



SMELTS System

What we have accomplished

- We have routed funds to ASMFC to compensate commercial lobster vessels for gear research.
- We have reached out to ASMFC and lobster board advisory for input.
- Working with WHOI and SMELTS to test their floating trap. We have assisted with 50 dock tests.
- Assisted CFF BS Buoy - 2 days of testing.
- Reached out to SSLFA to discuss concerns and assistance with testing.
- Discussed whale issue with Robert Valtierra MAI - set up connection with local whelk trapper.
- Reaching out to gear developers.
- USCG - advised on pot hauling.

Research Goal

NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) is looking to collaborate with commercial fishermen to evaluate new technologies intended to minimize the potential for marine mammal interactions in pot and trap fisheries.

The intent is to collaborate with several commercial fishing vessels, during different times of the year and in different areas, to evaluate ropeless/buoyless technologies.

The NEFSC will pay the vessels for their time and effort during collaboration and will provide trained scientists to collect data.

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http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/read/protssp/PR_gear_research/