

# Evaluating ropeless gear from a fisheries perspective

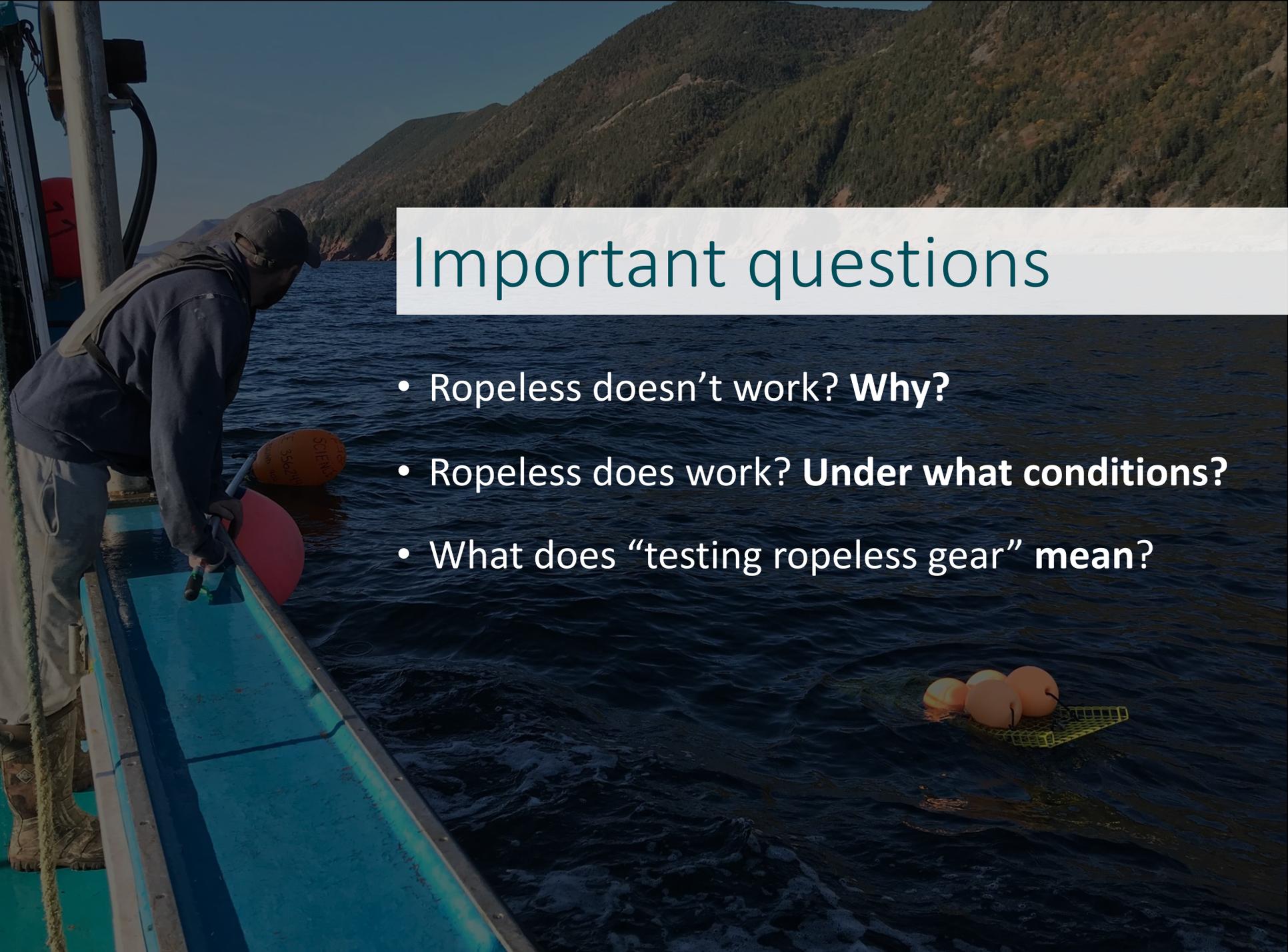
