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# **2020 Atlantic Large Whale Entanglement Report**

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# 2020 Atlantic Large Whale Entanglement Report

This report summarizes all large whale entanglement incidents along the Atlantic coast that were reported to the NOAA Fisheries in 2020 in which line, gear or unknown materials were directly observed on the whale. Only incidents with new indications of entanglement that are first reported in 2020 are included. We do not include whales that were reported entangled in earlier years and continued to be entangled in 2020. These incidents represent a minimum number as not all interactions are reported.

Table 1. 2020 Atlantic large whale entanglement reports.

## Indication of Entanglement\*

	Live	Dead	Total
North Atlantic Right Whale	3	1	4
Humpback Whale	13	2	15
Finback Whale	0	0	0
Minke Whale	2	5	7
Sei Whale	0	0	0
Unknown Whale	1	0	1
TOTAL	19	8	27

\* “Indication of Entanglement” is marked for cases where one or more of the following applies:

- Gear was reported on a whale by a reliable observer.
- Gear was photo-documented on a whale.
- Gear was retrieved from a whale.
- Gear was reported on a whale by an inexperienced observer who was interviewed by NOAA Fisheries or Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) staff and the account was descriptive enough to eliminate doubt about whether or not the whale was entangled.

Descriptions of wounds and the condition of the animal in this report are based on the preliminary information at the time of the event. NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) determines the final classification based on their data analysis through the [mortality and serious injury determinations](#) process. Information obtained after the production time frame of this report may alter any determination, status, or sighting information provided here. As described above, this report only includes animals with documented or witnessed gear. Animals that have no gear documented or witnessed and a cause of death or injuries determined to be due to entanglement are described in the [NEFSC Mortality and Serious Injury reports](#). [Stock assessment reports](#) summarize the full status of a species.

#### Notes:

- Entanglement case information was compiled from numerous resources including U.S. and Canadian federal governments, U.S. state agencies, and U.S. and Canadian partners within the Atlantic Large Whale Disentanglement Network (ALWDN). The reports contain all known U.S. Atlantic large whale entanglement incidents with gear present reported in 2020, including animals that fall under U.S. protection (e.g. North Atlantic right whales, Gulf of Maine humpback whales) outside U.S. borders.
- Not all entanglement incidents are observed and many entanglement scars and injuries are first seen with gear present, so this report is not a comprehensive list of all large whale 2020 entanglement incidents.
- The presence or absence of line can be difficult to determine in monofilament cases. The first gear-free sighting for monofilament cases is not a definitive assessment of lack of monofilament line as environmental conditions, lighting, and animal behavior can make detectability of monofilament difficult.
- Definitions:
  - Entangled = animal was last seen with an entanglement that may or may not be life-threatening.
  - Gear shed = animal shed the entangling gear on its own without human intervention;
  - Disentangled – gear free = animal had all gear completely removed by disentanglement network responders.
  - Disentangled – gear shed = animal had all life-threatening gear removed by disentanglement network responders, but some non-life threatening gear remained and was later shed by the whale.
  - Disentangled – monitor = animal had all life-threatening gear removed with some non life-threatening gear remaining that is expected to be shed.
- NOAA staff conducted documentation and analysis on recovered gear and/or through owner interviews when possible. All gear analysis is quantitative in nature and any qualitative information is outside the scope of this report. Target species was based on owner interviews or gear determination.
- Location first observed entangled is where the entangled whale was first sighted and reported. Unless an animal is anchored, the location first observed is rarely where the whale first became entangled.
- Some incident reports include photographs. Personal identification details of gear such as permit numbers or vessel names are manually redacted from the photographs.

#### Acknowledgements:

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- New England Aquarium and the Right Whale Consortium provide sighting and life history information for right whales.
- CCS, with contributions from 7 Seas Whale Watch, Blue Ocean Society, Boston Harbor Cruises, Brier Island Whale and Seabird Cruises, Dolphin Fleet, FWC. GA DNR, Gotham Whale and Whale and Dolphin Conservation, provided demographic and sighting information for humpback whales was provided. Please contact Jooke Robbins of CCS for more information.
- CCS compiled thousands of photographs from numerous whale watch companies and ALWDN partners for these determinations.
- NOAA Fisheries staff and the GARFO policy series editors that offered helpful comments.

Table 2. Acronyms

ALWDN	Atlantic Large Whale Disentanglement Network
ALWTRP	Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan
ALWTRT	Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team
AMCS	Atlantic Marine Conservation Society, NY
CMARI	Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute
CCS	Center for Coastal Studies, MA
COA	College of the Atlantic, ME
CWI	Canadian Whale Institute (Canada)
CWRT	Campobello Whale Rescue (Canada)
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canada)
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
GA DNR	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
GAM	Gear Alert Marker
GARFO	Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office - NOAA
GMWSRS	Grand Manan Whale and Seabird Research Station (Canada)
MMSC	Marine Mammal Stranding Center, NJ
NEFSC	Protected Species Branch, Northeast Fisheries Science Center
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA Fisheries
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NY DEC	New York Department of Environmental Conservation
UNC-W	University of North Carolina, Wilmington
USCG	United States Coast Guard
VAq	Virginia Aquarium

Table 3. Atlantic entanglement summary for 2020 confirmed cases. Continued on next page

Entanglement Report Number	Species	Date of First Observation	Dead/Alive	SI Determination	Gear Collected	Type of Gear	Gear part ID
E01-20	Unknown	1/18/2020	Alive	SI (PR)	No	Unknown mesh	N, V
E02-20	Humpback	1/28/2020	Dead	SI	Yes	U.S. gillnet	N, S, V
E03-20	Minke	2/03/2020	Dead	SI	Yes	U.S. gillnet	N
E04-20	Right	2/24/2020	Alive	SI	No	Unknown	B, V
E05-20	Right	3/16/2020	Alive	SI (PR)	No	Unknown	S, V
E06-20	Humpback	5/29/2020	Alive	SI (PR)	No	Unknown mesh	N
E07-20	Humpback	6/03/2020	Alive	SI (PR)	Yes	U.S. lobster	S, V
E08-20	Minke	6/17/2020	Dead	SI	Yes	U.S. fish trap	N
E09-20	Humpback	7/02/2020	Alive	SI (PR)	No	Unknown	B, V
E10-20	Humpback	7/12/2020	Alive	SI (PR)	No	Unknown	B, V
E11-20	Humpback	7/24/2020	Alive	Non-SI	No	U.S. monofilament	M
E12-20	Humpback	7/26/2020	Alive	Non-SI	Yes	U.S. trap/pot	S, V
E13-20	Humpback	7/27/2020	Alive	Non-SI	Yes	U.S. trawl net	N
E14-20	Humpback	8/02/2020	Alive	Non-SI	No	U.S. monofilament	M
E15-20	Minke	8/26/2020	Dead	SI	Yes	U.S. lobster	B, V

