



NOAA FISHERIES

Southwest & Northwest
Fisheries Science Centers

AGENDA

Review of Science on Marine Mammals & Turtles

Monday-Friday, 27-31 July 2015 – Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, CA

Monday, 27 July, Pacific Room

8:00 Meet & Greet

8:30 Welcome, Review of Terms of Reference and Charge to the Panel *Cisco Werner, John Stein, and Richard Merrick (30 mins¹)*

9:00 Management Needs *Chris Yates (60 mins)*

10:00 Break

10:30 Overview of SWFSC's Marine Mammal & Turtle Science: Mission, Scope, Approach *Lisa T. Ballance & Jeremy Rusin (45 mins)*

11:15 Overview of NWFSC's Marine Mammal Science *Mike Ford (15 mins)*

11:30 Theme I: Abundance Estimation and Trends

- Marine Mammals: Overview of abundance and trend estimation from ship-based and aerial surveys in the California Current² *Jeff Moore (30 mins)*
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12:00 Lunch

1:00 Theme I (continued)

- Marine Mammal Case Study Talks³ (60 mins)
 - Advances in passive acoustic survey methods and abundance estimations *Jay Barlow*
 - Estimating gray whale abundance from Bayesian modeling of shore-based counts *John Durban*
 - Assessing abundance and trends of the vaquita *Tim Gerrodette*
 - Cetacean habitat and density modeling *Karin Forney*
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¹ All time periods include presentation (~2/3 of allotted time) plus questions/discussion (~1/3 of allotted time).

² Overview talks provide a high-level overview of the topic and set the stage for case study talks to follow.

³ Case study talks are intended to provide more depth. They will be short (10 min), back-to-back presentations with questions and discussion held to the end of each of the case study thematic sections.

- Questions/Discussion

2:00 *Break*

2:30 **Tour of Laboratories: Passive Acoustics, Photogrammetry (30 mins)**

3:15 **Theme I (continued)**

- Abundance estimation and assessment of Pacific marine turtles: An overview *Jeff Seminoff (30 mins)*
- *Marine Turtle Case Study Talks (60 mins)*
 - Building capacity for nesting beach monitoring of leatherback turtles in the Western Pacific Ocean *Manjula Tiwari*
 - Abundance and distribution of leatherback turtles along the U.S. West Coast *Scott Benson*
 - Loggerhead turtles in the southern California Bight: Insights for the southern time-area closure *Tomo Eguchi*
 - Demography of green turtles in southern California *Tomo Eguchi*
 - Questions/Discussion

4:45 **Public Comment**

5:15 **Panel Review and Discussion (closed session)**

6:00 **Adjourn for the day**

Tuesday, 28 July, Pacific Room

8:00 Meet & Greet

8:30 Theme II: Defining Units to Conserve

- Introduction *Barbara Taylor (10 mins)*
 - Marine Mammals: Overview *Barbara Taylor (30 mins)*
 - *Marine Mammal Case study talks (60 mins)*
 - DIPS, DPSs, and consideration of social structure: Hawaiian false killer whales *Karen Martien*
 - Climate change-related research: Gray whales and ice seals *Aimee Lang (presented by Karen Martien)*
 - Assessing stock structure with multiple lines of evidence: Fin whales *Eric Archer*
 - Phylogeography and taxonomy: Baird's and killer whales *Phil Morin*
 - Questions/Discussion
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10:10 Break

10:30 Theme II (continued)

- Marine Turtles: Overview *Peter Dutton (30 mins)*
 - *Marine Turtle Case Study Talks (60 mins)*
 - Delineating stock boundaries: Pacific green turtles *Michael Jensen*
 - Putting new populations on the map: Eastern Pacific hawksbill turtles *Alex Gaos*
 - Building comprehensive international datasets: Loggerhead turtles *Peter Dutton*
 - Fine-scale stock assignment with multiple markers: Leatherback turtles *Peter Dutton*
 - Questions/Discussion
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12:00 Lunch

1:00 Tour of Laboratories: Molecular Genetics, Collection (45 mins)

2:00 Theme III: Science to support recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales (2 hr)

- Overview and demography *Mike Ford (30 min)*
- Southern Resident Killer Whale Case Study Talks
 - Distribution and diet studies *Brad Hanson*
 - An individual-based model to support critical habitat identification *Charlotte Boyd*
 - Effects of vessels on whale behavior *Dawn Noren*
 - Effects of noise *Marla Holt*
 - Contaminants and health *Gina Ylitalo*
 - Modeling interactions between fisheries, salmon, and killer whales *Mike Ford*
 - Questions/Discussion

4:00 Public Comment

4:30 Panel Review and Discussion (closed session)

5:30 Adjourn for the day

Wednesday, 29 July, Pacific Room

8:00 Meet & Greet

8:30 Theme IV: Life History & Condition

- Marine Mammals: Overview *Wayne Perryman (30 mins)*
 - Case study talks (60 mins)
 - Specimen-based research *Susan Chivers*
 - Using photogrammetry to include measures of individual quality in whale status assessments *John Durban*
 - Hormone assays to assess impacts of anthropogenic effects (oil spills, noise) *Nick Kellar (presented by Camryn Allen)*
 - An integrated approach to assessing population consequences of disturbance: A case study of beaked whales on a Navy test range *John Durban*
 - Questions/Discussion
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10:00 Break

10:30 Theme IV (continued)

- Marine Turtles: Overview *Jeff Seminoff (30 mins)*
 - Case study talks (75 mins)
 - Novel approaches to determine population vital rates *Peter Dutton*
 - Got plasma? Using testosterone ELISAs for sex determination and reproductive assessment of sea turtles *Camryn Allen*
 - Linking stable isotope analysis with skeletochronology to determine life history patterns in sea turtles *Cali Turner-Tomaszewicz*
 - Shifting the life-history paradigm: Discovery of novel habitat use by hawksbill turtles *Alex Gaos*
 - U.S. West Coast marine turtle strandings and sightings *Robin LeRoux*
 - Questions/Discussion
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12:15 Lunch

1:00 Tour of Laboratories: Necropsy, Life History Archives, Hormone Assays, Stable Isotopes (45 mins)

2:00 Theme V: Risk Assessment

- Overview *Barbara Taylor & Jessica Redfern (30 mins)*
- Case study talks (60 mins)
 - The desperate dozen: Lessons from critically endangered small cetaceans *Robert L. Brownell, Jr*
 - Improving methods for estimating bycatch and biological mortality limits for protected species in the California Current *Jeff Moore*
 - Bycatch: Spatial probability analysis for leatherback turtles *Tomo Eguchi*
 - Forecasting changes in cetacean density patterns *Elizabeth Becker*

- Questions/Discussion

3:30 *Break*

4:00 **Summary and Future Directions** *Lisa T. Ballance (30 mins)*

4:30 **Public Comment**

5:00 **Panel Review and Discussion (closed session)**

6:00 **Adjourn for the day**

Thursday, 30 July 9AM – 5 PM, Pacific Room

Panel working day (closed session)

Friday, 31 July 9AM – 5 PM, Stenella Room

Panel working day and initial report to NMFS leadership (closed session)