



Amendment to the Fishery (General) Regulations

**Overcoming Development,
Regulatory, and Funding
Challenges for Rope-less
Fishing in the U.S. and
Canada**

Woods Hole, Mass.
February 1, 2018





Proposal

- Sub-section 27(6)(b) of the Fishery (General) Regulations, Identification of Fishing Gear, requires that a tag, float or buoy be affixed to both ends of fixed fishing gear.
- A proposed amendment to section 27 would create an exception to this requirement if it is specified as a condition of the licence.
- Section 22 of the FGR grants the Minister the authority to specify licence conditions for the proper management and control of fisheries and the conservation and protection of fish including conditions related to the type, size and quantity of fishing gear and equipment that is permitted to be used and the manner in which it is permitted to be used.



Proposal

- Amending section 27 in the proposed manner would give the Minister the authority to permit the use of a single tag, float or buoy in certain fisheries, in certain locations, at certain times of the year thereby targeting the exception where it is needed to reduce the incidence of marine mammal and sea turtle mortality.
- It could also potentially allow for no end marking at the surface if rope-less fishing technology were developed and implemented in fixed gear fisheries.



Rationale

- Fishing gear entanglement remains a leading cause of marine mammal and sea turtle death, some of which are listed as endangered species under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).
- The current regulatory requirement to mark both ends of fixed fishing gear creates additional vertical lines in the water column and increases the threat of marine mammal and sea turtle entanglement.



Application

- The amendment will be national in scope but flexible in its application to identify through a licence condition times and areas where the requirement to mark both ends of gear would not apply.





Next Steps

- To obtain feedback from the regions concerning the stakeholder consultations they conducted in 2017 with advisory councils, ENGOs, response networks and others with respect to the proposed amendment.
- Development of a Triage Statement and a Critical Path for the proposed amendment to the regulation.

