

**ALWTRT Conference Call**  
**February 15, 2012**  
**11am**

Proposals online:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/trt/meetings/2012meeting.html>. Scroll down to  
'Meeting Follow-up'

1) Agenda

- a. Introduce proposals
- b. Discuss timeline and next steps

2) Six Groups Submitted Proposals

- a. ME DMR
  - i. Proposal from TRT Meeting
  - ii. Proposal submitted after Meeting
- b. MA DMF
- c. Scott Kraus and others
  - i. Jordan Basin closure
  - ii. Cape Cod Bay to Great South Channel Closure
- d. Conservation Community
- e. RI DFW
- f. Bob Kenney and others

3) Proposal Descriptions

- a. ME DMR
  - i. Proposal from TRT Meeting
    - 1. Non-exempt state waters (A-G)
      - a. Minimum 2 traps w/ 1endline
    - 2. 3-6 miles (A-G)
      - a. Minimum 3 traps w/ 1endline
    - 3. 6+ miles (A-E)
      - a. Minimum 10 traps w/ 2 endline
    - 4. 6+ miles (F-G)
      - a. Minimum 20 traps w/ 2 endline
  - ii. Proposal submitted after Meeting
    - 1. Non-exempt state waters (A-G)
      - a. Minimum 2 traps/ 1 endline
    - 2. 3-6 miles (A-G)
      - a. Minimum 3 traps w/ 1endline
    - 3. 6-12 miles (A-C)
      - a. 5 traps w/ 1 endline
    - 4. 6-12 miles (D-G)

- a. 10 traps w/ 2 endline
  - 5. 12+ miles (A-E)
    - a. 15 traps w/ 2 endline
  - 6. 12+ miles (F-G)
    - a. 15 traps w/ 2 endline (Feb-Nov)
    - b. 20 traps w/ 2 endline (Nov.-Feb)
- b. MA DMF
  - i. Southern New England or Outer Cape: rely on trap reductions for equivalent vertical line reduction.
  - ii. Agree with NMFS proposal in Federal waters
    - 1. 3-12 miles → 10 traps w/ 2 endline
    - 2. 12+ miles → 20 traps w/ 2 endline
  - iii. Cape Cod Bay Critical Habitat Area
    - 1. Closure from Feb 1<sup>st</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - iv. Increase gear marking, reporting, breaking strength of line in Cape Cod Bay
- c. Scott Kraus and others
  - i. Close Jordan Basin to ALL fishing Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to Jan 31<sup>st</sup>
    - 1. See proposal for coordinates
  - ii. Close Cape Cod Bay and nearshore waters to Great South Channel closure area to ALL fishing Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>
    - 1. See proposal for coordinates
- d. Conservation Community
  - i. Close Cape Cod Bay and Outer Cape to ALL fishing Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>
    - 1. See proposal for coordinates
  - ii. Close Great South Channel Sliver to gillnets April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>
    - 1. See proposal for coordinates
  - iii. Close Jefferys Ledge to ALL fishing Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to Jan 31<sup>st</sup>
    - 1. See proposal for coordinates
- e. RI DFW
  - i. Exempt state waters
  - ii. 15 traps w/ 2 endline in LMA2 (12+)
  - iii. Other areas: rely on trap reductions for equivalent vertical line reduction
- f. Bob Kenney and others
  - i. Propose substituting a minimum number for 0 in the SPUE layer
  - ii. Nothing for IEC to analyze but we wanted to share this 'proposal' since it was submitted after the meeting and give team opportunity to weigh in.
    - 1. We could potentially use the proposal to evaluate implications of uncertainty in SPUE data through sensitivity analysis or some other means.

4) Timeline and Next Steps

- a. IEC is currently analyzing proposals to see what each gives us in terms of percent reduction of vertical lines and co-occurrence score
  - i. The NMFS regional proposals have not changed from what was presented at the TRT.
- b. IEC to complete analysis by end of March/early April
- c. Analysis to be posted online and shared with team via subgroup conference calls the week of April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Depending on when the call is scheduled written comments will be due week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - i. TRT will have about 2 weeks to comment once full analysis complete
- e. Schedule of Draft EIS
  - i. Alternatives to be developed by end of 2012
  - ii. DEIS to be published early-mid 2013.

5) What do we need from you?

- a. Review the proposals and analysis (when available)
  - i. Keep in mind we are no longer accepting comments on how proposals should be modified or accepting new proposals
- b. Hold comments until analysis is complete so you can get a better idea of the implications of these proposals coast wide.
- c. The results of the analysis and your comments will help to shape the alternatives for the Draft EIS
  - i. Let us know if you support a proposal. Why or why not?

Call Participants

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P. McCarron	J. Higgins	M. Swingle	C. Good	B. Glenn