

BELUGAS COUNT! 2023 AFTERNOON CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

1:00pm Celebration begins

1:30 – 2:00pm Welcoming Remarks in Anchorage and Kenai
Partner in the Spotlight Award Presentation

2:25 – 3:00pm SeaWorld San Antonio
Tyonek's rescue and live visit with him, his friends and his caretakers

3:00 – 3:15pm Science Talk - Dr. Jenna Malek, NOAA Fisheries

Building the road to recovery: conservation and management of the eastern North Pacific right whale

Dr. Malek is a marine mammal specialist with NOAA Fisheries' Protected Resources Division in Anchorage. She works on marine mammal co-management between Alaska Native Organizations and federal management agencies and consults with other federal agencies on actions that impact endangered eastern North Pacific right whales.



3:15 – 3:30pm Science Talk - Dr. Kim Goetz, NOAA Fisheries

Every whale counts! Estimating abundance and life history parameters for endangered Cook Inlet belugas

Dr. Goetz is a research biologist with NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle, Washington. She is the lead author of the recently published report, "Abundance and Trend of Belugas (*Delphinapterus leucas*) in Cook Inlet, Alaska, June 2021 and June 2022."



4:00 – 4:15 pm Science Talk - Dr. Kathy Burek Huntington, Alaska Veterinary Pathology Services (AVPS)

Pathology of stranded Cook Inlet belugas

Dr. Burek-Huntington is a board certified veterinary pathologist who has been in business with AVPS for 25 years. She has a keen interest in zoonotic diseases, climate change issues and supporting the subsistence users to whom Alaska's wildlife are a critical part of their way of life.



4:15 – 4:30 pm Science Talk - Dr. John Maniscalco, Alaska Sealife Center (ASLC)

The good, the bad, and the ugly: A brief history of our relationship with Steller sea lions

Dr. Maniscalco has been a research associate at ASLC since 2000. His research focus is on the behavior and population dynamics of Steller sea lions and nesting seabirds, primarily through the use of remote video monitoring techniques. He also works as a part-time captain and naturalist for the tourist industry based in Seward, Alaska.



5:00pm Celebration concludes