



NOAA
FISHERIES

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team Webinar

19 November 2015

Objectives

- Provide updates on membership since last meeting
- Review abundance, serious injury/mortality, and entanglement numbers from recent years
- Discuss status of Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and potential future plans

Membership

- Todd Sutton replacing Bill Mackintosh (RI gillnet Industry)
- Russ Allen replacing Peter Himchak (NJ)
- Brian Sharp is replacing April Wobst (Conservation/Environmental)
- John Haviland joining as rep for MA trap/pot industry

Preliminary Entanglements 2014 and 2015

*2014 looks poor for disentanglement but there were a number of factors, including already deceased and distance from responder, that led to the disappointing outcomes. It was not a reflection of our team or network. Reminder that 2013 had 15 cases.

- 2014

- 23 new confirmed entanglements
 - 7 right whales (2 deceased);
 - 9 humpback whales;
 - 4 minke whales (1 deceased); and
 - 3 finback whales (1 deceased)
- 7 of the 23 whales have been disentangled completely, gear was later shed with/without disentanglement, partially disentangled with what is believed to be non-life threatening gear remaining or had a non-life threatening entanglement
 - 1 right whale;
 - 5 humpback whales; and
 - 1 minke whale

- 2015

- 30 new confirmed entanglements (as of November 13, 2015)
 - 4 right whales;
 - 21 humpback whales (1 deceased);
 - 4 minke whales; and
 - 1 finback whale
- 19 of the 30 whales have been disentangled completely, gear was later shed with/without disentanglement, partially disentangled with what is believed to be non-life threatening gear remaining or had a non-life threatening entanglement
 - 1 right whale;
 - 15 humpback whales; and
 - 3 minke whales

2015

- January-May
 - Developed and implemented rule to modify minimum trap/trawl limits. Revised gear marking requirements.
- July-Nov
 - New gear marking requirements effective
 - Met with IEc. Developed strategy (3 phases) for moving forward with VL model
- Nov
 - TRT webinar to share next steps
- Winter 2016
 - Work group meeting

Next Steps of Co-Occurrence Model

- Phase 1: Gain a better understanding of and standardize gear location and characterization
- Phase 2: Gain a better understanding of whale distribution using opportunistic and passive acoustic data
- Phase 3: Develop options to refocus what the model 'does'

Monitoring and Enforcement Efforts

- Continue to work to monitor compliance and enforce regulations
- Continued training and coordination efforts with enforcement partners

Joint Enforcement Agreement Efforts in FY 2014

- 1552 at sea personnel hours
 - 745 at sea vessel hours
- 34.5 air personnel hours

A total of 723 contacts were made. 694 were in compliance.

Contacts by Management Area

Lobster Management Area	Number of Contacts
LMA 1	406
LMA 2	22
LMA 4	55
LMA 5	12
Spread between Mass LMA areas	228

Contacts by Gear Type

Contacts by Gear Type	Number of Contacts
American Lobster	692
Gillnet	12
Other	19

Type of violations

28 Total Violations

- 7 verbal warnings
- 16 written warnings
 - 1 for lack of break in poly ball
 - 2 for unmarked buoys
 - 3 for wet storage
- 5 summons
 - 2 for wet storage

*all violations written under state regulations