



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

Welcome and Introduction

Peter Thomas
Executive Director

A photograph of several shark fins cutting through the surface of the ocean, creating white spray and ripples in the blue water.

Recent Commission Meetings and Events

- 2023 Annual Meeting – Washington, D.C.
- Whales on the Brink Symposium – Collaboration with NMFS and the Smithsonian
- 2024 Working Meeting of the Commission - Virtual



In Remembrance



Dr. Mike Tillman
Marine Mammal Commissioner
2010 – 2022



Dr. Bob Hofman
Commission Scientific Program Director
1975 - 2000



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

Friends of the Commission



Dr. Armando Jaramillo-Legorreta



Dr. Jim Estes



Dr. James "Buddy" Powell



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

About Us

Briefly...

- **Mission:** The Marine Mammal Commission is an independent, science-based, oversight agency of the government, charged by the Marine Mammal Protection Act to further the goals and responsibilities of the act.



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

A photograph of several shark fins cutting through the surface of the ocean, creating white spray and splashes. The water is a deep blue-green color.

About Us

Briefly...

- **Structure**



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

Commissioners

Committee of Scientific Advisors

Staff



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A photograph of several shark fins breaking the surface of the ocean, creating white spray and splashes. The water is a deep blue-green color.

About Us

Briefly...

- **Our Work**



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

A photograph of a humpback whale swimming underwater, viewed from below. The whale's head and pectoral fin are visible, and the water is a deep blue. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the title text.

Short History

A short history of the Commission's work on emerging technologies and innovation in marine mammal conservation



Short History - Workshops

1979

A WORKSHOP TO IDENTIFY NEW RESEARCH
THAT MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION OF
THE TUNA-PORPOISE PROBLEM

8-9 December 1975
University of California, Santa Cruz

Robert J. Hofman, ed.
Marine Mammal Commission
1625 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Published January 1979

1981

Identification and Assessment of Possible Alternative Methods for
Catching Yellowfin Tuna

Robert J. Hofman

Marine Mammal Commission
Washington, D.C.

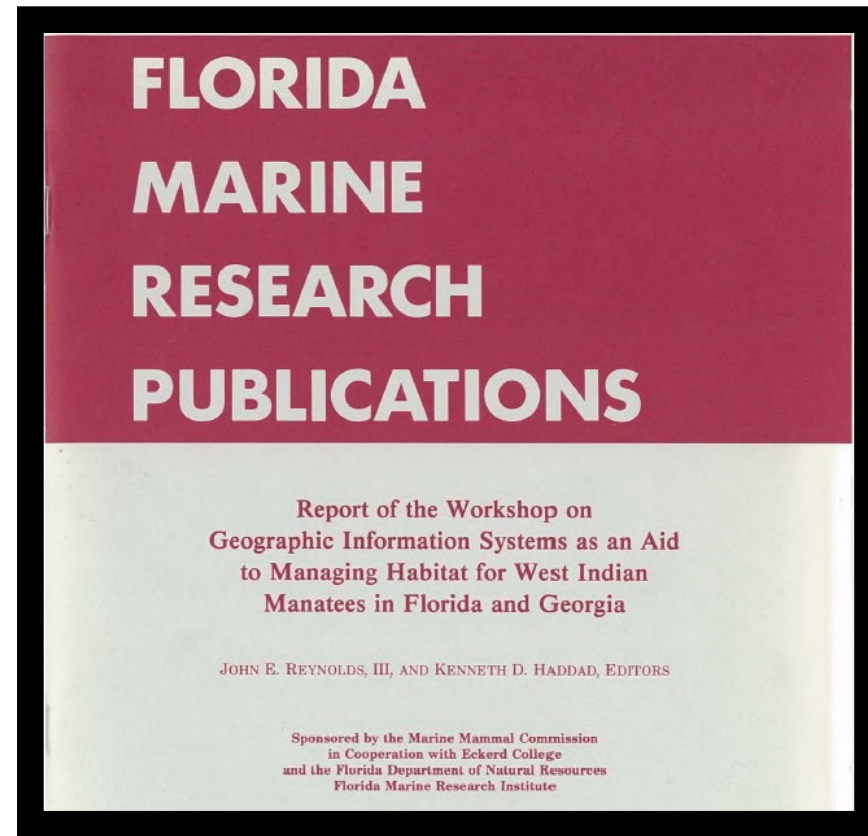
May 1981



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Short History - Workshops

1990



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Short History - Workshops

1996

Acoustic Deterrence of Harmful Marine Mammal-Fishery Interactions:

