

# RIGHT WHALE NEWS

The Publication of the Southeast United States Right Whale Recovery Plan  
Implementation Team and the Northeast Implementation Team

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## **Ship Strike Concerns Raised in Stakeholder Meetings**

Five public hearings and a series of stakeholder meetings were held from Maine to Florida this fall to discuss a proposed new strategy to reduce the number of right whales struck by ships. The proposed strategy from NOAA Fisheries was published as an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the *Federal Register* (June 1, 2004; 69 FR 30857).

Individuals, organizations and agencies expressed a number of concerns about the proposal, including: the cost of delays, economic hardships, a desire for exemptions to any rule, the loss of business to a port, parity between ports, the predictability of voyage planning, the relative risks associated with different ship hulls (e.g., planning versus displacement), hydrodynamics, alarms, whale tagging, the absence of ship-struck dead right whales from North and South Carolina, limited data in the mid-Atlantic, the long lead time needed to impose a Dynamic Area Management (DAM) scheme, triggers for a DAM, implementation and enforcement, data gaps, additional research needs, limited data on vessel speed as a factor in right whale mortality, and the fact that slowing ships down in a right whale area keeps ships in the area longer and thus increases exposure.

A report on the stakeholder meetings will be prepared and submitted to both the Southeast and Northeast Implementation Teams and to NOAA Fisheries. The report will also be posted on the agency's web page, probably in December. NOAA Fisheries will review these and other concerns raised during the public comment period (which ended November 15) and consult internally. The agency then plans to issue a proposed rule and an Environmental Assessment. Public comment will follow both, ending in publication of a final rule. As the process is likely to take a number of years, there is still time to conduct research and studies (such as Port Access Route Studies) to answer the concerns of various stakeholders.

## **Shifting Canadian Shipping Lanes Has Reduced Risk for Right Whales, And the Next Step Begins**

Shifting the shipping lanes into and out of the Bay of Fundy to avoid the right whale Conservation Area southeast of Grand Manan Island has significantly reduced the risk of

ship strikes of right whales. The shifts were adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in December 2002 and took effect July 1, 2003 (see *Right Whale News* 10(1):4). During the 2003 season, only one percent of right whale sightings in the Bay of Fundy occurred in the re-positioned lanes. During the 2004 season, there were fewer than two percent sighted in the new lanes.

At the time the traffic separation scheme was being considered for the Bay of Fundy, right whales had temporarily abandoned another Canadian Conservation Area, the Roseway Basin on the continental shelf southeast of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Now, the whales are back. With their return, a new initiative is underway to map their high-use areas and persuade the IMO to designate them as a voluntary Area to be Avoided (ATBA). The Roseway Basin would become one of about 34 ATBAs around the world, including the coral reefs off the Florida Keys and the shoals south of Nantucket Island.

The Roseway Basin ATBA initiative will be presented to the Canadian Right Whale Recovery Team at their next meeting January 19 (see Calendar of Events for details). Also to be discussed at the meeting will be changes in the 2002 *Canadian Recovery Plan for the North Atlantic Right Whale* to make it compliant with the requirements of the new Species At Risk Act (SARA), which went into effect in June.

The approval process for the ATBA proposal starts with the Recovery Team; it will then be submitted to the regional office of Transport Canada, followed by the national office of Transport Canada. Ministerial interest and public consultation will follow. Presentation to the IMO is planned for 2006.

## **North Pacific Right Whale Sightings Increase**

NOAA Fisheries scientist Robert Pitman reports sighting more North Pacific right whales in the Bering Sea this year than have been seen in the last five years combined. So far, 25 whales have been sighted, including three cows with calves. Until this year, only one calf had been sighted in the past 100 years (on August 24, 2002; see *Right Whale News* 9(4):4). However, it should be noted that this aggregation was discovered as a result of directional passive acoustic monitoring, together with movement data from a satellite-tagged whale. Whether this aggregation reflects an increase in the abundance of this most critically endangered of all whale populations, or whether it is a result of improved search methods, is not known.

## **North Pacific Right Whale Critical Habitat Lawsuit Filed**

The Center for Biological Diversity, a nonprofit organization, filed suit in Federal District Court in San Francisco October 25 alleging that NOAA Fisheries has failed to protect critical habitat for the North Pacific Right Whale as required by the Endangered Species Act. The Center claims that NOAA Fisheries has known for nearly eight years that protection of the Bering Sea is necessary for the species' survival and recovery but has

not taken the steps necessary to designate critical habitat for the species. The Center is being represented by Meyer and Glitzenstein, a public interest law firm in Washington, DC. For background, see *Right Whale News* 11(2):13 and 10(2):9.

## **The “Go to” Web Site for Right Whales**

The North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium has announced the creation of its official web site: [www.rightwhaleweb.org](http://www.rightwhaleweb.org) Contents will include abstracts from Consortium annual meetings, links to papers and reports (especially those utilizing Consortium data), links to partners, fun facts, animations and downloadable images. The web site was first created by the Canadian nonprofit organization East Coast Ecosystems for the Consortium. The web master is Yan Guilbault of the New England Aquarium. He can be reached at [yguilbault@neaq.org](mailto:yguilbault@neaq.org)

A separate web site also is being developed for streamlined and updated right whale photo identification. This site will replace the New England Aquarium’s E-catalog. It will include publicly-accessible images (up to 20 of the best images for each whale) and a password-protected section linked to search capacity and live data. The site should be up and running by mid-spring, 2005. For information, contact web master Philip Hamilton of the New England Aquarium ([phamiltn@neaq.org](mailto:phamiltn@neaq.org)).

## **Thanks, Crowley!**

The Crowley Liner Service’s tug *Explorer*, towing the barge *Ponce*, was due to enter the St. Johns River at 8:45 on March 9, heading for the Port of Jacksonville, Florida. Crowley docking master Martin Cooper and barge rider Chris Gustafson were on board the tug *Kathleen Moran*, which was heading out to meet the *Explorer* and *Ponce* at sea for the inbound transit. While passing out between the jetties, Cooper and Gustafson observed a right whale between the jetties lying alongside the north jetty. They contacted Captain Michael Lydick of the *Explorer* and informed him that a delay in entering was appropriate. The *Explorer* and the *Ponce* proceeded to make two full circles off the sea buoy area to see what the whale was going to do.

The right whale slowly swam back out from between the jetties and headed off on a northeasterly course. The right whale survey team in Fernandina overheard the radio communications and directed survey aircraft to the area. The aircraft contacted the *Explorer*, which vectored them to where the whale had moved to several miles north of the channel entrance. After a total of about an hour’s delay, the docking master and barge rider boarded the barge and proceeded into port without further incident.

In recognition of Crowley Liner Services’ exceptional stewardship, Jamison Smith, chair of the Southeastern U.S. Right Whale Recovery Implementation Team presented three plaques “for exceptional situational awareness and prompt prudent actions to reduce the risk of injury to North Atlantic Right Whales while operating near the mouth of the St.

Johns River on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2004.” One plaque was awarded to the Master and Crew of the Crowley Tug *Explorer*, **Capt. Michael Lydick** and crew members: **Roger Rothschild, Jim McLaughlin, Hubert Joseph, Dave Zeigler** and **Spike Miller**. A second plaque was awarded to the “Crowley Tug/Barge Docking Team, Docking Master **Capt. Martin Cooper** and Barge Rider, **Chris Gustafson**. A third plaque went to the “Crowley Liner Services – Marine Management Team” for “continued dedication and corporate commitment to the promotion of navigational practices to reduce the risk of injury to North Atlantic Right Whales: **John Douglass, Cole Cosgrove, Jim Gillen, Mike Getchell** and **Ed Burdorf. Mike Getchell**, East Coast Operations Manager for Crowley received the plaques on behalf of the Crowley teams.

