

## **Key Issues from 2011 ALWTRP Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Scoping Meetings**

### Exemption Line

- Maine wants to re-evaluate sinking groundline as it relates to what the model shows about Co-Occurrence.
- Move Maine exemption line to 3 mile line
- Move Maine exemption line landward or shoreward based on output of Co-Occurrence layer.
- New Hampshire wants to revise its exemption line to include the entire coast and expanding it seaward.

### Sinking Groundline

- What are the results of the sinking groundline requirements? Have entanglements decreased? Shouldn't we see if sinking groundline is working before we do something else?
- Get floating groundline back in some areas

### Use of Model

- General agreement with co-occurrence concept throughout Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.
- Agree with the use of the Co-occurrence layer in Maine and the Mid-Atlantic.
  - Recognize holes but realizes it's the best we have.
- Support for looking at finer scale management areas.
- Support for the state proposal idea.
- Massachusetts and New Hampshire are showing up as hot spots b/c of the higher survey effort and mandatory reporting required in their areas. Unfair to compare these areas to other areas with less effort.
  - Need more survey effort in other areas.
- Support for seasonal measures (could potentially do a closure based on season).

### Target

- Some concerned with lack of target or goal. Think a target will be set in the future and whatever is proposed now will miss the future target.
- Others understood the idea of trying to do what's feasible and not setting a target.

### Gear Marking

- General support.
- More regional marking.
- Continue to allow cheap marking methods (tape, paint, string)
- Mark with 2 marks every 30-40 fathoms (deep water areas) or at top, middle, and bottom of line (shallower inshore areas).
  - One mark would represent a state while the other represented gear type (trap/pot or gillnet).

### Gear Modifications

- Weaker breaking strength for top 1/3 of rope
  - Some support for 1100 lbs breaking strength
- Shorten lines closest from surface link from buoy to toggle and reduce the amount of line in the water that way.
- Cape Cod Bay eliminate sinking rope requirement in top 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of endline
- Weak link at top 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of endline
- No support for use of one endline

### Reporting

- Agreement that reporting is necessary. No problem with questions or frequency of surveys.
- Disagreement with whether it should be mandatory or voluntary.
  - Most felt mandatory reporting is needed.
  - Some commenters from Maine felt mandatory reporting might cause inaccuracy.

### Trawling Up

- Serious safety issue in some areas. Could be appropriate in other areas (offshore or Fed waters).
- Need 2 endlines because of safety and gear loss issues
- Get rid of singles (exemption line to 3 miles = pairs; triples outside of 3 miles)

### Want Credit

- Stiff rope as a result of tides
- Trap reductions already occurring and more are planned.
- Black Sea Bass gear brought in at night
- Gov't buyout to reduce latent effort

### Other

- Monitoring Plan
  - General support for comprehensive monitoring plan that monitors compliance with the ALWTRP regulations and the overall effectiveness of the ALWTRP.
- What is Canada doing?
- How does the humpback Status Review affect the vertical line regulation?
  - Look at co-occurrence of just right whales
- Desire to amend MMPA
- Ship Strikes are a problem too