Whale watching from the beach: How are New York whales reacting to a changing environment?

Abstract: Whales have a long history in New York, even before it became a state. However, numerous factors over the past several centuries have caused their local populations to vary considerably. In recent years, humpback whales have become more frequent visitors to New York's waters. This talk will discuss: what types of whales can be seen (and heard) locally, where to go to see them, reasons why sightings may be increasing, and what scientists are doing to better understand the challenges that affect these creatures here and around the world.

Bio: Joseph Warren is an oceanographer who has spent over 1000 days at sea studying marine organisms ranging from the tiny (mm-long copepods) to the gigantic (blue whale). He uses advanced technology including underwater sound to study where animals are located and the physical and biological processes that affect their lives. He has participated in more than 50 research cruises ranging from the shallow bays of New York, the deep pelagic ocean, tropical coral reefs, and both polar regions (and many other places in between including a few lakes). He is an Associate Professor in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University.

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