## **Bill Watkins: 1926-2004**

*Editor’s note: We regret to report the death of Dr. William Watkins of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Jim Hain provides this tribute:*

William A. (Bill) Watkins died at home on Friday, September 24, 2004, of multiple myeloma. He was 78. Bill was born in French Guinea and lived in Africa until after World War II. In 1958, Bill joined the staff of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution as an underwater sound expert, studying the acoustic behavior of whales, dolphins, and seals. His first publication at WHOI, with Bill Schevill in 1962, was a phonograph recording, “Whale and Porpoise Voices.” In a quietly remarkable career, Bill and co-authors described the 20 Hz finback whale signals, the role of harmonic intervals in the analysis of whale sounds, tagging methodology and results, hydrophone array tracking, and many other topics and methods with diverse species. Included were publications on right whale feeding, aerial observations, right whales in Cape Cod waters, and whale reactions to human activities. To others in the marine mammal community, he was a sounding board for ideas, and a thorough and helpful reviewer of manuscripts. Long-time research associate Mary Ann Daher recounted working with Bill on spectrograms, “Rather than allow his eye to be drawn to the more dramatic peaks, like most other people, Bill would be looking in the low-frequency ‘mud’ to search out the fundamentals of the sound.” It can truly be said that Bill did indeed search out and provide the fundamentals for much of marine mammal science.

## **Changes**

**Vicki Cornish** has just joined the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office as Marine Mammal Branch Chief. Ms. Cornish began her career with NOAA Fisheries 13 years ago in the Office of Protected Resources in Silver Spring, MD, working on marine mammal-fisheries interactions issues. For the past five years, she has led the National Observer Program in the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology. Ms. Cornish is a native of South Florida, raised in Miami. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from the University of California, San Diego, and a Master's Degree in

Biological Oceanography from the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. She is looking forward to returning to Florida and expanding the agency's marine mammal conservation program in the Southeastern United States.

**Dr. Aleta Hohn** of NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Fisheries Science Center Beaufort Laboratory has been named the Southeast Marine Mammal Coordinator for the Center. She will supervise marine mammal work at the Center's Beaufort (NC), Pascagoula (MS) and Miami (FL) Labs.

**Clay George** of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has been appointed vice chair of the Southeastern U.S. Right Whale Recovery Plan Implementation Team. His contact information is: Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program, GA DNR, One Conservation Way, Suite 310, Brunswick, GA 31520-8687. Tel. 912-264-7218; fax 912-262-3143; e-mail: clay\_george@dnr.state.ga.us

At the annual meeting of the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium in New Bedford, **Dr. Moe Brown** (New England Aquarium; NEAq) was elected vice chair for a three-year term. She will become chair in 2008. **Amy Knowlton** (NEAq) will step down as chair at the end of 2004, and **Dr. Michael Moore** (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; WHOI) will become chair for 2005-2007. **Heather Pettis** (NEAq) continues her term as secretary. **Dr. Bob Kenney** (University of Rhode Island) and **Phillip Hamilton** (NEAq) will serve as data curators, both permanent positions. Two new board members were also elected for three-year terms: **Dr. Charles "Stormy" Mayo** (Center for Coastal Studies) and **Carolyn Miller Angell** (Boston University and WHOI).

The **Virginia Marine Science Museum** has changed its name to the **Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center**. W. Mark Swingle, Director of Research & Conservation, can be reached at the Virginia Aquarium at 717 General Booth Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Phone: 757- 437-6022. Fax: 757- 437-4933. E-mail: mswingle@vbgov.com

The **Marine Resources Council**, which runs the volunteer sighting network on the east coast of Florida, has moved its office to 3275 Dixie Highway, NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905. Tel. 321-725-7775. Fax 321-725-3554. E-mail: council@mrcirl.org Web: www.mrcirl.org Julie Albert, the Right Whale Monitoring Program Coordinator, can be reached at julie21@cfl.rr.com

## Grants Available

In 2000, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF, a nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1984), in partnership with NOAA Fisheries and the Marine Mammal Commission, launched the National Whale Conservation Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to help save the great whales through the support of research, management, conservation, and education and outreach activities.

The National Whale Conservation Fund offers a number of grant programs, including the fishing gear mini-grants program, the large whale gear competition, the Atlantic coastal states cooperative planning for right whale recovery project, and general grants. Procedures and deadlines for submitting applications for these grants differ (see Calendar of Events).

