

Science, Service, Stewardship



NOAA

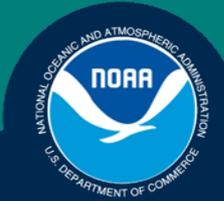
2010 ALWTRT Northeast Subgroup Meeting

December 6, 2010

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

ALWTRP Updates

- Updates on Activities since 2009 meeting
- Updates on Action Items from 2009 meeting
 - Review Concept Papers/Workshops



TRT Membership Changes

States

NJ: Peter Himchak

NH: Cheri Patterson

ME: Sarah Cotnoir

NY: Steve Heins

SC: Julia Byrd

Conservation

Ocean Conservancy: Janis Searles-Jones

Industry

Jonah Crab: Dennis Colbert

ME Lobster/Gillnet: Peter Inniss

MA Gillnet: Stuart Tolley

Gillnet: David Beresoff

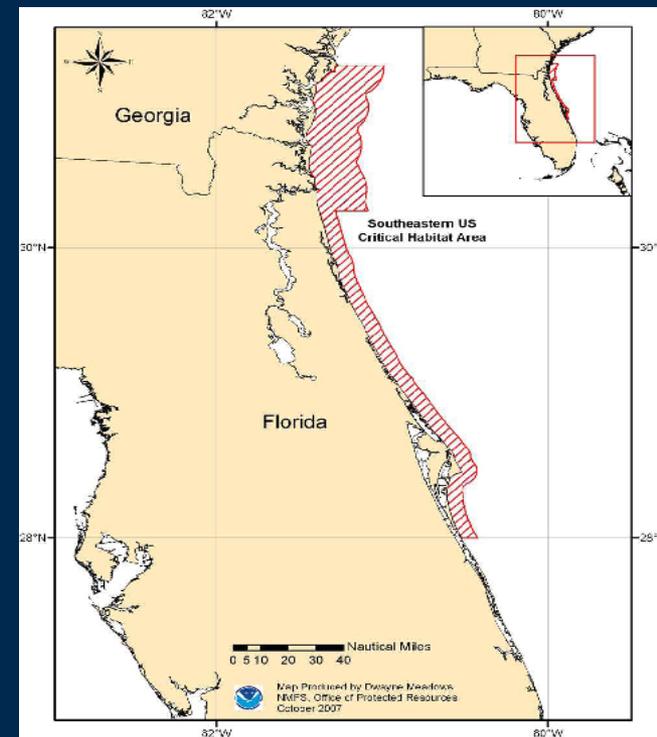
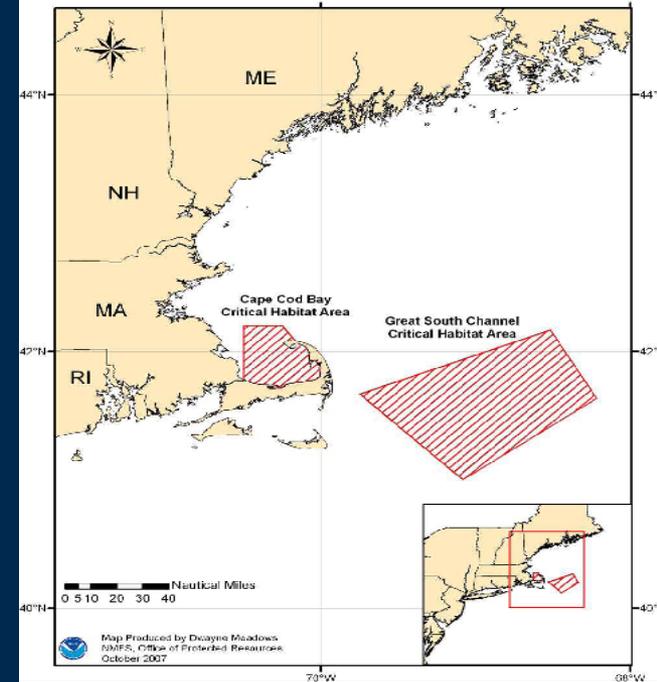


