

**ALWTRP Public Hearing
NOAA NERO Office
Gloucester, MA
August 19, 2013**

**NMFS PRD Staff—Dave Gouveia, Kate Swails, Mike Asaro, John Higgins
Number in attendance: 47**

Including:

- Dan McKiernan, Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries, Take Reduction Team State Representative
- Bill Adler, MA Lobstermen's Association, Take Reduction Team Industry Representative

B. Adler read a statement on behalf of his constituents.

Closures

Commenters opposed closures. Closures would result in walls of gear surrounding the closure. Closures would be costly to MA fishermen.

One commenter questioned why closures were proposed when the reduction of co-occurrence as a result of the closures is so minimal. The benefit of the closure doesn't outweigh the cost, can the closures be removed?

Increasing the number of traps per trawl

Commenters stated that trawling up potentially created gear conflicts and ghost gear as well as safety issues.

Gear marking

One commenter stated that gear marking does not save whales and one mark is enough.

Other

Some commenters stated that as whale populations increase the number of interactions will increase and the goals are too unrealistic to achieve.

Many stated that the current measures are enough and gave their support for nothing more than the status quo alternative.

A few commenters questioned how ship strikes and naval activities are regulated.

One commenter stated that regulations weaken local communities and the economic impacts of the alternatives make them unbearable.