**The Large Whale Gear Competition** is a new program administered by NFWF, in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries, the Northeast Consortium, and the Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation under the NFWF's National Whale Conservation Fund. Recently, NFWF announced a Request for Proposals for the Large Whale Gear Competition. The challenge grant was established to support the development of innovative fishing gear and/or gear modifications that decrease the incidence of entanglement of large whales, especially right whales. The program is open internationally to all who can meet the eligibility criteria. Awarded applicants will receive up to \$10,000 (US) grants to build gear prototypes and test gear at sea with commercial New England fishermen. The grants include travel stipends. An additional grant of up to \$50,000 (US) will be awarded to the team that designs and tests a prototype showing the most promise for becoming a new, commercially-viable whale-friendly fishing gear or gear modification. A letter of intent to apply is due by December 1, 2004, via e-mail or mail to: Leslie Ricketts, Program Director, Marine Conservation Funds, NFWF, 1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036; [leslie.ricketts@nfwf.org](mailto:leslie.ricketts@nfwf.org) Application information is available at [www.nfwf.org/programs/WhaleFund/htm](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/WhaleFund/htm)

## Grants Awarded

*Editor's note: The diversity and level of activity in right whale research is perhaps best described by a listing of current investigators and projects. Aggregating this information is not always easy, and the current list is incomplete. Nonetheless, with thanks to a number of contributors, the following does provide at least a partial overview.*

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (Woods Hole, Massachusetts) has provided a summary of the results of the FY04 NOAA Fisheries Right Whale Grants Program (RWGP). A total of 22 proposals were submitted by the deadline date of April 12, 2004. The projects were competitively ranked, based on their average reviewer scores (a minimum of three per proposal). Of the 22 projects reviewed, the highest received a mean score of 95.0 (out of 100), and the lowest had a mean score of 45.0. From the ranked list, funding was awarded up to the level of funds available, resulting in 13 new projects funded. In addition, some FY04 RWGP funds were allocated to the continuation of 10 multi-year projects originally selected in FY03. The 23 projects are summarized on the next pages.

FY04 Right Whale Grants Program: New Projects		
Principle Investigator and Institution	Project Title	Year 1 Funding
M. Moore, WHOI	Diagnostic necropsy of North Atlantic right whales: A trend assessment tool	34,820
M. Baumgartner, WHOI	Right whale habitat investigations in the western Gulf of Maine	63,638
H. Kite-Powell, WHOI	Right whale avoidance behavior in the context of vessel speed	43,104
J. Albert, Marine Resources Council	Northern right whale monitoring project	24,966
R. DiGiovanni, Riverhead Fnd	Marine mammal abundance survey for N Atlantic right whales in New York Bight and Mid-Atlantic region - a pilot study	186,545
A. Read, Duke U.	Predictive modeling of right whale distribution off New England	86,818
J. Firestone, U. Delaware	Evaluating commercial vessel traffic characteristics and whale strike probabilities along the North Atlantic coastline	131,338
B. Woodward, U. Maine	Development of a towed telemetry tag for tracking the long-term movements of right whales at sea	158,894
M. Weinrich, WCNE	Fall boat-based surveys on Jeffreys Ledge for North Atlantic right whales	108,789
R. Campbell-Malone, WHOI	Materials of right whale bone and soft tissue in context of fatal blunt trauma: A predictive model of how ship mass and speed impact mortality risk	86,012
P. Tyack/N. Lysiak, WHOI	Stable isotopes as indicators of right whale growth and productivity	41,201
M. Baumgartner, WHOI	Right whale diving and foraging behavior in the western Gulf of Maine	97,577
P. Tyack/S. Parks, WHOI	Functional hearing test of North Atlantic right whales in the field	97,915
Subtotal		1,161,617

FY04 Right Whale Grants Program: Continuing Projects		
P. I. and Institution	Project Title	Year 2 Funding
S. Parks, Cornell U.	Impacts of vessel noise on N. Atlantic right whale social communication	102,017
D. Nowacek, Florida State U.	Why do N. Atlantic right whales fail to avoid ships	338,370
H. Caswell, WHOI	Population studies of the N. Atlantic right whale: An essential tool for population assessment	137,182
M. Hahn, WHOI	Molecular markers of reproduction function and contaminant susceptibility in the N. Atlantic right whale	107,502
C. Clark, Cornell U.	Real-time detection and reporting of Northern right whale using passive acoustics	241,522