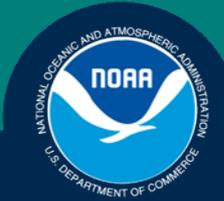
Large Whale Entanglement & Ship Strike

- 2008 Large Whale Entanglement and Ship Strike Report
- 2009 & 2010 Preliminary Data
- Questions: David Morin or Jamison Smith
David.Morin@Noaa.gov
Jamison.Smith@Noaa.gov

Right Whale Critical Habitat

- Petition to revise critical habitat
 - Notice published on Oct. 5th
- Conducting review
- Expect to propose changes in late 2011





Recent Biological Opinions

NMFS released Biological Opinions on 8 Northeast fisheries on October 29, 2010

American Lobster

Monkfish

Atlantic Bluefish

Atlantic Mackerel/Squid/Butterfish

Spiny Dogfish

Northeast Multispecies

Northeast Skate Complex

Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass



Humpback Whale Status Review

- In 2010 NMFS convened Biological Review Team
 - Assess biological status of humpback whales globally
 - Consider Distinct Population Segments (DPS)
- Status Review Report
 - In early 2011



Enforcement

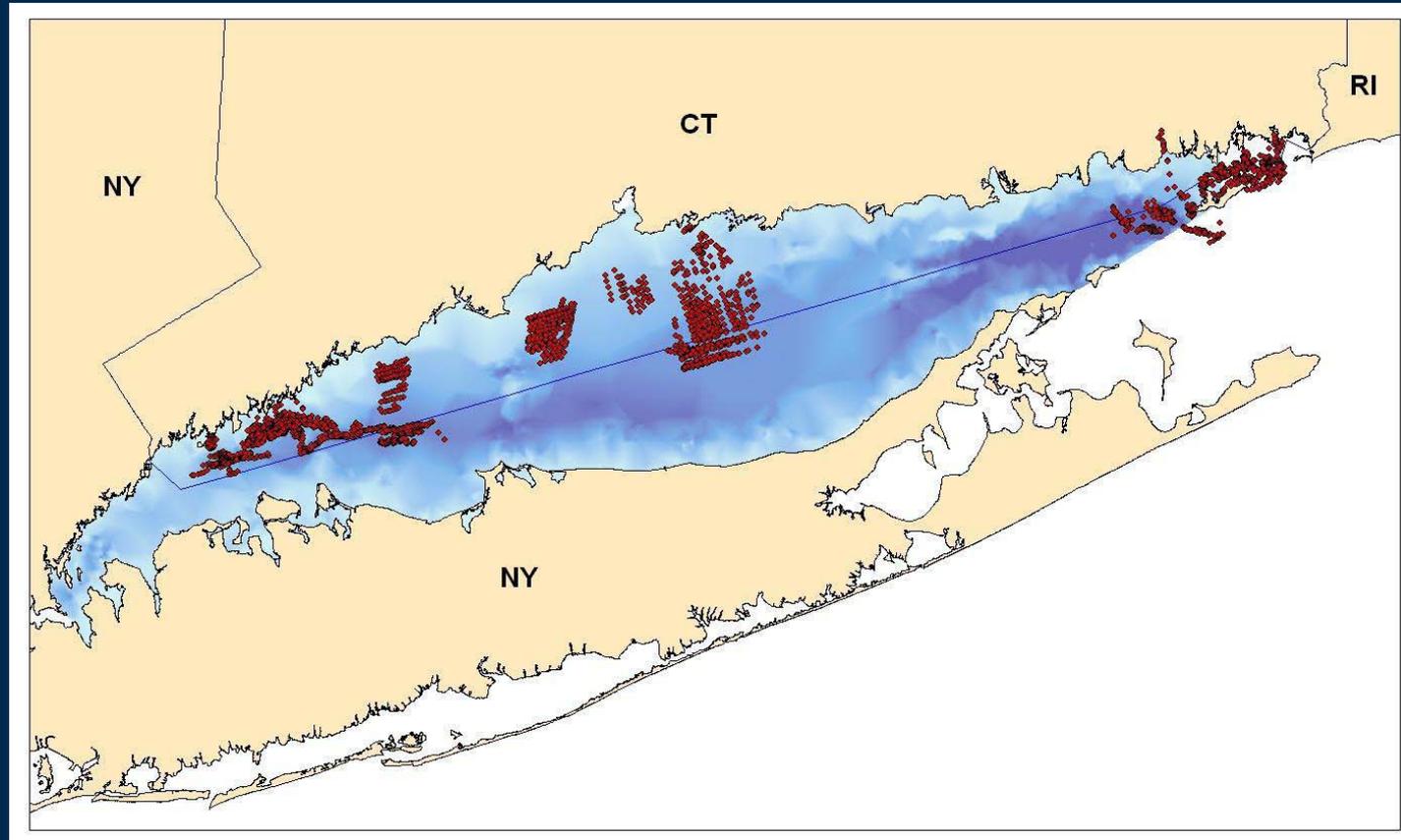
- Partnerships
 - NOAA OLE
 - USCG
 - State enforcement agencies
 - JEAs
- Enforcement Strategy
 - Education and Outreach
 - Enforcement Actions
 - Assist with Monitoring



