

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION
2018 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

29-31 May 2018

Renaissance Seattle Hotel
515 Madison Street, Seattle, Washington



Tuesday, May 29, 2018

8:30-10:00	Executive Session (closed to the public)
10:30	Public Meeting Begins
10:30-11:00	Welcome & Overview from the Chairman <i>Daryl Boness, Chairman, Marine Mammal Commission (MMC)</i>
11:00-12:00 PM	Physical and Biological Characteristics of the North Pacific Moderator: <i>Sue Moore, Senior Scientist, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Science and Technology & Scientific Advisor to the MMC</i>
11:00-11:15	Pacific Decadal Oscillation, El Niño Southern Oscillation, and “the Blob” <i>Nick Bond, Research Meteorologist, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory</i>
11:15-11:30	On the Past, Present and Future of the California Current Upwelling System <i>Briana Abrahms, Research Ecologist, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center</i>
11:30-11:45	The Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem: Lower Trophic Level Trends and Dynamics <i>David Kimmel - Lead Research Oceanographer, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center</i>
11:45-12:00	Facilitated Questions
12:00-1:30	Lunch Break
1:30-2:00	Impacts of a Changing Ocean Moderator: <i>Samantha Simmons, Scientific Program Director, MMC</i>
1:30-1:55	Domoic Acid and Harmful Algal Blooms: Impacts on the Ecosystem <i>Vera Trainer - Harmful Algal Bloom Team Lead, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center</i>
1:55-2:20	Recent Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events <i>Frances Gulland, Commissioner, MMC</i>
2:20-2:40	Status and Trends: Cetacean Abundance and Distribution in the North

	Pacific <i>Paul Wade, Research Fisheries Biologist, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center</i>
2:40-3:00	Status and Trends: Pinniped Abundance and Distribution in the North Pacific <i>Tom Gelatt, Alaska Ecosystems Program Leader, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center</i>
3:00-3:30	Coffee Break
3:30-5:00	Emerging Tools and Technologies Moderator: <i>Randy Wells, Senior Conservation Scientist, Chicago Zoological Society & Scientific Advisor to the MMC</i>
3:30-4:00	Advances in Telemetry/Biologging Instruments: From Tag Attachment to New Sensor Development <i>Melinda Holland, CEO, Wildlife Computers</i> <i>Robin Baird, Research Biologist, Cascadia Research Collective & Scientific Advisor to the MMC</i>
4:00-4:15	Saildrones in the Bering Sea: Using Unmanned Surface Vehicles to Examine Relationships between Northern Fur Seals and their Prey <i>Jeremy Sterling/Carey Kuhn, Fisheries Biologists, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center</i>
4:15-4:30	New Discoveries from Passive Acoustic Monitoring and Future Applications and Directions for its Use <i>Catherine Berchok, Research Zoologist, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center</i>
4:30-4:45	Environmental DNA (eDNA): Advances and Applications to Conservation and Management of Cetaceans <i>C. Scott Baker, Professor and Associate Director of the Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon State University</i>
4:45-5:00	Facilitated Questions
5:00-5:30	Public Comments, End of Day Recap, Action Items <i>Daryl Boness, Chairman, MMC</i>

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

8:30-9:15

Salmon Runs, Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW), and Pinnipeds

Moderators: Dennis Heinemann, Senior Advisor for Fisheries Policy & Ecology, MMC & Michael Gosliner, General Counsel, MMC

8:30-9:15

1. Importance of Salmonids in the Diets of SRKWs and pinnipeds
2. Status of and Threats to Chinook and other Salmonid Runs Important to SRKW Survival and/or those Impacted by Pinniped Consumption

Mike Ford, Director of Conservation Biology Division, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Erik Neatherlin, Science Director of the Fish Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

9:15-10:00

Conservation Concerns Related to Recovering Pinniped Populations - Part 1

Moderator: Jason Baker, Research Marine Biologist, NMFS Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center & Scientific Advisor to the MMC

9:15-9:20

Introduction

Jason Baker

9:20-10:00

Addressing Direct Predation — Bonneville Dam, Willamette Falls, Pending Columbia River Legislation

Robert Anderson, Acting Portland Branch Leader, NMFS West Coast Regional Office

Bryan Wright, Acting Marine Mammal Program Leader, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Michael Gosliner

