

# MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

14-15 November 2023

The Navy Memorial Visitor's Center  
701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20004



### Tuesday, 14 November 2023

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>Welcome, and Introduction to the Meeting</b> <i>Peter Thomas, Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission (MMC)</i>
9:00 AM – 10:20 AM	<b>Ecology and Ecosystem Dynamics Part 1: Shifting Distribution, Prey and Threats</b> <i>Moderator: Daniel Palacios, Associate Professor, Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon State University and Scientific Advisor, MMC</i>
9:00 - 9:05	Introduction to shifting distribution, prey, and threats <i>Daniel Palacios, Associate Professor, Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon State University and Scientific Advisor, MMC</i>
9:05 - 9:20	Climate-driven shifts in right whale reproduction, distribution, and risk exposure <i>Erin Meyer-Gutbrod, Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina</i>
9:20 – 9:35	Shifting spatial and temporal marine mammal distributions in the Pacific Arctic <i>Kate Stafford, Associate Professor, Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon State University</i>
9:35 – 9:50	The Guadalupe fur seal: Recovery and climate change <i>Fernando Elorriaga-Verplancken, Professor, Interdisciplinary Center for Marine Sciences of the National Polytechnic Institute</i>
9:50 – 10:05	Assessing and mitigating entanglement risk of humpback whales in the dynamic California Current Ecosystem <i>Karin Forney, Research Biologist, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center and Scientific Advisor, MMC</i>
10:05 - 10:20	Integrating marine mammal data into regional ocean observing systems for Harmful Algal Bloom early warning systems and ecosystem health assessment <i>Clarissa Anderson (pre-recorded)*, Director, Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System</i>

10:20 AM – 10:45 AM	<b>Break</b>
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM	<p><b>Shifting Distribution, Prey, and Threats Discussion</b></p> <p><i>Additional panelists:</i></p> <p><i>Sean Hayes, Chief, Protected Species Division, NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center</i></p> <p><i>Donna Hauser*, Research Assistant Professor, International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks and Alaska Arctic Observatory and Knowledge Hub</i></p> <p><i>Carl Gouldman, Director, Integrated Ocean Observing System Office</i></p>
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 PM - 2:45 PM	<p><b>Ecology and Ecosystem Dynamics Part 2: Habitat Alterations</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Robert Suydam, Senior Wildlife Biologist, North Slope Borough (retired) and Scientific Advisor, MMC</i></p>
1:30 - 1:45	<p>Introduction to climate-driven changes to marine mammal habitats</p> <p><i>Robert Suydam, Senior Wildlife Biologist, North Slope Borough (retired) and Scientific Advisor, MMC</i></p>
1:45 - 2:00	<p>Hawaiian monk seal—Terrestrial habitat loss due to climate change and potential mitigation</p> <p><i>Jason Baker, Marine Biologist, NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and Scientific Advisor, MMC</i></p>
2:00 - 2:15	<p>Pacific walrus – Sea ice loss driven alterations of walrus behavioral ecology</p> <p><i>Tony Fischbach*, Research Wildlife Biologist, USGS Alaska Science Center</i></p>
2:15 – 2:30	<p>Ice seals – Effects of climate change on ice seal habitat</p> <p><i>Michael Cameron*, Polar Ecosystems Program Manager, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center</i></p>
2:30 – 2:45	<p>Yangtze finless porpoise – Intervention efforts to relocate porpoises to counteract impacts of human activity exacerbated by climate change</p> <p><i>Randy Reeves, Okapi Wildlife Associates and Chair of the Committee of Scientific Advisors, MMC</i></p>
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM	<p><b>Habitat Alterations Discussion</b></p> <p><i>Additional panelists:</i></p> <p><i>Brian Smith*, Senior Advisor, Wildlife Conservation Society</i></p>
3:45 PM - 4:15 PM	<b>Break</b>
4:15 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>MMC Closed Session</b>

