



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | P. Weston Townsend, Vice Chairman  
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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 26, 2022  
**To:** Council  
**From:** Karson Coutre, Staff  
**Subject:** Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT) Phase 2 Update

On June 8, the Council will receive and update on phase two of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) which focuses on reducing the risk of entanglement to right, humpback, and fin whales in U.S. East Coast gillnet, Atlantic mixed species trap/pot, and Mid-Atlantic lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot fisheries. The ALWTRT met May 9-13 with the goal of developing recommended measures for Phase 2 which are meant to contribute to achieving the Agency's overall coast-wide goal of approximately 90% risk reduction. The meeting summary from this ALWTRT meeting is in development and will be included in supplemental briefing materials [here](#). The May ALWTRT meeting agenda is provided behind this tab for further context, and more information can be found on the [Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan webpage](#).



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# Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team Meeting

May 9-13, 2022

## May TRT Meeting Goals

Phase 2: Complete the team's work on developing recommended measures for our Phase 2 process for risk reduction in mid-Atlantic lobster trap/pot, U.S. East Coast multispecies trap/pot, and gillnet fisheries coast-wide. These measures must be considered in the context of the Agency's overall coast-wide goal of approximately 90% risk reduction, as described in the agency's November 2021 webinar.

Phase 3 (preparation): Gauge conservation benefits from the Phase 1 rule and begin discussing the data and analyses needed to inform future Phase 3 discussions that will identify additional risk reduction measures in the Northeast lobster and Jonah crab fisheries to reach the coast-wide goal of 90% risk reduction.

## Agenda Summary

### **Day 1: Monday, May 9 (1:00 pm - 5:45 pm)**

Welcome, our meeting goals, recalibrating and reconnecting as a team, informational briefings and initial review of potential measures.

### **Day 2: Tuesday, May 10 (9:00 am - 6:30 pm)**

Detailed discussion of potential Phase 2 measures for mid-Atlantic lobster trap/pot, U.S. East Coast multispecies trap/pot, and gillnet fisheries coast-wide; crafting collections of measures to run through the Decision Support Tool.

### **Day 3: Wednesday, May 11 (9:00 am – 6:00 pm)**

In the morning, Phase 3 preparation: review conservation value of Phase 1 rule and consider data & analysis needed to develop Phase 3 recommendations. In the afternoon, reviewing input so far on Phase 2 measures and receiving DST run results.

### **Day 4: Thursday, May 12 (9:00 am - 5:45 pm)**

Reviewing and refining draft Team Phase 2 document.

### **Day 5: Friday, May 13 (9:00 am - 12:30 pm)**

Finalize Team Phase 2 document.

**Day 1: Monday, May 9 (1:00 pm - 5:45 pm)**

Welcome, our meeting goals, recalibrating and reconnecting as a team, informational briefings and initial review of potential measures.

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|---------------------|---|
| <b>12:45- 1 pm</b>  | <b>Tech Check</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Team members join early for Zoom tech check and troubleshooting</li></ul>   |
| <b>1-1:30 pm</b>    | <b>Welcome and Getting Started</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and meeting objectives - Agency</li><li>• Agenda review and ground rules</li><li>• Technology tips</li><li>• Participant check-ins</li></ul>   |
| <b>1:30-2:15 pm</b> | <b>Recalibrating and Reconnecting as a Team</b> <p>Small group and plenary discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why is this team’s work so challenging?</li><li>• What can we do as individuals to overcome these challenges?</li><li>• What has this team done well? What can we build off of?</li></ul> |
| <b>2:15-3:15 pm</b> | <b>Informational Briefings and Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DST updates</li><li>• Relevant research</li></ul>  |
| <b>3:15-3:45 pm</b> | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>3:45-5:15 pm</b> | <b>Initial Discussion:</b> Understanding Conservation Benefits Tied to Different OTP and Gillnet Measures   |
| <b>5:15-5:30 pm</b> | <b>Public Comment</b>   |
| <b>5:30-5:45 pm</b> | <b>Wrap-Up, Next Steps, and Adjourn</b>   |

**Day 2: Tuesday, May 10 (9:00 am - 6:30 pm)**

Detailed discussion of potential Phase 2 measures for mid-Atlantic lobster trap/pot, U.S. East Coast multispecies trap/pot, and gillnet fisheries coastwide; crafting collections of measures to run through the Decision Support Tool.