**Proceedings of a Workshop held in
Seattle, Washington, USA, 20-22 March 1996**

Edited by

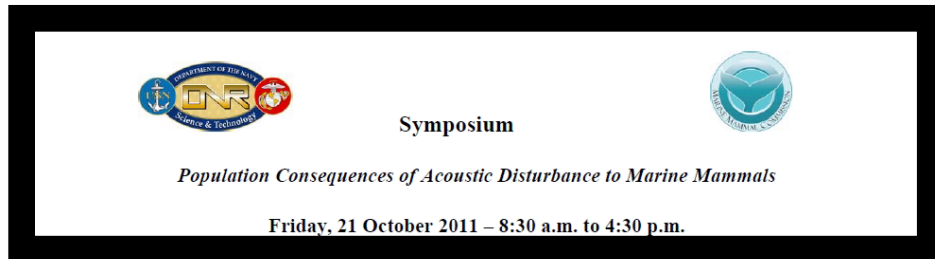
Randall R. Reeves
Robert J. Hofman
Gregory K. Silber
Dean Wilkinson



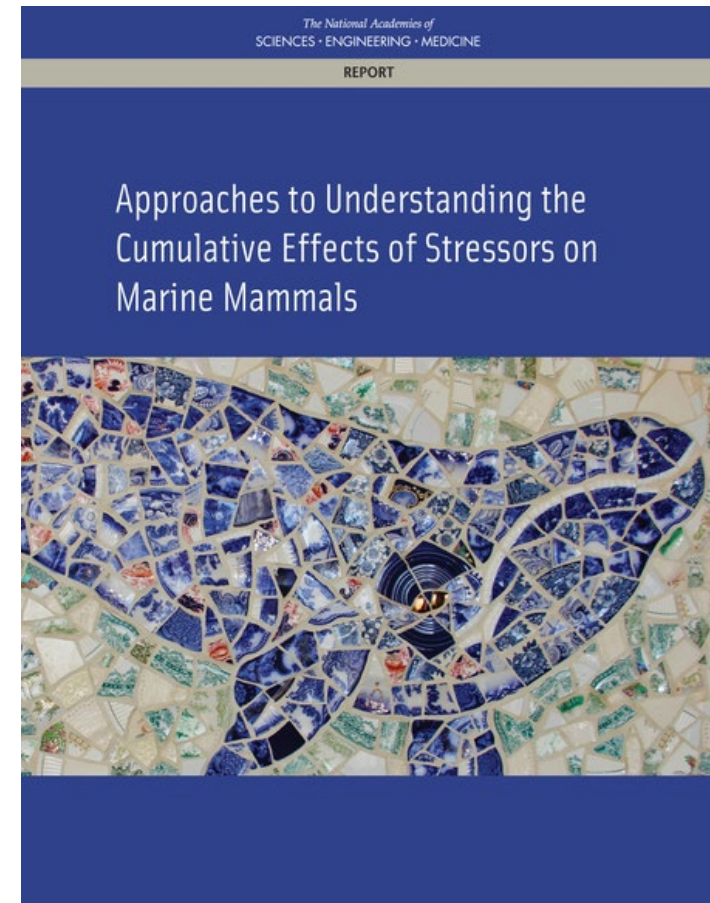
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Short History - Workshops

