



ATLANTIC MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Promoting Conservation Through Action

NEWSLETTER

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**CONSERVATION
STARTS
WITH YOU**

amseas.org

PROMOTING CONSERVATION THROUGH ACTION

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WE NEED YOUR HELP

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The Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) is a newly formed not-for-profit organization with the mission of promoting marine conservation through action. We accomplish our mission through beach monitoring and patrols, analyzing data from the marine ecosystem, supporting the stranding network through the Specially Trained Animal Response Team (START), walking the beaches to look for marine animals and pick up marine debris, and engaging the public about marine conservation.

With just a small group of volunteers, we have put in more than 2,500 man hours since our inception in August 2016.

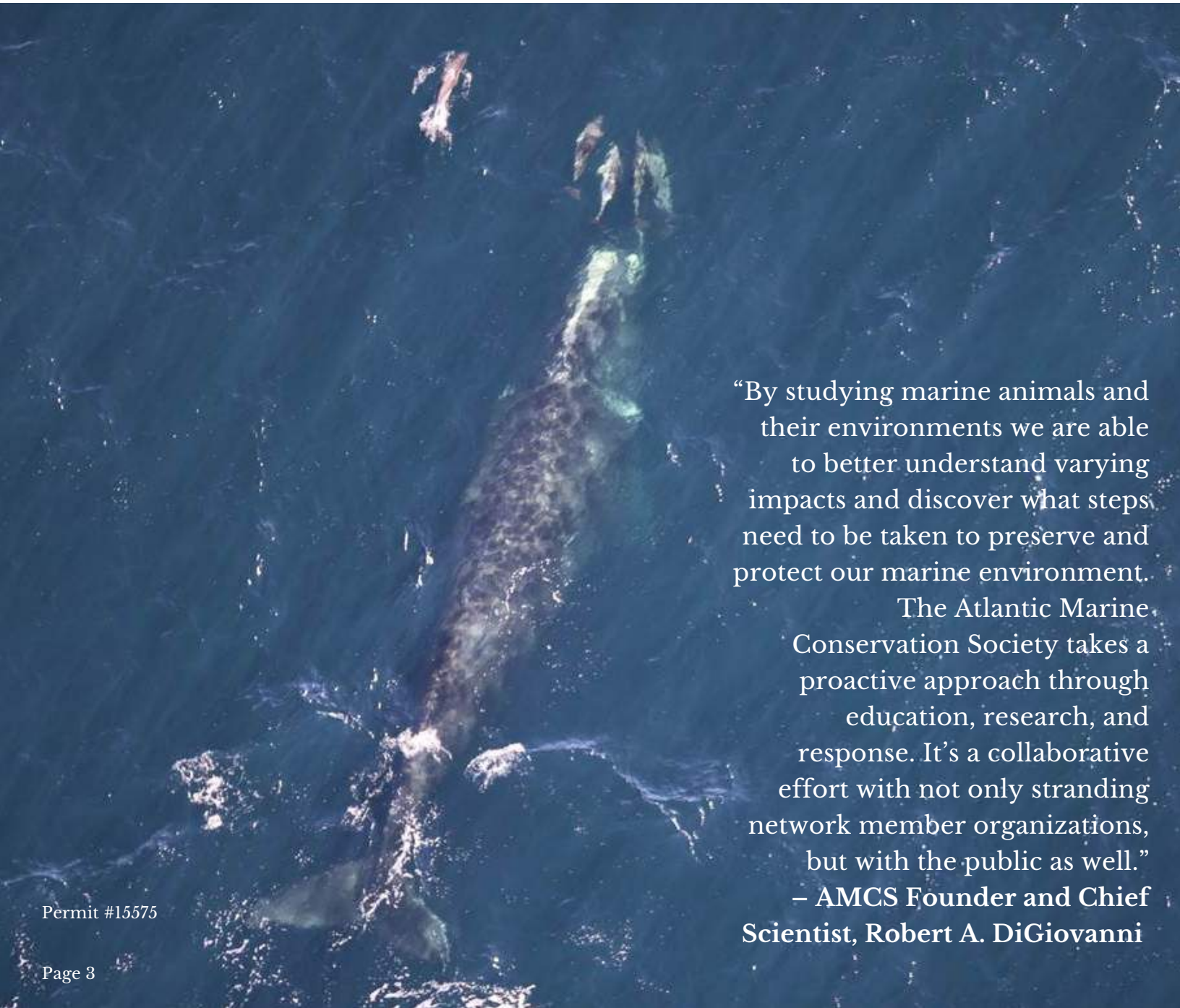
Our work is just beginning - we need your help!

Become a volunteer, member, donor, or simply pick up marine debris when you walk your local beach. Your support makes all the difference in our work and the marine environment. Conservation starts with you!

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about AMCS. We hope you will join us!

