

THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING THE CANCELLATION OF THE 2020 RIGHT WHALE FESTIVAL

Out of concern for the health and safety of the exhibitors, volunteers, and attendees, Host Sponsors and the Planning Committee have decided to cancel this year's Right Whale Festival. We know that this will come as an enormous disappointment, not only to the exhibitors, vendors, artists, scientists, and educators that work so hard to prepare for this event, but also to the local community. This is not a decision we have taken lightly; as increased and overwhelming concerns about the coronavirus pandemic have led to the cancellation or postponement of major events around the world and in Fernandina Beach, the decision to cancel the Right Whale Festival was a tough one. The continued spread of COVID-19, travel restrictions, and other circumstances made the Festival no longer viable. We are comforted knowing the community is not being put in harm's way, for that would be a burden we could not bear.

We are extremely disappointed we are unable to hold the festival; however, we remain passionate about continuing to raise awareness about the North Atlantic right whales and their annual return to the Southeast U.S. each fall. The Mayor of Fernandina Beach, John Miller, will once again proclaim November as "Right Whale Month." This proclamation will be held on November 1st and will be the start of a month-long social media campaign. We ask that you follow our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts and share our educational posts from November 1 through November 30.

We want to express a huge thanks to our sponsors for their ongoing support. The Right Whale Festival Planning Committee is excited to continue to plan the 2021 festival. Further updates about the 2021 festival will be posted on our Facebook page and website: www.rightwhalefestival.com.

Our sympathies at this time are with those affected by this virus around the world. We hope you all stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all at next year's Right Whale Festival.



**2020 Right Whale Festival:
Cancelled due to the Global
COVID-19 Pandemic**

