

Vice Chair Nominees

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. Tim Frasier, Saint Mary's University

Tim has been conducting genetic analyses on the North Atlantic right whale for over 20 years. His laboratory houses the archival North Atlantic right whale tissue and DNA bank, and generates and curates the genetic data. His 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.

Dr. Robert Schick, Duke University

Rob Schick, PhD, is a research scientist at Duke University, and has been studying whales for over 20 years. His first right-whale job was at the New England Aquarium in 2000, where he focused on the movements of right whales in relation to their prey and other habitat features. Since that post, Rob has worked across a wide variety of taxa from endangered salmon to elephant seals to large whales; he's even done work examining the movement patterns of human smokers. The common thread across many Tim of these projects is the spatial ecology of the systems, and the impacts humans are having on the oceans. Recently, this includes extensive work on the Atlantic Behavioral Response Study, which examines the impact of navy sonar on beaked whales. Rob is working on or leading several different NARW projects that examine health of individual whales in relation to their genetic make-up; the impact of stressors on health, fecundity and survival; potential responses to offshore wind; and their acoustic ecology. He is also serving on the steering committee of a transboundary collaboration to better understand NARW distribution throughout their habitat. Most recently he is leading an Office of Naval Research funded project looking at data fusion in right whales to take advantage of the decade's worth of data collected on this species. The bulk of his work involves working on interdisciplinary teams of diverse thinkers and stakeholders. Because of the diversity of his work, Rob understands the importance of listening to and understanding individuals' input and expertise with an eye towards communicating across sub-disciplines. Rob has an immense appreciation for the amount of work the community has done to better understand and protect right whales; he would welcome the opportunity to give back to the species and community through the role of vice chair. In addition to studying whales, he's an avid beekeeper with 6 hives.