2011



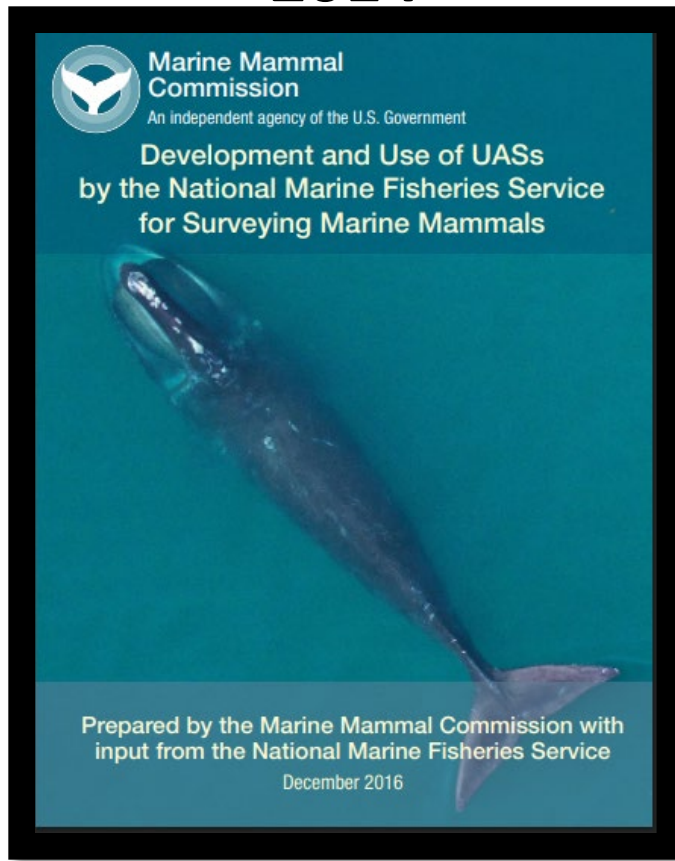
2015



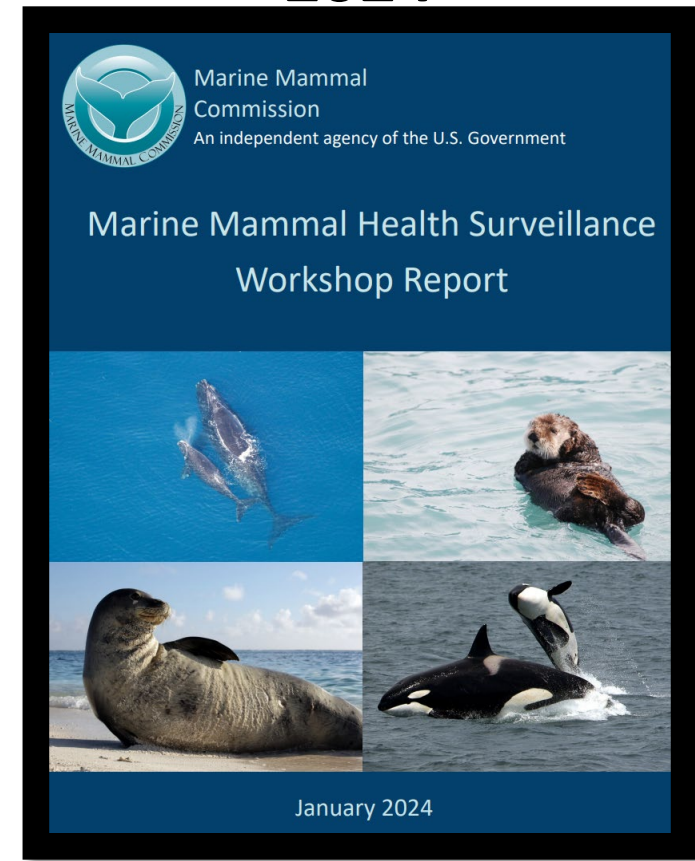
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Short History - Workshops

2014



2024



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Short History - Grants

2013

Whale Alert on Android Platform and Shipping Industry Stewardship



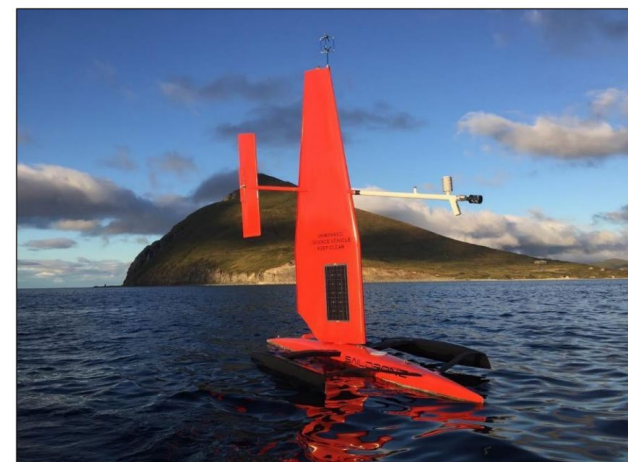
This tanker slowed and altered course around a North Atlantic right whale in the Bay of Fundy, Canada: an example of marine industry engagement in right whale stewardship.

