

PHILIP K. HAMILTON

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 973-5253
phamiltn@neaq.org
[Research Gate](#)

Employment

Senior Scientist/Interim chair – Kraus Marine Mammal Conservation Program, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life, New England Aquarium, Boston, MA.

Responsible for curating the North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog, procuring grants and contracts, writing timely grant and contract reports, overseeing staff of seven, lead field research expeditions, collect genetic samples, respond to entangled whales (assess, attach telemetry, drive for disentanglements), and export data on behalf of the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium. 2021 to present (other titles from 1988 to 2021), Interim chair 2022 to 2025.

Research Assistant – University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Dog handler for carnivore research study using trained, scat-sniffing dogs to determine the presence of carnivores throughout Vermont. Summer, 2002.

Project Leader - New England Aquarium, Boston, MA.

Responsible for directing the field team in the Bay of Fundy including overseeing the budget, field station requirements, coordinating a team of five to eight researchers, and serving as liaison to the press in addition to the responsibilities mentioned above. 1993 - 1997.

Staff Scientist - Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, MA.

Coordinated right whale photo-identification and subsequent population analysis. Tasks included data collection and analysis, field photography, small boat operation and maintenance, black and white print development as well as assisting with live strandings, disentanglements and necropsies. 1986 - 1989.

Field Experience

- Right Whale Field Experience: 39 years
- Photography: Aerial: 5 years, Shipboard: 39 years
- Small Boat Handling: 34 Years
- Fecal Sampling: 30 Years
- Biopsy Sampling: 33 Years
- Atlantic Large Whale
Disentanglement Network
Level 3 responder – 17 years

Certifications/Licenses

- PADI Open Water
- First Aid/CPR/AED
- STCW

Education

University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA 02125
Master of Science
June 2002

State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, New York 13901
Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Biology
June 1986
Awarded Merit scholarship, Graduated with Honors

University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire 03828
1982 - 1983, Dean's List.

References

Furnished upon request

Peer-reviewed Publications

- Frasier TR, Fitzgerald K, Frasier BA, Radvan SR, Brown MW, Hamilton PK, Conger LA, George RC, Jackson KA, Kraus SD. 2026. Pedigree-informed abundance estimation for the endangered North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) via gametic mark-recapture. *Marine Mammal Science*. 42:e70122 <https://doi.org/10.1111/mms.70122>
- Johnson H, Davies K, Durette-Morin D, Carr M, Brown M, Hamilton P, Knowlton A, Baumgartner M, Taggart C. 2025. North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) habitat in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. *Endangered Species Research*. 58:359–379 <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01456>
- Kenney, R.D., Hamilton, P.K., Frasier, T.R. 2025. North Atlantic Right Whale *Eubalaena glacialis* (Müller, 1776). In: Hackländer, K., Zacos, F.E. (eds) *Handbook of the Mammals of Europe*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-65038-8_82-1
- Crum NJ, Gowan TA, Hostetler JA, Schick RS, Knowlton AR, Pettis HM, Hamilton PK, Rolland RM. 2025. Unobserved Individual and Population Level Impacts of Fishing Gear Entanglements on North Atlantic Right Whales. *Animal Conservation*. <http://doi.org/10.1111/acv.13016>
- Orton RW, Hamilton PK, Frasier TR. 2024. Genomic Evidence for the Purging of Deleterious Genetic Variation Through Inbreeding in the Critically Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. *Genome Biology and Evolution*. 17:e70055. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eva.70055>
- Frasier TR, Hamilton PK, Pace III R. 2024. How compromised is reproductive performance in the endangered North Atlantic right whale? *Endangered Species Research*. 55:267-271. <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01378>
- Crossman CA, Hamilton PK, Brown MW, Conger LA, George RC, Jackson KA, Radvan SN, Frasier TR. 2024. Effects of inbreeding on reproductive success in endangered North Atlantic right whales. *R. Soc. Open Sci.* 11: 240490 <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.240490>
- Wright AJ, Gabaldon J, Zhang D, Hamilton P. 2024. Bimodal vertical distribution of right whales *Eubalaena glacialis* in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. *Endangered Species Research* 54:155-66. <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01330>
- Pirotta E, Tyack PW, Durban JL, Fearnbach H, Hamilton PK, Harris CM, Knowlton AR, Kraus SD, Miller CA, Moore MJ, Pettis HM, Photopoulou T, Rolland RM, Schick RS, Thomas L. 2024. Decreasing body size is associated with reduced calving probability in critically endangered North Atlantic right whales. *Royal Society Open Science*. 11:240050. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.240050>
- Pirotta E, Schick RS, Hamilton PK, Harris CM, Hewitt J, Knowlton AR, Kraus SD, Meyer-Gutbrod

