

**ALWTRP Public Hearing
Oceanside High School-East
Rockland, ME
August 7, 2013**

**NMFS PRD Staff—Dave Gouveia, Kate Swails, Mike Asaro, John Higgins
Number in attendance: 26
Including:**

- Patrick Keliher, Commissioner of Maine’s Department of Marine Resources
- Sarah Cotnoir, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Take Reduction Team State Representative Alternate
- Patrice McCarron, Maine Lobstermen’s Association, Take Reduction Team Industry Representative
- Jim Tripp, Take Reduction Team Industry Representative
- Representative Chuck Kruger, District #48
- Representative Walter Kumiega, District #36
- Chris Rector, Representative for Senator Angus King

P. Keliher and P. McCarron provided oral comments on behalf of their constituents. They will submit written comments for the record as well.

Closures

Jeffreys Ledge closure would create gear conflict and a wall of gear.

Gear Marking

Should focus on updating technology for gear marking so wouldn’t have to paint the line to mark it. Many commenters stated they fish on both sides of the exemption line so if they are required to mark in exempted areas then the color should be the same on both sides of the line. Some commenters were ok with the bigger size of the mark but felt it wasn’t necessary to mark multiple times.

Implementation Date

The final rule effective date should align with the trap/tag date (June 1). Should not have the rule be effective in the fall as this is a busy time of year for industry.

Increasing the number of traps per trawl

One commenter stated that the proposed 6 mile delineation should follow the natural transition from rocky/rough to muddy substrate. Some support for number of traps per trawl proposed under Alternatives 3 and 5. Concern over fishing pairs around the islands in non-exempt state waters. Some commenters suggested that the 2 traps/trawl only apply to waters deeper than 25 fathoms in these areas. There was also concern with federal pocket waters. Should account for those people that move in and out of pocket waters and not require reconfiguration of gear to move in and out of these waters.