A photograph of a whale's tail fluke as it breaks the surface of the water. The tail is dark and has a mottled pattern. The water is splashing around the base of the tail. The background is a bright, hazy sky.

Update on State Activities

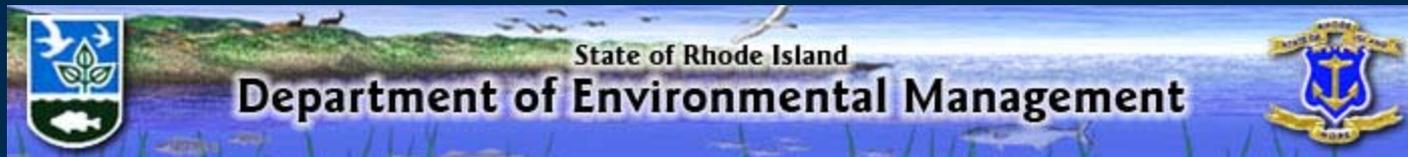
Connecticut Update



Connecticut DEP Marine Fisheries Division American Lobster Monitoring Program. Locations of commercial lobster pot sea sampling trips taken from 2005 – 2009, color indicates bathymetry.

Rhode Island Update

- NFWF Grant report
 - Copy of 2006 survey mailed out to fishermen
 - Results of survey
 - Information included in Industrial Economics model



Massachusetts Update

- Cape Cod Bay RW surveillance and habitat monitoring program
- Whale Disentanglement Efforts
- Acoustic Monitoring
- Ghost Gear Removal
- Coded Wire Tag Project



Maine Update

Activities

- Outreach
- Rope Buyback
- Monitoring
- Section 6
- Disentanglement

Research

- Annual logs
- Gear Surveys
- Plankton Sampling
- Acoustics
- Buoy Density Surveys

Aerial

Vessel



Name _____

 Did Not Fish

Zone _____

Please Return By March 15, 2010

License #	License type				# of trap tags purchased				Replacement tags				Federal
Area ID Fished (1-30)	January				February				March				
	Area #1	Area #2	Area #3	Area #4	Area #1	Area #2	Area #3	Area #4	Area #1	Area #2	Area #3	Area #4	
a) Configuration #1													
b) Number traps fished													
c) Configuration #2													
d) Number traps fished													
e) Number of EL/trawl													
f) Total Number of EL's													
g) Length & diameter of EL (fa/inches)													
h) Use toggles (Y/N)													
i) Use highflyer (Y/N)													
j) Dist to sec. float													
k) Length & diameter of GL (fa/inches)													
l) Avg soak (days)													
m) Avg depth fished (fa)													
n) Bottom type													
Area ID Fished (1-30)	April				May				June				
	Area #1	Area #2	Area #3	Area #4	Area #1	Area #2	Area #3	Area #4	Area #1	Area #2	Area #3	Area #4	
a) Configuration #1													
b) Number traps fished													
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- **Gear Surveys**
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Gear Density Annual Log for Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

Please Return with your License Renewal Materials

This log will be used to determine the density of gear that exists in different fishing areas. The information will help managers determine if, where and how regulations are needed in an effort to avoid blanket measures that effect the entire industry.

