

**Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team
Northeast Sub-Group Meeting
November 30-December 3, 2010
Providence, RI**

PROVISIONAL DRAFT AGENDA¹

Meeting Purposes

- Provide updates on overall ALWTRP status;
- Discuss options for identifying management areas;
- Discuss management options to reduce mortality and serious injury in those areas;
- Continue development of the ALWTRP monitoring plan; and
- Provide updates on gear and whale research to support ALWTRP goals and objectives.

DAY 1 (Tuesday, November 30th)

1:00-1:30 PM WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND GETTING ORGANIZED (NMFS and CONCUR)

- Review meeting purpose and round robin greeting (*CONCUR*)
- Opening comments (*NMFS*)
- Review and confirm agenda and ground rules (*CONCUR*)

1:30- 2:30 PM INFORMATIONAL UPDATES: RECENT ALWTRP IMPLEMENTATION (NMFS)

Objective: Provide update on ALWTRP activities since 2009 subgroup meetings

- Provide brief status reports on recent ALWTRP-related activities
 - ALWTRT Membership
 - 2008 Entanglement/Vessel Interaction Report & 2009/2010 Preliminary Data
 - Right whale critical habitat update
 - Recent biological opinions on fishery management plans update
 - Humpback whale status review
 - Provide brief status report on enforcement-related updates
 - Activities
 - Implementation of sinking ground line requirement
 - All other requirements
 - Provide brief status report on state activities
 - Individual state reports
 - Review of research grants and whale and gear research matrices
 - Canadian update

¹ Opportunity to caucus provided —TBD at meeting.

2:30-3:00 PM

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FROM 2009 ALWTRT SUBGROUP MEETINGS (NMFS)

Objective: (1) Provide overview of 2009 ALWTRT subgroup meetings; (2) Provide update on NMFS action items from 2009 ALWTRT subgroup meetings; (3) Identify action items for further discussion in 2010 subgroup meetings; and (4) Review and discuss concept papers and mid-Atlantic distribution workshop

- Review key points from 2009 ALWTRT Subgroup Meetings
 - Review ALWTRP vertical line rule development and monitoring strategy schedules
 - Provide brief updates on action items requested by ALWTRT in 2009
 - Improved data collection efforts with states
 - Outreach and coordination efforts with AFMC, Lobster Management Board, others
 - Funding opportunities for new endline gear modifications/marketing options
 - VTR reporting gaps
 - Refinements to co-occurrence model to fold in additional considerations related to risk
 - ALWTRT web site updates related to exemptions
 - Review 2009 action items needing further Team discussion
 - Convene work group to address how to fold scarring rates into R. Pace monitoring efforts (*to be covered on Day 4*)
 - Flesh out monitoring plan for discussion at the 2010 TRT meeting (*to be covered on Day 4*)

3:00-3:15 PM

BREAK

3:15-4:45 PM

CONTINUE: FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FROM 2009 ALWTRT SUBGROUP MEETINGS (NMFS)

- Consider need for and/or approach to concept papers and workshops raised at 2009 meetings
 - Concept paper exploring potential opening Great South Channel (or similarly suitable area) to experimental lineless fishing
 - Follow-up research conducted by NMFS
 - Concept paper that explores gear-marking
 - Work group to investigate alternatives to the uniform distribution approach in the mid-Atlantic

4:45 PM

OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-TRT MEMBERS TO COMMENT/PREVIEW OF DAY TWO (CONCUR)

5:00 PM

ADJOURN

DAY 2 (Wednesday, December 1st)

8:30 - 8:45 AM WELCOME, AGENDA REVIEW AND RECAP FROM DAY ONE (CONCUR)

8:45 – 9:00 AM VERTICAL LINE MODEL OVERVIEW (NMFS)

- Overview of intent, focus and desired outcomes of Team deliberations on model and implications for vertical line management options

9:00 – 10:30 AM MODELING VERTICAL LINE DISTRIBUTION (*Industrial Economics*)

- Provide overview of vertical line data
 - Discuss the collection of State data
 - Definition of an “active” fishery
 - Gear characterization
 - Observations and caveats
 - Revisions made based on Team’s input at 2009 ALWTRT meetings
- Invite Team member clarifying questions

10:30 - 10:45 AM BREAK

10:45 AM – NOON MODELING WHALE SIGHTINGS PER UNIT EFFORT (SPUE) (*Industrial Economics*)

- Provide overview of whale SPUE
 - Discuss survey effort
 - Observations and caveats
 - Revisions made based on Team’s input at 2009 ALWTRT meetings
- Invite Team member clarifying questions

NOON – 1:15 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM MODELING CO-OCCURRENCE (*Industrial Economics*)

- Provide overview of co-occurrence data
 - Development of co-occurrence score
 - Observations and caveats
 - Revisions made based on Team’s input at 2009 ALWTRT meetings
- Invite Team member clarifying questions

2:30 – 2:45 PM BREAK

2:45 – 4:30 PM USING THE MODEL FOR MANAGEMENT (NMFS)

- Initial framing of possible management options using the model to reduce risk associated with vertical line entanglements
 - Present initial thoughts for Team consideration
 - Team clarifying questions

4:30 PM **OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-TRT MEMBERS TO COMMENT (*CONCUR*)**

4:45 PM **REVIEW OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND PREVIEW OF DAY THREE**

5:00 PM **ADJOURN**

DAY 3 (Thursday, December 2nd)

- 8:30-8:45 AM** **WELCOME, AGENDA REVIEW AND RECAP FROM DAY TWO (CONCUR)**
- 8:45 AM – 4:30 PM** **DISCUSSION OF VERTICAL LINE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS (NMFS)**
(WITH BREAKS & LUNCH) *Objective: Discuss management options for reducing risk associated with vertical line entanglements*
- Discuss overarching management strategy to address vertical line entanglements
 - **Manage by Fishing Effort.** What are the target management areas suggested by the model? Do they vary seasonally by month? What are the different risk levels or categories of risk (e.g. high, medium, low)?
 - **Manage by Whale Distribution.** What are the target management areas suggested by the co-occurrence model? Do they vary seasonally by month? What are the different risk levels or categories of risk (e.g. high, medium, low)?
 - Choose a single species to focus on or use all three?
 - **Manage by Co-Occurrence Areas.** What are the target management areas suggested by the co-occurrence model? Do they vary seasonally by month? What are the different risk levels or categories of risk (e.g. high, medium, low)?
 - Choose a single species to focus on or use all three?
 - Discuss Management Options
 - What are appropriate management options to address risk associated with vertical lines? What are the building blocks of these management options? Should these vary by fishery, area, season, etc.?
 - Review current requirements
 - Review potential scenarios
 - Level of reduction achieved
 - Feasibility of implementation
 - What associated gear marking or monitoring should be considered for these options?
 - Discuss research needs to clarify and/or assess the effectiveness of different vertical line management options
 - What do we know about the risk associated with vertical lines related to gear and whales?
 - What are the most important uncertainties (e.g., whale distribution, fishing effort, gear configuration) and how do we fill these data gaps?
 - How can we develop a better understanding of the relationship between trap-line length and serious injury risk to whales?
- 4:30 PM** **OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-TRT MEMBERS TO COMMENT (CONCUR)**
- 4:45 PM** **REVIEW OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND PREVIEW OF DAY FOUR**

5:00 PM

ADJOURN

DAY 4 (Friday, December 3rd)

- 8:30-8:45 AM** **WELCOME, AGENDA REVIEW AND RECAP FROM DAY THREE (CONCUR)**
- 8:45-10:00 AM** **FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION: VERTICAL LINES**
- Continue discussion from Day Three (*NMFS and TRT*)
 - Management Strategy
 - Management Options
 - Research Needs
 - Next Steps
- 10:00-11:00 AM** **REVIEW AND DISCUSS SCARIFICATION WORKSHOP (NMFS)**
- Review of 2009 ALWTRT discussion related scarification workshop
 - Elicit Team input on timing and focus for scarification workshop
- 11:00-11:15 AM** **BREAK**
- 11:15 AM** **UPDATE ON ALWTRP MONITORING STRATEGY (NMFS)**
Objective: To provide an update on NMFS development of the ALWTRP monitoring strategy.
- Overview of Monitoring plan strategy
 - Effectiveness of the ALWTRP
 - TRT discussion and comment
- 12:15 PM** **NEXT STEPS (CONCUR and NMFS)**
- What will be done with the product from this meeting?
 - Recap of meeting and review next steps
 - Discuss next ALWTRT meeting
 - Recommended dates and locations?
 - Other issues?
- 12:45 PM** **OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-TRT MEMBERS TO COMMENT**
- 1:00 PM** **ADJOURN**