Table 3 notes –

- Dead/Alive column represents the status as of the writing of this report.
- SI determination: SI = Serious injury or mortality was determined to be the primary cause from entanglement; Non-SI = No serious injury or mortality caused by the entanglement; SI (PR) = Insufficient information available to make an informed determination, prorated value of 0.75. Refer to <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/02-238-01.pdf> for more information regarding determination definitions.
- Gear part ID: V = Vertical/End Line; B= Single Buoy; S = Surface System (multiple buoys); G = Ground Line; N = Gillnet/Mesh; T = Trap/Pot; M = Monofilament Line; U = Unknown, gear type or gear part could not be determined; N/A = Not applicable, no gear was analyzed. Any combination of codes is possible although each code will only be listed once, regardless of whether different types/sets of gear were involved. This column may not represent all portions of the true initial entanglement as gear could have been shed before the first observation. Gear portions identified may not represent the section that initially caused the entanglement.

Table 3 continued. Atlantic entanglement summary for 2020 confirmed cases.

Entanglement Report Number	Species	Date of First Observation	Dead/Alive	SI Determination	Gear Collected	Type of Gear	Gear part ID
E16-20	Humpback	8/31/2020	Alive	SI	No	Unknown	U
E17-20	Minke	9/04/2020	Alive	SI	No	Unknown mesh	N
E18-20	Humpback	9/16/2020	Dead	SI	Yes	Unknown	U
E19-20	Minke	10/05/2020	Alive	Non-SI	Yes	U.S. lobster	B, V
E20-20	Minke	10/06/2020	Dead	SI	No	Unknown U.S.	U
E21-20	Right	10/11/2020	Alive	SI	No	Unknown	U
E22-20	Right	10/19/2020	Dead	SI	Yes	Canadian snow crab	V
E23-20	Humpback	10/22/2020	Alive	SI	No	Unknown	U
E24-20	Humpback	11/05/2020	Alive	SI (PR)	Yes	Unknown	B, V
E25-20	Humpback	12/11/2020	Alive	SI	No	Unknown	B, V
E26-20	Humpback	12/20/2020	Alive	SI (PR)	Yes-DFO	Canadian lobster	B, V
E27-20	Minke	1/14/2020	Dead	SI	No	Unknown	U

Table 3 notes –

- Dead/Alive column represents the status as of the writing of this report.
- SI determination: SI = Serious injury or mortality was determined to be the primary cause from entanglement; Non-SI = No serious injury or mortality caused by the entanglement; SI (PR) = Insufficient information available to make an informed determination, prorated value of 0.75. Refer to <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/02-238-01.pdf> for more information regarding determination definitions.
- Gear part ID: V = Vertical/End Line; B= Single Buoy; S = Surface System (multiple buoys); G = Ground Line; N = Gillnet/Mesh; T = Trap/Pot; M = Monofilament Line; U = Unknown, gear type or gear part could not be determined; N/A = Not applicable, no gear was analyzed. Any combination of codes is possible although each code will only be listed once, regardless if different types/sets of gear were involved. This column may not represent all portions of the true initial entanglement as gear could have been shed before the first observation. Gear portions identified may not represent the section that initially caused the entanglement.

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E01-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 1/18/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 28.6 NM south of Nantucket Island, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 40° 46.1' N, 70° 11.5' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live whale, unknown species, ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury (Prorated)	

<b>Event Description:</b>
An aerial survey noted a large whale that was towing a net and line from its tail approximately two times the length of the whale. No documentation is known to exist and no response was undertaken as the report was received weeks after the event occurred.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Net was trailing from the tail approximately two times length of the whale with line leading from the net another additional whale length.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
During Initial Sighting: None noted.	Subsequent Descriptions: None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E01-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Mesh, Line
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown mesh and line		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Gear was described as net/mesh trailing approximately two body lengths with length extending an additional one body length beyond the net/mesh.		
<u>Comments:</u>	No documentation or gear was recovered.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in a net/mesh and line of unknown origin.		



## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E02-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 1/28/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 10.6 NM southeast of Reedville, VA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 37° 39.8' N, 76° 09.2' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> N/A	<b>Status:</b> Deceased
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 1/15/2020	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Dead humpback whale, unknown ID, juvenile male	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Deceased humpback whale was reported and documented within Chesapeake Bay and had the gear recovered. Whale was extensively entangled in gillnet.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Whale was entangled in full gillnet panel. Two highfliers, polyball, bullet buoy and the full panel of gillnet was recovered. The extensive entanglement made it clear that the carcass did not drift into the gillnet post-mortem.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Whale was in a moderate state of decomposition with bloating visible.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> Carcass was not able to be necropsied.

<b>FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS</b>			
NMFS No.	<b>E02-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	Yes
Date Set	1/13/2020	Date Lost	1/18/2020
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Gillnet, surface systems, endline
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Striped Bass	Location of set	~37° 48.4' N, 76° 0.2' W
Gear Type	U.S. gillnet – striped bass		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	The gillnet was a 7" stretch mesh set for striped bass. The panel was a 50 mesh drop with two 40 lbs. Danforth anchors, set in 46' of water.		
<u>Comments:</u>	Fisherman was identified and interviewed. Some gear was returned to the fisherman. Gear was checked on 1/15/2020 and appeared fine. Nor'easter storm blew in on 1/16/20 and 1/17/20. The entangling panel was the middle set in a line of three. Two panels that were set on either side were found entangled together on 1/18/20, and the middle (entangling) panel was not found. Location of gear is well within Chesapeake Bay and exempt from ALWTRP marking and weak link requirements.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in a single mesh panel of U.S. gillnet set for striped bass.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E03-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 2/03/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 1.6 NM west of Chesconessex, VA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 37° 45.6' N, 75° 48.4' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Anchored	<b>Status:</b> Deceased
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Dead minke whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Deceased minke whale was reported entangled in gillnet within Chesapeake Bay. VAq responded the following day to document the case with the help of the fisherman.