## Wednesday, 15 November 2023

8:45 AM - 8:50 AM	<b>Day 1 Recap</b>
8:50 AM - 10:15 AM	<b>Marine Mammal Health in a Changing Climate</b> <i>Moderator: Randall Wells, Director of Sarasota Dolphin Research Program and Scientific Advisor, MMC</i>
8:50 - 9:00	Introducing ONE Health and potential climate effects on population health <i>Frances Gulland, Research Associate, University of California Davis, and Chair, MMC</i>
9:00 - 9:15	Hawaiian monk seal research program, exemplar of successful conservation medicine approach <i>Michelle Barbieri, Supervisory Veterinary Medical Officer, NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center</i>
9:15 - 9:30	Southern sea otter recovery, exemplar of climate-related contingencies <i>Chris Kreuder Johnson*, Professor of Medicine &amp; Epidemiology, University of California Davis</i>
9:30 - 9:45	Surveillance and management strategies to address climate change and wildlife health <i>Jonathan Sleeman, Science Advisor for Wildlife Health for the U.S. Geological Survey</i>
9:45 - 10:00	NMFS Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program at 30: Statutory mandates and future directions in a changing climate <i>Kim Damon-Randall, Director, NMFS Office of Protected Resources</i>
10:00 - 10:15	Vision for a nationwide Marine Mammal Health Monitoring & Surveillance Plan in a changing climate <i>Lori Schwacke, Scientific Program Director, MMC</i>
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM	<b>Break</b>
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	<b>Detecting Climate Change Impacts through Health Surveillance Discussion</b> <i>Additional panelists:</i> <i>Carl Gouldman, Director, NOAA's U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Office</i>
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	<b>Lunch</b>
1:15 PM - 2:30 PM	<b>Stock Assessments and Climate Change</b> <i>Moderator: Jason Baker, Marine Biologist NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, and Scientific Advisor, MMC</i>

1:15 - 1:20	<p>Introduction</p> <p><i>Jason Baker, Marine Biologist NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, and Scientific Advisor, MMC</i></p>
1:20 - 1:35	<p>Overview of the NMFS Stock Assessment Reports (SARs) process, and considerations of climate change</p> <p><i>Eric Patterson, Cetacean and Pinniped Conservation Lead, NMFS Office of Protected Resources</i></p>
1:35 - 1:50	<p>Integrating climate projections into the management and conservation of polar bears: challenges and opportunities</p> <p><i>Dave Gustine, Manager/Supervisory Biologist – Polar Bears, FWS Alaska Marine Mammals Management Office</i></p>
1:50 - 2:05	<p>Marine Mammal Climate Vulnerability Assessments</p> <p><i>Matt Lettrich, Protected Species Climate Vulnerability Assessment Lead, ECS Contractor supporting NMFS Office of Science and Technology</i></p>
2:05 - 2:20	<p>How climate change could/is impacting SARs and how we have to adapt the science</p> <p><i>Erin Oleson, Supervisory Research Ecologist, Cetacean Research Program, NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center</i></p>
2:20 – 2:35	<p>Tribally-led stock assessments utilizing Indigenous Knowledge</p> <p><i>Raven Cunningham, Tribal Fish &amp; Wildlife Director, Chugach Regional Resources Commission</i></p>
2:35 PM - 3:00 PM	<b>Break</b>
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>Stock Assessments and Climate Change Discussion</b>
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<p><b>Whales on the Brink: Discussion with NMFS Regional Leaders</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Andy Read, Director, Duke University Marine Laboratory, and Commissioner, MMC</i></p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <p><i>Laura Engleby, Chief, Marine Mammal Branch, NMFS Southeast Regional Office</i></p> <p><i>Anne Marie Eich, Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, NMFS Alaska Regional Office</i></p> <p><i>John Bengston, Division Director, Marine Mammal Laboratory, NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center</i></p> <p><i>Sean Hayes, Chief, Protected Species Branch, Northeast Fisheries Science Center</i></p>

\*Indicates virtual presenter/panelist