- E, Moore MJ, Pettis HM, Photopoulou T, Rolland RM, Tyack PL, Thomas L. 2023. Estimating the effects of stressors on the health, survival and reproduction of a critically endangered, long-lived species. *Oikos*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/oik.09801>
- Franklin KJ, Taggart CT, Cole TVN, Cholewiak DM, Duley P, Crowe L, Hamilton PK, Knowlton AR, and Johnson HD. 2022. Using sonobuoys and visual surveys to characterize North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) acoustic ecology in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. *Endangered Species Research* 49: 159–174 <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01208>
- Knowlton AR, Clark JS, Hamilton PK, Kraus SD, Pettis HM, Rolland RM, Schick RS. 2022. Fishing gear entanglement threatens recovery of critically endangered North Atlantic right whales. *Conservation Science and Practice*, 4(8), e12736. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.12736>.
- Bishop AL, Crowe LM, Hamilton PK, Meyer-Gutbrod EL 2022. Maternal lineage and habitat use patterns explain variation in the fecundity of a critically endangered baleen whale. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 9: 880910. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2022.880910
- Khan C, Blount D, Parham J, Holmberg J, Hamilton P, Charlton C, Christiansen F, Johnston D, Rayment W, Dawson S, Vermeulen E, Rowntree V, Groch K, Levenson J, Bogucki R. 2022. Artificial Intelligence for Right Whale Photo Identification: From Data Science Competition to Worldwide Collaboration. *Journal of Mammalogy (Special Issue)*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42991-022-00253-3>
- Stewart JD, Durban JW, Europe H, Fearnbach H, Hamilton PK, Knowlton AR, Lynn MS, Miller CA, Perryman WL, Tao BWH, Moore MJ. 2022. Larger females have more calves: the influence of maternal body length on fecundity in North Atlantic right whales. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 689: 179–189. <https://doi.org/10.3354/meps14040>
- Hamilton PK, Frasier BA, Conger LA, George RC, Jackson KA, Frasier TR. 2022. Case studies of North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) calves: genetic identifications challenge our assumptions of physical development and mother-calf associations and separation times. *Journal of Mammalogy*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42991-021-00177-4>
- Hamilton PK and Knowlton AR. 2021. The power of knowing the individual- the North Atlantic Right Whale Catalogs. In *Right Whales at Risk*. Special issue of *Whalewatcher*. Corkeron. P. ed. 18-23. <https://acs.memberclicks.net/assets/Whalewatchers/Whalewatcher-2021-final.pdf>
- Crowe LM, Brown MW, Corkeron, PJ, Hamilton PK, Ramp C, Ratelle S, Vanderlaan ASM, Cole TVN. 2021. In plane sight: a mark-recapture analysis of North Atlantic right whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. *Endangered Species Research*. 46:227–251. <https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01156>
- Moore M, Rowles T, Fauquier D, Baker J, Biedron I, Durban J, Hamilton P, Henry A, Knowlton A, McLellan W, Miller C, Pace R, Pettis H, Rolland R, Schick R, Sharp S, Smith C, Thomas L, van der Hoop J, Ziccardi M. 2021. Assessing North Atlantic right whale health: A review of threats, and development of tools critical for conservation of the species. *Disease of Aquatic Organisms*. 143: 205–226. <https://doi.org/10.3354/dao03578>
- Martins MCI, Miller C, Hamilton P, Robbins J, Zitterbart D, Moore M. 2020. Respiration cycle duration and seawater flux through open blowholes of Humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and North Atlantic Right (*Eubalaena glacialis*) whales. *Mar Mamm Sci*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/mms.12703>
- Hamilton, P. and M. Marx. 2019. Bill Watkin's impact on the North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog. Pp. 27-29 In: Connett Brophy, C. (Ed.) *The Voices of Marine Mammals: William E. Schevill and William A. Watkins: Pioneers in Bioacoustics*. New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, Mass. 124 p

