1:00-1:15 Welcome and Introductions

1:15-1:45 Summary of 2021 Whale Watch Season
   Dianna Schulte, Director of Research, Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation
   What did we see this season and how has this whale watching season compared to others? Learn about fluctuations and trends in whale sightings in recent history.

1:45-2:15 Marine Debris Issues and Local Trends for 2021
   Jen Kennedy, Executive Director, Blue Ocean Society

2:15-2:30 Break

2:30-3:00 Sea Turtles in the Changing Waters of New England
   Kate Sampson, Sea Turtle Stranding and Disentanglement Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
   Four species of endangered and threatened sea turtles come into the coastal waters of New England annually during the summer and early fall. Climate change is impacting the number of sea turtles in our area and their strandings on our shores. What does this mean for the future?

3:00-3:30 Awareness Inspires Conservation
   Marianne Walsh, Education Director, Atlantic White Shark Conservancy
   Join the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy and learn about the history of white sharks and seals in New England. We will discuss current-day research projects, as well as how that research is connected to white shark conservation.

3:30-4:00 Talking to Your Audience
   Cynde McInnis, Educator, Founder, WhaleMobile

4:00-4:15 Break

4:15-4:45 Ocean Sunfish Rescue and Research Efforts in Coastal New England
   Carol Carson, Founder, New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance
   The New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance (NECWA) is an all-volunteer nonprofit that sponsors an ocean sunfish rescue and research project in the coastal waters of New England. This effort originated in 2005 when NECWA established NEBSHark, a community-sighting network for live and happy ocean sunfish and basking sharks seen offshore or from a beach. In 2008, NECWA started receiving calls about live and dead stranded ocean sunfish along the shores of Cape Cod and surrounding areas. Over the years, NECWA has come to understand that these fall strandings are an annual event and numbers of stranded animals are increasing. Learn about NECWA’s rescue efforts to save live stranded ocean sunfish as well as our research activities on dead animals that wash ashore.
4:45-5:00 Blue Ocean Society Research and Education Internship Program
Nicole Downing, Research Assistant, Blue Ocean Society

5:00-5:15 Pregnancy and Behaviors of Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in the Gulf of Maine
Tiffany Kay, Cuyahoga Community College, upcoming Freshman at Cleveland State University
Investigating the behaviors of pregnant humpback whales during summer feeding season in the Western Gulf of Maine

5:15-5:30 Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) behavior varies depending on group size and gender-dominance in the Gulf of Maine.
April Montooth, graduate of University of North Florida, Coastal Environmental Biology
This presentation will focus on humpback whale behaviors observed during associations. The purpose of the study is to determine if the type of behavior exhibited by whales changes as the group size or gender dynamics change. I hypothesize that as the group size increases, behaviors like breaching, tail lobbing, and flipper-slapping will increase. I also hypothesize that female-dominant groups will exhibit less active behaviors and male-dominant groups will exhibit more active behaviors.

5:30-5:45 Warming Waters and Basking Shark Distribution in the Gulf of Maine
Brighid Weeden, Senior at UNH, Environmental Conservation and Sustainability
How does water temperature affect basking shark distribution? Some underlying questions are; why haven’t we seen any basking sharks yet this year? where are they going, further up or somewhere else? how much warmer are the waters compared to years past?

5:45-6:00 Wrap Up

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