J. Wise, U. of Maine	Genetic effects of environmental contaminants on the reproductive systems of the N. Atlantic right whale	167,019
D. Mellinger, Oregon State U.	Passive acoustic monitoring for right whales in historic and unsurveyed habitats	4,648
A. Pershing, Cornell U.	Operational system to estimate right whale feeding areas from satellite data	109,438
S. Kraus, New England Aquarium	Right whale research and monitoring in the Bay of Fundy	146,223
S. Kraus, New England Aquarium	Offshore surveys for right whales in the Gulf of Maine	100,161
Subtotal		1,454,084
Grand total	FY04 RWGP -- New and Continuation Projects	2,615,701

In the spring of 2004, the Marine Mammal Commission announced a call for proposals for research and related activities to further the conservation and management goals of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The intent was to support efforts that would supplement rather than supplant the efforts of other agencies and organizations. On the deadline of June 4, about 130 pre-proposals were received, and about 45 were invited to submit full proposals by 13 July. In mid-August, 14 proposals were awarded funding, totaling \$261,641. Of these, there was a single right whale project, D. Nowacek, Florida State University, \$6,300, "Preventing collisions between ships and North Atlantic right whales: choosing stimuli for the next controlled exposure experiments."

Also in early 2004, the Northeast Implementation Team (NEIT) announced a call for proposals in a number of defined topics. Pat Gerrior, NMFS/Northeast Region, recently provided the three funded projects (total of \$41,057):

- H. Kite-Powell, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, \$24,327, "Improved cost estimate for right whale ship strike management measures."
- B. Russell, JS&A Environmental Services, \$10,554, "Update to vessel traffic management scenarios based on NMFS strategy to reduce ship strikes of the N.A. right whale."
- A. Knowlton, New England Aquarium, \$6,176, "An update of GIS presentation of survey tracklines, right whale sightings and right whale movements: 1978-2000 to include data from 2001-2003."

And lastly, Leslie Ricketts, Program Director for Marine Conservation, has provided the 2004 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation right-whale related awards:

Organization or Institution	Project Title	Funding
Fishing-Gear Mini Grants		
Whale Safety Products Eliot, Maine	Knotless release link design	\$19,200



Whale Safety Products Eliot, Maine	Remote fishing gear data identification (ME)	\$17,000
Atlantic Coastal States Cooperative Planning for Right Whale Recovery		
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	State of Florida right whale coordinator	\$53,700
South Carolina Dept of Natural Resources	Monitoring right whales off the coast of South Carolina	\$353,000
Maine Dept of Marine Resources	Maine large whale conservation plan	\$71,500
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries	Conservation program	\$151,776
National Whale Conservation Fund General Call		
Groupe de recherché et d'éducation sur les marine mammals (GREMM)	Quebec marine mammal emergency response network	\$20,000
World Wildlife Fund Canada	Preventing right whale entanglements in Canadian waters	\$18,650
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	3D tracking of large whales to reduce anthropogenic risks	\$64,202
The Dolphin Institute	Mitigating vessel collisions with whales in Hawaiian waters	\$65,000
Total NFWF 2004		\$834,028

## Professional Opportunities and Connections

**The Center for Coastal Studies** is seeking a full-time research assistant and a full-time intern to work on the Center's right whale habitat studies program for the 2005 winter/spring season, January 2 through May 15. The Center also has an immediate opening for a senior scientist who would supervise right whale surveys and develop new research and conservation programs. For further information, contact Jan Young at CCS, 508-487-3622, ext 110 or [jeyoung@coastalstudies.org](mailto:jeyoung@coastalstudies.org)

**Paula Echániz**, a marine ecologist from Argentina, is starting a research project on right whale respiratory infections and would like to correspond with others doing similar work. Please contact her at [paula@www.etxaniz.com.ar](mailto:paula@www.etxaniz.com.ar)

