

Keith A. Rittmaster  
May 2009

Natural Science Curator  
North Carolina Maritime Museum  
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### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Natural Science Curator** - I conduct research, conservation, and educational activities relating to cetaceans (bottlenose dolphin and large whale photo-ID, tagging, respond to strandings) and sea turtles (nest protection, tagging, respond to strandings). I direct the NC Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program. I am preparing and rearticulating the bones of a sperm whale for display.

NC Maritime Museum, 315 Front St., Beaufort, N.C. 1/89 - present

**Senior Faculty** - I taught college level (through Northeastern University) field research courses entitled Dolphin Biology and Behavior. The work included daily field research on bottlenose dolphins and lectures on topics that relate to all cetaceans and marine conservation.

School for Field Studies, Beverly, Mass. 6/88 - 9/92

**Cetacean Biologist** - I worked as a marine mammal specialist on the following four projects since January, 1986:

1) Initiated a coastal bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) sighting network in Carteret County, N.C. and conduct field research to obtain population and behavioral data; use dorsal fin photography to identify individuals and verify resights.

North Carolina Maritime Museum, Beaufort, N.C. 1/90 - present

NOAA/NMFS, Pivers Island, Beaufort, N.C. 1/85 - present

2) Devised and tested a method to numerically characterize killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) dorsal fin and saddle morphometrics in an effort to discriminate between putative ecotypes in southeast Alaska.

Hubbs Marine Research Institute, San Diego, CA 3/87 - 9/87

3) Identify and census marine mammals on annual 4.5 month research cruises in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean; record relevant ecological and ethological data.

NOAA/Southwest Fisheries Center, Box 271, La Jolla, CA 8/87 - 1/90

4) Censused gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) two months annually during their southbound migration through the Channel Islands.

American Cetacean Society, San Diego, CA 1/88 - 3/89

**Fishery Biologist** - Designed and conducted research dealing with seagrass transplanting in North Carolina and Florida; conducted population and photo-identification research on bottlenose dolphins, tagged juvenile menhaden in estuarine waters from Maine to Mexico.

NOAA/NMFS, Pivers Island, Beaufort, N.C. 10/82 - 8/87

**Research Assistant/SCUBA Diver** - Identified and inventoried clams, snails, fish, and zooplankton in arctic lakes; dove (SCUBA) for benthic samples and underwater photography; set up underwater feeding competition experiments.

Institute of Arctic Biology, Fairbanks, AK 6/83 - 9/83

## **CERTIFICATES, AUTHORIZATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS, AND TRAINING**

U.S. Coast Guard Powerboat Operator (Captain) - 50 ton, near coastal

NOAA and PADI Scuba Diver

Honda Motorcycle Mechanic

Shellback

Maritime Consortium Drug Testing Program Certification

American Red Cross Standard 1st Aid

American Red Cross CPR

Lamaze (1989)

Fred Pryor Seminars Microsoft Office

Letter of Authorization holder for participation in the Marine Mammal Stranding Network under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

109h Designee under the Marine Mammal Protection Act to participate in the Marine Mammal Stranding Network

Authorized under Marine Mammal Protection Act Permit No. 779-1633-02 to conduct bottlenose dolphin research in NC.

Authorized under Endangered Species Permit No. 93-ST-30 to conduct sea turtle research, conservation, salvage, and education activities.

Member, Atlantic Large Whale Disentanglement Network

Member, Society for Marine Mammalogy

Certified Youth Coach, National Youth Sports Coaches Association

Transportation Worker ID Credential, Dept. of Homeland Security, Transp. Safety Admin.

Escort Training, NC State Ports Authority

## **EDUCATION**

**Masters of Environmental Mgt. (1982)**

Duke University, Durham, N.C.

**B.A. Economics (1979)**

Denison University, Granville, OH

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

National Park Service Volunteer in Park (VIP):

Cape Hatteras National Seashore – 1975-1977

Cape Lookout National Seashore – 1989-present

Shofar blower at the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship, 2002-present

Officer on the Tiller School Board of Directors for 4 years.

President May 2000-May 2002

Treasurer May 1999-May 2000

Secretary May 1998-May 1999

Advisor to the Cape Lookout Environmental Education Center, 1995-2007

Presenter at Beaufort Middle School Career Day, 2001

Youth Soccer Coach, Carteret County Parks and Rec. Dept., 2003

Youth Basketball Coach, Carteret County Parks and Rec. Dept., 2006, 2007

Volunteer for NOAA Fisheries Beaufort Lab, 1989-present

Volunteer bus driver for the Tiller School, 1997-2008

Member, Bicycle Path Ad Hoc Committee, Planning Board, Town of Beaufort, 2006-7

Bus driver, Beaufort Historic Association, 2008-present

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

**Rittmaster, Keith**, Victoria Thayer, Philip Hamilton. 2009. One Whale, Two Whales...Old Whales, New Whales. Island Review – News Magazine for Bogue Banks. Vol. 29, No. 3

**Rittmaster, Keith**. 2009. A Thin (Monofilament) Line Between Life and Death. Island Review – News Magazine for Bogue Banks. Vol. 26, No. 5

**Rittmaster, K.A.**, and Thayer, V.G. 2007. *In North Carolina, USA, a thin line between life and death*. In Abstracts, 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, Cape Town, South Africa Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007.

