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Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
**Biology Department Seminar**



Thursday, November 30, 2023 – 12:00 Noon

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**Variation in North Atlantic Right Whale Prey  
(*Calanus* spp. Copepods) in the Western North  
Atlantic**

**Kevin Sorochan**

**Aquatic Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Bedford Institute of Ocean  
Sciences**

The endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW), *Eubalaena glacialis*, is a large whale with a big appetite for zooplankton. Lipid-rich life stages of subarctic and arctic copepods of the genus *Calanus* are key prey. Variation in prey is inherently important to NARW health and reproduction, but also provides information relevant to NARW movement, distribution, and ultimately risk of encountering human threats (i.e., entanglement in rope and vessel strike). In this presentation, I discuss variations in abundance of *Calanus* spp. over scales ranging from 1000s of kilometres to metres. At the scale of the western North Atlantic shelves, declines in abundance of *Calanus finmarchicus* in the Gulf of Maine and western Scotian Shelf have been linked to a shift in NARW distribution in the 2010s, including an increase in NARW detections in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (GSL). At regional and local scales, I focus on variations in abundance of *C. finmarchicus* and *C. hyperboreus* in the GSL following a conceptual framework of prey availability, supply, and aggregation.

VIRTUAL ONLY! **Zoom:** <https://whoi-edu.zoom.us/j/95467282042> Meeting ID: 954 6728 2042 **By phone:**  
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