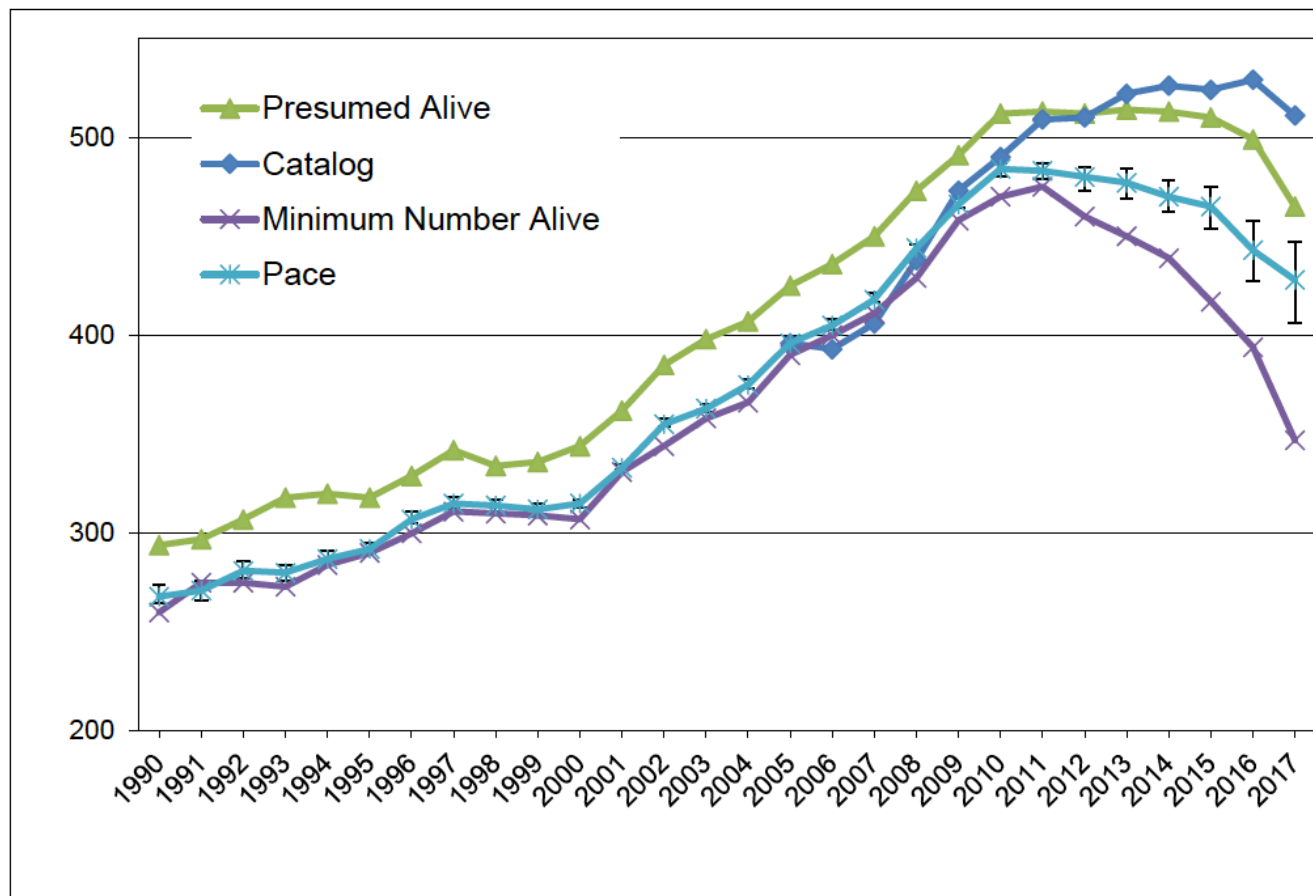


Ropeless Consortium
2019

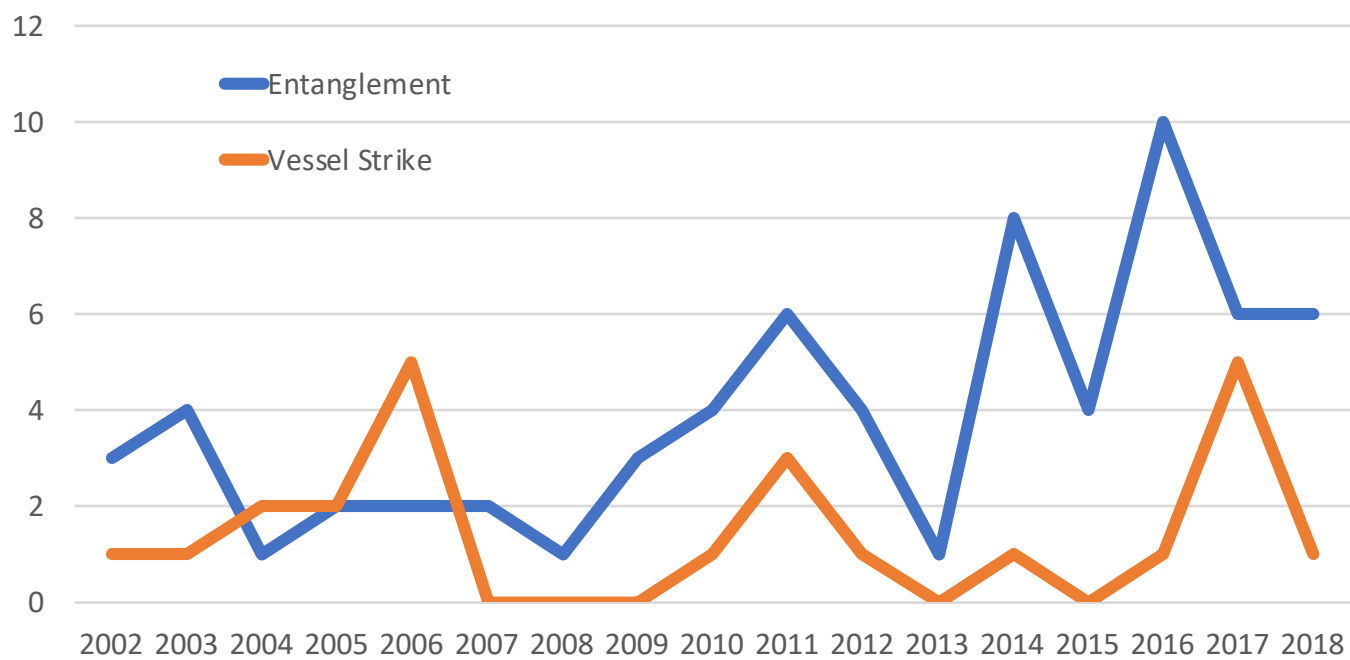
Thank you for coming

Done with dead whales:
more than ever.





NARW Vessel and Entanglement Mortality and Serious Injury

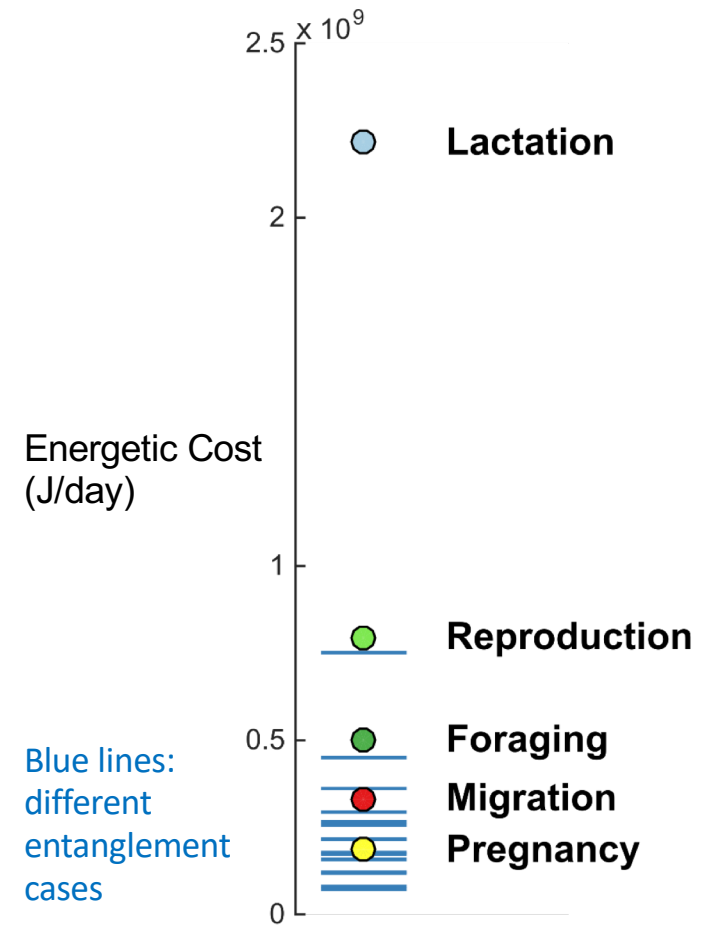


Alison Henry – NOAA NMFS NEFSC pers. comm.

