

A Series of  
Special Talks in  
**BOSTON &  
BREWSTER**

Sponsored by:  
Whale and Dolphin  
Conservation Society (N.A.)  
www.whales.org  
NOAA's Stellwagen Bank  
National Marine Sanctuary  
stellwagen.noaa.gov



Additional support  
provided by:  
Cape Cod Museum of  
Natural History  
Urban Harbors Institute,  
UMass/Boston  
North Atlantic Right Whale  
Consortium

**MONDAYS, 7pm**  
Boston – University of  
Massachusetts/Boston,  
Science Building,  
Small Science Auditorium  
**NO CHARGE** for lecture  
Fee for parking

**WEDNESDAYS, 7pm**  
Brewster – Cape Cod  
Museum of Natural History  
**FEE – \$5 CCMNH & WDCS**  
members and students;  
\$6 non-members  
Parking is free

**EDUCATOR SPECIAL**  
12 Professional Development  
Points (PDPs) are available  
for educators  
attending all six programs.  
Each lecture will be supple-  
mented by an extra  
45-min. session that  
provides resource  
materials and ideas for  
classroom activities.  
Registration Fee – \$30  
(includes free entry to  
lectures at either location).  
Contact the museum at  
508-896-3867  
to preregister  
(credit cards accepted).

Seating is on a first-come,  
first served basis.

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PCCS, WCNE, SBNMS



**LECTURE SERIES -- North Atlantic Right Whales:  
A Critically Endangered Species in our Backyard**

There are no Wrong Whales or Left Whales, but there are Right Whales -- and they are found in our backyard. These behemoths, measuring up to 50 feet long and 50 tons, visit Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary to feed in our rich waters. But with less than 400 animals in the population, the North Atlantic Right Whale is critically endangered. The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (N.A.) and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary are proud to present these leading experts who will discuss ongoing studies of right whale biology and behavior, and conservation efforts to save this species from extinction.  
ALL PROGRAMS START AT 7PM.

**March 7 (Brewster)    *Grappling with Giants: Disentangling large whales and understanding entanglement* -- Scott Landry, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies**

Entanglement in fishing gear is a major threat to right whales; and with so few animals in the population, any losses threaten survival of the species. Through careful removal of fishing gear entangling whales, questions about how whales become entangled are brought into focus. Mr. Landry, who leads the center's disentanglement team, will use case histories to explore the nature of entanglements, disentanglement techniques (including some derived from whaling methods), and possible fishing practices that could reduce bycatch.

**March 14 (Brewster)    *Dinner for 50 Tons: A story of one of the largest animals on the planet feeding on one of the smallest* -- Dr. Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**

Right whales need to eat a lot of food – 2000-3000 pounds a day (about the equivalent of the weight of a Volkswagen Beetle). Remarkably, they feed on marine organisms called copepods that are about the size of a flea. How do right whales find a ton or more of these flea-sized copepods each day, and how exactly do they eat them? Dr. Baumgartner will review what scientists know about right whale feeding and its implications for the survival of this highly endangered species.

**March 21 (Brewster)    *Whale Whisperer -- Listening for right whales in the sanctuary* -- Dr. Leila Hatch, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

After first listening to some common sources of sound in the sanctuary, participants will learn how sound behaves in water and its importance to marine animals. Dr. Hatch will introduce a collaborative passive acoustic monitoring project that is currently underway within the sanctuary that addresses multiple questions regarding the location and behavior of vocalizing whales, the potential for hearing loss and masking to various species, and sound contributions from large commercial vessels.

**March 28 (Brewster)    *Collision Course: Whale tracks and ship routes* -- Dr. David Wiley, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is a critical seasonal feeding area for right, humpback, fin, and minke whales. It is also the area in which large commercial ships converge to enter the Port of Boston, with over 200 large commercial ships plying its waters every month. This can be a recipe for disaster. A conservation effort that moves the ship ping lanes may reduce risk of shipstrikes to endangered right whales by up to 58% and to all baleen whales by up to 81%.

**April 4 (Brewster)    *CSI Right Whale: A forensics look into the issues impacting right whales* -- Dr. Michael Moore, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**

Marine mammal necropsies formerly offered opportunities to collect life history samples and museum skeletons. Today, detailed examinations and reports of gross pathology provide evidence to human impacts; such as vessel collisions, fishing gear entanglements, and exposures to noise; infectious disease; or other pathobiological diagnoses. Dr Moore will detail the evolution of marine mammal forensic science over the past 20 years.

**April 11 (Brewster)    *The Urban Whale: North Atlantic Right Whales at a crossroads***  
**April 23 (Boston)    Dr. Scott Kraus and Dr. Roz Rolland, New England Aquarium**

North Atlantic right whales, dubbed "the urban whale," spend much of their lives along the industrialized east coast of North America. Recent studies show that this population is declining in size, and if current trends are not reversed, the species will go extinct in approximately two centuries. The North Atlantic right whale is at a crossroads, as human decisions over the next few decades will decide its fate.

For more information, e-mail [stellwagen@noaa.gov](mailto:stellwagen@noaa.gov) or call 781-545-8026