Sincerest regards,

Robert A. DiGiovanni, Jr.
Chief Scientist, AMCS

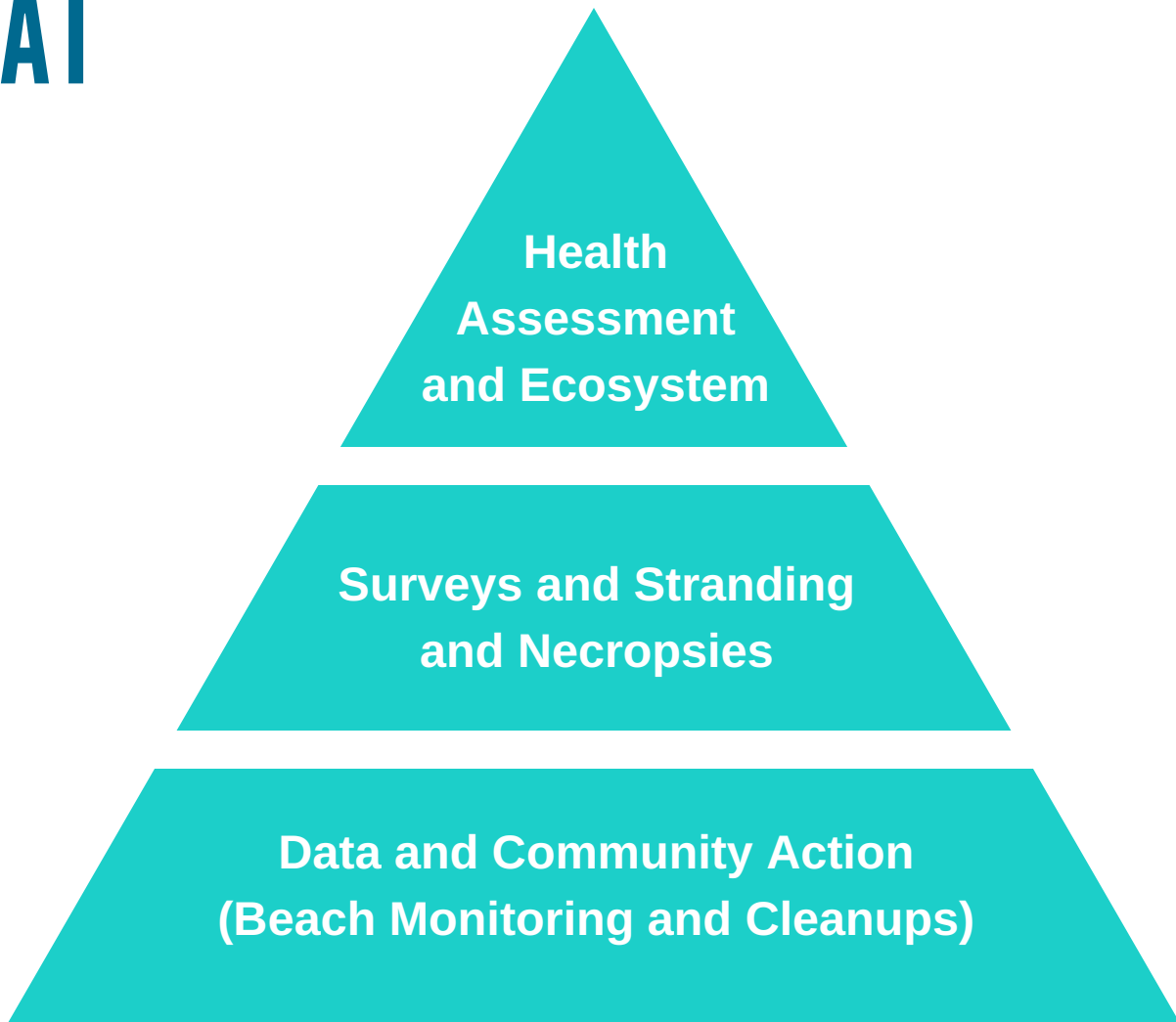


“By studying marine animals and their environments we are able to better understand varying impacts and discover what steps need to be taken to preserve and protect our marine environment.

The Atlantic Marine Conservation Society takes a proactive approach through education, research, and response. It’s a collaborative effort with not only stranding network member organizations, but with the public as well.”

– AMCS Founder and Chief Scientist, Robert A. DiGiovanni

WHAT WE DO



Atlantic Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) strives to accomplish their mission of promoting conversation through action by promoting education, research and response. Public support in our mission is crucial. Getting the community involved in beach cleanups, animal monitoring, and data collection serves as the foundation for our work.

Data collected and community action support marine mammal and sea turtle surveys and necropsies, giving us a better understanding about the marine environment and its inhabitants. With this information we can better understand the health of marine life populations and the ecosystem, and how we can save it.

AMCS is currently working to utilize the above to increase our response capacity, including raising funds to obtain a truck trailer for mobile response and a sea turtle triage facility to respond to cold stunned sea turtles.

Beach Monitoring and Cleanups

*How taking a walk on the beach can help save
the marine environment*



Permit #15575

Beach cleanups are crucial to our work. By walking local beaches and collecting marine debris, we remove harmful items from the marine environment that can lead to marine mammal and sea turtle entanglements and ingestion that can cause illness or death.

