

## Appendix 2

### *Cause of Reproductive Failure in North Atlantic Right Whales: New Avenues of Research*

April 26-28, 2000

Holiday Inn, Falmouth, Massachusetts

#### PLENARY PRESENTATIONS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH

- 0830 Welcome and Workshop Introduction  
Michael Sissenwine  
Phil Clapham  
Roz Rolland
- 0845 Workshop Organization and Rules  
Peter Best, Workshop Chair
- 0900 *North Atlantic Right Whale History and Status* - Scott Kraus  
0945 Discussion
- 1000 *Blubber Thickness in Atlantic Right Whales, E. glacialis and E. australis: Relationship to Age, Gender, Reproductive Condition and Location* - Carolyn Miller  
1020 Discussion
- 1030 Break
- 1050 *A Review of Necropsy Data for Northwest Atlantic Right Whales (Eubalaena glacialis): 1970-1999* - Michael Moore  
1105 Discussion
- 1115 *Cytochrome P450 1A in Dermal Endothelia of Northern and Southern Right Whales, and Organic Contaminants in Right Whale Dermis and Gulf of Maine Zooplankton Prey* - Michael Moore  
1135 Discussion
- 1145 *Skin Lesions in North Atlantic Right Whales: 1980-1996* - Marilyn Marx  
*Histopathology of Skin Lesions in a North Atlantic Right Whale* - Sylvain DeGuise  
1200 Discussion
- 1230 Lunch
- 1330 *Risk of Environmental Contaminant-Related Toxicity in Northern Right Whales* - Peter Ross  
1400 Discussion
- 1415 *Reproductive Failure in North Atlantic Right Whales: The Marine Biotoxins Perspective* - Greg Doucette  
1435 Discussion
- 1445 Break
- 1505 *Infectious Disease as a Factor Affecting Reproduction and Offspring Survival in the Northern Right Whale* - Ailsa Hall  
1525 Discussion
- 1535 *Reproductive Dysfunction in Wild Animals: What the Tissues Tell Us* - Linda Munson  
1605 Discussion
- 1615 General discussion

WORKSHOP AGENDA  
THURSDAY, APRIL 27 & FRIDAY, APRIL 28

1. Introductory items
  - 1.1 Objectives of workshop
  - 1.2 Adoption of agenda
2. Overview of reproductive biology and reproductive failure
  - 2.1 General review of mammalian reproduction and causes of reproductive failure
  - 2.2 Review of North Atlantic right whale (NARW) reproduction, especially indicating where in the cycle impairment or failure may be occurring and development of testable hypotheses.
3. Consideration of possible causes of failure
  - 3.1 Genetic factors (e.g. loss of diversity, inbreeding, effective sex ratio)
    - 3.1.1 Review of existing knowledge of effects of these factors on reproduction
    - 3.1.2 Review of data on these factors in NARW  
Presentation: *Summary of Relevant Genetic Data on Northern Right Whales* - Brad White
    - 3.1.3 Evaluation of likelihood that genetic problems may be affecting NARW reproduction and development of testable hypotheses.
  - 3.2 Nutrition
    - 3.2.1 Review of existing knowledge of effects of nutrition on reproduction
    - 3.2.2 Review of data on nutrition in NARW
    - 3.2.3 Evaluation of likelihood that nutritional problems may be affecting NARW reproduction and development of testable hypotheses.
  - 3.3 Chemical contaminants
    - 3.3.1 Review of existing knowledge of effects of contaminants on reproduction
    - 3.3.2 Review of data on contaminant levels in NARW
    - 3.3.3 Evaluation of likelihood that chemical contaminants may be affecting NARW reproduction and development of testable hypotheses.
  - 3.4 Biotoxins
    - 3.3.4 Review of existing knowledge of effects of biotoxins on reproduction
    - 3.3.5 Review of data on biotoxin levels in NARW
    - 3.3.6 Evaluation of likelihood that biotoxins may be affecting NARW reproduction and development of testable hypotheses.
  - 3.5 Disease
    - 3.5.1 Review of existing knowledge of effects of disease on reproduction
    - 3.5.2 Review of data on disease in NARW
    - 3.5.3 Evaluation of likelihood that disease may be affecting NARW reproduction and development of testable hypotheses.
  - 3.6 Other potential factors (e.g. habitat disturbance/loss)
4. Design of research programme to test one or more of above hypotheses, based on relative likelihood of occurrence and feasibility of research achieving stated objectives, including discussion of appropriate "control" population(s).
5. Summary and conclusions in the context of the overall conservation requirements of NARW.
6. Adoption of report.