



NOAA
FISHERIES

Greater Atlantic
Regional Fisheries
Office

April 23 – 26, 2019
Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team
Meeting Summary

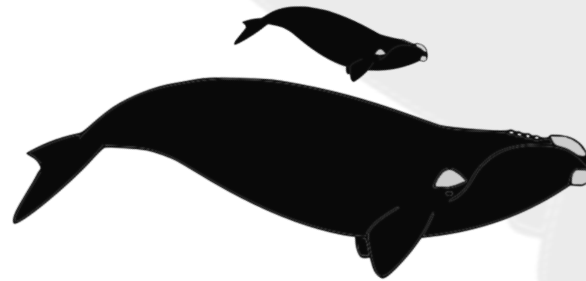
Presentation to ASMFC, April 29, 2019

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Purpose of the meeting

Meeting goal: Identify and recommend modifications to the ALWTRP to further reduce impacts of U.S. fixed gear fisheries on large whales and reduce mortality and serious injury to below PBR (.9/year) for right whales

Objective: Risk Reduction Focus: Develop consensus recommendations on a suite of measures that will achieve a 60 to 80% reduction in mortalities and serious injuries of right whales in U.S. fisheries to support NMFS rulemaking that will be initiated in May 2019



Relative Risk Reduction Decision Support Tool:

$$\text{RISK} = \text{Whale Density} * \text{Gear Density} * \text{Relative risk of gear configuration}$$

E.g. of outputs: 4/24 Caucus and Cross-Caucus Scenario Runs

#	Package from:	Scenario description	Scenario applies to this area	Time	Weak Rope Equivalency Range		Comments
					1700 lb rope	sleeves	
					% Risk Reduction to Universe	% Risk Reduction (Range) to Universe	
1	Enviro Academic	1700lb or sleeves (equivalent) (A)	All	Year-round	25%	43%	Sleeves at 40' intervals. Within 6 mos.
2	Enviro and Academic	50% VL reduction (B)	LMA3	Year-round	4%		Within 1 yr
3	Enviro and Academic	50% VL reduction (C)	LMA1- ME and NH waters to LMA 1 border	Year-round	28%		Within 1 yr
4	Enviro and Academic	25% VL reduction (D)	LMA1 - MA to LMA border	Year-round	5%		Within 1 yr
5	Enviro and Academic	Combined model of above gear changes (A-D above)	Areas in A-D	Year-round	53%	64%	Combined measures
6	Enviro and Academic	Extend Mass Bay Restricted area/closure (time and distance)	North to Cape Ann (using a shape file)	through May 15	4%		
7	Enviro and Academic	Mount Desert Rock closure - WITHDRAWN	Mount Desert Rock (shape file)	Aug-Oct	withdrawn-		-
8	Enviro and Academic	Jeffreys Ledge closure	Jeffreys Ledge (shape file)	Sept-Nov	1%		
9	Enviro and Academic	Area 537 (LMA2 portion) closure	Area 537-LMA2 Portion- (shape file)	Dec- April	0.4%		

