

Merra Howe, M.Sc.

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BRI Position: **Associate Director, Applied Ecology and Renewable Energy Group (2022-current)** – Provides scientific and policy guidance to external clients for projects related to offshore wind and wildlife matters, with a particular focus on birds and bats. Manages acoustic monitoring projects for a variety of wildlife species.

Education: 2016 M.S., University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Marine Biology
2010 B.A., Vassar College, Biology

Other Relevant Work Experience:

2018 – 2022 **Policy Analyst, Marine Mammal Commission, Bethesda, MD**
Developed agency recommendations on domestic and international marine mammal policy issues.

2016 **Cetacean Acoustician, Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI**
Conducted real-time acoustic monitoring and localization of marine mammals using hydrophone arrays during federal research cruise.

2015 – 2016 **Research Assistant, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI** 2013 – 2015
Developed dolphin research project in the Hawaiian Islands using passive acoustic monitoring and opportunistic observations. Led field efforts to deploy and retrieve acoustic recorders.

2013 – 2014 **Research Associate, Oceanwide Science Institute, Makawao, HI**
Programmed, deployed, and retrieved underwater acoustic recorders. Managed large acoustic datasets. Manually processed and analyzed acoustic files for dolphin and large whale signals.

2011 – 2014 **Bioacoustics Technician, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage, AK**
Managed, processed, and analyzed acoustic files for beluga whale signals.

Fellowships: 2017 Sea Grant Knauss Fellow, *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington, DC*

Acoustical Software Proficiency: Triton, Ishmael, Audacity, Raven Pro

Select Publications and Reports:

Goodale, M.W., Knaga, P., Dodgin, S., Gilardi, E., Guilbert, J.M., **Howe, M.**, Frankina, B., and C. Stearns. 2025. Detections of migratory bats offshore in the Gulf of Maine. *Northeast Naturalist* (submitted)

Gulland, F., J. Baker, **M. Howe**, E. LaBrecque, L. Leach, S.E. Moore, R.R. Reeves, & P.O. Thomas. 2022. A review of climate change effects on marine mammals in United States waters: Past predictions, observed impacts, current research and conservation imperatives. *Climate Change Ecology* 3: 100054.

Howe, M. & M. Lammers. 2021. Investigating the spatiotemporal occurrence of odontocetes around Maui Nui and Oahu using passive acoustic techniques. *Pacific Science*. 75: 147-161.

Howe, M., M. Lammers, & R.W. Baird. 2019. Participatory science and directed survey methods: a case study with odontocetes in the Maui Nui region of the Hawaiian Islands. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*. 20: 101-109.

Lammers, M., **M. Howe**, E. Zang, M. McElligott, A. Engelhaupt, & L. Munger. 2017. Acoustic monitoring of coastal dolphins and their response to naval mine neutralization exercises. *Royal Society Open Science*. 4: 170558.

Howe, M., M. Castellote, C. Garner, P. McKee, R. Small, & R. Hobbs. 2015. Beluga (*Delphinaterus leucas*) ethogram: a tool for Cook Inlet beluga conservation? *Marine Fisheries Review* 77(1): 32-40.

Lammers, M.O, **M. Howe**, and L. Munger. 2014. Acoustic Monitoring of Dolphin Occurrence and Activity in the Virginia Capes W-50 MINEX Range 2012-2013: Preliminary Results. Prepared for U.S. Fleet Forces Command. Submitted to Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia, under Contract No. N62470-10-3011, Task Order CTO 03, issued to HDR Inc., Norfolk, Virginia. Prepared by Oceanwide Institute, Honolulu, Hawaii.