

Are Right Whales Getting Enough Food?

(Presented at the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium meeting, 2008)

It is unknown whether right whales are meeting their energetic requirements and if this is affecting their ability to recover. In order to explore this vital, yet ignored aspect of right whale recovery, PCCS has designed a flume experiment based on preliminary studies by Mayo *et al.* to determine the ability of right whales to consume different genera and stages of copepods. Results from this study will yield significant insight into right whale energetics, allowing researchers to make correlations between resource availability and calving rates and intervals. Results will also allow researchers' greater predictive capabilities regarding right whale distribution within Cape Cod Bay, therefore, collaboration with the Department of Marine Fisheries may yield better results on the management front.



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