

Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Work Group Meeting #3

Monday, February 9; 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Participants

Work Group: Daniel Martin (NOAA), Dan Sampson (MA CZM), Jay Odell (TNC), Kevin Madley (NOAA), Peter Corkeron (NOAA), Sue Barco (VA Aquarium), Kim Skrupky (BOEM), Mina Innes (NY DOS), Tim Cole (NOAA), Gwen Lockhart (VA Aquarium), Giancarlo Cicchetti (EPA), Jooke Robbins (PCCS), Kathy Vigness-Raposa (Marine Acoustics),

Marine Life Data & Analysis Team (MDAT): Corrie Curtice and Jason Roberts (Duke)

NROC: Nick Napoli, Emily Shumchenia, Katie Lund

Welcome, introductions, etc.

After roll call, Emily described the process by which NROC and the MDAT team collected feedback from WG members regarding species, modeling, and other data product outputs. Emily collated and summarized this feedback and presented it to the MDAT team for incorporation into a draft work plan. The MDAT team has since produced a draft work plan for work group review (included in meeting materials). As with previous calls, we will continue to solicit and gather feedback on this work plan in order to finalize it.

Assessment boundaries

A map of assessment boundaries was developed for all MDAT products (pdf included in meeting materials). This map considers work group feedback on an initial set of study area options, including the extension of the area beyond New England due to ecological factors (i.e., includes the Bay of Fundy and Hudson Canyon based on data availability). It is important to note that these boundaries will be used to clip model outputs and create summary statistics from the data products; these are not regulatory/planning boundaries. From discussions with the Mid-Atlantic Data Portal Team, an assessment area was delineated for any potential marine life products that could be developed for that region. There is an intentional area of overlap between the two regions, which centers around NY waters and out to the EEZ.

Ongoing discussions between NROC, MDAT and the Mid-Atlantic Data Portal Team will determine if it is possible to also develop products for the combined Northeast/Mid-Atlantic area and the Mid-Atlantic area alone, in addition to the Northeast area already underway.

- **Work group to provide final comments on assessment boundaries**

MDAT Mammals/Sea Turtles Work Plan

Corrie walked through the MDAT work plan and the following points were discussed:

MDAT will complete the “Temporal resolution” column in Table 1 indicating whether a particular species model can produce monthly, seasonal and/or annual predictions.

Table 3 shows species that cannot be modeled due to low numbers of observations in our region. This table will be revisited as Duke develops east coast-wide models (for NOAA/Navy) and as those outputs are evaluated. The work group will have the opportunity to evaluate these models along with their associated uncertainty maps for use in the Northeast, if the outputs look potentially valuable.

- **Work group will review MDAT’s draft work plan and provide input and comments**

Data sources for SPUE products and other non-model data products

NROC and MDAT have obtained a database of marine mammal and sea turtle observations (not effort-corrected) from the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium (NARWC).

The work group discussed the difference between data sources utilized by the density models (Table 4 in MDAT work plan) and data sources that could contribute to SPUE and other data products (e.g., NARWC data). While there is some overlap in the datasets between Table 4 and the NARWC dataset, the accompanying survey information for those overlapping observations in the NARWC dataset is not well understood at this time. The NROC and MDAT teams will work to compare datasets and associated survey information for work group review.

The work group discussed whether or not SPUE data products would be useful to planners/managers, and the NROC and MDAT teams will follow up on this topic. Some work group members expressed that the SPUE products that could be developed would not add to the understanding of distribution and abundance whereas other members would like to see an SPUE representation of survey effort to accompany model outputs.

Lastly, work group members pointed out that some datasets and observations in the NARWC database do not exist in the MDAT database (Table 4) and these are important to represent somehow (e.g., SPUE or raw observation maps).

- **Work group to provide input and comments on SPUE and other data products as they relate to the MDAT database and the NARWC database (and/or other potential data sources)**
- **Work group members interested in SPUE and other data products may provide input and comments on a forthcoming work group subset conference call**
- **NROC/MDAT to compare surveys used in Duke models with observation data in NARWC dataset**
- **NROC/MDAT will be reaching out to WG members for feedback on whether/how to use NARWC data and other sources not included in the density models**

Next work group call

Feedback on the MDAT work plan will be sought out and incorporated prior to the next call. The NROC and MDAT teams will organize input and comments (and potentially organize a subset call) on the topic of SPUE/other data products and data sources.