

Newburyport: Scientist to describe plight of endangered right whale

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NEWBURYPORT — Until 1980, scientists believed the North Atlantic right whale was extinct or near extinction; then, Dr. Scott Kraus and a team of researchers found 25 whales in the Bay of Fundy.

Tomorrow, the Nock Middle School will host Kraus, vice president of research at the New England Aquarium, to talk about the endangered right whale. According to the aquarium Web site, there are fewer than 400 right whales in the North Atlantic.

Kraus will read from his new book, "The Urban Whale: North Atlantic Crossroads."

He will present his current knowledge about the biology and plight of right whales, including their reproduction, feeding, genetics and endocrinology as well as the effects of boating accidents and fishing on whales.

Hunted for nearly a millennium, right whales are now being killed by the ocean commerce that supports our modern way of life.

As a way to illustrate the size of whales, Kraus will bring along a 42-foot inflatable right whale named Calvin that will be on display throughout the day tomorrow.

Earlier in the day, Bresnahan School students will be able to see Calvin when New England Aquarium educators present a class on biology and whales to the third-graders.

Kraus' presentation begins at 6 p.m. in the Nock auditorium and is open to the public. Calvin will be on display in the gym.

The event is sponsored by the Newburyport Education Foundation as part of the Institute for Savings Science Speaker series.

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Photos



Calvin, a 42-foot inflatable right whale, will visit Nock Middle School tomorrow. Courtesy photo