Final Report:

2016

Saildrone Summer 2016 Bering Sea Mission

Final Report



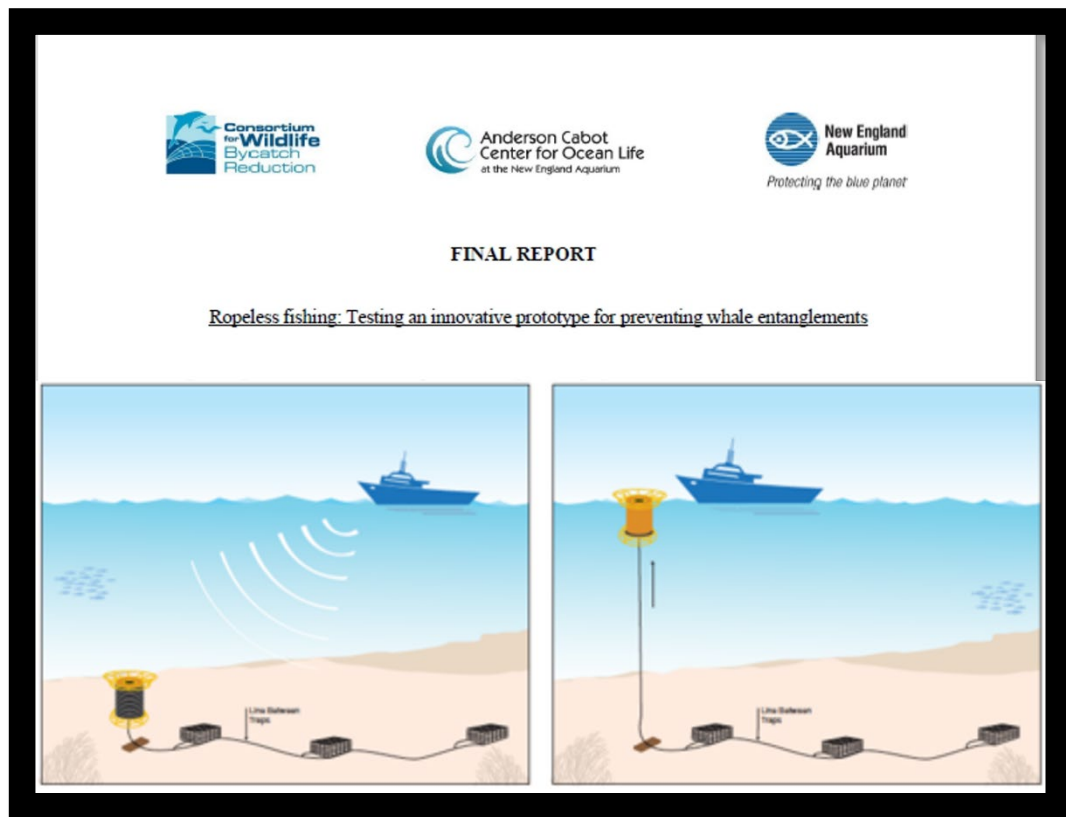
Jessica L. Crance and Catherine L. Berchok
Marine Mammal Laboratory
AFSC/NMFS/NOAA



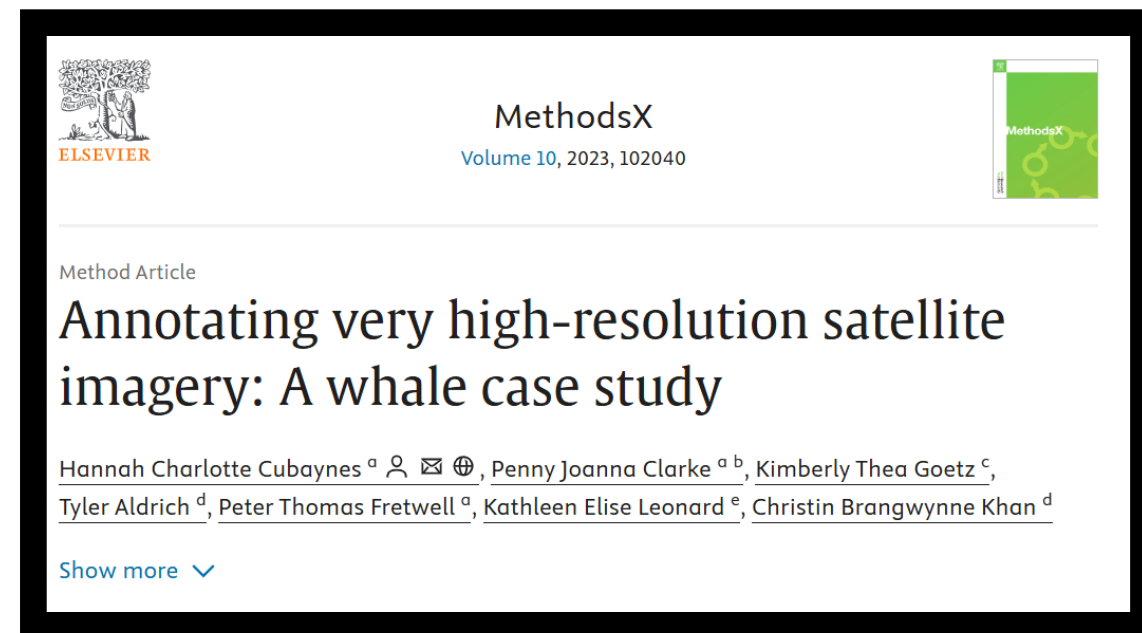
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Short History - Grants

