

# Whales on the Brink: Stories from the Rice's Whale Discovery and Right Whale Tales

Symposium Agenda and Supplementary Information

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

**Please Use the Constitution Ave entrance (North) - See page 3 for further details**

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/events/scientific-symposium-whales-brink>

Time	Event
8:00 am	<b>Entrance to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History begins</b> Please plan accordingly for lines and security as we will begin promptly at 8:30am.
8:30 am	<b>Welcome, Housekeeping, Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr. Kirk Johnson, Sant Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History</li><li>● Janet Coit, NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator</li></ul>
	<b>Morning Plenary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Why We Still Need to "Save the Whales" (Dr. Frances Gulland, Marine Mammal Commission Chair)</li></ul>
9:20 am	<b>Importance of Collections for Conservation</b> <i>Moderated by Kim Damon-Randall, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources Director</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Conservation by Curiosity – Potential for Mitigating North Atlantic Right Whale Collapse as a Model for Rice's Whale Conservation - <i>museum specimens answer questions often never dreamed by their collectors</i> (Dr. Michael Moore, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Marine Mammal Center Director)</li><li>● Dedication of the Rice's Whale Exhibit, Sant Ocean Hall, National Museum of Natural History (John Ososky, National Museum of Natural History Marine Mammal Collection)</li></ul>
9:55 am	<b>Break</b>
10:15 am	<b>Rice's whale Session #1 – Discovery of a New Whale</b> <i>Moderated by Dr. Michael McGowen, National Museum of Natural History</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Hidden Beneath the Surface: Discovery of the Rice's whale (Dr. Patty Rosel, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center)</li><li>● 2019 Rice's whale stranding<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A Journey to the Future Holotype; a Story of Partnership (Denise Boyd, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Stranding Program and Gretchen Lovewell, Mote Marine Lab Stranding Program)</li><li>○ Processing and Installation of the Rice's Whale Holotype Skeleton (Keith Rittmaster, North Carolina Maritime Museum/Bonehenge Whale Center)</li></ul></li></ul>
11:30 am	<b>Lunch on your own and time to look at the new Rice's whale exhibit</b>

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Time	Event
1:00 pm	<p><b>Rice’s whale Session #2 – Recent Scientific Discoveries and Why They Matter</b>  <i>Moderated by Dr. Nick Pyenson, National Museum of Natural History</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Small Populations Need Urgent Care (Dr. Barb Taylor, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Red List Coordinator for Cetaceans)</li> <li>● Genetics: Large Genomic Datasets Support Gulf of Mexico Rice's Whales as a Unique Species (Dr. Matt Leslie, Ursinus College)</li> <li>● Acoustics: Listening for Rice's Whales in the Gulf of Mexico (Dr. Melissa Soldevilla, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center)</li> <li>● Habitat: Meeting Them Where They Live: The Oceanography and Productivity of Rice's Whale Habitat (Dr. Lance Garrison, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center)</li> <li>● Prey/Diet: Living on the edge: Food Quality Drives Prey Selection in Critically Endangered Rice's whales (Dr. Jeremy Kiszka, Florida International University’s Marine Conservation Ecology Lab)</li> <li>● Baleen: The Hidden Lives of Rice's Whales: Deciphering the Stories of Individual Whales with Baleen Analysis (Dr. Katheen Hunt, George Mason University)</li> <li>● Navigating Towards Recovery (Laura Engleby, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office)</li> </ul>
3:10 pm	<p><b>Break</b></p>
3:30 pm	<p><b>Another Whale in the Shadows: The North Pacific Right Whale</b>  <i>Moderated by Dr. Peter Thomas, Marine Mammal Commission</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Eastern North Pacific right whales: An Exploited Past and Endangered Future (Dr. John Bengtson, NOAA Fisheries Alaska Fisheries Science Center and Dr. Anne Marie Eich, NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Office)</li> <li>● Right on the Brink: The Science Behind Saving a Whale Population from Extinction (Jessica Crance, NOAA Fisheries Alaska Fisheries Science Center)</li> <li>● Getting it Right: Recovering Endangered Eastern North Pacific Right Whales (Dr. Jenna Malek, NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Office)</li> </ul>
4:30 pm	<p><b>Afternoon Plenary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Building on a Half-Century of Conservation Success to Promote the Recovery of the Nation’s Most Endangered Whales (Dr. Andy Read, Marine Mammal Commission)</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b>            Dr. Rebecca Johnson, Assistant Director of Science, National Museum of Natural History</p>
5:00 pm	<p><b>Participants exit the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History</b></p>

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### **Closest Metro Stations to the National Museum of Natural History:**

- Archives (Green and Yellow Lines)
- Federal Triangle (Blue, Silver, Orange Lines)
- Smithsonian (Blue, Silver, Orange Lines)

### **Coffee:**

- Timgad Cafe (at Federal Triangle Metro Station) - 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW. They also have sandwiches and salads to go in the morning for lunch.
- Starbucks (across from Archives Metro) - 325 7<sup>th</sup> St NW
- Compass Coffee - 435 11<sup>th</sup> St NW
- Au Bon Pain - 406 10<sup>th</sup> St NW

### **Lunch options:**

- Food Trucks on Constitution Avenue
- Pavilion Café at the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery of Art (salads and sandwiches) - at 9<sup>th</sup> St and Constitution Ave NW
- Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Ctr Food Court - 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW (various vendors)
- Rice Bar (Korean and Pan-Asian noodle and rice bowls) - 801 Pennsylvania Ave NW PLZ, 04 (Actually at Corner of 9<sup>th</sup> St and D St NW)
- Teasm (Japanese inspired Pan-Asian) - 400 8<sup>th</sup> St NW
- Fogo de Chao (Brazilian; the lunch buffet is actually really reasonable at \$15.99) - 1101 Pennsylvania Ave NW (at corner of 11<sup>th</sup> St NW)
- Chipotle (Mexican) - 1001 Pennsylvania Ave NW (actually at corner of 10<sup>th</sup> St and E St NW)
- &pizza - 1005 E St NW