

NMEA JOINS WHALE & VESSEL SAFETY TASK FORCE (WAVS)
Inviting NMEA members to get involved and share expertise

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SEVERNA PARK, MD— The National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) has joined the Whale and Vessel Safety Task Force (WAVS), a group of experts committed to reducing the risk of vessel strikes to North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW). This strategic partnership marks a significant step forward in the collective effort to address the conservation challenges faced by NARWs and to enhance maritime safety.

NMEA authors and holds crucial data interface standards that play a pivotal role in the marine electronics industry. The association sets interface standards that ensure data streams are transmitted in a standardized format, fostering collaboration among manufacturers. NMEA's expertise in this area is poised to play a critical role in integrating marine electronics with the detection information associated with North Atlantic Right Whales and other protected species.

"Having the National Marine Electronics Association join the Whale and Vessel Safety Task Force is a key development," stated John DePersenaire, Chair of WAVS. "Their involvement not only brings unparalleled technical knowledge but also aligns perfectly with our mission to accelerate and leverage technology for the conservation of North Atlantic Right Whales."

NMEA's three Interface Standards, namely NMEA 0183, NMEA 2000, and OneNet, are integral to creating a standardized data framework for marine electronics. As a member of the WAVS, NMEA will contribute to the development, evaluation, and implementation of cutting-edge solutions that utilize these standards to reduce the risk of boats colliding with marine mammals, particularly North Atlantic Right Whales.

"Collaboration is key to addressing the complex challenges faced by North Atlantic Right Whales," said Mark Reedenauer, President and Executive Director of NMEA. "We are excited to bring NMEA member experts and resources to the table and work alongside WAVS and other industry partners to find innovative solutions that will contribute to the conservation of these majestic marine creatures. We invite interested NMEA members to come forward to get involved on this initiative."

The Whale and Vessel Safety Task Force remains committed to transparency, sharing results from pilot projects and exercises with the public, policymakers, and resource managers. This collaborative effort underscores the shared responsibility of safeguarding our oceans and the biodiversity they support.

For information, and to get involved contact:

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About the Whale and Vessel Safety Task Force:

The Whale and Vessel Safety Task Force is a group of experts committed to developing, evaluating, and leveraging technology to reduce the risk of vessel strikes to North Atlantic Right Whales. Members bring diverse expertise in marine mammal monitoring, spatial risk analysis, marine electronics, and telemetry, working collaboratively to address conservation challenges associated with North Atlantic Right Whales. www.wavstaskforce.com