2016



2021



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A photograph of several shark fins breaking the surface of the ocean, creating white spray and splashes. The water is a deep blue-green color.

Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2025 Topic: Development of new tools or methods to improve marine mammal stock assessments



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A photograph of several shark fins breaking the surface of the ocean, creating white foam and splashing water. The water is a deep blue-green color.

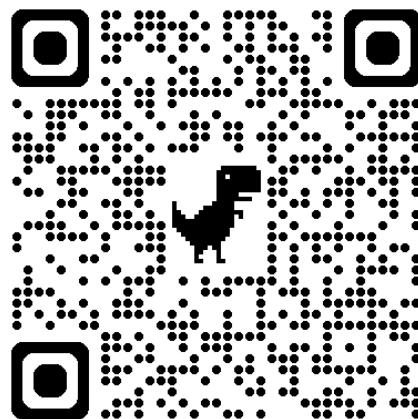
Grant Program

- **Bejder, L.:** Advancing satellite-based whale detection for remote population monitoring in the Pacific
- **Durban, J:** Novel spatial mark-recapture models for assessing open and moving whale populations
- **Durden, W.N.:** Testing the utilization of unoccupied aircraft systems to assess serious injury in marine mammals
- **Hines Boor, G:** Can we detect delphinids via satellite images? A proof-of-concept case study with well-studied bottlenose dolphin stocks in the southeastern United States
- **Jacobson, E.K.:** Improving US marine mammal stock assessments with close-kin mark-recapture
- **Sharp, S.:** Improving gray seal SI qualification and quantification for NOAA stock assessment reports through coordinated entanglement surveys in the Northeastern US and development of remote entanglement assessment techniques
- **Trukhanova, I.S.:** Computer vision tool for estimation of pinniped abundance, demographics, and body condition using uncrewed aerial vehicle-collected imagery.



Grant Program

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for Announcement**



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

A photograph of the ocean surface with several shark fins visible above the water. The water is a deep blue-green color, and there is some white foam from the waves. The title 'Stock Assessments' is overlaid in white text on a semi-transparent dark blue rectangular background.

Stock Assessments

Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports

- Section 117 of the MMPA requires the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare and periodically update Stock Assessment Reports for all marine mammals in U.S. waters





MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

2025 Annual Meeting

Emerging technologies to improve efficiency and
support innovation for marine mammal stock
assessments

A photograph of the ocean with several shark fins visible above the surface, creating a sense of movement and danger. The water is a deep blue-green color, and white foam from the waves is visible.

Meeting Goals

- Exchange information
- Inform future recommendations
- Facilitate discussion and collaboration



A photograph of several shark fins breaking the surface of the ocean, creating white foam and splashing water. The water is a deep blue-green color.

2025 Annual Meeting

Emerging technologies to improve efficiency and support innovation for marine mammal stock assessments.

Day 1 - Eyes in the Sky: Emerging technologies for remote detection and assessment

Day 2

- Reducing Impact through Innovation: Innovative and less-invasive sampling methods for health and population assessment
- Connecting the Dots: Innovative and integrated quantitative methods for assessing populations

Day 3 - Regional Updates: Hot Topics in the California Current Ecosystem



Housekeeping

- Keep lids on coffee
- Trash cans located around the room
- Location of restrooms and water bottle filling station
- Emergency exits
- Microphone plan/etiquette
- Discussion question submission





2025 Annual Meeting

This is a public meeting. Under applicable law, the Commission is required to maintain and provide a public record of the proceedings. As such, the meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the MMC website.