10:00-10:30

Coffee Break

10:30-12:00

Conservation Concerns Related to Recovering Pinniped Populations - Part 2

Moderator: Jason Baker

10:30-12:00

Panel Discussion - Direct Predation and Emerging Issues including Prey Competition with Killer Whales and Salmonid Predation Beyond the Columbia River

Panelists in Addition to Presenters

Nate Pamplin, Policy Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sharon Young, Marine Issues Field Director, Humane Society of the United States

Guy Norman, Member, Northwest Power & Conservation Council

12:00-1:30

Lunch Break

1:30-3:00

Southern Resident Killer Whales: Science – Status, Stressors, and Trends

Moderator: Robin Baird, Research Biologist, Cascadia Research Collective & Scientific Advisor to the MMC

1:30-1:35

Introduction

Robin Baird

1:35-1:50

Population History, Status, Trends, Demography, Vital Rates, and Viability Analyses

Eric Ward, Biological Statistician, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center

1:50–2:05

Impacts of Prey Availability, Vessels, and Contaminants on Southern Resident Killer Whale Vital Rates

Rob Williams, Co-Founder, Oceans Initiative

2:05-2:20

Condition and Health: Connections to Ecology, Feeding, Social Behavior and Human Impacts

Dawn Noren, Research Fishery Biologist, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center

2:20–3:00

Panel Discussion

Panelists in Addition to Presenters

Mike Ford, Director of Conservation Biology Division, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Ken Balcomb, Founder and Senior Scientist, Center for Whale Research

Gina Ylitalo, Environmental Chemistry Program Manager, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Sheila Thornton, Research Scientist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Jason Wood, Operations Manager & Senior Research Scientist, Sea Mammal Research Unit Consulting

Joe Gaydos, Science Director, SeaDoc Society

3:00-3:30

Coffee Break

3:30-5:00

Southern Resident Killer Whales: Management – Existing and Planned Actions/Measures

Moderator: Randy Wells, Senior Conservation Scientist, Chicago Zoological Society & Scientific Advisor to the MMC

3:30-3:35

Introduction

Randy Wells

3:35-3:55

Federal/State/Local/Bilateral Actions Targeted at Reducing the Impact of Reduced Prey Availability

Elizabeth Babcock, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Coordinator, NMFS West Coast Regional Office

Penny Becker, Policy Lead, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

3:55-4:05

State Actions Targeted at Reducing the Impact of Threats - Washington State Governor Executive Order, State Agency Actions, and Task Force

Penny Becker

4:05-4:20

Ongoing and Emerging Federal/Local/Bilateral Management Actions and Policy Initiatives: Vessel regulations and voluntary initiatives (sound and disturbance reduction), contaminants and health monitoring, coastal critical habitat, closed areas (San Juan Island voluntary area and petition), education and outreach