<b>Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:</b>
<div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Gillnet encircled the head, flippers and forward portion of the body.         </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.         </div>

<b>Description of Wounds/Condition:</b>
<div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Carcass was in a moderate decomposition state. Entanglement trauma was present on various parts of the body underneath the gillnet.         </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.         </div>

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E03-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	Yes
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Net
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Striped bass	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	U.S. gillnet		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	8" stretch gillnet with head rope.		
<u>Comments:</u>	Gear was retained by the fisherman.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in U.S. gillnet targeting striped bass in waters exempt from ALWTRP marking and weak link requirements.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E04-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 2/24/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 38.2 NM southeast of Nantucket Island, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 40° 41.0' N, 69° 35.6' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 4/11/2019	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live right whale, #3180, Dragon, adult female	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
NEFSC aerial survey documented the whale in lethargic and extremely poor condition, moving very slowly on the surface with its mouth slightly agape. Upon viewing the images, a bullet buoy and a small piece of the line was visible in the right side of the mouth.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> A white bullet buoy and red line was visible in the right side of the mouth. No trailing line was observed.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Emaciated, significant lice coverage, poor skin condition.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E04-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Line and buoy
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown line and buoy		
Gear Description:	White bullet buoy and red line.		
Comments:	None.		
Conclusions:	Whale was entangled in line and a white bullet buoy of unknown origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E05-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 3/16/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 120.7 NM east of Truro, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 41° 53.4' N, 67° 20.3' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live right whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury (Prorated)	

<b>Event Description:</b>
A commercial fisherman reported the entangled whale to the USCG. No documentation was taken and no response was possible due to distance from shore.

<b>Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:</b>
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Described as two orange A3 polyballs trailing approximately 30 feet beyond the flukes. <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

<b>Description of Wounds/Condition:</b>
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> None noted. <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E05-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Line and buoys
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown line and buoys		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Described as two orange A3 buoys trailing beyond the flukes.		
<u>Comments:</u>	No documentation.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in line and polyball buoys of unknown origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E06-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 5/29/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 0.1 NM northeast of Highlands, NJ	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 40° 24.4' N, 73° 59.0' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury (Prorated)	

<b>Event Description:</b>
A person on land noticed a humpback whale with red mesh on its head and reported it to the NOAA Fisheries hotline. It was later learned that the same whale was likely sighted earlier in the day when some documentation was obtained showing the mesh.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Red mesh seen on the tip of the mouth and head area. Unknown full entanglement configuration.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
During Initial Sighting: None noted.	Subsequent Descriptions: None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E06-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Mesh
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	Unknown	ALWTRP Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown mesh		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Red mesh/net.		
<u>Comments:</u>	None.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in mesh/net of unknown origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E07-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 6/03/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 12.6 NM east of Chatham, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 41°40.9' N, 69° 39.9'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Partial disentanglement
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 11/11/2019	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> Unknown
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, 2015 calf of Jabiru, juvenile, contact CCS.	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury (Prorated)	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Recreational vessel reported the entangled humpback whale to the USCG. CCS was alerted and responded for a disentanglement attempt. Poor sea conditions limited response capabilities, but the CCS team managed to remove a significant portion of the entangling gear, although an unknown portion remained that descended from the whale and was not recovered.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> A high flyer exited from the left side of the mouth from a short section of line. A GoDeep buoy was entangled on the endline near the throat which led down to the anchoring gear.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

<b>Description of Wounds/Condition:</b>	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> None noted.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.



FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E07-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	Yes
Date Set	5/29/2020	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	3/8"	Gear Part	Surface system, endline
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	Yes	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	U.S. - Red
Target Species	Lobster	Location of set	41° 44.2' N, 69° 54.9' W
Gear Type	U.S. lobster		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Highflyer and GoDeep buoy with associated weak link and 3/8" endline.		
<u>Comments:</u>	<p>Fisherman was identified and interviewed. The gear was a 20 trap trawl with 3/8" sinking ground line and 125 feet between pots fishing in Federal waters. Endline was comprised of bottom 1/3 float and with the remaining 2/3 being sink. Surface buoy was a 20 inch GoDeep buoy with 10 fathoms of line that lead to a PVC highflyer. The set was in 46 feet of water and set in gravel.</p> <p>The fisherman recovered his trawl from the original set location and found the GoDeep buoy weak link parted. They thought that perhaps an additional set of gear may have been involved.</p>		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in the surface system of a U.S. 20 lobster trap trawl.		

### Gear Images



E07-20 gear image – Recovered endline with 1 foot red mark.



## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E08-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 6/17/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> South of Ledge Rd., Newport, RI	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 41° 26.2' N, 71° 18.1' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> N/A	<b>Status:</b> Deceased
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Dead minke whale, unknown juvenile female	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Deceased whale was discovered by local fire department marine patrol.

