

CURRICULUM VITAE

MICHAEL A. SIMPKINS

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EDUCATION:

Honors B.S. in Biology
(Sep 1989 – May 1994)
Penn State University

M.S. in Ecology
(Sep 1992 – August 1994)
Penn State University

Ph.D. in Marine Biology
(Jan 1995 – August 2000)
Univ. Alaska Fairbanks

RECENT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Resource Evaluation and Assessment Division Chief, NOAA NMFS NEFSC, Woods Hole, MA (6/2015-Present)

Direct research programs focused on (1) providing scientific advice on status and trends in abundance and productivity of living marine resources to inform management of commercial and recreational fisheries as well as other human activities; (2) evaluating economic and sociocultural impacts of human interactions on fisheries, protected species, and marine habitats; (3) understanding the population and ecological dynamics of protected species and assessing and reducing anthropogenic impacts on these populations; and (4) conducting analyses and developing models to synthesize information on climate, oceanographic, and human-related pressures to evaluate their impacts on ecosystem structure and function.

Protected Species Branch Chief, NOAA NMFS NEFSC, Woods Hole, MA (8/2010-6/2015)

Directed research programs related to the management of marine mammals, sea turtles, and sea birds in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean in support of NOAA mandates and responsibilities under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, and Magnusson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.

International Fisheries Management Specialist, NOAA NMFS IA, Silver Spring, MD (9/2008-8/2010)

Coordination of agency's international policy positions and actions related to fisheries and protected living marine resources, including regular consultation with other offices and interagency partners, with particular focus on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, bycatch of protected species, and conservation of marine mammals in international and foreign waters.

Assistant Scientific Program Director, Marine Mammal Commission, Bethesda, MD (9/2004-9/2008)

Scientific oversight of federal research and management activities related to marine mammals, including identifying and mitigating threats, improving assessments, designing Arctic monitoring systems, assessing predatory impacts, evaluating population viability analyses, and engaging in negotiations on these topics.

Research Fishery Biologist, NOAA NMFS AFSC, Seattle, WA (8/2002-9/2004)

Research focused on harbor seal and Alaskan ice seal population and behavioral ecology, with focus on improved survey and monitoring and development of new statistical techniques to analyze dive data.

NRC Postdoctoral Research Associate, NOAA NMFS AFSC, Seattle, WA (8/2000-8/2002)

Postdoctoral research focused on harbor seal and Alaskan ice seal population and behavioral ecology, including novel survey techniques, identifying habitat preferences, and studying seasonal behavior.

Research Assistant and Lecturer, Institute of Marine Science, Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks (1/1995-8/2000)

Research focused on the three-dimensional movements of ringed seals diving freely under shore-fast sea ice in the Canadian High Arctic. Team-taught introductory oceanography course to undergraduate students.

PUBLICATIONS:Selected Peer-reviewed publications:

- Bengtson, JL, AV Phillips, EA Mathews, MA Simpkins. 2007. Comparing harbor seal survey methods in glacial fjords. *Fish. Bull.* 105:348-355.
- Frost, KJ, MA Simpkins, RJ Small, LF Lowry. 2006. Development of diving behavior by harbor seal pups in two regions of Alaska: use of the water column. *Mar. Mammal Sci.* 22:617-643.
- Bengtson, JL, LM Hiruki-Raring, MA Simpkins, PL Boveng. 2005. Ringed and bearded seal densities in the eastern Chukchi Sea, 1999-2000. *Polar Biol.* 28:833-845.
- Simpkins, MA, KL Laidre, PJ Heagerty. 2005. Multivariate regression of satellite-linked dive recorder data: simultaneous analysis of all bins. *Mar. Mammal Sci.* 21:243-259.
- Boveng, PL, JL Bengtson, DE Withrow, JC Cesarone, MA Simpkins, KJ Frost, JJ Burns. 2003. The abundance of harbor seals in the Gulf of Alaska. *Mar. Mammal Sci.* 19:111-127.
- Simpkins, MA, LM Hiruki-Raring, G Sheffield, JM Grebmeier, JL Bengtson. 2003. Habitat selection by ice-associated pinnipeds near St. Lawrence Island, Alaska in March 2001. *Polar Biol.* 26:577-586.
- Simpkins, MA, DE Withrow, JC Cesarone, PL Boveng. 2003. Stability in the proportion of harbor seals hauled out under locally ideal conditions. *Mar. Mammal Sci.* 19:791-805.
- Simpkins, MA, BP Kelly, D Wartzok. 2001. Three-dimensional analysis of search behaviour by ringed seals. *Anim. Behav.* 62:67-72.
- Simpkins, MA, BP Kelly, D Wartzok. 2001. Three-dimensional diving behaviors of ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*). *Mar. Mammal Sci.* 17:909-925.
- Simpkins, MA, BP Kelly, D Wartzok. 2001. Three-dimensional movements within individual dives by ringed seals (*Phoca hispida*). *Can. J. Zool.* 79:1455-1464.

Selected Reports and Theses:

- Ballance et al. (17 authors). 2014. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Protected Resources Science Investment and Planning Process (PRSIPP), NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-140, 13 p.
- Simpkins, M, M Srinivasan. 2013. Report of the Protected Resources Science Investment Plan Workshop. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-130.
- Simpkins, M. (ed.) 2012. Workshop report - Addressing bycatch in artisanal fisheries – 16 November, 2011 Tampa, FL. ([http://bycatch.org/sites/default/files/Marine Mammal Gillnet Report_0.pdf](http://bycatch.org/sites/default/files/Marine_Mammal_Gillnet_Report_0.pdf))
- NMFS (co-author) 2012. International Marine Mammal Action Plan 2012-2016. (http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/species/marine_mammals/immmap.pdf)
- Moore, J.E., Merrick, R. (ed.) (contributing author). 2011. Guidelines for Assessing Marine Mammal Stocks: Report of the GAMMS III Workshop. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-OPR-47.
- Simpkins, MA. Marine Mammals in Arctic Report Card 2009. (<http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/reportcard>)
- Simpkins, M, KM Kovacs, K Laidre, L Lowry. 2009. A Framework for Monitoring Arctic Marine Mammals. CAFF International Secretariat, CAFF CBMP Report No. 16.
- Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee. 2008. Interagency report on marine debris sources, impacts, strategies, and recommendations. Report to Congress.
- Marine Mammal Commission. 2007. Report of the workshop on assessing the population viability of endangered marine mammals in U.S. waters. Marine Mammal Commission, Bethesda, MD.
- Simpkins, MA. 2000. Three-dimensional diving behavior of ringed seals. Ph.D. dissertation, UAF.
- Simpkins, MA. 1994. Ecology of hydrocarbon seep vestimentiferans: growth and condition in a variable environment. M.S. thesis, PSU.