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- Gowan TA, Ortega-Ortiz JG, Hostetler JA, Hamilton PK, Knowlton AR, Jackson KA, George RC, Taylor CR, Naessig PJ. 2019. Temporal and demographic variation in partial migration of the North Atlantic right whale. *Scientific Reports* 9:353. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-36723-3>
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- Pettis, H.M., Rolland, R.M., Hamilton, P.K., Knowlton, A.R., Burgess, E.A., and Kraus, S.D. 2017. Body condition changes from natural factors and fishing gear entanglements in North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*). *Endangered Species Research*. Vol. 32: 237–249.
- Rolland, R.M., Schick, R.S., Pettis, H.M., Knowlton, A.R., Hamilton, P.K., Clark, J.S and Kraus, S.D. 2016. Health of North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) over three decades: from individual health to demographic and population health trends. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. Vol. 542: 265–282.
- Schick RS, Kraus SD, Rolland RM, Knowlton AR, Hamilton PK, Pettis HM, Thomas L, Harwood J, Clark JS. 2016. Effects of model formulation on estimates of health in individual right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*). Pages 977-985 in A. N. Popper and A. Hawkins, editors. *Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life II*. Springer Press.
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- Schick, R.S., Kraus, S.D., Rolland, R.M., Knowlton, A.R., Hamilton, P.K., Pettis, H.M., Kenney, R.D., Clark, J.S. 2013. Using hierarchical bayes to understand movement, health, and survival in the endangered North Atlantic right whale. *PLoS ONE* 8(6): e64166. [doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0064166](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0064166)

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- Knowlton, A.R., Hamilton, P.K., Marx, M.K., Pettis, H.P., and Kraus, S.D. 2012. Monitoring North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) entanglement rates: A 30 yr retrospective. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* 466: 293–302.
- Silva, M.A., Steiner, L., Cascão, I., Cruz, M.J., Prieto, R., Cole, T., Hamilton, P.K., and Baumgartner, M. 2012. Winter sighting of a known western North Atlantic right whale in the Azores. *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 12(1): 65–69.
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- Faecal sampling using detection dogs to study reproduction and health in North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*). *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 8(2): 121-125
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Other publications

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Hamilton, P.K. 1995. A right whale up the Delaware River. *Whale Watcher: Journal of the American Cetacean Society.* 29(1): 8-9.

Selected Research Funding

- Digital media and database management software modernization project. \$647,000
- Co-lead on \$6 million, four-year international study with Canadian researchers to assess how genetic factors are hampering the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. \$2.3 million awarded from Genome Canada
- Four year contract with annual option to renew from the National Marine Fisheries Service to manage the North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog and related data. 2024 to 2027. \$2,630,384

- Five year contract with annual option to renew from the National Marine Fisheries Service to manage the North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog. 2018 to 2023. \$2,614,371
- Three year contract with annual option to renew from the National Marine Fisheries Service to manage the North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog. 2015 to 2018. \$1,389,970
- Institute of Museum and Library Services 2014-2015. \$29,550
- National Science Foundation funded project to develop a database structure and software to manage digital images and all related data for the North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog. 2003-2005. \$359,205
- Various small grants for Catalog and right whale research projects. 1997-2001. \$98,500
 - o Digitizing the right whale photo-catalog. 1998 - \$20,000
 - o Analyzing photographic record for scars on right whales. 1997 - \$18,300
 - o Matching all photographs in and around Massachusetts. 1998 - \$15,000
 - o Digitizing right whale photo-catalog. 1998- \$5,000
 - o Matching all photographs in and around Massachusetts' waters. 1997 - \$14,200
 - o Digitizing the right whale photo-catalog. 1998 - \$10,000
 - o Analyzing right whale associations. 2001 - \$16,000