

# Whaling Heritage Symposium

Sponsored by the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Maritime Heritage Program, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Maritime Historical Society. Hosted by Mystic Seaport, New Bedford Whaling Museum, and New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.



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## *Program and Schedule of Events*

*June 16-18, 2008*

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/maritime/whaling/>

# Whaling Heritage Symposium Program and Schedule of Events

## Sunday June 15th Mystic Seaport (pre-symposium)

- 6:00 – 8:00 pm: Cruise on Steamship *Sabino*. Departs at 6:30 from her dock in front of the Visitor Reception Center at Mystic Seaport.
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm: Seamen's Inne Pub, informal gathering

## Monday June 16th Seamen's Inne, Mystic Seaport

- 8:30 am: Coffee and Registration in the River Room of the Seamen's Inne
- 9:00 am: Welcome - Doug Teeson, President, Mystic Seaport; Dan Basta, Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries; John Oliver, Deputy Assistant Administrator, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service; Burchenal Green, Executive Director, National Maritime Historical Society

### HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY: WHERE HERITAGE TRAILS MEET

- 9:30 am: In Search of the Geography of Whaling Heritage in the US – Brad Barr, Senior Policy Advisor, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The United States has a rich whaling heritage that touches the farthest reaches of the world's oceans. Preserving this rich heritage requires not just understanding its history, but linking this history to significant places along the coasts and in the oceans. In the Western Arctic more than 160 whaling ships were lost to the ice between 1848 and 1914. The ONMS "Lost Fleets of the Western Arctic" Initiative is beginning to link this area to our national whaling heritage, and make key connections to New England, the West Coast, and Hawaii, parts of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

- 10:00 am: Nineteenth Century Commercial Shipping Losses and the Reduction of the Bowhead Whale Population of the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas – John Bockstoce, Historian, Dartmouth MA

The location of bowhead whale captures from 1849 to 1914 will be discussed with regard to the reduction of the species. The importance of this period of intensive harvest and the losses of whaling ships in this region in pursuit of the Bowhead whale, within the context whaling heritage and US maritime heritage, will also be discussed.

- 10:45 am: BREAK
- 11:15 am: The Lost Whaling Fleet of 1871 – Randolph Beebe, Researcher, Barrow Arctic Science Consortium, Alaska

This presentation describes the historic 1871 Whaling Disaster just off the arctic coast of Alaska and shares the results of an ongoing project to locate and document the thirty-one associated shipwrecks. Also the impact that this disaster had on the Inupiat population will be discussed.

- 12:00 am: The Confederate Navy and the United States Whaling Fleets – Sam Craghead, Outreach Specialist, Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, VA  
Jeff Johnston, USS Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA, Newport News, VA

The Confederate government knew that a significant assault on the US whaling fleet could potentially impact the United States' economy even relieve pressure on the blockaded Southern coast by forcing the USN to send ships out to patrol for Confederate commerce raiders. The Confederate raider Shenandoah was the most successful of all of the CSN commerce raiders. In the words of the Secretary of the Confederate Navy: "...I regard a vigorous attack upon this interest as one of the heaviest blows we can strike the enemy."

- 12:45 pm: LUNCH WITH SPEAKER  
Makah Tribal Whaling: Continuity and Change – Janine Bowe chop, Executive Director, Makah Cultural and Research Center, Neah Bay, WA

#### INDIGENOUS WHALERS AND 19TH-20TH CENTURY CULTURAL INTERACTIONS

- 1:45 pm: Aviqsiugnik: Whaling in the North – Ronald Brower Sr., Inupiat Heritage Center, Barrow, AK

Since time immemorial Inuit have hunted whales in the Arctic. We have a brief shared history with other whaling entrepreneurs continuing to the present day. As the last of the whaling societies in the United States, we transcend old traditions to modern times and retain a unique cultural heritage. Changing times and tools of the past require modern tools of a global environment to persevere into the future.

- 2:30 pm: Whaler and Anthropologist: George Comer in Hudson Bay – Fred Calabretta- Curator of Collections, Mystic Seaport

This presentation will explore the multifaceted work of George Comer in Hudson Bay, ca. 1889-1912. Throughout its history, American whaling in the Eastern Arctic was characterized by effective cooperation between the whalers and the region's native people, known as the Inuit. Comer, developed an extraordinary relationship with these people; a relationship that provided the foundation for his anthropological fieldwork and comprehensive documentation of Inuit life and culture.