**The University of New Hampshire** (UNH) is seeking a skilled and motivated Program Manager/Research Administrator for its Center for Large Pelagics Research. The center, established in 2004 and located in Durham, NH, is dedicated to improving the scientific knowledge, technology and integrated approaches necessary to support the development of effective ecosystem-based management strategies for large pelagic marine animal populations. The center includes a UNH-based large pelagics research program (currently focused on bluefin tuna and leatherback sea turtles), an extramural competitive grants program and several undergraduate and graduate education initiatives. The Program Manager will be responsible for overall management of the center (\$3.0M in FY'05), including: (1) management of the competitive external grants program and

oversight of multiple research programs funded through the center (8-10 projects are funded each year); (2) evaluation of technical and financial progress reports and assuring research and financial goals are on target; (3) preparation and submission of reports; (4) assisting the coordination of the Center's research efforts with other federal and international programs in sustaining activities for the Center; and (5) coordination and facilitation of meetings of the Center's Steering Committee in the development of priority research and programmatic directions. Applications must be made on-line at <http://www.unhjobs.com> (search for Job Order # 00772 or Project Director II positions in the Marine Program) or directly using the following link: [www.unhjobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=178704](http://www.unhjobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=178704) . Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2004, and continue until the position is filled. Further information is available on the web site or by contacting Molly Lutcavage ([molly.lutcavage@unh.edu](mailto:molly.lutcavage@unh.edu)) or Jonathan Pennock ([jonathan.pennock@unh.edu](mailto:jonathan.pennock@unh.edu)), co-directors of the center.

## **Right Whale Books: Here and On the Way**

Phil Clapham (2004). *Right Whales - Natural History and Conservation*. Voyageur Press, Stillwater, MN. \$16.95. 72 pages, 50+ color photos, index and bibliography. ISBN 0-89658-657-X. Review by Julie Albert, Northern Right Whale Monitoring Program Coordinator, Marine Resources Council:

Phil Clapham's new book, *Right Whales – Natural History and Conservation*, is a comprehensive evaluation of the life history of right whales and what may lie ahead for them. From their origins on Earth to the brink of extinction, from centuries of whaling to modern-day human impacts, right whales are examined through the eyes of a long-time whale researcher who put decades of research into coherent text. Teeming with information from research and field experience and containing exquisite color photographs, this book is an excellent overview of the history, biology, and conservation of right whales. To order, call 651-430-2210 or e-mail: [books@voyageurpress.com](mailto:books@voyageurpress.com)

Janice Hannah and David Johnson. 2004. *Whales of Atlantic Canada and the Northeastern United States*. International Marine Mammal Association, Guelph, Ontario. \$14.95 Canadian. ISBN 0-9698171-6-9.

A regional field guide to whale identification. Suitable for general audiences.

Tora Johnson. In press, 2005. *Entanglements – The Intertwined Fates of Whales and Fishermen*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL. \$29.95. 312 pages, 29 illustrations, index and bibliography. ISBN 0-8130-2797-7. Review by Hans Neuhauser, Editor, *Right Whale News*:

I received a review copy of Tora Johnson's soon-to-be published book, *Entanglements – The Intertwined Fates of Whales and Fishermen*, while

preparing this issue of *Right Whale News*. In spite of other responsibilities, I couldn't put the book down. Ms. Johnson, a former commercial fisher with training in marine biology and now a faculty member at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine, has written a serious, humorous, informative, sad, optimistic, engaging and thought-provoking book that explores the clash of cultures and personalities among fishermen, scientists, whale advocates and agency managers struggling to save both the North Atlantic right whale and the livelihoods of thousands of Atlantic coastal families. I find the book's basic conclusion to be correct: that both whales and fisheries must survive or both will perish. The details on how to accomplish this are more argumentative: holistic, ecosystem-based management at a community level with oversight and guidance from national and international bodies. Hopefully, the book will stimulate more much-needed outside the box discussions on how to manage both fisheries and whales for the benefit of both. The book will be available in March 2005. To order, contact 1-800-226-3822 or [www.upf.com](http://www.upf.com)

Scott Kraus and Roz Rolland of the New England Aquarium have signed a contract with Harvard University Press to edit *The Urban Whale – the North Atlantic Right Whale at the Crossroads*. The book is expected to be released in the spring of 2006.

