

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team Update

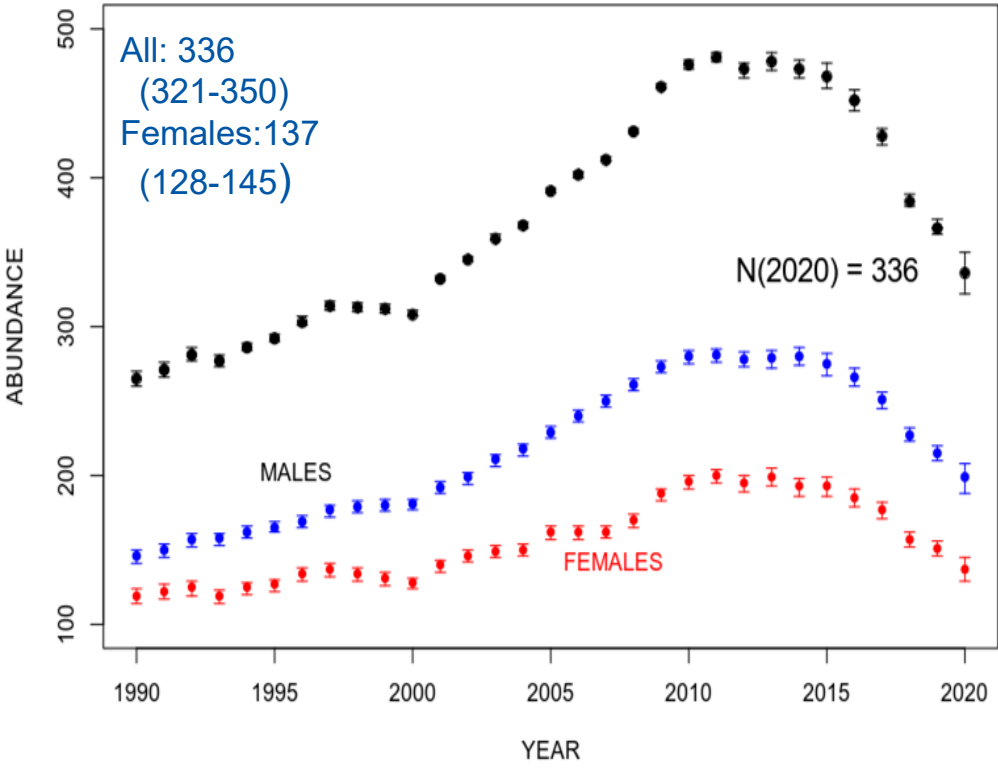
MAFMC June 2022



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Right whale population estimate (preliminary, as of early 2020)

Rangewide Estimated Annual Mortality



YEAR	EST Mort (median)	Obs Mort	Obs SI	Obs SI+M
2015	29	3	5	8
2016	30	4	9	13
2017	44	17	2	19
2018	22	3	6	9
2019	31	10	2	12



Risk reduction calculations

Use the most-recent 5 yr. observed M/SI ratio to apportion the total mortality estimate from Pace MRR model.

Across three country apportionment assumptions: 50%, 40%, or 30% US.

Country Apportionment	(a) PBR - draft 2021 SAR	(b) Annual average estimated mortality 2015-2019	(c) Assumed US proportion	(d) US mortality based on country assumption (columns b*c)	(e) US mortality - 70% EN Observed M/SI 2016-2020 (column d* 0.70)	(f) % Reduction Needed for US to achieve PBR assuming 70% EN ((e-a)/e)
50% US/ 50% CAN	0.7	31.2	0.50	15.7	11	93.6%
40% US/ 60% CAN			0.40	12.6	8.8	92.0%
30% US/ 70% CAN			0.30	9.4	6.6	89.4%



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Description of Phased Rulemaking

- **Phase 1:** risk reduction from Northeast lobster & Jonah Crab trap/pot fisheries
 - Minimum target from 2019 ALWTRT meeting
 - Completed September 17, 2021
- **Phase 2:** risk reduction from all other ALWTRT fisheries
 - Coastwide gillnet
 - Multi-species trap/pot
 - Mid-Atlantic lobster
 - New risk reduction estimate due to new population data
- **Phase 3:** remaining risk from NE lobster and Jonah crab to hit 90% estimated reduction needed to reduce mortalities and serious injuries in US commercial fisheries to PBR level