<b>Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:</b>
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Whale was documented with mesh visible over the entire body and head. <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

<b>Description of Wounds/Condition:</b>
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Carcass appeared relatively fresh. <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E08-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Fish weir mesh
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Off Lands End in Newport, RI
Gear Type	U.S. fish weir		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Nylon mesh visible on whale.		
<u>Comments:</u>	Floating fish weir was identified by ALWTRT member. Leader led from Lands End in Newport, RI to approximately 2500 feet offshore. Mesh is 8-10" in size.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in the leader of a U.S. fish weir.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E09-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 7/02/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 5.7 NM east of Chatham, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 41° 39.6' N, 69° 49.0' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury (Prorated)	

<b>Event Description:</b>
A tuna fisherman reported the entangled free-swimming whale to the USCG. CCS was notified and responded but were unable to relocate the whale.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Red and orange buoy trailing with blue line about 75' beyond the fluke.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
During Initial Sighting: None noted.	Subsequent Descriptions: None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E09-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Buoy, endline
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown line and buoy		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	A blue line with a red and orange buoy trailing about 75' behind the whale.		
<u>Comments:</u>	None.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in line and buoy of unknown origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E10-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 7/12/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 0.5 NM east of North Truro, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 42° 02.9' N, 70° 03.3' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury (Prorated)	

<b>Event Description:</b>
A person on land noticed the whale towing a white buoy. CCS was eventually contacted but no response was possible due to poor sea state. CCS sent an observer to the location on land and confirmed a humpback whale was towing a buoy.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> A white bullet buoy with a dark stick was seen trailing behind the whale.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
During Initial Sighting: None noted.	Subsequent Descriptions: None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E10-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Endline, buoy
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Line and buoy of unknown origin.		
Gear Description:	A white buoy with a dark stick was seen trailing behind the whale.		
Comments:	None.		
Conclusions:	Whale was entangled in a line and buoy of unknown origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E11-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 7/24/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 6.6 NM northwest of Race Point, Provincetown, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 42° 09.1' N, 70° 19.9' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Gear shed
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 7/24/2020	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> 7/25/2020
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, Tripod, adult female	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Non-Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
<p>7/24/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A whale watch vessel observed Tripod and calf interact with monofilament line on rod and reel fishing gear. The fisherman was seen cutting the line and both the mom and calf had a strong reaction to the incident.</li> </ul> <p>7/25/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A whale watch company observed the mom and calf with no gear present.</li> </ul>

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Unknown attachment point but the line was seen over the tail.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
During Initial Sighting: None noted.	Subsequent Descriptions: None.

<b>FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS</b>			
NMFS No.	<b>E11-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	7/24/2020	Date Lost	7/24/2020
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Monofilament line
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	U.S. monofilament		
Gear Description:	Rod and reel monofilament line from a U.S. vessel.		
Comments:	The mother and calf were seen interacting with the line and the fisherman was observed cutting them free.		
Conclusions:	Whale was entangled in monofilament line of U.S. origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E12-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 7/26/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 17.6 NM southeast of Gloucester, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 42° 23.8' N, 70° 21.4' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Partial disentanglement – gear shed
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 7/25/2020	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> 8/04/2020
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, Scylla, adult female	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Non-Serious Injury	

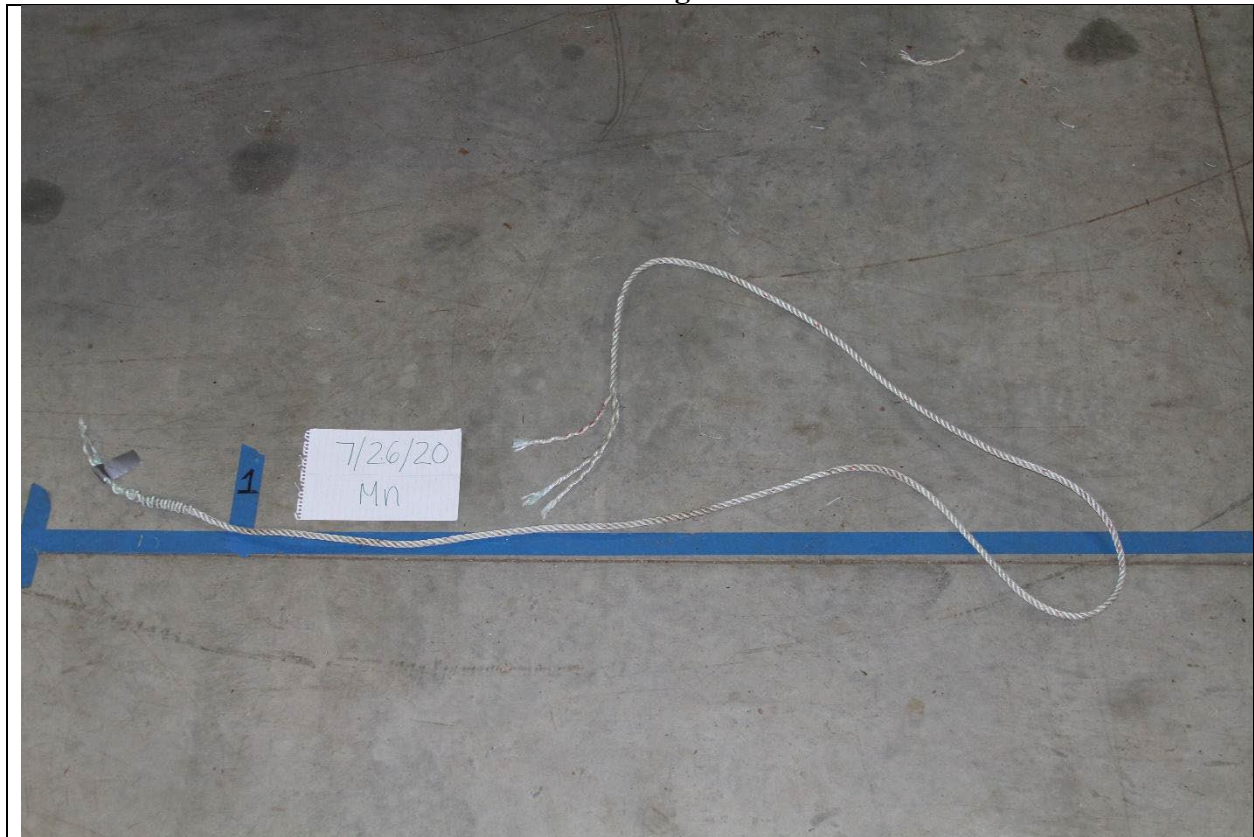
<b>Event Description:</b>
<p>7/25/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A whale watch vessel sighted and reported the whale who was free-swimming and towing gear. A USCG aerial survey relieved the whale watch vessel that had to return to port and relayed a last position to CCS. Weather conditions were not ideal and CCS decided to deploy a telemetry buoy in case the weather continued to decline. CCS managed to remove a small portion of the gear, while the conditions worsened and the whale became more agitated. The telemetry buoy was shed during the operation. Eventually the sea state was not safe to continue operations and the effort was halted. <p>8/04/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A whale watch vessel found and documented the whale gear free.</li> </ul> </li></ul>

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Line cutting into the leading edge of the fluke with buoys trailing. It was unknown if there was additional attachment points.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Entanglement trauma on leading edge of fluke.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E12-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	Yes
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	3/8"	Gear Part	Line and surface system
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	Yes	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	U.S. - Red
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	U.S. trap/pot		
Gear Description:	Recovered line was 10 feet of 3/8" sink line.		
Comments:	Although not recovered, the CCS team witnessed numerous times a red ALWTRP mark on the line.		
Conclusions:	Whale was entangled in an endline and surface system of a U.S. trap/pot set.		

