

**Ropeless Consortium**  
Annual Meeting  
13 November 2019  
University of Southern Maine, Portland

8:30-9:00AM: **Check in**

**Welcome**

9:00AM: Right whales in ropeless context update - *Michael Moore, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

**Technology Status: Gear Location Marking**

9:10AM: Development of an acoustic self-locating system for gear marking - *Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

9:25AM: Controlling the EdgeTech 5112 Ropeless Fishing system using Trap Tracker - *Greg MacEachern, Edgetech*

9:35AM: Teledyne Benthos acoustic deckbox for location of subsea traps - *Julia Rugo, Benthos*

**Technology Status: System Updates**

9:45AM: Ropeless RISER - an end-to end system to implement a ropeless fishing capability - *Harold Vincent, DBV Technology*

9:55AM: Desert Star Update - *Marco Flagg, Desert Star*

10:05AM: Field testing the on-call spooled buoy system in an offshore commercial pot fishery - *Richard Malloy, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life/New England Aquarium*

10:15AM: SMELTS update - *Richard Riels*

10:25AM: Ashored update - *Maxwell Poole*

10:35AM: LobsterLift update - *Cormac Hondros- McCarthy*

10:55AM: Discussion

**11:15AM Break**

**Perspectives**

11:30PM: Fishermen's experience with ropeless gear

*Panel discussion moderated by Tim Werner, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life/New England Aquarium*

Panel Participants (tested gear systems italicized):

Martin Noel (*Modified Desert Star, EdgeTech*)

Rob Martin (*EdgeTech, SMELTS*)

Robert Hache (*Modified Desert Star, EdgeTech*)

Mike Lane (*EdgeTech*)

Hubert Saulnier (*FioBuoy, EdgeTech*)

Dave Casoni (*Desert Star*)

Marc Palombo (*WHOI spool*)

12:30AM: Testing ropeless technologies for crab fishing gear in the Gulf of St. Lawrence - *Phillipe Cormier, CORBO Engineering*

12:45AM: Creating a framework for the evaluation of ropeless fishing gear using fisher perspectives - *Elizabeth Baker, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

1:00PM: Overview and progress of collaborative buoyless research - *Eric Matzen, Northeast Fisheries Science Center/NOAA*

**1:15PM: Lunch and gear demo 'Poster' session**

*Each manufacturer shows a model of their system and video of it in operation, if available, as in a poster session*

Greg MacEachern, EdgeTech

Richard Riels, SMELTS

Marco Flagg, Desert Star

Aaron Stevenson, Maxwell Poole, Ashored Innovations

Tim Werner and Richard Malloy, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life/New England Aquarium

Bud Vincent, DBV Technology

Benthos

**Science, Government and Legal updates**

2:30PM: Identifying areas of highest entanglement risk—updates to the Risk Reduction Decision Support Tool - *Jason Roberts, Duke University and Burton Shank, Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

2:45PM: GARFO Update - *Colleen Coogan and Ryan Silva, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office*

3:00PM: Roadmap to ropeless fishing - *Sean Hayes, Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

3:15PM: Canadian support for ropeless fishing and Gear Innovation Summit 2020 - *Ed Trippel, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*

3:30PM: Negotiating a legal settlement that allows ropeless fishing - *Kristen Monsell, Center for Biological Diversity*

**3:45PM Break**

**Economics and Marketing**

4:00PM: Sustainable seafood marketing - Whale Friendly seafood certification - *Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network and CT Harry, International Fund for Animal Welfare*

4:15PM: Sourcing Seafood with Reduced Risk to NARWs - *Michelle Cho, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life/New England Aquarium*

**Summary**

4:30PM: Near-term development - *Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

4:45PM: Wrap-up - *Michael Moore, Mark Baumgartner, and Sean Brilliant*