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Considerations for Phase 2

- Phase 2 fisheries have lower relative effort and dispersed risk
 - Challenging to reduce risk when broadly distributed
 - Effort reduction may be key
 - Relocation outside of high risk is difficult in some areas; can just move risk
 - Reducing line strength to reduce M/SI
- Panels increase encounter risk
 - Likely varies based on behavior
 - Reducing buoy line strength could further reduce M/SI in the case of an encounter with buoy lines or panels
- Remaining risk within these fisheries is predominantly in Southern New England, mid-Atlantic, and (for gillnets) the Gulf of Maine



Similar Themes Across Sets of Measures

Achieved 37 to 64 % risk reduction

- Buoy lines or inserts with a 1,700 lb maximum breaking strength where it is feasible
- Reduce lines by requiring one buoy line or increasing traps or nets on a set (where feasible)
- A few closures, with a strong preference for dynamic management
 - Dynamic openings or closures
 - Predetermined areas that can be subset based on sightings and other criteria
 - Gillnet is likely more nimble than trap/pot gear, especially when “tended”
 - Requires investment in monitoring
 - Assume some overlapping risk between whale sightings and notice
- Apply Phase 1 measures to OTP

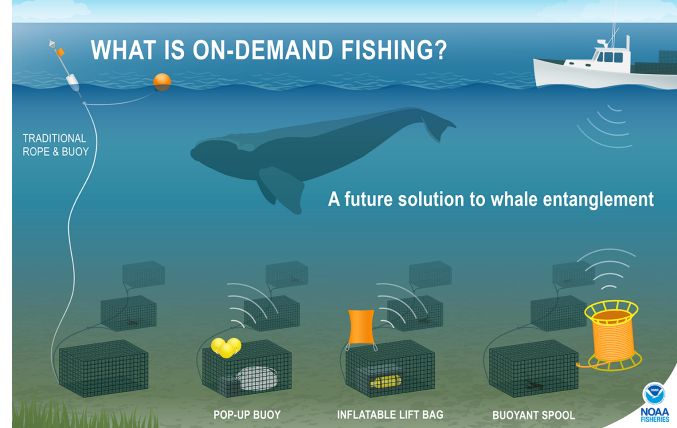


Roadmap to On-Demand Fishing

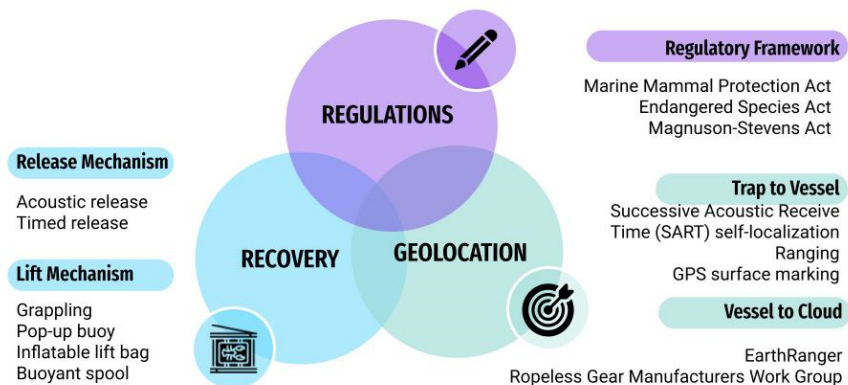
- We released a Roadmap to On-Demand Fishing for public input
- Roadmap outlines NOAA's vision for the adoption of on-demand fishing gear into the future
 - Including gear recovery, geolocation, and regulatory change
 - Emphasizing the need to engage with stakeholders to guide development and adoption
- Will be a 'living document' to guide NOAA's on-demand programs incorporating feedback from industry and others



Provide feedback at <https://bit.ly/3GH0IdE>



The Development of On-Demand Fishing



Next Steps

Anticipated webinars

- Ropeless Roadmap
- DST Updates

Collaboration: Will be working with Council ALWTRT members to develop management and implementation plans for effort or gear reduction measures

DST Updates: Modelers are

Next Team Meeting: TBA, goal is development of team recommendations



Questions?