Since November 2016, AMCS volunteers have...
Conducted 18+ beach cleanups covering 33+ miles
Removed 140+ pounds of marine debris
Conducted seal surveys counting more than 600+ animals

Every day is Earth Day!

Stay tuned for more beach cleanups with AMCS. Interested in organizing one with us? Contact info@amseas.org

Tagging and Transport

Utilizing partnerships within the Stranding Network



As marine mammals and sea turtles are federally protected, it is essential that AMCS and other partners within the stranding network across the country work together. The transport of cold stunned sea turtles to rehabilitation centers is crucial to providing them with the best chance of survival.

Chief Scientist Robert DiGiovanni works closely with Pacific Marine Mammal Center (PMMC) in Laguna Beach, California to promote conservation. Together they train citizen scientists, conduct beach clean ups, working on incorporating an Incident Command System for stranding events through participation in the Specially Trained Animal Response Team (START).

Satellite tags provide important information, including behaviors of rehabilitated marine animals, dive data, water temperature, and measure the success of rehabilitation, all of which are invaluable to research. Through the tagging program with PMMC and Mystic Aquarium, AMCS can track animals for approximately 80 days after release.

Through the PMMC partnership, AMCS has satellite tagged two sea lions, one seal, and one sea turtle. AMCS has assisted in transporting five sea turtles to longterm rehabilitation centers.

Get Involved, Conservation Starts With You!

Training and Education Programs and Volunteering



Permit #15575

AMCS conducts training and teaching necropsies for students, interns, volunteers, and the public. Necropsies provide information to be utilized future during stranding events, and help us with live response in the field. We have conducted lectures at Pratt Institute, Stony Brook Southampton, Dobbs Ferry Masters School, B-Wet Program with Western Connecticut University. In April, we were invited to discuss seal entanglement issues in the Northwest Atlantic at a workshop in Portland, Maine hosted by Marine Mammals of Maine, NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Office, and World Animal Protection.

One of the primary objectives of AMCS to conduct investigations as to why marine mammals and sea turtles are washing up on our shores, and educate the public through orientations, outreach, and lectures on these different events in an effort to build a team for animal response. Currently we respond to live large whales and dolphins, and deceased marine mammals and sea turtles.

Our inaugural seal cruise was held on Saturday, April 8 around Shinnecock Bay in Southampton. AMCS Chief Scientist Robert A. DiGiovanni, Jr. lead the open weather tour, educating participants about the seals in our local marine environment. They saw approximately 118 seals! The seals were very active both in the water and at the two haul out sites. Information from this project can help us understand how seals use Shinnecock Bay haulouts.

Stranding Investigations

What We Can Learn From Marine Animals That Wash Ashore



Permit #15575

AMCS has responded to 24 deceased stranded marine animals, conducting necropsies and providing samples to pathologists to learn more about how these animals died, and what it means for the marine environment. One of the recovered animals was a pregnant harbor seal in Southold. This shows that these animals are on our beaches ready for pupping season, which is May through June.

On Monday, April 3 and Tuesday, April 4, our team of volunteers responded to a deceased humpback whale that washed up on Rockaway beach. The onsite necropsy showed bruising consistent with blunt force trauma. Though there is evidence of a vessel strike, tissue samples sent to pathologists will confirm any other possible causes of death. Results may take several months, but thorough investigations give us a better understanding of the marine environment and its inhabitants.

The whale was buried on the beach. Burial on the beach is one of the most natural ways to dispose of deceased marine animals, and contains the stranding event on site.

AMCS works with local townships and officials to respond to large whale strandings.

We need your help to obtain a truck for a mobile response and triage unit for stranded marine mammals and sea turtles.

Join Us

We Need You!



Volunteer

Help with beach monitoring and cleanups, fundraising, marketing, volunteer program management, research, response, forensic exams, and more. Learn more and get started at amseas.org/volunteer.

Become a Member

Memberships are a great way to support AMCS, stay up to date with organization news, join in our events, and much more. Your membership will support funding for future programs. Join us today at amseas.org/memberships.

Sponsorships

Looking to amp up your company's corporate responsibility? By choosing a sponsorship with AMCS, your company will be helping to promote conservation of the marine environment. Whether it's a charitable donation, company-organized beach walk or seal cruise, or helping purchase necessary equipment like a truck trailer for a mobile response and triage unit, there are several ways to get involved! Call us at 631.317.0030 to learn more.

**Every little bit helps! Make a donation to AMCS at
bit.ly/amcsdonate2017**

2017 GOALS

1. Increase our volunteer program to 50 active members
2. Obtain a truck trailer for a mobile response and triage unit for stranded marine mammals and sea turtles
3. Increase sea turtle response capabilities in the New York region with the mobile response and triage unit to respond to cold stunned sea turtles.

WHAT'S COMING UP

NY Marine Conservation Presentation
Saturday, May 20: 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Downs Farm Preserve in Cutchogue

Volunteer Orientation
Thursday, May 18 at 6 p.m.
La Quinta Inn in Bohemia

For more events, visit amseas.org/events