**Rittmaster, Keith**. 2007. Beachcast Sperm Whale Carcass Takes on Second Life. Waterline, Vol. 32, No. 1.

**Rittmaster, Keith**. 2006. A Thin (Monofilament) Line Between Life and Death. Island Review – News Magazine for Bogue Banks. Vol. 26, No. 5

**Rittmaster, Keith**. 2005. Coastal Showmen Need Your Support. Island Review – News Magazine for Bogue Banks. Vol. 25, No. 3

Gubbins, C. M., M. Caldwell, S. Barco, **K. Rittmaster**, N. Bowles and V. Thayer. 2003. Abundance and sighting patterns of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) at four northwest Atlantic coastal sites. Journal of Cetacean Research and Management 5(2): 141-148.

Thayer, V. G., Read, A. J., Barco, S.G., Bowles, N.I., Colby, D. R., Dearolf, J.L., Friedlaender, A. S., Hohn, A. A., R. McLellan, W. A., Pabst, D. A., Russell, J. R., **Rittmaster, K. A.** 2003. Reproductive seasonality of western Atlantic bottlenose dolphins off North Carolina, USA. Marine Mammal Science 19:4 617-629.

**Rittmaster, Keith**. 2003. Them Bones: The Rearticulation of the Bottlenose Dolphin Skeleton. Waterline - Newsletter of the North Carolina Maritime Museum. Vol. 28, No. 1.

**Rittmaster, K.A.** 1998. Florida dolphin visits Beaufort. Waterline - Newsletter of the North Carolina Maritime Museum. Vol. 23, No. 2.

**Rittmaster, K.A.**, and V.G. Thayer. 1998. Temporal and spatial sighting patterns of bottlenose dolphins, *tursiops truncatus*, stock(s) in Beaufort, North Carolina, USA. In Abstracts. World Marine Mammal Science Conference, Monaco, January 20-24, 1998.

Barco, S.G. , N.I. Bowles, **K.A. Rittmaster**, W. Swingle, and V.G. Thayer. 1997. The Virginia/North Carolina coastal dolphin interstate. In Abstracts. Fifth Annual Atlantic Coastal Dolphin Conference, April 4-6, 1997, Wilmington, N.C.

**Rittmaster, K.A.**, N. I. Bowles, and V. G. Thayer. 1997. Sighting patterns of individually identified bottlenose dolphins in Beaufort, N.C., 1985-1996. In Abstracts. Fifth Annual Atlantic Coastal Dolphin Conference, April 4-6, 1997, Wilmington, N.C.

**Rittmaster, K.A.**, and V.G. Thayer. 1996. Benny - Rescue effort to help a stranded dolphin. Waterline - Newsletter of the North Carolina Maritime Museum. Vol. 21, No. 1.

Thayer, V.G. and **K.A. Rittmaster**. 1995. Marine mammal strandings and evidence of entanglement in North Carolina, 1992-1995. In Abstracts. Eleventh Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, December 14-18, Orlando, Florida.

**Rittmaster, Keith A.**, and V. G. Thayer, 1994. Site Specific Monitoring of Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins in the Beaufort, North Carolina Area. In Wang, K.R., P. M. Payne, and V.G. Thayer. (Compilers). 1994. Coastal Stock(s) of Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin: Status Review and Management. U.S. Dept. of Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-OPR-4, 121p.

**Rittmaster, K. A.** and N. I. Bowles, 1994. Beaufort's Dolphins - Getting to Know Them. Waterline - Newsletter of the North Carolina Maritime Museum. Vol. 19, No. 1.

**Rittmaster, K. A.** and V. G. Thayer, 1991. Reproductive rates of bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) near Beaufort, North Carolina following the 1987-1988 die-off. In Abstracts. Ninth Biennial Conf. Bio Mar Mam. Dec 5-9, 1991. Chicago, IL.

Smith, Ingrid, M. S. Fonseca, J. Rivera, and **K. A. Rittmaster**. 1988. Habitat value of natural versus recently transplanted eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) for the bay scallop (*Argopecten irradians*). Fish. Bull. Vol. 87, No.1

**Rittmaster, K.**, J. S. Leatherwood, and A. Bowles, 1987. A method for numerically characterizing morphometric features of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and its application to ecotypic discrimination. Document NAKW/87/15. Presented at the Workshop on North Atlantic Killer Whales. Provincetown, MA, 11-14 May, 1987. 14 pp. Available through Hubbs Marine Research Center, San Diego, CA.