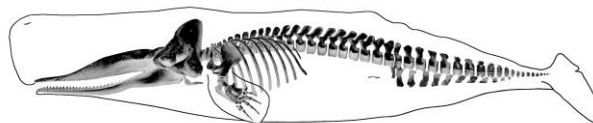


Keith A. Rittmaster

May, 2018

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Natural Science Curator
North Carolina Maritime Museum
315 Front St.
Beaufort, NC 28516
252-504-2452



Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Natural Science Curator - I conduct research, conservation, and educational activities relating to cetaceans (bottlenose dolphin and large whale photo-ID, tagging, disentanglement, stranding response) near Beaufort and Cape Lookout, NC. I direct the NC Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program. I prepare cetacean bones for research, public display and outreach. I directed the NCMM field station at Cape Lookout, 1989-2007. All work involves budgeting funds, supervising staff/volunteers, preparing scientific and promotional literature, and giving public presentations.

NC Maritime Museum, 315 Front St., Beaufort, N.C.

1/89 - present

Cetacean Biologist - I work(ed) as a marine mammal specialist on the following projects since January, 1986:

1) Initiated a bottlenose dolphin photo-ID study to identify individuals and verify resights.

NOAA/NMFS, Pivers Island, Beaufort, N.C.

1/85 - 8/95

North Carolina Maritime Museum, Beaufort, N.C.

1/90 - present

2) I work as a protected species observer during 3-D seismic exploratory operations in Cook Inlet, Alaska. SAExploration, Anchorage, AK

5/2012 - present

3) Identify and census marine mammals on annual research cruises in the eastern tropical Pacific and western North Atlantic Oceans; record relevant ecological and ethological data.

NOAA/Southwest Fisheries Center, Box 271, La Jolla, CA

8/87 - 1/90

NOAA/IAP, Pascagoula, MS

summers - 2011, 2013

4) Quantified gray whale sightings during their southbound migration through the Channel Islands.

American Cetacean Society, San Diego, CA

1/88 - 3/89

5) 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

Senior Faculty - I taught college level (through Northeastern University) field research courses entitled Dolphin Biology and Behavior. These included daily field research and lectures on topics that relate to all cetaceans.

School for Field Studies, Beverly, Mass.

6/88 - 9/92

Fishery Biologist - Designed and conducted research on seagrass transplanting in North Carolina and Florida; developed population and photo-identification research on bottlenose dolphins in Beaufort, NC, tagged juvenile menhaden in estuarine waters from Maine to Mexico, boat operator, SCUBA diver.

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, AWARDS, MEMBERSHIPS, AND TRAINING

U.S. Coast Guard Powerboat Operator, 1987-2017	Member, Large Whale Disentanglement Network
NOAA and PADI Scuba Diver	Member, Society for Marine Mammalogy
Honda Motorcycle Mechanic, 1974	NMFS Research/Possession Permit No. 18786-02 for marine mammal parts
Shellback, 1984	NMFS Research Permit No. 14450-05 for cetacean photo-ID
American Heart Assn. 1st Aid, CPR/AED, 2017	NCWRC Endangered Species Permit No. 18ST15 for sea turtle work
Lamaze, 1989	Youth Coach, National Youth Sports Coaches Association
Pelican Award, NC Coastal Federation, 2016	Offshore Cold Water Survival training, Learn to Return, 2012
Peer Recognition Award, Smithsonian Institution, 2017	Conservation Award, Daughters of the American Revolution, 2018

EDUCATION

Masters of Environmental Mgt. (1982)

Duke University, Durham, N.C.

B.A. Economics (1979)

Denison University, Granville, OH

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

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 – pres. Officer on the Tiller School Board of Directors: President May 2000-May 2002 Treasurer May 1999-May 2000 Secretary May 1998-May 1999 Advisor Cape Lookout Environmental Ed. Center, 1995-2007	Presenter at Beaufort Middle School Career Day, 2001 Youth Soccer Coach, Carteret Co. Parks and Rec., 2003 Youth Basketball Coach, Carteret Co. Parks and Rec., 2006-7 Volunteer for NOAA Fisheries Beaufort Lab, 1989-present Volunteer bus driver for the Tiller School, 1997-2008 Member, Bike Path Committee, Town of Beaufort, 2006-7 Volunteer bus driver, Beaufort Historic Assn., 2008-present Photographer, Beaufort Middle School girls soccer, 2009-2011 Executive Director, Carolina Cay Maritime Found., 2017-pres.
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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Thayer, Victoria G., Craig A. Harms, **Keith A. Rittmaster**, David S. Rotstein, and John E. Hairy. In Press. A North Carolina Stranding of a White-Beaked Dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*), Family Delphinidae: A New Southerly Record. Aquatic Mammals 2018, 44(1), xx-xx DOI 10.1578/AM.44.1.2018.xx

Rittmaster, Keith A., Victoria G. Thayer, Nan I. Bowles, Joshua T. Summers. 2017. Stranding response and skeletal rearticulation of a Gervais' beaked whale (*Mesoplodon europaeus*). In Abstracts. Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium April 7-9, 2017, at Duke Marine Lab, Beaufort, NC, USA.

Rittmaster, Keith. 2017. Preparing a Skeletal Display from a Stranded Harbor Porpoise. MariTimes – Magazine of the North Carolina Maritime Museums. Summer/Fall, 2017.

Rittmaster, Keith A., Victoria G. Thayer, Nan I. Bowles, Joshua T. Summers. 2016. Stranding response and skeletal rearticulation of a dwarf sperm whale (*Kogia sima*). In Abstracts. Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium April 1-3, 2016, at Savannah State University, Savannah, GA, USA.

Rittmaster, Keith and Victoria Thayer. 2013. Searching for North Carolina Dolphins – Then and Now. MariTimes – Magazine of the North Carolina Maritime Museums. Summer/Fall, 2013.

Rittmaster, Keith and Victoria Thayer. 2012. It Happened Close to Home - North Carolina Bottlenose Dolphin Fishery. Spyhopper – American Cetacean Society Newsletter. March, 2012.

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. 2006. A Thin (Monofilament) Line Between Life and Death. Scuba News – Oct. 2006.

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

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.

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.

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.