### Gear Images



E12-20 gear image – Recovered line.

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E13-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 7/27/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 5.8 NM southwest of East Atlantic Beach, NY	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 40° 30.5' N, 73° 47.3' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Anchored	<b>Status:</b> Disentangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 7/15/2020	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, Ambrose, adult, unknown sex	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Non-Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
<p>7/27/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreational boaters reported the anchored whale off New York. AMCS responded and documented the whale with a posture that indicated the tail was entangled by heavily weighted gear that was not visible from the surface. No response was possible beyond this due to the location and time of day. Coordination was underway with CCS and Turtles Fly Too to fly equipment and responders down on the next good weather day.</li> </ul> <p>7/29/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turtles Fly Too flew the CCS response team and equipment down late morning and the full team was transported to a port by AMCS and NY Department of Environmental Conservation (NY DEC) for a response. CCS assessed and documented that the whale was heavily entangled around the tail with buoys and line. No gear was visible in the mouth. The CCS team managed to attach multiple buoys to the entangling gear but this made no change to the entanglement or whale orientation. The CCS team ceased operations for the day and requested vessels with heavy lifting capability.</li> </ul> <p>7/30/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMCS, CCS, NY DEC, Army Corps of Engineers and Monmouth University responded with a full team and two heavy lifting capable vessels. The gear was eventually hauled to the surface and the whale was entangled in a relatively new trawl net and had ½" cable partially embedded in the leading edge of the fluke. Using a hacksaw the CCS team eventually cut the cable and removed the remaining trawl net from the fluke. The whale swam off relatively unharmed besides the cable wounds.</li> </ul>

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Whale was near vertical in orientation so no gear was visible. It was assumed heavy gear was around the tail at the minimum.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> Full trawl net was involved and partially wrapped around the tail including the cable partially embedded on the fluke.



Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Good body condition with no injuries noted on the visible parts of the whale.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> Embedded trauma from the cable on the fluke.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E13-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	Yes
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	N/A	Gear Part	Trawl net
ALWTRP Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	U.S. trawl net		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Nearly a full trawl net was recovered, including cable and chain. The mesh was 5-5.5" in size.		
<u>Comments:</u>	The volume of gear was substantial and the full gear set was recycled. A small portion of the gear was obtained and shipped to the GARFO. Given the nature and freshness of the event this was determined to be U.S. origin.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in nearly a full trawl net of U.S. origin.		

### Gear Images



E13-20 gear image – Retained portion of trawl net.



## Gear Images



E13-20 gear image – Recovered portion of trawl net.



E13-20 gear image – Recovered portion of trawl net.



## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E14-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 8/02/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 15.5 NM southeast of Gloucester, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 42° 23.4' N, 70° 25.8' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Gear shed
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 7/28/2020	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> 8/06/2020
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, Spell, adult female	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Non-Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
<p>8/02/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple whale watch companies documented the whale with a hook on the leading edge of the fluke and trailing monofilament line.</li> </ul> <p>8/06/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whale watch company documented the whale gear free.</li> </ul>

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
During Initial Sighting: Hook was seen on the leading edge of the fluke and trailing monofilament line.	Subsequent Descriptions: None

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
During Initial Sighting: None noted.	Subsequent Descriptions: None.

<b>FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS</b>			
NMFS No.	<b>E14-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Monofilament line and hook
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	Unknown	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
<b>Gear Type</b>	U.S. monofilament line and hook.		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Whale had the hook on the leading edge of the fluke and was trailing monofilament line.		
<u>Comments:</u>	Pre-entanglement sighting of less than a week earlier suggest U.S. origin.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	The whale was entangled in monofilament and hook of U.S. origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E15-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 8/26/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> Outside Saco River, ME near buoy #4	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 43° 28.0' N, 70° 19.6' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> N/A	<b>Status:</b> Deceased
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Dead minke whale, adult, unknown sex	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Deceased whale was discovered and reported by a commercial fisherman. The carcass was recovered and basic data was recovered.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> It was unclear how the whale was wrapped but buoys and line were visible near the whale. It appears at least one line leads to the forward part of the body/head.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Extensive shark predation with some of the viscera already outside of the body.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

<b>FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS</b>			
NMFS No.	<b>E15-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	Yes
Date Set	8/25/2020	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	11/32"	Gear Part	Line and buoys
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	Yes	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	U.S. – ME State, Purple
Target Species	Lobster	Location of set	43° 28'N and 70° 20'W
Gear Type	U.S. lobster – Maine exempt area		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Three trap trawls having 60ft of 11/32" sink line between traps. Buoy lines are 11/32" having 1/3 of length closest to trap being float line and remaining 2/3rds of buoy line length running to the surface buoy being 11/32" sink line. Buoys are hard foam 5"x11" buoys and weak links are fabricated with hog rings.		
<u>Comments:</u>	Fisherman was identified and interviewed for gear information.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in the endline of a three trap trawl of U.S. lobster gear.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E16-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 8/31/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 35.6 NM south of Nantucket Island, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 40° 40.2' N, 69° 46.8' W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 9/20/2019	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, Slingshot, adult female	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
NEFSC aerial survey team spotted and documented the free-swimming whale. No response was possible due to the distance from shore and time of day.

