

# An Ocean Noise Forum: Passive Acoustic Technologies, Impacts and Solutions for the Marine Environment

International Marine Conservation Congress  
George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

May 19-24 2009

*This forum introduces a suite of underwater listening tools and concepts that are increasing our understanding of the marine environment and improving how we manage our interactions and impacts on ocean life.*

*We are building more piers, shipping more goods, generating more wind and wave energy and drilling for more offshore oil and gas than ever before.*

*Meanwhile, we expect the oceans to sustain our climate, fill our dinner plates, offer new medicines and provide our children with the wonder of waves, whales, sharks and species yet to be discovered.*

*Sound provides a wealth of knowledge by which to evaluate and balance these competing needs.*

*Passive acoustics can augment ocean observation systems, help us plan for new ocean uses, alert us before damage occurs and monitor in areas where we cannot keep watch.*

*The ocean is resounding with messages. We just have to listen.*

*Christopher Clark, Bioacoustics Research Program, Cornell University*

*Bill Ellison, Marine Acoustics Inc.*

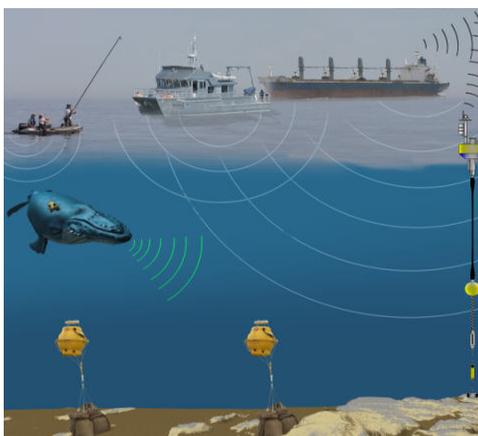
*Leila Hatch, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA*

*Sofie Van Parijs, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA*

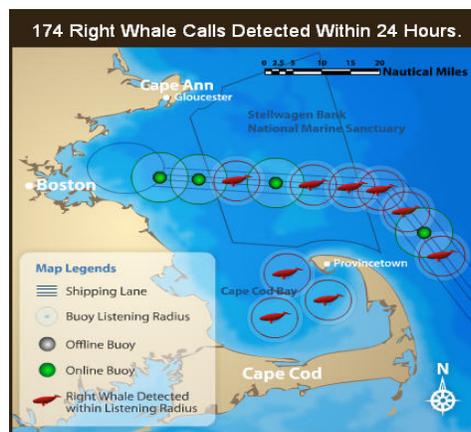
*Brandon Southall, Ocean Acoustics Program, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA*

*For more information:*

*Sofie.VanParijs@noaa.gov  
Leila.Hatch@noaa.gov*



Tools to study marine ecosystems  
How do animals find food, mates and their way in the ocean?  
What ocean areas are most important to these essential behaviors?  
How will climate change alter marine animals' distributions and behaviors?  
How do we best include listening sensors in ocean observing systems?



Tools that enhance environmental stewardship and compliance  
How do we predict impacts before we initiate new activities in the ocean?  
How do we reduce or eliminate those impacts?  
How do we evaluate the success of conservation management and best develop adaptive strategies?

**"Through the Department of Interior, we are establishing a program to authorize -- for the very first time -- the leasing of federal waters for projects to generate electricity from wind as well as from ocean currents and other renewable sources. And this will open the door to major investments in offshore clean energy."**

**- President Barack Obama, Earth Day (April 22 2009)**

**"Conducting what experts call 'marine spatial planning' presents scientific and political challenges, since so little of the ocean has been mapped in detail, and so many interest groups want to use it.**

**-Finding Space for All in Our Crowded Seas, Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post (May 4, 2009)**