

Overview of Marine Mammal Science, Policy, and Management Issues in the Mid-Atlantic

Andrew J. Read



Marine Mammal Commission Annual Meeting
Charleston, SC
May 5th 2015

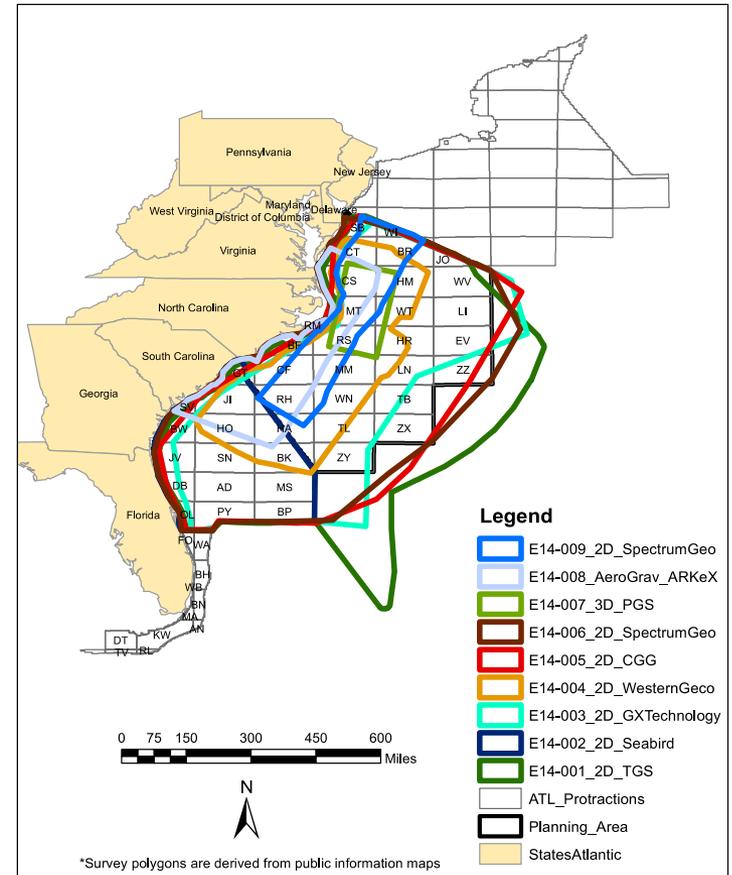
Questions for Discussion:

1. What are the most pressing threats to marine mammals in the Mid-Atlantic?
2. What are the most important challenges faced by scientists and policy decision-makers in addressing marine mammal health and conservation issues in the Mid-Atlantic?
3. What research gaps need to be addressed to help improve our understanding of environmental and human-related impacts to marine mammal health in the Mid-Atlantic?

Threats:

1. Pending seismic surveys

Atlantic Pending Surveys



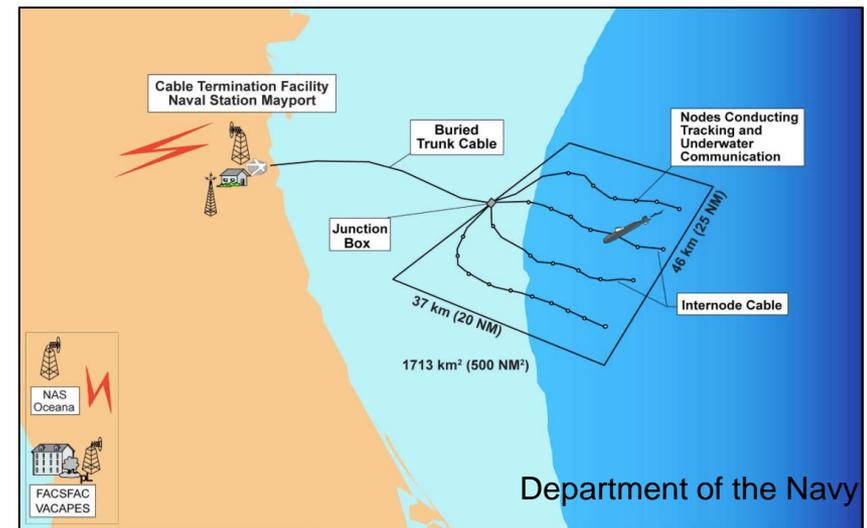
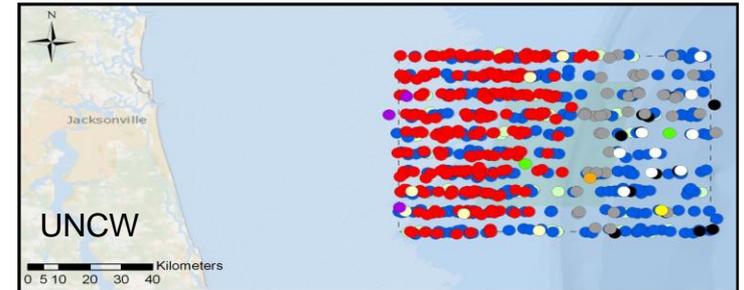
Threats:

1. Pending seismic surveys
2. Fisheries by-catch (right whales, bottlenose dolphins & pilot whales)



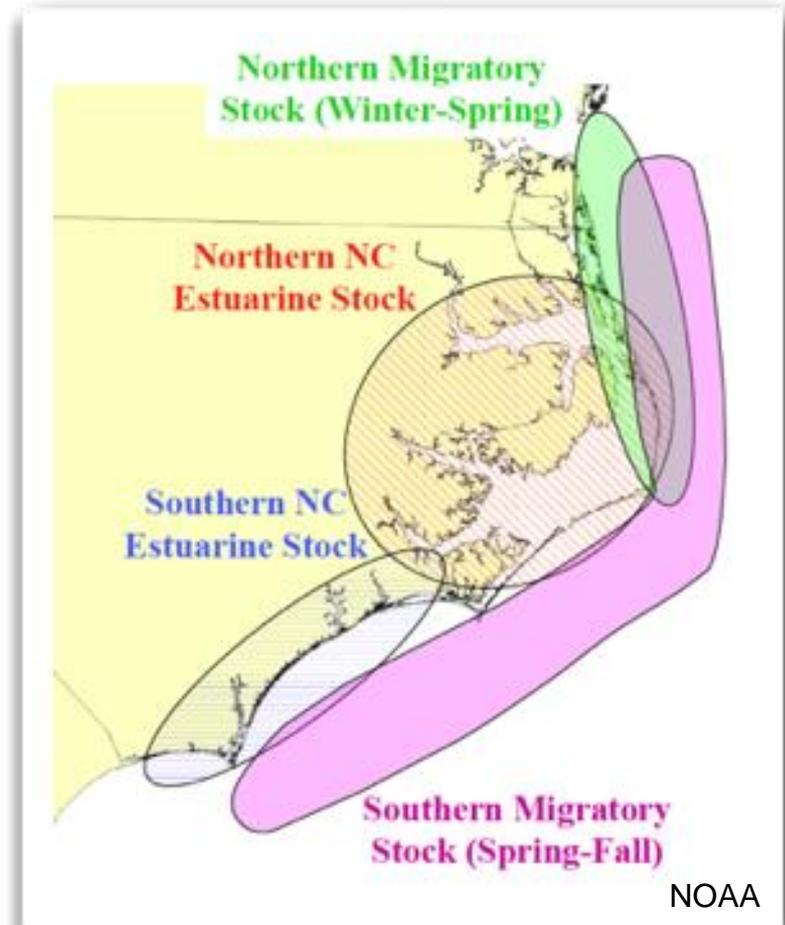
Threats:

1. Pending seismic surveys
2. Fisheries by-catch (right whales, bottlenose dolphins & pilot whales)
3. Tactical MFA Sonar



Management Challenges:

1. Management of small, overlapping stocks of bottlenose dolphins



Management Challenges:

1. Management of small, overlapping stocks of bottlenose dolphins
2. Assessment of cumulative impacts, particularly for coastal bottlenose dolphins