E.g. of outputs: 4/24 Caucus and Cross-Caucus Scenario Runs

#	Package from:	Scenario description	Scenario applies to this area	Time	Weak Rope Equivalency Range		Comments
					1700 lb rope	sleeves	
					% Risk Reduction to Universe	% Risk Reduction (Range) to Universe	
10	Industry/State Caucus (NH-south)/Kraus	1700lb or sleeves (equivalent)	All areas <100m	Year-round	12%	26%	Likely an overestimate related to resolution at which the model was run (later rerun).
11	Industry/State Caucus (NH- So)	1700lb or sleeves (equivalent)	All areas >100m	Year-round	19%	27%	
12	Industry/State Caucus (NH- So)	30% VL reduction + 1700lb or sleeves (equivalent)	NH state waters	Year-round	0.04%		
13	Industry/State Caucus (NH-So)	30 trap trawl up + 1700 lb or sleeves (equivalent)	LMA 2/3 overlap zone	Year-round	0.08%		Trawling up from 20 trap trawls
14	Industry/State Caucus (NH-So)	Trap reductions (6% draw down)	LMA3	Year-round	0.40%		through cons tax and draw down- calc 6%
15	Industry/State Caucus (NH-So)	Trap reductions (18% draw down)	LMA2	Year-round	2%		through cons tax and draw down- calc 18%
16	ME CAUCUS	50% VL reduction	LMA 1- ME waters including exempted area	Year-round	29%		
17	Kraus Caucus	ME exemption area 1700 lb or sleeves (equivalent)	LMA1-ME exemption area only	Year-round	0%	2.6%	
18	Kraus Caucus	50% VL reduction	All areas	Year-round	50%		
19	Kraus Caucus	1700lbs or sleeves	LMA3	Year-round	6%	7.8%	5 years to reach goal

Near- Consensus: Est. of 45% line reduction, 25% “weak” rope

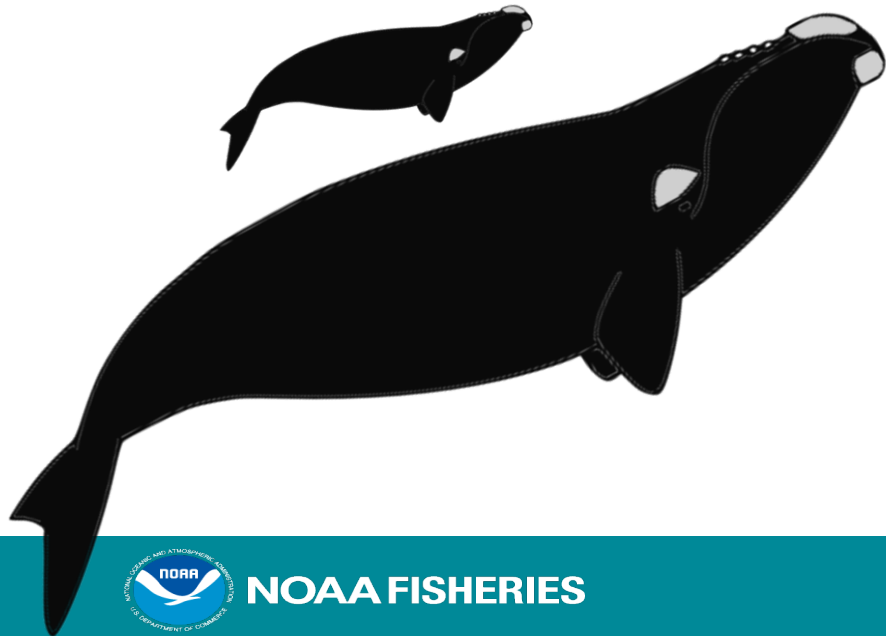
State/Jurisdiction	Vertical Line Reduction	Gear Modification	Est. % Risk Reduction
Maine permitted vessels through LMA1	50% vertical line reduction through LMA1 (50% risk reduction)	LMA 1 - Weak rope outside of 3 miles on $\frac{3}{4}$ length of buoy line (toppers) (11.6% risk reduction)	61.6%
NH LMA1	30% vertical line reduction (30% risk reduction)	1700lb breaking strength or sleeves (28.5 % risk reduction)	58.5%
Massachusetts LMA1 and Outer Cape	Mass Bay Restricted Area Closure (24% risk reduction)	Sleeves or 1700lb breaking strength or equivalent (11% risk reduction)	60%
	30% vertical line reduction, not including MBRA fishermen (-5%) (25% risk reduction)		
LMA 2 - Massachusetts and Rhode Island	18% (2018 - 2020) vertical line reduction (18% risk reduction)	1700 lb or equivalent (42% risk reduction)	60%
LMA 2 / 3 Overlap – Massachusetts, Rhode Island	Trawling up to 30 traps (from 20) (30% risk reduction for that area)		
LMA 3	Accelerate planned line reduction 18% by 2020	Rapid research on alternatives to introduce weak rope or weak link elements in to offshore line	18% + TBD Commitment to 60%