## **North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium Papers**

The annual meeting of the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium held at the New Bedford Whaling Museum November 3 and 4 again attracted a record number of participants: 195. Forty-two presentations were made on the topics of population biology and distribution, new methods, physiology, genetics, and management, including shipping and entanglements. The presenters and the titles of their talks are listed here. Abstracts, including all authors and their affiliations, and recent right whale sighting reports from the east coast of the U.S. and Canada are available from Consortium secretary Heather Pettis (617-226-2144 or [hpettis@neaq.org](mailto:hpettis@neaq.org)).

The abstracts from this and previous Consortium meetings should also be available shortly on the Consortium web site: [www.rightwhaleweb.org](http://www.rightwhaleweb.org)

### **POPULATION BIOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION**

Lindsay Hall – The North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog: An update on mortality, reproduction and population status.

Richard Pace – An updated estimate of North Atlantic right whale survival: Cormack-Jolly-Seber with individual capture covariates (1981-2002).

Katherine Sardi - Surveys for North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) on Jeffreys Ledge: Evidence of an important fall habitat.

Jamison Smith – Unusual occurrences during the 2003-2004 North Atlantic right whale calving season in the southeastern United States.

Tim Cole – An effort-corrected depiction of North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) distribution off the northeastern U.S. during spring and fall, 2001-2004.

Andrew Pershing - Forecasting right whale distributions using oceanographic data: Preliminary results and future plans

Lance Garrison - Environmental variables and spatial distribution of calving right whales in the southeast U.S. critical habitat

Amy DeLorenzo - Environmental factors impacting zooplankton-right whale dynamics in Cape Cod Bay: 2000 - 2004

Charles “Stormy” Mayo – Feeding activities that influence the distribution of right whales: Management implications.

Nicole Cabana – Feeding of North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) in the Gulf of Maine in relation to seafloor roughness and fishery closure areas: A GIS approach

## **NEW METHODS**

Rebecca Kelly – Development of right whale and bowhead whale cell lines

Sandra Wise – The effects of environmental contaminants on North Atlantic right whale and bowhead whale cell cultures

Robert Gisiner - New tools for right whale research and conservation: An overview of new science and technology from the ONR Marine Mammal Program

Tim Frasier – Constructing the family tree of the endangered North Atlantic right whale: Conservation implications

Philip Hamilton – The digital world of right whales: New databases and websites

David Wiley - GeoZui3D: A new method for viewing multi-sensor tag-derived data to investigate the underwater behavior of marine mammals

## **PHYSIOLOGY**

Wayne Perryman - North Atlantic right whale photogrammetry study: The Final Report

Carolyn Miller Angell - Blubber thickness and reproductive success in right whales

## **GENETICS**

Roxanne M. Bower – The major histocompatibility complex (MHC) and reproduction and health of the North Atlantic right whale

Michael Moore - Basque whaling sites in the Labrador Straits

Brenna McLeod – Genetic assessment of 16<sup>th</sup> century whale bones from Basque sites in the Strait of Belle Isle

Tim Frasier - A Case of adoption identified in a large whale

## **MANAGEMENT UPDATES**

Diane Borggaard – Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan: Update on 2004 Activities

Steve Leathery - Status of right whale research permits

Pat Gerrior and Bruce Russell - Shipping ANPRM

## **SHIPPING**

Susan Parks - Impacts of vessel noise on right whale communication

Doug Nowacek – Transmission of vessel noise through right whale environments

Chris Clark – Real time acoustic detection and reporting of right whales in Cape Cod and other habitats

Chris Taggart and Moe Brown- Vessel-traffic conflict with right whales in the Roseway Basin right whale conservation area and process, politics and prevarication: Challenges in achieving effective vessel-separation schemes

Owen Nichols – A simple two-dimensional model of ship encounter risk for right whales in Cape Cod Bay

Hauke Kite-Powell - Update on economics of ship strike management measures

Leslie Ward - Spatiotemporal distributions of right whales and characterization of vessel traffic in the southeastern U.S.