<b>Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:</b>
<div> <div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> One to two wraps leading from the mouth and wrapping around the head. One of those wraps may be embedded or just a wound from previous configuration. Line then exits the right side of the mouth and leads under the right pectoral flipper and then trails beyond the flukes about 1.5 body lengths. Trailing line starts sinking about halfway beyond the flukes. </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None. </div> </div>

<b>Description of Wounds/Condition:</b>
<div> <div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Embedded trauma on the head, but it is unclear if line was present. Overall condition is poor and the whale appears emaciated. </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None. </div> </div>

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E16-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Line
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	Unknown
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown line.		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Documentation shows the whale was entangled in line.		
<u>Comments:</u>	None.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in line of unknown origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E17-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 9/04/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 1.9 NM west of North Truro, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 42° 02.6'N, 70° 08.6'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live minke whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Recreational boaters reported the entangled whale to CCS. The CCS response team attempted to remove the netting from the head of the whale, but were unsuccessful.

<b>Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:</b>
<div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Heavy mesh with possible buoys near the head.         </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.         </div>

<b>Description of Wounds/Condition:</b>
<div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Whale was in overall poor condition.         </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.         </div>

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E17-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Mesh
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown mesh.		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Documentation showed a heavy gauge mesh with possible buoys on the head.		
<u>Comments:</u>	None.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in mesh of unknown origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E18-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 9/16/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 1.5 NM southeast of Ventnor City, NJ	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 39° 19.0'N, 74° 27.4'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free): N/A</b>	<b>Status: Deceased</b>
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement: Unknown</b>	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement: None</b>
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Dead humpback whale, unknown juvenile female	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
MMSC received a report of the floating dead entangled whale. The carcass eventually stranded and a necropsy was performed. Gear was not retained

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Blue line was documented wrapping tightly around the peduncle and fluke.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Entanglement trauma on the fluke and peduncle.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E18-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Line
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown line		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Documentation showed line of unknown origin.		
<u>Comments:</u>	None.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in line of unknown origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E19-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled:</b> 10/05/2020
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 4.8 NM east of Isle Au Haut, ME	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 44° 03.0'N, 68° 29.5'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Anchored	<b>Status:</b> Disentangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> 10/05/2020
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live minke whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Non-Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Maine Marine Patrol received an anonymous report of the entangled whale and responded to the location. Upon arrival the team was able to document the mouth and flippers were not involved and preceded to make numerous cuts to remove the line from the peduncle.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Multiple wraps of line around the peduncle.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Entanglement trauma was visible on the peduncle and when released some blood was visible.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.



FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E19-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	Yes
Date Set	10/04/2020	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	3/8", 7/16"	Gear Part	Line, buoys
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	Yes	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	U.S. – ME State, Purple
Target Species	Lobster	Location of set	12519.5 X 25775.5
Gear Type	U.S. lobster – Maine exempt area		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Whale was entangled in the endline of a three trap lobster trawl.		
<u>Comments:</u>	Three traps to one endline, with 10 fathom of 3/8" float line between traps. Endline has 1/3 float line at bottom having 7/16" diameter and remaining 2/3rds running up to surface is 3/8" sink line. Bouys are hard plastic GO DEEP buoys 10"x20" and are attached using hog rings, meeting the weak link requirement.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in the endline of a three trap trawl in U.S. lobster gear.		

### Gear Images



E19-20 gear image – Recovered portion of gear.

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E20-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 10/6/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 0.5 NM west of Dennis Harbor entrance, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 41° 45.3'N, 70° 10.0'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> N/A	<b>Status:</b> Deceased
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Dead minke whale, unknown juvenile male	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Deceased whale was reported with gear in the mouth and on the head. Cause of death was determined to be from entanglement trauma.

<b>Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:</b>
<div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Documentation showed line in the mouth and around the head. Line was not retained but described as being small in size of 1cm or less in size. </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None. </div>

<b>Description of Wounds/Condition:</b>
<div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Entanglement trauma in mouth and on head. </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None. </div>

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E20-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Unknown
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown line of U.S. origin.		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Documentation and freshness of carcass indicated the whale was entangled in line of U.S. origin.		
<u>Comments:</u>	Condition of carcass helped define the origin of gear.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in line of U.S. origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E21-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled:</b> 10/11/2020
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 2.7 NM east of Sea Bright, NJ	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 40° 22.5'N, 73° 54.8'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 7/07/2020	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live right whale, #4680, juvenile male	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Local whale watch company documented the free-swimming entangled whale. No response was possible due to the location and time of day.

<b>Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:</b>
<div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Line seen partially embedded over the rostrum.         </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.         </div>

<b>Description of Wounds/Condition:</b>
<div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Whale in very poor overall condition with pale skin, cyamids covering portions of the body and partially embedded entanglement trauma on the rostrum.         </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.         </div>

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E21-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Line
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown line		
Gear Description:	Line was documented over the rostrum.		
Comments:	None.		
Conclusions:	Whale was entangled in line of unknown origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E22-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled:</b> 10/19/2020
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 10.1 NM south of Nantucket Island, MA	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 41° 04.1'N, 70° 01.2'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Deceased
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 3/16/2020	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live right whale, #3920, Cottontail, adult male	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
<p>10/19/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCS aerial survey located the whale and reported it to the CCS response team who was already on the water searching for another entangled whale. The team quickly managed to attach a telemetry buoy and remove ~90 feet of 5/8" line. Throughout the disentanglement attempts the whale became more evasive and agitated and eventually the team had to suspend operations due to fading light.</li> </ul> <p>The telemetry was tracked for the next eleven days but due to distance from shore or poor weather no disentanglement attempts were possible. On October 31 the telemetry was approximately 65 miles south of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and DFO arranged for a flight to aid in finding the whale for a response with CWRT. The plane managed to find and circle the buoy for 25 minutes and no whale was seen. It is believed the telemetry was no longer attached to the whale, but it is unclear if additional gear was removed or the attachment just fell off. Unfortunately, the tag also stopped transmitting the same day preventing recovery of the buoy.</p> <p>2/18/2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A member of the public who was operating a drone discovered the whale off Indialantic Beach, FL. Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Blue World Research Institute, FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Marine Resources Council responded on the water and had aerial support from Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute - Georgia (CMARI). An advanced disentanglement response was not possible due to the time of day, but additional documentation was obtained and a telemetry buoy was attached for tracking. Unfortunately, the telemetry stopped transmitting a few hours after attachment.</li> </ul> <p>2/27/2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CMARI – South Carolina aerial survey team located the animal deceased with the entangling gear still present. An effort was mounted with USCG and UNC Wilmington the following day to recover the gear, document and sample the whale.</li> </ul>

3/10/2021

- GA DNR, CMARI, National Marine Mammal Foundation documented the carcass and collected additional line from the mouth area.

**Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:**

**During Initial Sighting:** Single line tight over the bonnet. One line exiting the right side of the mouth and then trails 3-4 body lengths behind the whale. Another line exited the left side of the mouth and trailed below.

**Subsequent Descriptions:**

2/18/2021

- Line exits the mouth at least from four areas and at least one single tight line over the bonnet remains.

2/27/2021

- Two lines exiting the mouth with two severely embedded wraps of line on the bonnet.

3/10/2021

- Line was entangled in the baleen and “passing under the ventral aspect of the rostrum”.

**Description of Wounds/Condition:**

**During Initial Sighting:** Entanglement trauma on the tailstock and partially embedded line on the bonnet. Overall condition was not ideal.

**Subsequent Descriptions:**

2/18/2021

- Whale in severe condition with significant weight loss and poor skin condition. Entanglement trauma visible on various parts of the body.

2/27/2021

- Two wraps of line severely embedded on the bonnet. Significant shark predation.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E22-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	Yes
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	5/8"	Gear Part	Unknown
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	Yes	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	Orange – Canadian snow crab
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Line consistent with Canadian snow crab		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	<p>Recovered gear from October 19, 2020 operation consisted of 90 feet of 5/8" polypro float line with a 19" double tucked loop and unrolled double clove hitch or rolling hitch at one end. An 8" length of braided orange mending twine was tucked under one strand approximately 8 fathoms from the tucked loop.</p> <p>Gear recovered from February 28, 2021 consisted of three pieces (necessary to remove gear from carcass) of 5/8" polypro float line: 27' with the 8" orange marker, 78' with the 6" marker, and a 15" section. 102 feet of 5/8" 3 strand lead line with no markers was also recovered. The two lengths of braided orange mending twine, 6" and 8" length, were woven in the line.</p> <p>Gear recovered from March 10, 2021 consisted of three pieces of line (necessary to remove gear from carcass) of 5/8" 3 strand lead line: 12', 13' and 13' with a 6" length of braided orange mending twine woven in the line. Two sections (necessary to remove gear) of 5/8" polypro float line was also removed: 12' and 17'.</p> <p>No ID marks, tags or buoys were recovered from any sample.</p> <p>The line was compared to right whale (#3530 – Ruffian) case E02-17 where a snow crab trap and line was recovered in 2017. In this Ruffian case an identical attached double clove hitch or rolling hitch loop with double tuck of 5/8" line to the becket/bridle of the trap. This loop/hitch is attached so when the hitch parts it will roll out. This is mirrored by the section of line recovered from Cottontail in October. The unique splice that has been found associated with other identified Canadian snow crab entanglement cases, including within a portion of the buoy line removed from Ruffian, was not present on the retrieved gear from Cottontail. Similar to the location of the orange mending twine in this gear retrieved from Cottontail, a gear alert marker (GAM) which is a notification on the line to alert the fisher to where they are in the haul, was present at a similar location on the Ruffian line: approximately 8 – 8.5 fathoms of the trap.</p>		

<p><u>Comments:</u></p>	<p>It is important to note that gear identification is based on experience, knowledge, industry consultation and recovered gear examples. Our NOAA Fisheries gear team has extensive experience with fishing industries within our country and we recognize our knowledge of Canadian fisheries is limited. Any case, including this one, which is not identified to an individual fisher will remain an open case as additional information may change the conclusion.</p> <p>We were unable to definitively conclude whether the rope removed from Cottontail was being actively fished when the interaction occurred or whether the interaction occurred in derelict or illegal gear. However, there are two key points that suggest derelict or illegal gear as a possibility. First, there was some growth present on the line. Second, the orange woven markers, which suggest a fishery ID mark for Canadian snow crab, does not meet 2020 Canadian gear regulations, but it could be sufficient for the 2018 and 2019 seasons.</p> <p>The orange markers, could also be interpreted as an ALWTRP fishery mark for the U.S. Southern nearshore trap/pot fishery, however it does not fit the criteria for that fishery or U.S. mark. U.S. regulations require that the mark must be 12 inches and the orange markers present on the rope retrieved from Cottontail are not of sufficient length. The Southern nearshore trap/pot fishery also uses a smaller diameter line associated with the close proximity to shore. The recovered line was 5/8".</p> <p>We also investigated if the recovered line was from a section of endline near a surface system. The disentanglement response team from the October operation witnessed something heavy causing the line to sink from the non-recovered portion, suggesting the near surface portion was recovered. The recovered gear similarities from Ruffian's 2017 case are almost exact besides length recovered, a different color GAM and Ruffian's recovered gear still had the trap attached. On re-inspecting the Ruffian line, leaded line was not found along the buoy line within 90 feet of the trap. This is mirrored by the section of line recovered from Cottontail in October. The response team observation that a heavy weight was present on the non-recovered portion of gear could be explained in a number of ways including additional gear/debris was acquired, line was bundled in a tangle, additional gear was not recovered or the surface system, if still present, was compromised.</p>
<p><u>Conclusions:</u></p>	<p>Cottontail's recovered gear was compared to the recovered gear of E02-17, which was determined to be Canadian snow crab gear. The line diameter, double tucked loop with hitch, GAM at ~8 fathoms from the becket/bridle of the trap, and absence of leaded line within 90 feet of the trap all matched between the two cases E02-17, Ruffian and this incident E22-20. The orange woven markers are</p>



also sufficient for the 2018 and 2019 Canadian snow crab industry and are of insufficient length for a U.S. fishery. Given all the similarities between the two cases and not matching any U.S. fishery, we feel the gear is consistent with Canadian snow crab.

