

## 2009 Right Whale Festival Passport Questions

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1)

New England Aquarium – Monica Zani

What Part of the body do researchers use to individually identify right whales?

Callosity

The oldest known right whale was first photographed in 1935 and was at least 70 years old when she likely died from a boat strike. For more information about this whale and other whales visit the North Atlantic right whale catalog website at [www.neaq.org/rwcatalog](http://www.neaq.org/rwcatalog)

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2)

NOAA Fisheries – Cheryl Bonnes – Passport Sponsor

It is illegal to be within what distance of a North Atlantic right whale?

500 yards

Right whales may not be aware of the dangers around them, so any vessel finding itself close to a right whale should slowly move away.

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3)

Guana Tolomato Matanzas Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM NERR) – Angie Golubovich

The coastal waters of Florida and Georgia are the only known \_\_\_\_\_ area for the North Atlantic right whale?

Calving

A life-size model of a right whale mom and calf are hanging from the ceiling in the education center at the GTM NERR in Ponte Vedra, FL.

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4)

Marineland Right Whale Project – Joy Hampp/Marine Resources Council (MRC) – Julie Albert

How do you report a right whale sighting in Florida?

Call 1-888-97-WHALE

The volunteer sighting network has over 900 members that have reported whales all along Florida's east coast from Fernandina Beach south to Miami.

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5)

Analysis, Design, & Diagnostics (AD&D) – Gary Donoher

What is the name of a commonly heard right whale vocalization that scientists believe is a way for right whales to make contact with or say "Hi!" to other whales close by.

Upcall

Scientists deploy underwater buoys to record and learn about right whales vocalizations. In some places these buoys are also used to warn ships that right whales are nearby.

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6)

Sierra Club – Tom Larson

Right whales were the favorite target of whalers because they float when dead, produce a lot of oil from their blubber, and have long baleen, so whalers called them the "right" whale to \_\_\_\_\_.

Hunt

Right whale baleen is 8-10 feet long and is made of keratin (the same as your fingernails). In the past baleen was used to make hair brushes and many other things that are now made out of plastic.

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7)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) – Katie Jackson

\_\_\_\_\_ or “whale lice” are small, white crustaceans that live on the callosity of right whales and lend a helping hand to scientists during photo identification by making the black callosity look white and more visible in photographs.

Cyamids

Whale lice feed on the whale’s dead skin and do not appear to hurt the whale.

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8)

St. Augustine ECO Tours – Zach McKenna

It is illegal and unsafe to approach a right whale in a \_\_\_\_\_ or on a \_\_\_\_\_ even though they do not have a motor.

Kayak/Surfboard

The best place to watch right whales is from the beach or a pier. Right whale calves must nurse often to grow big and strong enough to swim back North with their moms and any disturbance to their natural behavior could affect their survival.

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9)

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens – Mercedes New

An adult right whale can measure up to \_\_\_\_\_ feet in length and weigh \_\_\_\_\_ pounds – that is about as long as 1 ½ school buses and as heavy as 15 African elephants!

60/140,000

Right whale calves weigh approximately 2,500 pounds when they are born and gain an estimated 160 pounds per day while nursing.

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10)

Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) – Kristina Summers

Female right whales give birth to a calf every \_\_\_\_\_ years and are an average \_\_\_\_\_ years old when they have their first calf.

3-5/9-10

A mother right whale must have 4 calves just to replace herself in the population (studies show that 2 of her calves will die before they turn 9 years old and 1 of the two that live will be female and one will be male).

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11)

Marineland’s Dolphin Conservation Center and Georgia Aquarium’s Dolphin Conservation Field Station – Terran Rosenberg

Right whales mostly eat what type of zooplankton?

Copepods

Right whales are called Mysticetes or “mustache-whales” because they have hair-like baleen for filtering food from the water instead of teeth.

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12)

Ocean Conservancy – Jessica Koelsch

What are the two biggest threats to right whales?

Boat strike and Entanglement

More than 3/4 of the right whale population has scars from being entangled in fishing gear.

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13)

Jacksonville University – Quinton White

There are as few as \_\_\_\_\_ North Atlantic right whales alive and they are one of the most endangered large whales in the world.

345

There are two other species of right whales: the North Pacific right whale and the southern right whale.

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14)

Keepers of the Coast – Tara Dodson

Right whales often rest and nurse their calves at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the water.

Surface

Right whales are hard to spot! By wearing polarized sunglasses to reduce glare from the sun and staying alert, boaters may decrease their risk of hitting a right whale.

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15)

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute – Carol Harwood

Right whales are often seen with what other marine mammal that lives in the coastal waters of Florida and Georgia?

Bottlenose Dolphins

It is illegal to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal in U.S. waters under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

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16)

United State Coast Guard (USCG) – LCDR Pat Schreiber

The USCG broadcasts current right whale sighting information during the winter on what Marine VHF radio channel?

16 and 22A

An entangled right whale was named “Kingfisher” in honor of the crew of the USCG cutter Kingfisher that helped rescue teams trying to cut off the fishing ropes wrapped around the whale.

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17)

JAXPORT – Joanne Kazmierski – Passport Sponsor

Most boats that are 65 feet or longer must travel at what speed through the right whale calving area?  
10 knots

JAXPORT is a member of the Early Warning System (EWS) network which alerts ships of a right whale sighting by email and text message within a few minutes of the survey airplanes spotting a whale.

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18)

Surfrider – Stephanie Rousso

Scientists use a specially trained dog to help them sniff out and find right whale \_\_\_\_\_!

Poop

Scientists study their smelly find to learn about the health of the whales and the amount of toxins the whales are eating.

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19)

Wild Amelia – Kathy Brooks

Right whales have black skin; a V-shaped \_\_\_\_\_; black, paddle-shaped \_\_\_\_\_; and no \_\_\_\_\_ fin.

Blow/Flippers/Dorsal

You can tell a right whale and a humpback whale apart because humpback whales have long, thin, white flippers and a dorsal fin that is visible when they dive.

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20)

Florida Wildlife Federation – Sarah Gledhill

Right whales are found off Florida and Georgia during what time of the year?

Winter

Right whale calves stay with their moms for about a year and these “yearlings” often come back to the calving area with or without their moms.

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21)

Sea to Shore Alliance – Jessica Koelsch

Scientists use photographs and genetic samples to create “\_\_\_\_\_” for right whales to track details about their life history (age, gender, mother, father, siblings) and better understand their conservation needs.

Family Trees

Catalog #1240 “Baldy”, named for her unusually small callosity, is one of the oldest mothers in the North Atlantic right whale catalog and has been responsible for bringing at least 18 right whales into the world (including 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren).

Fun facts for the toys

- 1) Scientists named the North Atlantic right whale *Eubalaena glacialis* which means “good” or “true” whale of the ice in Latin.
- 2) Adult right whales have no natural predators, but calves could be hunted by killer whales (Orcas) or large sharks.
- 3) Every winter survey airplanes off Georgia and Florida fly about 60,000 miles of trackline looking for right whales – that is the same as flying around the earth at the equator more than 2 times!
- 4) Scientists call right whales less than 1 year old a “calf”; 1 year old whales a “yearling”; whales between 1 and 9 years old a “juvenile”; and whales 9 years or older an “adult”.
- 5) Right whales are most closely related to the Bowhead whale which lives most of its life in the Arctic Ocean.
- 6) There is no food in the calving area for right whales, so mother right whales don’t eat while they are nursing and caring for their calf.
- 7) The right whale calving season is November 15 – April 15 and the highest number of whale sightings is usually in January and February.
- 8) There are 6 major habitats for right whales: