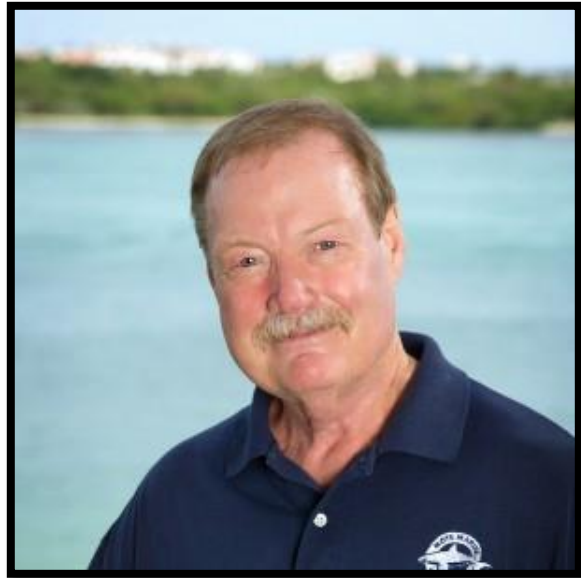


In Memoriam
Dr. John Elliot Reynolds III

John Elliott Reynolds, III, died on 23 December 2017. He was a giant in the world of marine mammal science and conservation. The volume and value of his science, and his rare ability to understand, inspire, and lead those around him will ensure his lasting legacy. He was perceptive in his observations, analytical in his thinking, committed in his endeavors, guided by his deep sense of honesty and integrity, articulate and ever so eloquent in his speech, kind in his judgments, and visionary in his outlook. He was as comfortable helping his Alaska Native companions cut up a dead great whale as he was testifying to a Congressional committee. He was a dear friend to many, not just in Florida or the United States, but on the shores of all oceans. He will be sorely missed.



John was born on 8 November 1952 in Baltimore, Maryland. He was a wrestler in his youth, not so much pugnacious in character, but rather athletic and ever determined to excel. At age 21 (1974) he earned a BA in biology (cum laude) from Western Maryland (now McDaniel) College. In 1977 he earned his MS in biological oceanography from the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, and in 1980 his Ph.D. in biological oceanography, again from the University of Miami. From 1980 to 2003 he worked primarily at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, rising from Assistant to Associate (1986) and then full Professor (1990) of Marine Science and Biology. During that same period, he held adjunct or visiting professor positions at Mote Marine Laboratory, the University of South Florida, Duke University Marine Laboratory, University of Central Florida, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. In 2001, he moved his scientific base from Eckerd College to Mote Marine Laboratory where he assumed the position of Senior Scientist and Manager of the Manatee Research Program. There, he directed the Center for Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Research Program from 2007 to 2012 and the International Consortium for Marine Conservation from 2012 to his death in December 2017.

In 1989 John was appointed to the Marine Mammal Commission's Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals and he chaired the Committee from 1990 to 1991. In May of 1991, when John was a mere 36 years of age, President George H.W. Bush appointed him to be Chair of the Marine Mammal Commission and, until 2010, he remained as Chair under Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama.

For 19 years, John served the Commission with integrity, honor, and distinction. He capably guided in-depth scientific inquiry into complex issues affecting the health and stability of marine ecosystems. Always an advocate for strong science, John understood and

sought to address the intricate linkages of biological and ecological science with social, economic, and political science. He recognized that conservation decisions were made as much with the heart as with the head, and he strove diligently to keep those two in constant communication.

As Commission Chair, John presided over virtually all Commission meetings. He was the recognized master of this task, deftly orchestrating a room full of participants — often with discordant views — to dissect complex issues and synthesize straightforward solutions. There was no better conservation classroom than a meeting chaired by John Reynolds.

The Commission was only one beneficiary of John's service. His expertise was recognized globally by numerous organizations, and he served those organizations with energy and determination. To name just a few, John was a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Species Survival Commission's Sirenia Specialist Group from 1991 to 2017, and Co-chair of the Group from 2001 to 2008. He was a member of the United Nations Environment Programme, Caribbean Environment Programme, Kingston, Jamaica from 2006 to 2017. He was a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong from 2010 to 2017, and a member of the International Advisory Committee for Community Centered Conservation, United Kingdom, from 2011 to 2017. And, from 2010 to 2017, he was a member of the Scientific Technical Advisory Committee and the Global Conservation Initiative to Protect Wild Populations of Small Cetaceans at the National Aquarium Conservation Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Communities of all scale recognized John's character and accomplishments and he received numerous awards for his teaching, science, and service. John was selected as a member of a number of academic honor societies (Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society, Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa) and he received a number of awards for excellence in teaching (Eckerd College, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, Bevan Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership) and research (Florida Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Federation, Chapin Excellence in Scholarship, Alumni Award for Professional Achievement (McDaniel College), Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science). In 2004 John was elected to be President of the Society for Marine Mammalogy, the largest and most prestigious organization of marine mammal researchers from around the world. He served as President-elect from 2004 to 2006 and as President from 2006 to 2008.

His career was rich with accomplishments and he should have been proud of many things. But he was most proud of those things that will carry his legacy into the future: his students and his son, Jack. John's students will always be able to draw on his example of a caring, thoughtful, determined teacher and scientist constantly in search of — and deeply committed to — the truth. They will know what excellence in teaching and science really look like, for they are the direct beneficiaries of such excellence.

John's son, Jack, will know those things and more. Jack was and always will be John's greatest source of pride. In those quiet moments when you could have a heartfelt discussion with John, he invariably would take the conversation from any topic back to the sheer joy and pride he felt in his son. Given all the challenges that John tackled on a daily basis, Jack

was the person that brought him back to a place of peace. He must be there now, for surely he earned it.

Remembrance by Tim Ragen,
Marine Mammal Commission Executive Director (2006-2013)