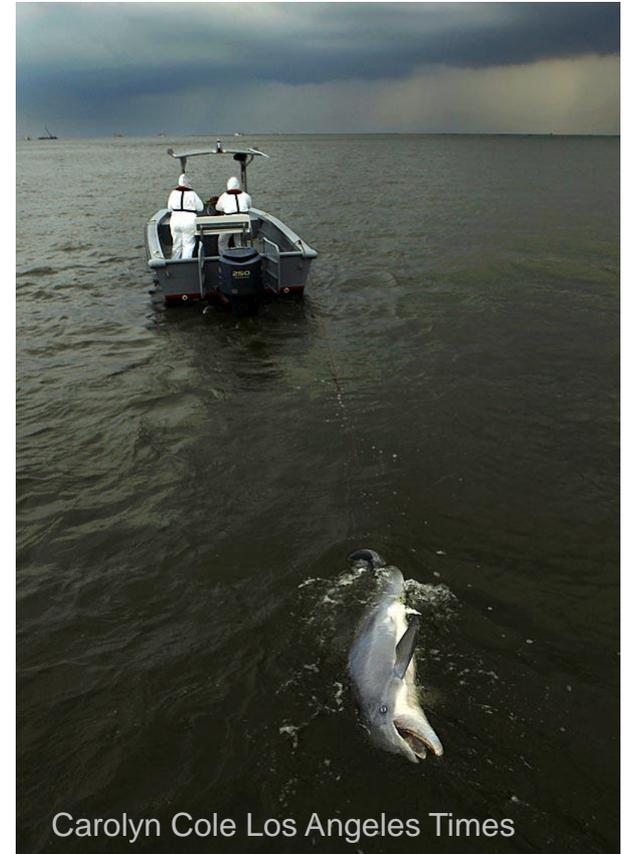
Robin Perrtree



Brian Balmer

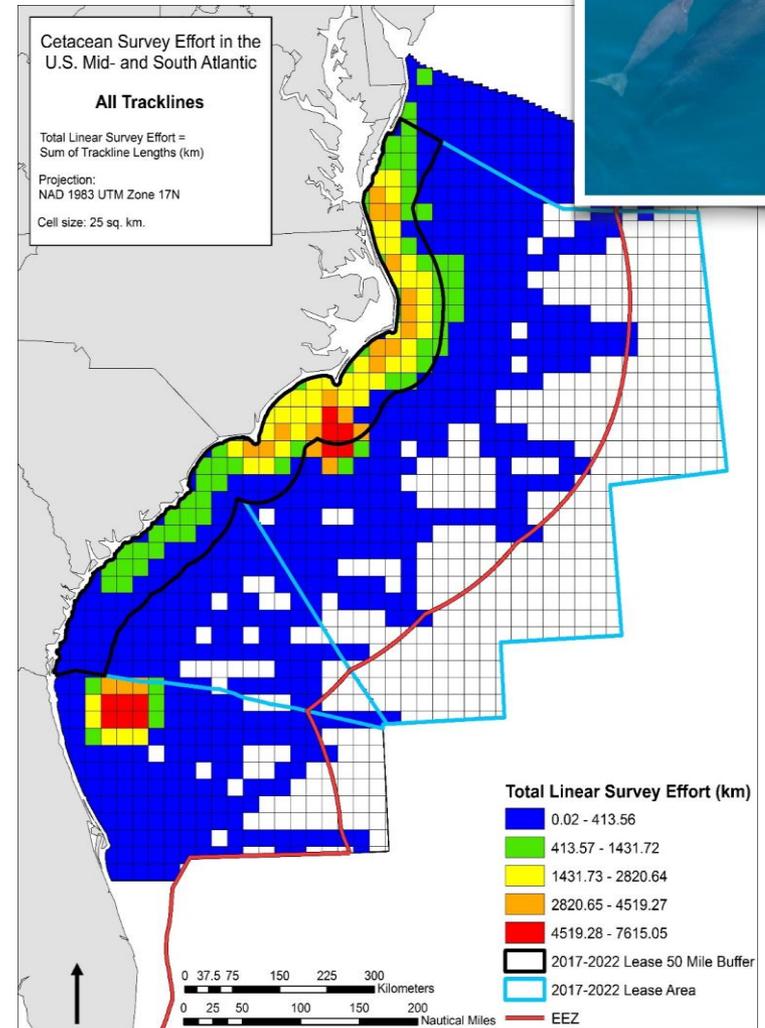
Management Challenges:

1. Management of small, overlapping stocks of bottlenose dolphins
2. Assessment of cumulative impacts, particularly for coastal bottlenose dolphins
3. Securing stable funding for stranding programs



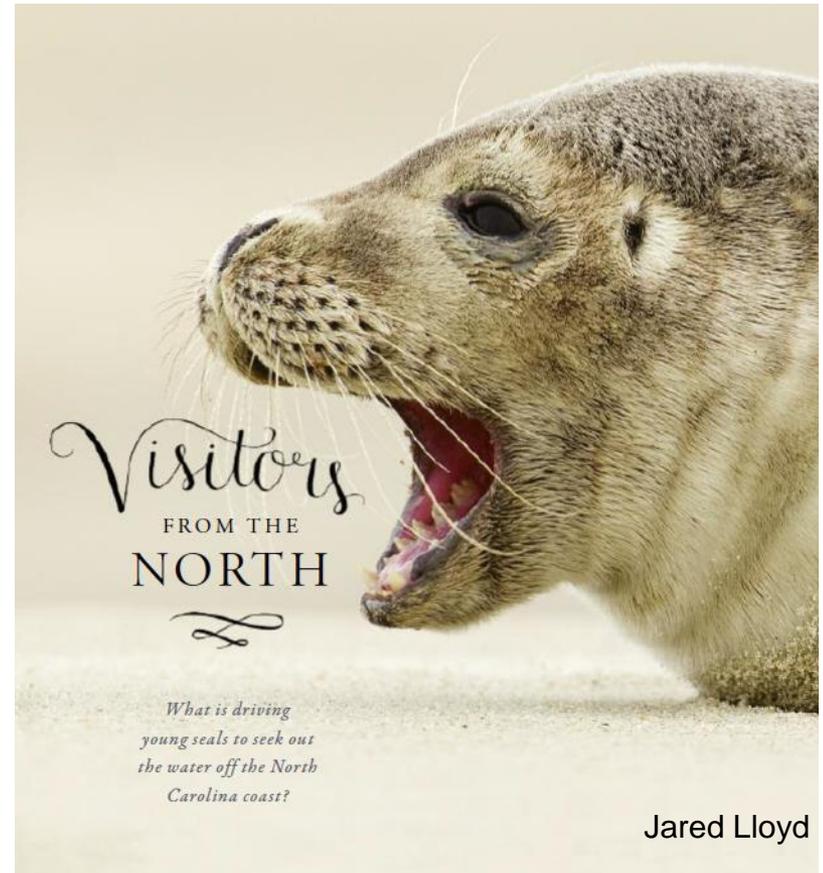
Research Gaps:

1. Occurrence and distribution of marine mammals in relation to potential threats



Research Gaps:

1. Occurrence and distribution of marine mammals in relation to potential threats
2. Expansion of pinniped populations into the Mid-Atlantic



Research Gaps:

1. Occurrence and distribution of marine mammals in relation to potential threats
2. Expansion of pinniped populations into the Mid-Atlantic
3. Demographic impacts of infectious diseases



Thanks to My Respondents:

Brian Balmer, Hollings Marine Laboratory
Sue Barco & Mark Swingle, Virginia Aquarium
Tara Cox, Savannah State University
Craig Harms, North Carolina State University
Doug Nowacek, Duke University
Ann Pabst & Bill McLellan, UNC Wilmington
Keith Rittmaster, NC Maritime Museum
Vicky Thayer, NC Division of Marine Fisheries
Kim Urian, Duke University

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are the most pressing threats to marine mammals in the Mid-Atlantic?
2. What are the most important challenges faced by scientists and policy decision-makers in addressing marine mammal health and conservation issues in the Mid-Atlantic?
3. What research gaps need to be addressed to help improve our understanding of environmental and human-related impacts to marine mammal health in the Mid-Atlantic?