Canada DFO disagreed with our analysis and their case/gear analysis can be found

here: <https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.899725/publication.html>

### Gear Images



E22-20 gear image – Recovered portion of gear.



### Gear Images



E22-20 gear image – Recovered portion of gear with orange marker.

## Gear Images



E22-20 gear image – Recovered portion of gear with gear alert marker.



## Gear Images



E22-20 gear image – Recovered gear from carcass.

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E23-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled:</b> 10/22/2020
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 5.4 NM east of Plum Island, NJ	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 40° 33.5'N, 73° 51.5'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> 8/09/2020	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Local whale watch company documented the whale towing gear. No response was possible due to the location and time of day.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
During Initial Sighting: Line was documented around the peduncle and fluke.	Subsequent Descriptions: None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Entanglement trauma was visible on the peduncle and fluke.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E23-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Line
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown line		
Gear Description:	The whale was documented with line.		
Comments:	None.		
Conclusions:	Whale was entangled in line of unknown origin.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E24-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled:</b> 11/05/2020
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 1.0 NM north of Montauk, NY	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 41° 05.4'N, 71° 56.8'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury (Prorated)	

<b>Event Description:</b>
A recreational boater reported the entangled whale trailing a blue buoy. AMCS responded with USCG and local harbormaster to document the whale which had line over the body and trailing the buoy close behind. After observing the whale for a short period, the buoy and 4 fathoms of line fell off. The full configuration of the remaining entanglement is unclear.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
During Initial Sighting: Line seen over the back and a bullet buoy trailing.	Subsequent Descriptions: None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Entanglement trauma was visible on the peduncle.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.



FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E24-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	Yes
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	5/16"	Gear Part	Buoy, endline
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown line and buoy		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	4 fathoms of 5/16" poly float line attached to a 7X16" blue bullet buoy with silver stripes. Letters were burned into the buoy but were unreadable.		
<u>Comments:</u>	None.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in an endline and buoy of unknown origin.		

### Gear Images



E24-20 gear image – Recovered buoy and line.

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E25-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled:</b> 12/11/2020
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 12.7 NM east southeast of Cape May, NJ	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 38° 52.2'N, 74° 38.8'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Free-swimming	<b>Status:</b> Entangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Local whale watch company documented the whale towing a buoy. No response was possible due to the location and time of day.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
During Initial Sighting: Documentation shows the whale towing the buoy.	Subsequent Descriptions: None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Whale was described as being emaciated.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	<b>E25-20</b>	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Buoy, endline
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	Fishery Mark Origin and Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	Unknown
Gear Type	Unknown line and buoy		
Gear Description:	Documentation showed a red or orange bullet buoy trailing behind.		
Comments:	None.		
Conclusions:	Whale was entangled in an endline and buoy of unknown origin.		



## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E26-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled:</b> 12/20/2020
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> 15.3 NM south of Grand Manan Island, NB	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 44° 21.3'N, 66° 51.6'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Anchored	<b>Status:</b> Disentangled
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Live humpback whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury (Prorated)	

<b>Event Description:</b>
A commercial fisherman reported the anchored whale. CWRT responded the following day with support from a DFO vessel. Despite a significant amount of tight line around the body, the CWRT response team managed to remove most of the gear. It was unclear if gear still remained on the tail, although it was thought the whale was disentangled.

<b>Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:</b>
<div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Multiple tight wraps around the body and likely some gear around the tail, which led to multiple lines leading to the anchoring gear.         </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.         </div>

<b>Description of Wounds/Condition:</b>
<div> <b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Significant entanglement trauma on the body.         </div> <div> <b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.         </div>

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E26-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	Unknown – contact DFO
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Buoy, endline
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	ALWTRP Color	N/A
Target Species	Lobster	Location of set	44° 21.3'N, 66° 51.6'W
Gear Type	Canadian lobster		
Gear Description:	Whale was briefly seen trailing a white buoy.		
Comments:	Based on the entanglement and anchoring location the whale was entangled in Canada lobster LFA 38.		
Conclusions:	Whale was entangled in a line of Canadian lobster gear.		

## 2020 Entanglements

<b>NMFS No: E27-20</b>	<b>Date First Observed Entangled: 1/14/2020</b>
<b>Location First Observed Entangled:</b> South of Port Mouton Island, NS Canada	<b>Latitude/Longitude First Observed Entangled:</b> 43° 50.8'N, 64° 40.3'W
<b>Initial Movement (Anchored/Free):</b> Anchored	<b>Status:</b> Deceased
<b>Sighting prior to entanglement:</b> Unknown	<b>Re-sightings Post-entanglement:</b> None
<b>Whale Biology:</b> Deceased minke whale, unknown ID and life history	
<b>NMFS Serious Injury/Mortality Determination:</b> Serious Injury	

<b>Event Description:</b>
Report was received well into 2021 of a fresh dead minke whale anchored in line in January of 2020. The documentation was not sufficient to understand the entanglement and the whale was cut free from the gear and set adrift.

Description of Gear on Whale as Reported:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Unknown. Documentation is not of sufficient quality to show the entanglement but the description was that it was anchored with line.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

Description of Wounds/Condition:	
<b>During Initial Sighting:</b> Tongue is bloated in photographs and the rest of the carcass appears fresh.	<b>Subsequent Descriptions:</b> None.

FISHERY INTERACTION GEAR ANALYSIS			
NMFS No.	E27-20	Gear Recovered (y/n)	No
Date Set	Unknown	Date Lost	Unknown
Line Diameter	Unknown	Gear Part	Line
Fishery Mark Recovered/Documented	No	ALWTRP Color	N/A
Target Species	Unknown	Location of set	43° 50.8'N, 64° 40.3'W
Gear Type	Unknown Canadian line.		
<u>Gear Description:</u>	Whale was described being anchored in line.		
<u>Comments:</u>	Based on the condition of the carcass and being anchored indicates the line is of Canadian origin. Responders described the gear as being lobster, but cannot confirm at this time.		
<u>Conclusions:</u>	Whale was entangled in an unknown line of Canadian origin.		