- 3:15 pm: Tour of the *Charles W. Morgan*, followed by time to explore Mystic Seaport
- 5:00 pm: Barbeque Dinner at the Boat Shed, Lighthouse Point, Mystic Seaport  
Shanty Music of Whalers – Geoff Kaufman, Former Director of Shanty Music Program at Mystic Seaport and David Littlefield, Shantyman and *Charles W. Morgan* Historian

The challenging and dangerous business of chasing and killing whales has generated a body of music through which it is possible to trace the trade from early French hunting in the Bay of Biscay to mid-twentieth century pursuits from the islands of Bequia and St. Vincent in the Caribbean. Follow the voices of whalers from the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Arctic to the Southern Ocean as we discuss some of the insights their music offers into an endeavor that has touched so many shores and cultures.

- 7:00-9:00 pm: Keynote Talk (open to public): Into the Deep: America, Whaling and the World – Ric Burns, Documentary Filmmaker, at Greenmanville Meeting House, Mystic Seaport

The keynote talk will present reflections on the history of the American whaling industry as a microcosm of American history, and a parable of the American Dream.

### Tuesday June 17th Seamen's Inne, Mystic Seaport

- 8:30 am: Coffee and Welcome, Susan Funk, VP Education and Public Programs, Mystic Seaport

- 9:00 am: From Beached Whales to Hunted Whales: Hawaii's 19th Century Whaling Industry – Susan Lebo, Independent Researcher, Honolulu, Hawaii

Hawaii's whaling economy began in 1819 with the arrival of the American whaleships *Balaena* and *Equator*. This Western industry altered the cultural connections Native Hawaiians had with whales. Native Hawaiians switched from making opportunistic use of beached whales to hunting whales and servicing foreign whalers for monetary gain.

- 9:45 am: Beyond Reservation: Indians, Maritime Labor, and Communities of Color from Eastern Long Island Sound, 1713-1861 – Jason Mancini, Researcher, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, CT

This paper argues that in an era of dispossession and diminishing autonomy on the land, Indian mariners as a class of transient laborers, rapidly learned to use Anglo-American structures and institutions to establish for themselves a degree of power and personal freedom. By the mid nineteenth century, customs records indicate that they had articulated maritime-based social networks that included other men of color from around the world.

- 10:30 am: BREAK

#### NEW BEDFORD ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH – Panel Discussion

- 11:00 am: Kathryn Grover, Independent Historian and Researcher, New Bedford, MA.  
Donald Warrin, Historian, Bancroft Library, Berkeley, CA.  
Russell Handsman, Project Coordinator, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, CT

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park (Massachusetts), with funding from the National Park Service's Northeast Region Ethnography program, has assembled a team of three researchers, a project coordinator, and a research assistant to study relationships between the New Bedford whaling industry and the ethnic groups that engaged in whaling-related employment. This ethnographic study will look at the cultural practices, values, beliefs, settlement patterns, and history linked to various New Bedford-based ethnic communities, highlighting their ancestors' involvement in whaling industries.

- 12:00 noon: LUNCH WITH SPEAKER  
Advanced Tagging and Data Visualization Technologies to Understand the Underwater Behavior of Humpback Whales – David Wiley, Research Coordinator Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Scituate, MA.  
Co-author Colin Ware, Director, Data Visualization Research Lab Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

Early whalers were excellent observers of whale behavior and kept records that are still valuable to modern scientists. However, until recently, even today's biologists could only guess at the subsurface behavior of most large whales. We placed suction-cup mounted acoustic recording, synchronous motion tags (DTAGs) on 29 humpback whales foraging in and around the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. We used custom visualization applications to observe the underwater behavior and relate this data to bottom depth, prey fields and threats from anthropogenic activity.

#### NEW DIRECTIONS IN WHALING HERITAGE RESEARCH

- 1:15 pm: Insights on Whales and Dolphins of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea Derived from Whaling History Documents – Randall Reeves, Okapi Wildlife Associates, Quebec, CA

Co-authors Judith N. Lund, Historian, New Bedford, MA; Tim Smith, World Whaling History Project, Redding, CA; Elizabeth A. Josephson, Integrated Statistics, Woods Hole, MA

The Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea were visited by American commercial whalers between about 1760 and the early 1900s in pursuit of sperm whales, humpback whales, and blackfish (pilot whales). Voyage logbooks and other period documents have been used to characterize aspects of the fishery, whale distribution, and ecological impact.

- 2:00 pm: Spatial and Species Changes in 19th Century American Offshore Whaling – Tim Smith, World Whaling History Project, Redding, CA  
Co-authors Randall Reeves, Okapi Wildlife Associates, Quebec, CA; Elizabeth Josephson, Integrated Statistics, Woods Hole, MA

Logbooks from American offshore whaling voyages in the late 18th through early 20th centuries provide quantitative data that can be used to investigate spatial and species changes in the fishery. We are using such data to explore patterns and trends in hunt intensity, species preferences, whale distribution, and other factors.