License # _____ For more information please contact Erin Summers (207) 633-9558 or Sarah Cotnoir (207) 624-6596

Gear fished in 2009		Exempted State Waters (float groundline allowed)		Non-exempted State Waters "Sliver" (float groundline prohibited)		Federal Waters (float groundline prohibited)	
Zone	Max traps fished	Max vertical lines fished	Max traps fished	Max vertical lines fished	Max traps fished	Max vertical lines fished	
Example 1	A	0	0	200	100	400	100
Example 2*	A/B	0	0	100/100	50/50	300/100	75/25
January							
February							
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							

Instructions: Please fill out the above table to the best of your ability for how much gear you fished in each month of 2009. For each month please fill in the maximum number of traps and vertical lines (also called endline and buoy line) that you fished in each of the identified areas separately (see example 1). If you did not fish in a month please indicate that with a zero. If you return this form before the end of 2009 leave the remaining months blank.

* If you fished in more than one zone please identify both zones in the "Zone" column separated by a slash (ie A/B), then identify the number of traps and vertical lines you fished in each area for each zone separated by the same slash as is demonstrated in example 2.

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Maine Update

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Maine

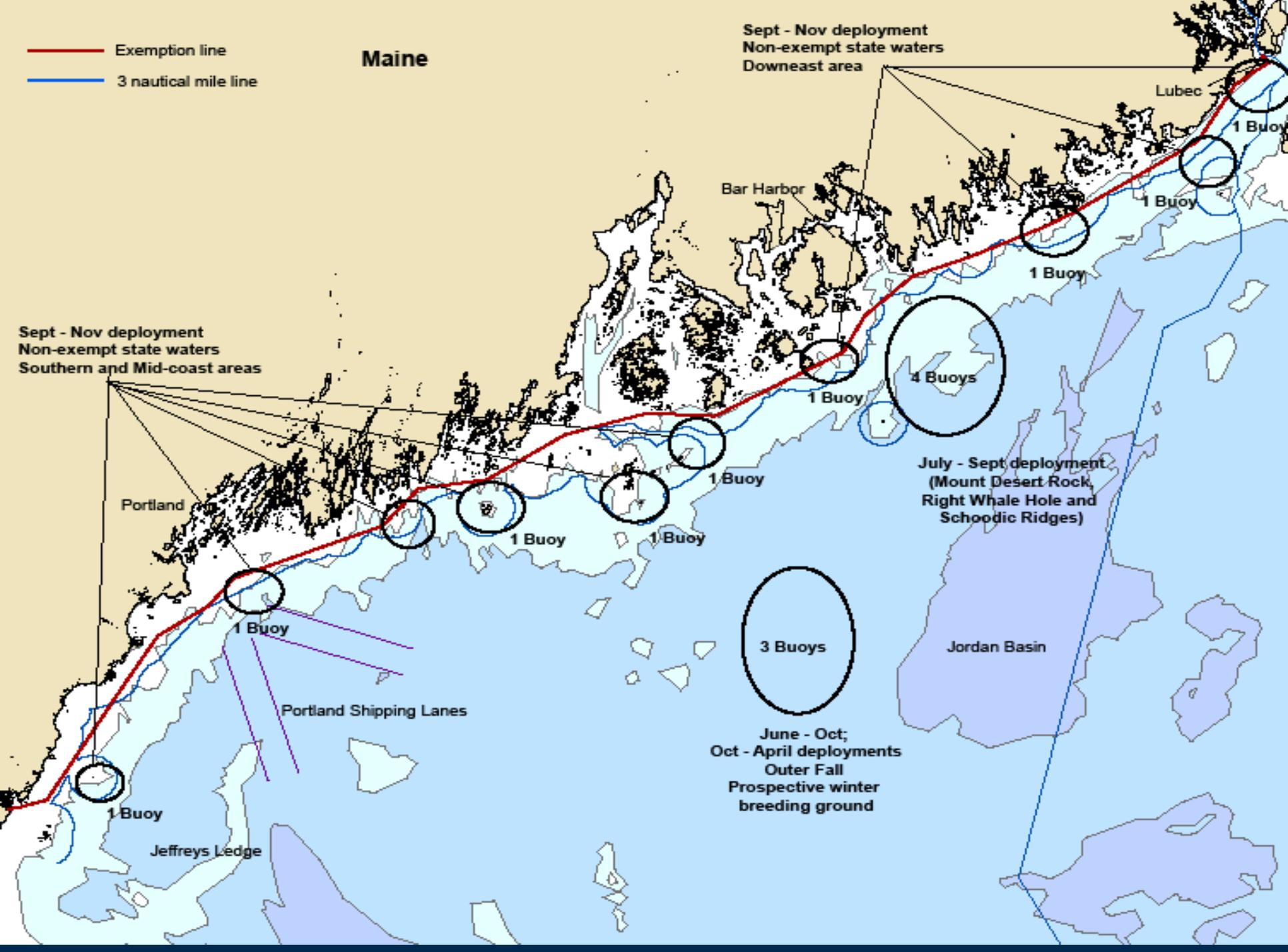
- Exemption line
- 3 nautical mile line

Sept - Nov deployment
Non-exempt state waters
Downeast area

Sept - Nov deployment
Non-exempt state waters
Southern and Mid-coast areas

July - Sept deployment
(Mount Desert Rock,
Right Whale Hole and
Schoolic Ridges)

June - Oct;
Oct - April deployments
Outer Fall
Prospective winter
breeding ground



Maine Update

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- Outreach
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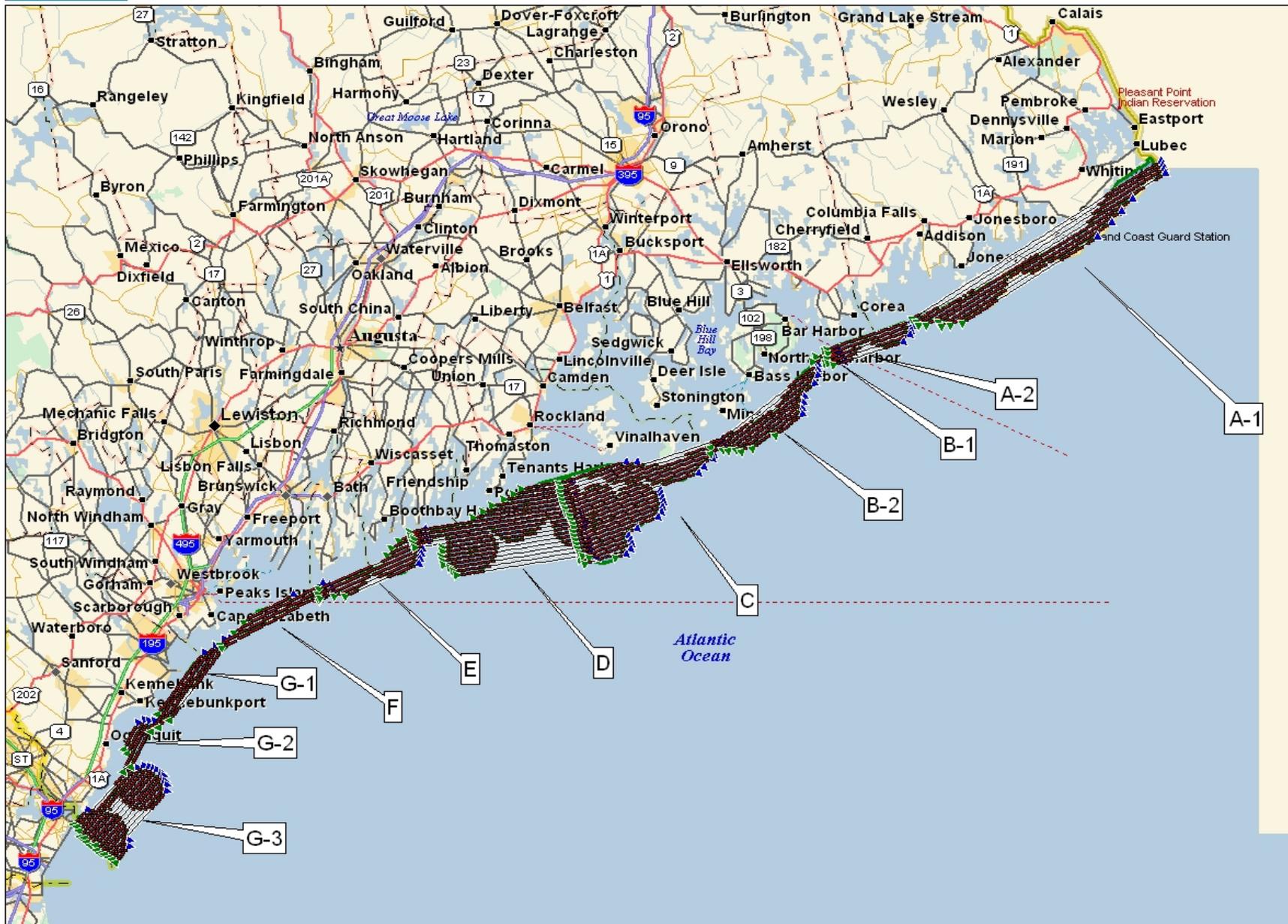
Research