Considerations

- “Dwight Carver safety exemption” for skiffs and students.
- Revisit need for weak links in trap/pot gear
- Need: Improvements to severity estimates. Recommend poll re-do (and/or use actual data where available)
- Need: Take Reduction Plan monitoring, including
 - Whales, numbers and distribution
 - Lines,
 - Evolution of implementation including
 - gear innovations
 - socioeconomic impacts.

Next Steps

- Gear marking, reporting and monitoring discussions to identify TRT recommendations
- LMA 3 discussions
- Regroup with ASMFC and state managers
- Scoping
- June bilateral with Canada – high bar set for effectiveness comparability finding by 1/2021





Lobster Whale Work Group



American Lobster Management Board
April 29, 2019

Introduction



- In October 2018, Board reviewed on-going discussions related to right whale conservation and fisheries management
- Given potential for impacts to the lobster fishery, Board created a Work Group to discuss the measures being considered and provide recommendations to Board
- Work Group participants included state agency staff, federal partners, ASMFC staff



Work Group Recommendation



- Given the lobster fishery's high economic value and social significance, the Work Group agreed it is important to ensure that the implementation of right whale conservation measures takes place, to the extent possible, in a way that maintains the viability of the lobster fishery
- The Board agreed with the WG and initiated Draft Addendum XXVIII



Draft Ad XXVIII



- 1) Draft Addendum XXVIII should consider:
 - 20 and 40% Vertical Line Reduction
 - Elimination of the 10% replacement trap tag provision.
 - Vertical Line Reporting



PDT



- Data Sources
- Risk Reduction Support Tool
- TRT Recommendations

Data: Progress



- Use 2017 as a base year if credit can be given for areas with reductions in 2015/2016
- Use MA and NH monthly end line data
- Use IEC for all other state monthly end line data

Data: Challenges



- Understanding how trap reductions impact end lines
 - **How far back in time should the PDT give credit?**
 - **Should the PDT take into account attrition in the fishery in that frame?**
- How to measure end line reductions for current closed areas? And how to determine credit for those closed areas?
- Reconcile the differences in how data are collected and how it impact quantifying end lines

RRDST



Progress

- Recommend LCMA 5 not be included in the addendum

Challenge

- RRDST was not completed until TRT
- There is no RRDST for LCMA 4 a this time

Additional Challenges



- The PDT would not know the outcome of the TRT, yet the outcome could impact the options in the addendum
- How to evaluate measures in the future? Will the IEC data be updated in the future to measure the success of the tools? Once there is reporting can there be calibration to the IEC data to measure success?
- How does the PDT balance the desire for state flexibility in choosing management tools within an LCMA with the need for consistency in Federal waters.

Questions?



Recommendation



2) Lobster Vessel Tracking:

- Vessel tracking system - Require 100% of federal lobster permit holders to have advanced vessel monitoring/tracking systems
 - Not only track movement but also identify where gear is hauled or how many traps are fished

3) Reporting:

- The PDT should develop a method for reporting vertical line and trap use by individual in each jurisdiction until 100% harvester reporting is implemented in state and federal waters



Commission Involvement



- Commission is managing authority for the Lobster FMP
- Goals of the FMP include:
 - Promoting economic efficiency
 - Maintaining opportunities for participation
 - Preserving cultural features of the industry
- Work Group concluded action by the Board to consider modifications to measures in the Lobster FMP is warranted at this time
 - States can continue to cooperatively participate in mgmt. of species
 - Those most familiar with lobster management can provide input on future regulations
- Work Group recognizes that other regulatory changes may occur in the fishery but notes the need to proactively respond to the growing challenges facing the fishery

