



NOAA
FISHERIES

Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team Webinar

18 November 2015

Objectives

- Provide updates on membership since last meeting
- Review abundance, bycatch and compliance numbers from recent years
- Review progress on enforcement efforts and development of annual enforcement reports
- Discuss status of the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan and potential future plans

Membership

- Todd Sutton replacing Bill Mackintosh (Industry)
- Claire Fitz-Gerald replacing Rob Banks (Industry)
- Russ Allen replacing Peter Himchak (NJ)
- Cindy Driscoll replacing Steve Early (MD)
- Laurie Dozier replacing Sally Roman (VA)
- Sue Barco replacing Maggie Lynott (Academia/Scientific)

Monitoring and Enforcement Efforts

In addition to recording location and other information related to incidental interactions between gillnet gear and harbor porpoises, also observe gillnet trips and record important information to assist NMFS in evaluating compliance with the HPTRP, including fishing within HPTRP seasonal closure areas and gear configuration information (e.g., pinger usage, floatline length, twine size, net length, number of nets per string, tie-down usage)

Enforcement Strategy (tiered approach)— work with OLE and state enforcement partners on coordinating special operations patrols to conduct more focused at-sea monitoring and enforcement of HPTRP requirements.

Tiered Approach

- Tier 1: Vessels not using any pingers on their gillnet gear and/or vessels fishing within gillnet closed areas
- Tier 2: Vessels using less than 50% of required number of pingers
- Tier 3: Vessels using less than 100% but more than 50% of the required numbers of pingers

Joint Enforcement Agreement Efforts

- 307 at sea personnel hours and 109 at sea vessel hours
- 17 Total contacts
 - 16 contacts were compliant
 - 1 was referred to NOAA EO for follow up

Information on JEA Patrol Logs

- Type of patrol
- Patrol hours/personnel hours
- Gear Type
- Pinger Tier
- Violation Type
 - Enforcement Action