

Key Issues from 2011 ALWTRP Southeast Scoping Meetings

Use of Model

- General agreement with co-occurrence concept with the idea that known calving areas may include special protections.
- Support for looking at finer scale management areas.
- Support for seasonal measures
- Desire to see vertical line numbers by fishery and by state

Target

- Some confusion with the lack of target or goal. Others understood the idea of trying to do what's feasible (proactively avoid interactions) and not setting a target.

Gear Marking

- Mixed support
 - Against— southeast gear is similar so you would know it came from the southeast; gear marking as is works just fine.
 - For— More regional marking; mark by state and fishery; continue to allow cheap, easy, practical marking methods (, paint, string).
 - Interest in marking lines based on average length of line typically entangling large whales

Gear Modifications

- In certain areas a lesser breaking strength could be used on weak links. Some gear is too light for the weak links to break away effectively. Should take a look at the breaking strengths regionally.
- Support for one type of weak link per region/fishery to avoid confusion

Vertical Line Reductions Already Occurring

- Limited entry in Georgia
- Proposed Council measures for Black Sea Bass fishery would further reduce vertical lines
 - Pot limitations, gear hauled in at night, and limited access fishery

Other

- Monitoring Plan
 - General support for comprehensive monitoring plan that monitors compliance with the ALWTRP regulations and the overall effectiveness of the ALWTRP.
- Ship Strikes are a problem too