based fieldwork, data processing for the Catalog, and monitoring of anthropogenic injuries of right whales. This monitoring of anthropogenic injuries has been the basis of multiple studies and peer-reviewed papers exploring the impact of these injuries on right whale health, reproduction, and survival. Other aspects of Amy's work involve collaborations with experts from other fields of study to further our understanding of anthropogenic impacts on right whales and to use this information to guide policy efforts. Amy is also an invited member of the Southeast US Implementation Team, the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, and the Population Evaluation Tool team. Amy has previously served as vice-chair, chair, and board member of the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium.

**Dr. Erin Meyer-Gutbrod, University of South Carolina**

Dr. Erin Meyer-Gutbrod is an Assistant Professor in the School of the Earth, Ocean and Environment at the University of South Carolina. She earned a BS in Physics at the University of Notre Dame and a PhD in Earth and Atmospheric Science at Cornell University. She is a quantitative marine ecologist that uses statistical, demographic and spatial models to understand how marine species respond to environmental processes. Much of Erin's research focuses on the impacts of climate change on North Atlantic right whales, especially through changes in prey availability, distribution and reproduction. She also serves on the Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) committee for The Oceanography Society and edits a quarterly JEDI column in Oceanography magazine.

**Dr. Doug Nowacek, Duke University**

Dr. 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. He 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*.

**Melanie White, Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute**

Melanie White is the project manager for the North Atlantic right whale (NARW) conservation program for Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute (CMARI), a nonprofit organization in Florida. She has a B.S. in Biology from Ursinus College in 2003. In 2005, Melanie started as a NARW aerial observer, was promoted to field supervisor for the aerial surveys in 2012 and has served as CMARI's project manager for the NARW program since 2017.

Each winter, she supervises the North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia field teams as they conduct aerial surveys for NARW on the calving grounds. These surveys collect NARW photographic identification data to facilitate demographic monitoring, aid in reducing vessel collisions with NARW by providing

maritime interests with real-time NARW sighting data, document dead, injured, and entangled NARW, assist with disentangling and carcass recovery efforts, and support vessel-based photographic identification, and genetics sampling. Her responsibilities include coordinating with private, state, and federal agencies regarding yearly contracts, budgets, and survey logistics, writing yearly performance reports to state and federal funding agencies, analyzing and submitting finalized data sets and images to the NARW Consortium, and hiring seasonal staff. Her position allows her to manage the three field teams, supervise the Georgia-based team, and serve as an observer during seasonal survey flights.