



2025 Blue Ocean Symposium Presented by Aquafisk, Inc.



Friday, March 28, 2025
9:30-4:00

Star Theater, 120 Rogers Road, Kittery, Maine

Agenda

9:30-10:00 Registration/Sign In, Coffee, Snacks

10:00- 10:10 Welcome

10:10-10:30 Plastic Innovation in Maine

Alexa McGovern - Founder, Dirigo Sea Farm

Dirigo Sea Farm is a woman founded materials company using Maine kelp to produce bioplastic films to replace single-use and non-biodegradable plastic.



10:30-10:50 Center for Sustainable Seafood Systems: Updates on research and aquaculture

Mike Doherty, Research Project Manager for UNH CSSS, and NH Sea Grant, focusing on aquaculture applied to Gulf of Maine species.



10:50-11:10 Waves of Knowledge: Harnessing Ocean Data for Outreach and Education

Katy Bland, Engagement & Research Manager at the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS)



11:10-11:30 Talking Trash: Marine Debris Results and Action

Jen Kennedy, Executive Director, Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation



11:30-11:50 Protecting New England's Extraordinary and Vulnerable Marine Wildlife and Habitats

CLF's work to conserve and protect the extraordinary and vulnerable marine wildlife and habitats in the face of our dual biodiversity and climate crises with a focus on CLF's nomination to designate the Cashes Ledge Area as a National Marine Sanctuary

Chloe Fross, Staff Attorney, Ocean Conservation team, Conservation Law Foundation

Jen Felt, Ocean Campaign Director, Conservation Law Foundation



11:50-12:10 Questions

12:10-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-1:20 Ecology with our eyes shut: using bioacoustics to study Gulf of Maine pinnipeds

Dr. Michelle Fournet, Assistant Professor, Marine Bioacoustics, UNH



1:20-1:40 Gray seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) acoustic behavior at three sites in the Northwest Atlantic

Jess Veo, PhD Candidate, UNH



1:40-2:00 Breaching New Heights: Using drones to collect non-invasive health data on North Atlantic Right Whales

Amy Warren, Operational Lead of the North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog and drone pilot for the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium



2:00-2:20 Unlocking the secret lives of whales with baleen analysis

Dr. Nadine Lysiak, Research Scientist, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium



2:20-2:40 Questions

2:40-2:55 Break

2:55-3:15 Short-term Climate Impacts on Gulf of Maine Cetaceans

Nathalie Pare, UNH Senior, BOS Intern 2024



3:15-3:30 Calvin, The Female Right Whale: the story of a 30 year old right whale, the threats she faces and the solutions for her species to survive.

The Calvineers are a group of 7th and 8th graders from Adams School in Castine, Maine. They have been advocating for the recovery of the North Atlantic Right Whale from possible extinction for 20 years.

3:30-4:00 Questions/ Wrap Up/Surveys/PD Certificates/Upcoming Events

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