- 2:45 pm: BREAK
- 3:15 pm: Fastidious in your Curiosity: Whalemen Collecting for Science – Stuart Frank, Curator, New Bedford Whaling Museum
- 4:00 pm: Tour of the Mystic Seaport Collections Research Center
- 5:30 -7:00pm: NOAA hosted reception outside of Mystic Seaport’s new exhibit “Frozen In: Captain Comer and the Hudson Bay Inuit,” light snacks and refreshments

## Wednesday June 18th New Bedford Whaling Museum and New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, New Bedford, MA (Meet at the Whaling Museum)

- 10:00 am: Welcome and Introductions – John Garfield, Interim CEO, New Bedford Whaling Museum; Celeste Bernardo, Superintendent, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- 10:30 am: A Trip Around the World and Pictures of the Sailors Themselves – Michael Dyer, Historian and Librarian, New Bedford Whaling Museum  
Jennifer Gonsalves, Chief of Visitor Services, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

This illustrated presentation features the ports of call, landfalls, vessels, charts and peoples encountered as illustrated by whalemen and other seafarers in their logbooks and journals from 1793 to 1870.

- 11:30 am: Beyond Pliny, Albert the Great, Gesner and Linnaeus- Whale Lore from Antiquity to the Age of Enlightenment – Klaus Barthelmeß, Whaling Historian, Cologne, Germany



An often amusing florilegium of popular knowledge about cetaceans from the two millennia before modern systematic taxonomy, the talk will show how local consumer knowledge found its way into the writings of learned authors and how their insights in turn were adopted by common people.

- **12:15 pm: LUNCH**

#### **WHALING HERITAGE: SETTING THE COURSE FOR FUTURE PRESERVATION – Panel Discussion**

- **1:15 pm:** Judith N. Lund, Historian, New Bedford, MA  
Celeste Bernardo, Superintendent, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park  
Michael Dyer, Historian and Librarian, New Bedford Whaling Museum  
Paul O’Pecko, VP Collections and Research, Mystic Seaport  
Hans Van Tilburg, Maritime Archaeologist and Historian, NOAA ONMS  
David Hull, Historian and Librarian, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, CA

This final panel discussion will address broad topics such as: major challenges to whaling heritage preservation faced by museums and library institutions today; geographical areas emerging as important to whaling archaeology; information management and sharing the research and whaling heritage projects with the public; next steps in the understanding and appreciation of whaling heritage.

- **3:15 pm: The Connections between Whaling Science and Whaling Heritage – Tim Runyan, Manager, NOAA Office of Marine Sanctuaries Maritime Heritage Program**

Both whaling heritage and whaling science are topics which are global, and yet often very local at the same time. Whales roam vast expanses of the ocean, concentrating in specific places at certain times of the year, and so the movement of whales and the corresponding voyages of whaling ships shared common impulses. The consequence of this link between whales and ships is that we face a connected global challenge in both environmental conservation and heritage preservation.

- **3:30 PM: BREAK**

- **3:45 -5:15 pm: New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Guided Walking Tour**

Join a National Park Service staff member for a walking tour of the national historical park that explores the many facets of New Bedford’s maritime past and present. (Sign-up sheet at conference.) Tour departs from the park visitor center at 3:45 p.m., and will last approximately one hour. Please wear comfortable shoes.

- **5:30 - 7:30 pm: Reception and Dinner at Rodman Candleworks (on your own)**
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For interested symposium participants visiting the New England area, the Nantucket Historical Association will provide a tour of the NHA whaling museum on Thursday, June 19th, 2008 beginning at 11:00 AM. Participants must contact Collections Manager Tony Dumitru (tony@nha.org or 508-228-1894) at the Nantucket Historical Association by May 30th to arrange/confirm the visit. Details regarding transportation to the Nantucket Whaling Museum will be available at the symposium.

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Name (As you would like it to appear on the Name Badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to participate in the Mystic River Downriver Cruise on the Steamboat SABINO on Sunday June 15 from 6pm- 7:30pm. (Register Early! This will fill up fast! Spaces are on a first registered-first reserved basis)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to meet for a pre-symposium informal gathering and cash bar from 7-9pm on Sunday June 15th at the Seamen's Inne Pub at Mystic Seaport.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to participate in the Symposium at Mystic Seaport on Monday June 16 through Tuesday June 17, and at New Bedford Whaling Museum and New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park on Wednesday June 18. Registration is \$175.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to bring a guest to the Barbeque dinner on Monday Night. This is an additional cost of \$20.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to bring a guest to the NOAA sponsored cocktail party and lecture Tuesday Night.

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer all vegetarian meals.

Please submit registrations by June 1, 2008.

Please send checks made out to Mystic Seaport (whaling symposium 2008 on memo line) and send to: Central Reservations, Mystic Seaport, PO Box 6000, Mystic, CT 06355

For questions regarding registration (credit card phone/fax registration OK with card type, number, name, exp. date, security code) please contact:

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<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/maritime/whaling/>