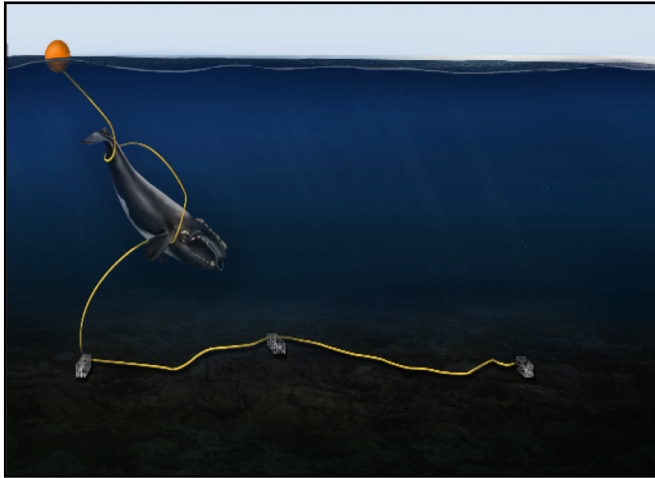
Mortality and Serious Injury are only part of the problem. Sub-lethal entanglement stress compounds foraging challenges to reduce health and thus fecundity.

Right whales use the Gulfs of Maine and St Lawrence, and thus are both sources of entanglement trauma.

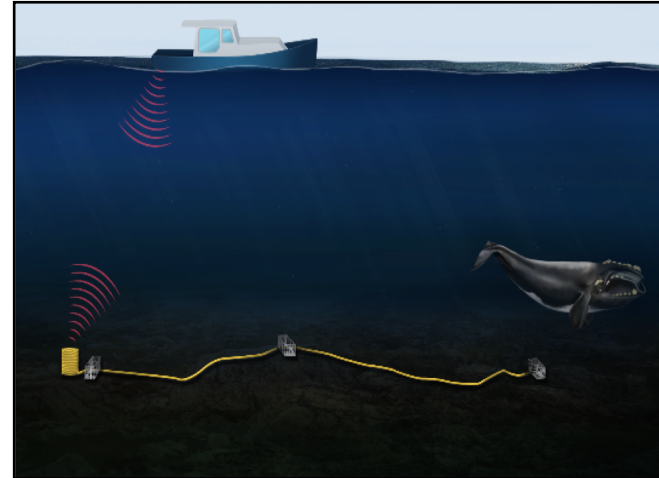
As long as we only focus on body counts, the result will be endless frustration and dismay



van der Hoop et al., 2017, Ecol & Evol;

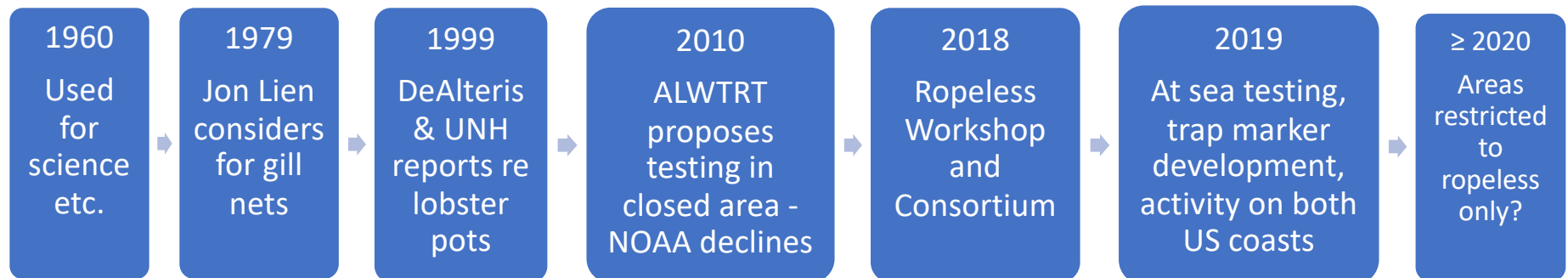


Status quo for the entanglement risk of trap fishing



Proposed buoyless alternative. Trap is acoustically located, identified and retrieved.

ACOUSTIC RELEASE TIMELINE



Ropeless Consortium Board

- Ropeless Board Chair: Michael Moore Vice-Chair (Canada),
- Incoming Chair: Sean Brilliant Vice-Chair (US): Mark Baumgartner
- Board Members: Steve Katona, Amy Knowlton, Lynne Morissette, Geoff Shester, Colin Sproul, Tim Werner Each position carries a 2-yr term.
- The Chair will alternate between Canadian and US representatives and will be filled by the Vice-Chair position. Since the initial Chair is from the US, the Canadian Vice-Chair will assume that position, followed by the US Vice-Chair. Board positions will be filled as needed at the Annual Meeting.

Ending lethal fishing gear entanglements by advancing buoyless fishing

**Michael Moore &
Mark Baumgartner
(WHOI)**



GOALS

- (1) Acquire buoyless fishing gear for a gear testing cache.
- (2) Work with NEFSC scientists to develop a testing protocol & assist with the analysis of the testing data.
- (3) Develop content and outreach efforts to reach target stakeholders and to document the project.

TERMS

Jan 1 2020, \$300k/ year for 3 years, pending progress.

PLANS

Review progress at this meeting, consult with stakeholders, and proceed