- Annual logs
- Gear Surveys
- Plankton Sampling
- Acoustics
- **Buoy Density Surveys**

Vessel

Aerial







Update on Matrices and Research Grants



Changes to Gear and Whale Research Matrix

- Updated Status of Research column
 - Moved to right side for easier reference
- Made more user friendly
 - Re-ordered based on priority
 - Removed outdated columns
- Replaced the 2007 version online with new version
- Send comments to me



NERO Funded Research Grants

- Consortium for Wildlife Bycatch Reduction
 - FY 2009 (\$1.25 Million)
 - FY 2010 (\$1.25 Million)
- Groundline Exchange/Conversion Plan
 - FY 2009 (\$ 3 Million)
 - Ongoing through Jan. 2011
- Time Tension Line Cutter Evaluation (\$98K)
 - FY 2008
 - Final Report completed Nov. 2009 available online

A photograph of a whale's tail fluke emerging from the water, creating a splash. The image is in a light blue, monochromatic color scheme. The word "Questions?" is centered over the image in a dark blue, serif font.

Questions?

Review of 2009 Subgroup Meeting

- Vertical line rule development and monitoring schedule
- Action Items

Vertical Line Rule Development Schedule

April 2009

- Sinking Ground line rule
- TRT developed VL Rule Schedule

2012

- Develop alternatives proposed by TRT

2014

- Final Rule

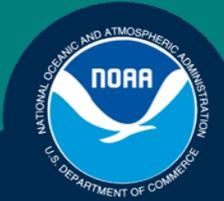
2011

- Working to finalize Mid-Atlantic Southeast data (Spring)
- Full TRT Meeting (Fall)

2013

- Proposed Rule





State Data Collection Effort

- Letters from RA to ASMFC
- Request information from State fishery management agencies for use in the vertical line model
 - Location of fishing activity
 - Gear configuration



Outreach and Coordination

- NMFS should improve coordination with fishery bodies
 - April 2009— met with ASMFC Lobster Conservation Management Team
 - June 2009— met with ASMFC Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)
 - July 2009— participated in ACCSP Bycatch Committee conference call
 - August 2009— present update to ASMFC's American Lobster Management board
 - November 2009—presented update to ASMFC Policy Board



Funding Opportunities

- Requested and received funding for vertical line gear modifications
 - Issued three FY 2009 grants
 - Fishing without vertical line
 - Fishing using thwartable bottom links
 - Highly adhesive smart tape
- FFO to publish in Jan



VTR Reporting Gaps

- Assess or address VTR reporting gaps
 - Met with Fishery Statistics Office
 - Issue:
 - Single page logs
 - Log books not reformatted anytime soon
 - Observer Program



Refinements to Co-occurrence model

- Refine the model to fold in additional considerations related to risk
 - Ongoing

