



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

North Atlantic Right Whale update 2010





Who at DFO?

Species at Risk Management Division (SARMD) – coordination role, development of legal documents such as Recovery Strategies, Action Plans	Marci Penney Heidi Schaefer Cathy Merriman (Mike James)
Resource Management – work with stranding & disentanglement networks; liaise with C&P Officers; support & coordinate activities on the ground	Andrew Newbould
Science Branch – conduct research where opportunities and support allow; maintain sightings database	Kent Smedbol Lei Harris Ed Trippel
Conservation & Protection – support strandings, necropsies, disentanglement	Jim McKinnon
Southwest New Brunswick Area Office – Fundy aerial surveys, notification to lobster fishers	Sarah Cheney



Species at Risk Management Division (SARMD)

Development of legal documents such as Recovery Strategies, Action Plans

Coordination with other DFO sectors – project funding, staff resources to SAR

2010-11: Action Plan with focus on entanglement threat

Permitting for research, transport of carcass, samples etc. from necropsies

Coordinate Recovery Network

Support recovery partners through Habitat Stewardship Program

Marci Penney - Manager

Heidi Schaefer – Section Head, Recovery

Cathy Merriman (Mike James) – Biologist, Marine Species



Resource Management

Work with stranding & disentanglement networks

Liaise with C&P Officers; support & coordinate activities on the ground including training of C&P officers

Help organize & co-chairs two meetings /year of Maritimes Marine Animal Response Network (MMARN) (w. MARS)

Organize disentanglement gear caches around region

Collect entanglement gear for analysis

Developing standardized data collection re. strandings & entanglements

Andrew Newbould –
Staff Officer



Conservation & Protection

Officers respond to live & dead strandings (60 officers trained)

Support strandings, necropsies, disentanglement (logistics, community relations)

9 C&P Officers currently trained to help disentangle; more to receive training next year (incl. Provincetown)

Jim McKinnon –
Supervisor, SW
New Brunswick



Science Branch

Conduct research where opportunities and support allow

Identify Critical Habitat characteristics

Maintain sightings database; recent donation of 30 years' cetacean sightings from Dr. Hal Whitehead

Multi-year study of effectiveness of sinking groundline study with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia fishermen in near-shore and offshore trawls

- includes eight types of rope manufactured in US, Canada and Portugal
- assessment of buoyancy, chafing , durability, handling

Kent Smedbol

Lei Harris

Ed Trippel



Right Whale - Lobster Mitigation Plan (SW New Brunswick)

Southwest New Brunswick Area Office
(partnership with industry)

Pre-season aerial surveys in Bay of Fundy

Continue into lobster season if whales are still present

Notification system for fishers - whale presence & locations; daily conf. calls w. industry when whales present.

Sarah Cheney,
Chief - Resource
Management
SWNB