Examples of Sets of Measures Drafted by Team for Analysis



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Example of Measures being analyzed for Team Package 2B: Gillnet and OTP

OTP/ Gillnet/ Both	Measure	When	Where
Gillnet	1,700 lb buoy line (100% weak)	Year round	GOM/SNE
Gillnet	1 buoy line only per set	Year round	GOM/SNE
Gillnet - monkfish only	20 nets per string	Year round	GOM/SNE
Other gillnet fisheries	Double nets per string	Year round	GOM/SNE
Gillnet	514 Seasonal restricted area	Feb-May	Stat Area 514
Gillnet	South Island Restricted Area (close as is)	Feb-April	SIRA
OTP	1,700 lb weak rope (100% weak)	Year round	Coastwide
OTP	Pairs for singles in state waters	Jan - May	SNE/MAB
	Trawl up according to Phase 1 3-12 miles: 10 traps Beyond 12 miles: 15 traps	Year round	SNE/MAB outside of LMA 3
	45 traps per/trawl	Year round	LMA 3
OTP	South Island Restricted Area	Feb-Apr	SIRA
OTP	No deep sets (e.g., with 2000 ft of line) (close and redistribute lobster > 100m)	Year round	40-50 miles offshore SNE/MAB (deeper than 50 fathoms)

* Some measures excluded from table because they were outside of model framework or current modeling capacity



Package 1

OTP/ Gillnet/ Both	Measure	When	Where
OTP	Trawl up according to Phase 1 3-12 miles: min of 10 traps 12+ miles: min of 15 traps you can apply the area 3 south of the 50 fath. line.	Year round	Everywhere, all phase 1 measures to Phase 2 OTP
	1,700 lb buoy line (75% weak)	Year round	Everywhere
OTP	Any single pots should be paired in SNE (trawl up to 2's)	Year round	SNE
Gillnet	514 Seasonal restricted area	Feb-May	Stat Area 514
Gillnet	All buoy lines weak (to 75%)	Year round	Everywhere
OTP	Hybrid trawls ONLY ONE ENDLINE and that is weak	Year round	MAB and SNE federal waters:
Gillnet	1 buoy line only per set	Year round	Federal waters, SNE, GOM
OTP/Gillnet	SIRA apply same Phase 1 restrictions closure for all fixed gear in Eastern ½ of SIRA (east half closed only)	Feb-Apr	SIRA

* Some measures excluded from table because they were outside of model framework or current modeling capacity



Package 2A: Gillnet and OTP

OTP/ Gillnet/ Both	Measure	When	Where
Gillnet	1,700 lb buoy line (100% weak)	Year round	GOM/SNE
Gillnet	1 buoy line only per set	Year round	GOM/SNE
Gillnet	514 Seasonal restricted area	Feb-May	Stat Area 514
Gillnet	South Island Restricted Area (close as is)	Feb-April	SIRA
OTP	1,700 lb weak rope (100% weak)	Year round	Coastwide
OTP	One buoy line on trawls	Year round	SNE/MAB
OTP	South Island Restricted Area	Feb-Apr	SIRA
OTP	No deep sets (e.g., with 2000 ft of line) (close and redistribute lobster > 100m)	Year round	40-50 miles offshore SNE/MAB (deeper than 50 fathoms)

* Some measures excluded from table because they were outside of model framework or current modeling capacity



Package 3A: Gillnet and OTP

OTP/ Gillnet/ Both	Measure	When	Where
OTP/Gillnet	1,700 lb buoy line (75% weak)	Year round	Everywhere
OTP/Gillnet	514 Seasonal Restricted area	Feb-May	Stat Area 514
OTP/Gillnet	South Island Restricted Area	Feb-April	SIRA
OTP (Excluding Whelk)	Trawling up min 2 traps per trawl	Year round	Federal Waters

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Package 3B: Gillnet and OTP

OTP/ Gillnet/ Both	Measure	When	Where
OTP/Gillnet	1,700 lb buoy line (75% weak)	Year round	Coastwide
OTP/Gillnet	514 Seasonal Restricted area	Feb-May	Stat Area 514
OTP	South Island Restricted Area	Feb-April	SIRA
Gillnet	South Island Restricted Area Extended	Feb-April	SIRA Extended in eastward and south to the canyons in SNE
OTP (Excluding Whelk)	Trawling up min 2 traps per trawl	Year round	Federal Waters Coastwide

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Package 4: Gillnet and OTP

OTP/ Gillnet/ Both	Measure	When	Where
Gillnet	1,700 lb buoy line (100% weak)	Year round	Coastwide
Gillnet	15 nets per string	Year round	GOM/SNE
Gillnet	514 Seasonal Restricted area	Feb-May	Stat Area 514
Gillnet	South Island Restricted Area	Feb-April	SIRA
OTP	Trawling up min 2 traps per trawl	Year round	SNE
OTP	1,700 lb buoy line (100% weak)	Year round	SNE (Whelk only)
OTP	Trawl up according to distance from shore (similar to Phase 1) 3-12 miles: min of 10 traps 12+ miles: min of 15 traps	Year round	Mid-Atlantic Nearshore Trap/Pot waters

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