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|--------------------------|---|
| <b>8:45-9 am</b>         | <b>Tech Check</b>   |
| <b>9-9:15 am</b>         | <b>Welcome and Review of Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Day Two approach and objectives</li><li>• Brief opportunity for questions and observations from Team members from Day 1</li></ul>  |
| <b>9:15-10 am</b>        | <b>Initial Plenary Discussion: OTP and Gillnet Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Question 1: Among these measures, which of these do you think should be most seriously considered? Why?</li><li>• Question 2: If this type of measure were to be included in an eventual collection of measures, what would be the smartest way to design it - i.e. how could it be done to maximize benefit to NARW and minimize impacts to fishermen?</li></ul> |
| <b>10-10:30 am</b>       | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>10:30 am-12:15 pm</b> | <b>Initial Cross-Caucus Discussion: OTP and Gillnet Measures:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are preferred measures and why?</li><li>• What strategies could be employed to design these measures as wisely as possible?</li></ul>  |
| <b>12:15-1:45 pm</b>     | <b>Lunch/Break</b>  |
| <b>1:45-3:15 pm</b>      | <b>Building Collections of Measures to Test in the DST Model (Plenary, then Caucus)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In plenary: Brief opportunity for reflections from morning discussion</li><li>• In caucus: Start considering possible collections of measures to model in the DST this week (modeling ≠ commitment)</li></ul>   |
| <b>3:15-3:45 pm</b>      | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>3:45-4:15 pm</b>      | <b>Caucus Report Back</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide feedback on collections of measures to run through DST</li></ul>  |
| <b>4:15-5:30 pm</b>      | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>5:30-6:00 pm</b>      | <b>DST Group report back</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review and confirm collection of measures for modeling over the next 24 hours</li></ul>  |
| <b>6:00-6:15 pm</b>      | <b>Public Comment</b>   |
| <b>6:15-6:30 pm</b>      | <b>Wrap-Up, Next Steps, and Adjourn</b>   |

**Day 3: Wednesday, May 11 (9:00 am – 6:00 pm)**

In the morning, Phase 3 preparation: review conservation value of Phase 1 rule and consider data & analysis needed to develop Phase 3 recommendations. In the afternoon, reviewing input so far on Phase 2 measures and receiving DST run results.

- 8:45-9 am**      **Tech Check**
- 9-9:30 am**      **Welcome and Review of Day**
  - Day Two approach and objectives
  - Brief opportunity for Team reflections
  - DST group check-in
- 9:30-10:45 am**      **Preparing for Phase 3**
  - Review conservation value of Phase 1 rule and where risk remains
- 10:45-11 am**      **Break**
- 11 am-12:30 pm**      **Preparing for Phase 3**
  - Consider data and analysis needed to develop Phase 3 recommendations
- 12:30-2 pm**      **Lunch**
- 2-2:30 pm**      **Touch Base with DST Group**
  - Opportunity for DST group to pose clarifying modeling questions to Team
- 2:30-3:30 pm**      **Phase 2 Measures - Emerging Team Perspectives**
  - Review what we have heard so far and clarify areas of convergence and divergence among the Team
- 3:30-4 pm**      **Break**
- 4-4:15pm**      **Public Comment**
- 4:15-5:45 pm**      **DST Runs on Phase 2: Check-in/Refine the “Asks”**
  - DST shows (preliminary) results of runs requested on Tuesday regarding OTP and gillnet
- 5:45-6 pm**      **Wrap-Up, Next Steps, and Adjourn**

**Day 4: Thursday, May 12 (9:00 am - 5:45 pm)**

Reviewing and refining draft Team Phase 2 document.

- 8:45-9 am Tech Check**
- 9-10:30 am Phase 2 Measures - Constructing a Team Document**
- Reviewing the outline of an emerging Team Phase 2 document
  - DST run updates (if any)
- 10:30-11 am Break**
- 11 am-12:30 pm Phase 2 Measures: Caucus Opportunity**
- Caucus meetings to review the emerging draft Team Phase 2 document
- 12:30-2 pm Lunch**
- 2-3:15 pm Phase 2 Measures: Caucus Report Outs and Begin Cross-Caucus Discussions**
- Report back from each caucus; opportunity for Q&A
  - Additional discussions on potential collections of measures
- 3:15-4:15 pm Break**
- 4:15-5:15 pm Phase 2 Measures: Reviewing a Revised Draft Team Phase 2 Document**
- 5:15-5:30 pm Public Comment**
- 5:30-5:45 pm Wrap-Up, Next Steps, and Adjourn**

**Day 5: Friday, May 13 (9:00 am - 12:30 pm)**

Finalizing Team Phase 2 document.

- 8:45-9 am Tech Check**
- 9 am-12 pm Finalize Phase 2 Measures:**
- Review and discuss near-final Team Phase 2 document; make a punch-list of revisions, as needed
  - Confirm Team message on OTP and gillnet measures
- 12-12:15 pm Public Comment**
- 12:15-12:30 pm Wrap-Up, Next Steps and Adjourn**