Regina Campbell-Malone - Evidence of skull fractures and implications of ship strikes in right whales

Bruce Russell and William T. McWeeny – The development, distribution and implementation strategy of two education modules about avoiding ship strikes of North Atlantic right whales for instructors at maritime academies and maritime safety and social responsibility schools

## **GRANTS**

Leslie Ricketts – Announcement of National Whale Conservation Fund subprograms

## **ENTANGLEMENTS: DOCUMENTATION AND MITIGATION**

Dave Morin – Right whale entanglement cases of 2004

Laura Ludwig – Ropes and rocks in the waters off Portland, Port Clyde and points east - Underwater filming of lobster gear

Chris Taggart – Right whales and fishing gear: Estimating the relative probabilities of interactions in the Bay of Fundy and Roseway Basin

Becky Woodward – Experimental modeling of large whale entanglement injuries

Regina A. Asmutis-Silvia - SAVE Whales: A pilot program which will develop standby assist vessels for entangled whales as a means to increase the likelihood of disentangling large endangered whales coastal to Massachusetts – A three-year pilot project

Norm Holy – Ropes to mitigate right whale entanglements

Ed Lyman - Use of mini-loggers attached to fixed-fishing gear as a cost-effective means to profile gear behavior over time and under the influence of a dynamic environment

## **Scientific Literature and Reports**

Angell, C. M. 2004. Cytochrome p450 1A1 expression in cetacean integument: Implications for detecting contaminant exposure and effects. *Marine Mammal Science* 20 (3):554-566.

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## **Calendar of Events**

November 15, 2004 – April 16, 2005: Mandatory Ship Reporting requirements are in effect for the southeast U.S. Vessels of 300 GT or greater are required to report their entry into the designated area in IMO standard format. Reports are to be sent via inmarsat (e-mail) to [rightwhale.msr@noaa.gov](mailto:rightwhale.msr@noaa.gov)

December 1: Deadline for submitting letter of intent to apply for a large whale gear competition grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (see article on page 5).

January 19, 2005: Canadian Right Whale Recovery Team meeting, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. For further information, contact Team co-chair Dr. Moe Brown at [mbrown@neaq.org](mailto:mbrown@neaq.org)

February 6: Super Bowl XXXIX, Jacksonville, Florida. Activities prior to, during and after the game, including cruise ship arrivals and departures and air shows, may impact right whale surveys in the critical habitat area offshore.

March 1: Deadline for submitting general grant pre-application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (see article on page 5).

March 1: Deadline for submitting Atlantic coastal states pre-proposal grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (see article on page 5).

April 1: Deadline for submitting fishing gear mini-grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (see article on page 5).

May 5: Southeast US Implementation Team meeting. Location to be determined. For further information, contact, Jamison Smith at [Jamison.smith@myfwc.com](mailto:Jamison.smith@myfwc.com)

September 1: Deadline for submitting fishing gear mini-grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (see article on page 5).

November 2-3: North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium annual meeting. Tentative location: New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, Massachusetts. For further information, contact Consortium secretary Heather Pettis at [hpettis@neaq.org](mailto:hpettis@neaq.org)

December 11-16: 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, San Diego, California. Sponsored by the Society for Marine Mammalogy. For more information, visit the Society's web site: <http://www.marinemammalogy.org/>

## ***Right Whale News***

*Right Whale News* is a publication of the Southeast U.S. Right Whale Recovery Plan Implementation Team and the Northeast Implementation Team. The editor is Hans Neuhauser. The editorial board consists of Bill Brooks, Moe Brown, Phil Clapham, Jerry Conway, Jim Hain, Scott Kraus, Mike Payne, Sigrid Sanders and Jerry Wallmeyer.

The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, the Massachusetts Environmental Trust ([www.MassEnvironmentalTrust.org](http://www.MassEnvironmentalTrust.org)), the Southeast Regional Office of NOAA Fisheries and the Northeast Implementation Team underwrite the costs of *Right Whale News*. Thanks to their support, *Right Whale News* is published quarterly and is distributed free of charge.



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<http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov/rightwhaleneews.html>

An **index** of the first eight years of *Right Whale News* (1994-2001) is also available at the site.

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