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Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
**Biology Department Seminar**

Thursday, July 30, 2015  
Redfield Auditorium – 12:00 Noon

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**Entanglement in North Atlantic right  
whales: sublethal impacts on drag,  
movement, and energetic cost**

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**MIT-WHOI Joint Program**

Entanglement in fishing gear is the leading cause of death to large whales in the western North Atlantic. For the individuals of some large whale populations, sub-lethal entanglements are almost ubiquitous: 83% of the North Atlantic right whale population has been entangled at least once, and 26% of the population acquires new entanglement scars each year. The specifics of each entanglement case, including the gear involved, the drag it imposes, and the entanglement's duration, play a key role in the energetic, behavioural and health impacts to individuals and the endangered population. To better understand the sub-lethal impacts of entanglement, we have (1) quantified the amount of drag on fishing gear entangling right whales, (2) investigated fine-scale changes in locomotion in entangled whales, and (3) used two bioenergetics approaches to understand the energetic cost of entanglement to North Atlantic right whales.