Lynne Barre, Seattle Branch Leader, NMFS West Coast Regional Office

4:20-5:00

Panel Discussion – Policies, Protection and Management

Panelists in Addition to Presenters

Kendra Smith, Environmental Resources Manager, San Juan County Office

Deborah Giles, Scientific Advisor and Coordinator, Orca Salmon Alliance

5:00-5:30

Public Comments, End of Day Recap, Action Items

Daryl Boness, Chairman, MMC

Thursday, May 31, 2018

8:30-11:15	<p>West Coast Large Whale Entanglements <i>Moderator: Randall Reeves, Chair of Committee of Scientific Advisors, MMC</i></p>
8:30-8:35	<p>Introduction <i>Randall Reeves</i></p>
8:35-8:50	<p>Increase in Entanglements: species, fisheries/gear, and spatial/temporal patterns <i>Dan Lawson, Fisheries Biologist, NMFS West Coast Regional Office</i></p>
8:50 – 9:05	<p>Potential Impacts: Stocks, populations impacts, and science gaps <i>Karen Martien, Operations Research Analyst, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center</i></p>
9:05 – 9:30	<p>Mitigation Efforts: Federal, State, and Fisheries prevention/mitigation efforts <i>Kelly Sayce, Facilitator of California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group, Strategic Earth Consulting</i> <i>Geoff Shester, California Campaign Director, Oceana</i> <i>Dick Ogg, Fisherman, California Dungeness Crab Fishery</i></p>
9:30 – 9:45	<p>Mitigation of North Atlantic Large Whale Entanglements – What Has Worked and What Hasn't <i>Tim Werner, Senior Scientist and Director, Bycatch Program, New England Aquarium</i></p>
9:45 – 10:00	<p>Moderated Questions</p>
10:00-10:30	<p>Coffee Break</p>
10:30-11:15	<p>Panel Discussion <i>Panelists in Addition to Presenters</i> <i>Sheila Garber, Purchasing and Sales, Englund Marine & Industrial Supply</i> <i>Daniel Ayers, Coastal Shellfish Manager, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife</i></p>
11:15-12:00	<p>Southeast Alaska Harbor Porpoises <i>Moderator: Patty Rosel, Research Geneticist, NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center & Scientific Advisor to the MMC</i></p>
11:15 - 11:20	<p>Introduction <i>Patty Rosel</i></p>
11:20 - 11:30	<p>Harbor Porpoise Abundance and Trends <i>Alex Zerbini, Contractor, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center</i></p>
11:30 – 11:40	<p>Bycatch of Harbor Porpoise in the Southeast Alaska Gillnet Fishery: Bycatch Estimates and Implications for Management <i>Kristy Long, National Marine Mammal Take Reduction Program Coordinator, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, NOAA</i></p>

11:40 – 11:50	Using Environmental DNA (eDNA) and Opportunistic Sampling to Address Data Gaps in Genetic Stock Structure <i>Kim Parsons, Contractor, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center</i>
11:50 – 12:00	Moderated Questions
12:00-1:30	Lunch Break
1:30-3:00	Sea Otters - California, Washington, and Alaska <i>Moderator: Frances Gulland, Commissioner, MMC</i>
1:30-2:10	Overview of California, Washington, and Southeast Alaska Sea Otter Stocks: History, Trends, Population Structure/Demography, Threats, and Status Relative to Optimum Sustainable Population/Carrying Capacity CA - <i>Tim Tinker, Nhydra Ecological Consulting; Adjunct Professor, UC Santa Cruz</i> WA - <i>Deanna Lynch, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Washington</i> SE AK – <i>Jim Bodkin, Research Biologist (retired, US Geological Survey, Alaska)</i>
2:10-2:20	Ecological Interactions: Role of Sea Otters in Maintaining a Healthy Ecosystem Southeast Alaska: Rocky Outer Coast and Soft Sediment Systems California: Kelp and Estuary Systems <i>Jim Bodkin</i> <i>Tim Tinker</i>
2:20-2:30	Fisheries Interactions: Impacts of Sea Otters on Fishery Resources (Focus on Southeast Alaska) <i>Tim Tinker</i> <i>Lori Polasek, Marine Mammal Program Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game</i>
2:30-3:00	Panel Discussion <i>Panelists in addition to Presenters</i> <i>Lilian Carswell, Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Marine Conservation Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i> <i>Patrick Lemons, Chief of Marine Mammals Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Alaska</i> <i>Mike Miller, Chair, Sitka Marine Mammal Commission</i> <i>Grant Hilderbrand, Marine Ecology Office Chief, USGS Alaska Science Center</i> <i>Dan Ayres, Shellfish Biologist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife</i>
3:00-3:30	Coffee Break
3:30-4:45	Alaska Species of Concern – Science Gaps and Management Needs <i>Moderator: Robert Suydam, Wildlife Biologist, North Slope Borough &</i>

Scientific Advisor to the MMC

3:30-3:50

Chukchi Sea Polar Bears: Abundance Estimate from Mark-Recapture Study, Lessons from Aerial Survey/Thermal Imaging, Harvest Risk Assessment, and Stock Boundary Delineation

Eric Regehr, Research Biologist, University of Washington

3:50-4:00

Ringed seals: Unravelling Population Structure in Arctic Ringed Seals
Aimee Lang, Contractor, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center

4:00-4:25

North Pacific Right Whales: Status Update, Including Recent Cruise Results, Saldrone Acoustics, Contemporary Distribution from Long-Term Acoustic Recorders, and Implications for Stock Assessment
Jessica Crance, Research Biologist, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Dana Wright, Contractor, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center

4:25-4:45

Cook Inlet Beluga Whales: Research Program Updates
Paul Wade, Research Fisheries Biologist, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Manolo Castellote, Affiliate Scientist, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center

4:45-5:00

End of Day Recap, Action Items and Acknowledgments

Daryl Boness, Chairman, MMC

5:00

Meeting Adjourns