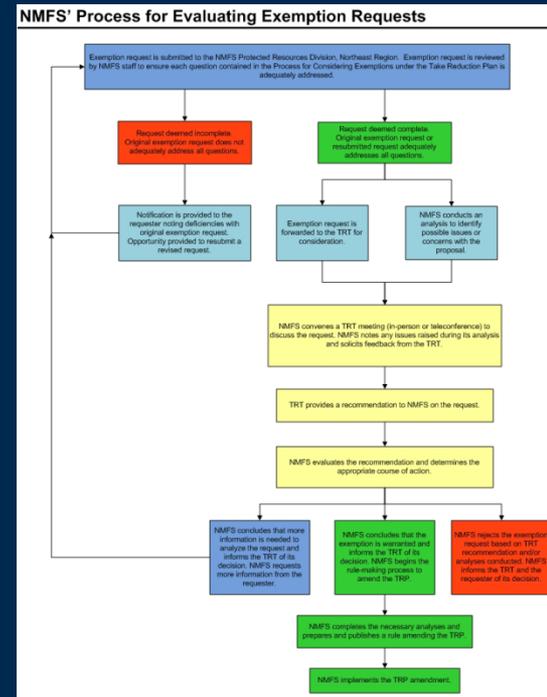


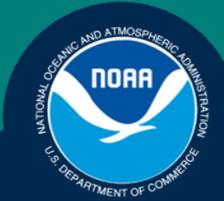
Website Updates

- New gear research and whale research matrices
- Added “Process for considering exemptions under the ALWTRP”

Summary of gear modifications and recommendations for research aimed at reducing risks associated with vertical lines and groundlines
October 2010

Modification	Description	What it does	Is the technology currently available?	Gear Research Needs	Safety Issues	How prevalent is it from an operational standpoint (measure on a scale of 1 to 10? 10 is high)	How effective is it as a risk reduction measure on a scale of 1 to 10? 10 is high	Comments, Recommendations, etc.	Research Priority	Status of Research
Surface Systems of the Buoy Line										
Reducing the separation height and toe bar air field distance to each other until it is close to the gear.	Reduce the horizontal line of the surface system.	Reduce the horizontal line of the surface system.	No	Develop techniques to reduce distance between surface system buoys when the gear is being and also provide the necessary slack between buoys leading to hauling operations.	None anticipated	Unknown	0	Pursue efforts to develop gear-specific methods with an emphasis on stability under expected at sea conditions.	High	Concept
Connective knots in the vicinity of a seek line.	Provide a single means of connecting the ropes to each other without the bulk associated with a knot.	Reduces the chance that a buoy seek line will have an opportunity to function by eliminating the need to use knots to attach ropes to each other.	No	Develop techniques that use best means access joining methods.	None anticipated	Unknown	4	Pursue efforts to develop gear-specific methods with an emphasis on stability under expected at sea conditions.	Low	Concept
Consider lowering the toe bar strength through that breaking strengths.	Lower the maximum load on the breaking strengths from that currently in use.	Lowers the force required to part the buoy away from the buoy line.	Yes	None at this time.	Yes	2	3	Maintain current requirements as NMFS believes they are currently as low as is practical. Additional reductions could jeopardize safety.	Low	None Initiated
Reduce the use of floating line in the surface system (SS).	Require that sinking rope be used in the SS.	Would cover the profile of the SS in the water column.	Yes	No research needs have been identified.	None	10	3	Low priority.	Low	Concept
Type of Buoy	White Free Buoy, developed by M.I.T. Sea Grant.	Design of this device relies on a gradual transition from a ship buoy line to the self buoy in order to allow it to float around as independent if recommended by a stake.	No	Need to conduct field work to establish what buoys and other small conditions the buoy will function satisfactorily from an operational standpoint. Investigate potential of incorporating a seal on one side of the device.	None anticipated	6	3	Not seen as a high priority in the absence of operational supporting arrangement risk reduction.	Low	Developed by MIT with some support from the NRC.





Concept Papers and Workshops

- Scarification workshop
- Monitoring plan
- Lineless fishing concept paper
- Gear marking concept paper
- Mid-Atlantic data workshop