

**ALWTRP Scoping Meeting
Portsmouth, NH
July 22, 2011**

NMFS Staff: Dave Gouveia, Kate Swails

Number in attendance (not including NMFS staff): 20

Including:

- 3 NH Fish and Game patrol officers
- Bobby Nudd, Take Reduction Team Industry Representative
- Cheri Patterson, Take Reduction Team State Representative

Exemption Line

- NH would like an exemption line similar to ME. Frustrated that ME has one and NH doesn't. Will include request for exemption in VL proposal.

Resistance to 'do more'

- Never had an entanglement in NH.
- From the rocks to 15nm offshore don't see a lot of whales.
- Don't know how to help.
- Make rules that fishermen can't keep—turning them into crooks.
- Can do some things but it won't be enough. Wait out the litigation. Gain support from researchers and get smart people on our 'side'.
- Be careful of how much we give. We shouldn't roll over.
- Entanglements are coming from Bay of Fundy not from the state waters of NH.
- There has been VL in water for hundreds of years. There would be no more whales if VL were the problem.
- Most people that have the opportunity to interact with whales already use a whale friendly configuration of gear b/c they are already setting trawls.

Against 1 endline

- Southern part of state has lots of boat traffic and already lose a lot of buoys so 1 line won't work
- Safety issue.

Against Model

- Need fundamentally good science and info. Don't use the model.
- NH has 100% reporting so model picks on effort heavy areas.
- Data is skewed and NH is being penalized.

Possible Ideas

- In Federal waters go to 20s.
- Buy up the gear/permits

- Offshore could increase trawl length
- Could remove line in areas but it's not located in critical habitat so why bother? What would you gain?
- Could increase traps on short buoy lines but the single pots aren't in whale areas.

Gear marking

- Marking doesn't work because the hauler wears color off.
- Lots of growth on buoy lines. Don't think marks on buoy lines will work.
- No way to do it.

General Questions

- What are others proposing?
- Have you witnessed an entanglement in this area?
- Is this (measure) for all areas or just state specific?
- Why are we stuck with 600lb breakaways if others in CCB/MA Bay can use 1100 lb?
- Who is more important a fisherman or a whale?
- When is the next SARS for humpbacks? Need a determination on the listing.
- What is the shipping industry doing? Why aren't they in the room?