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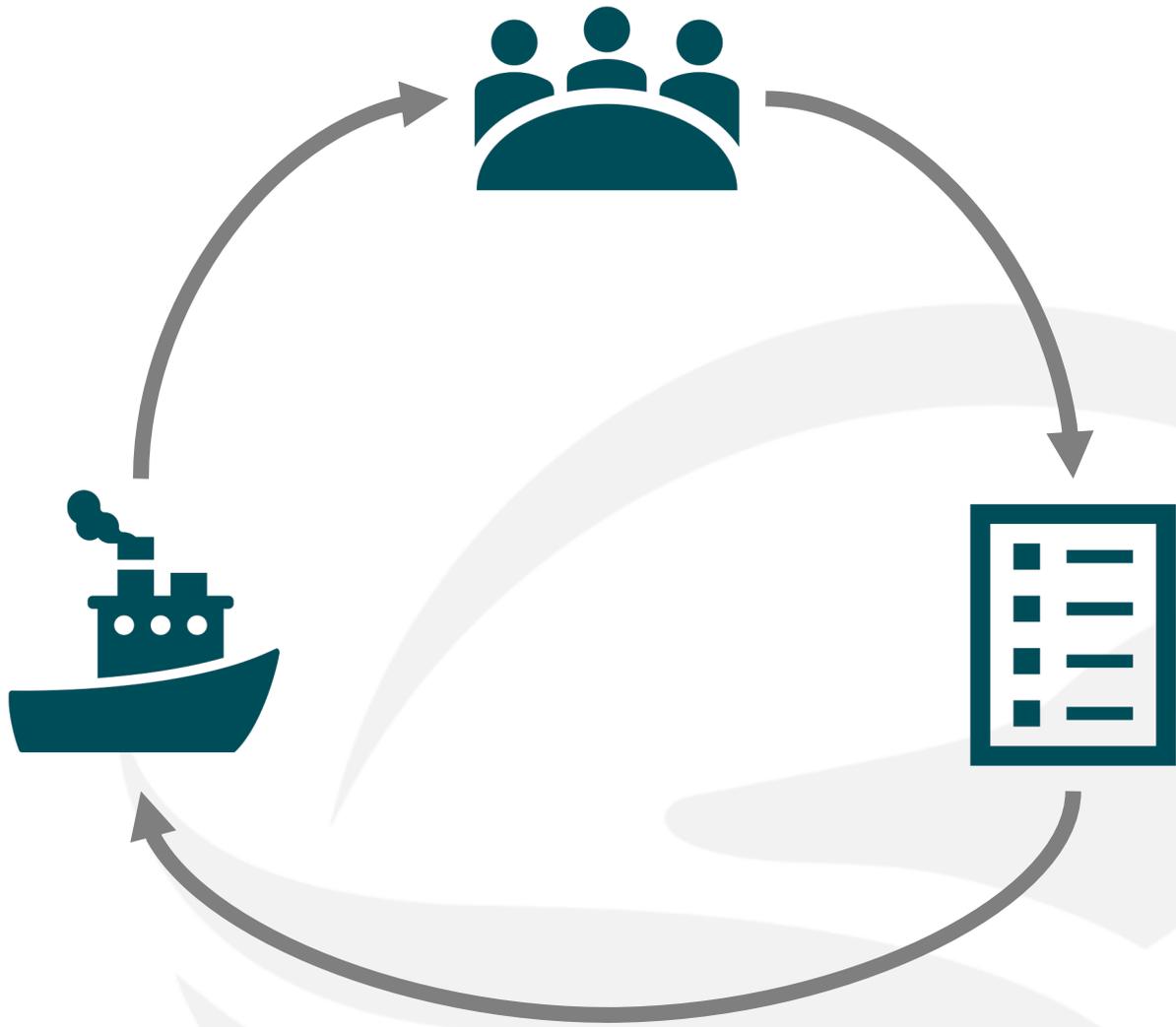
# Main objectives

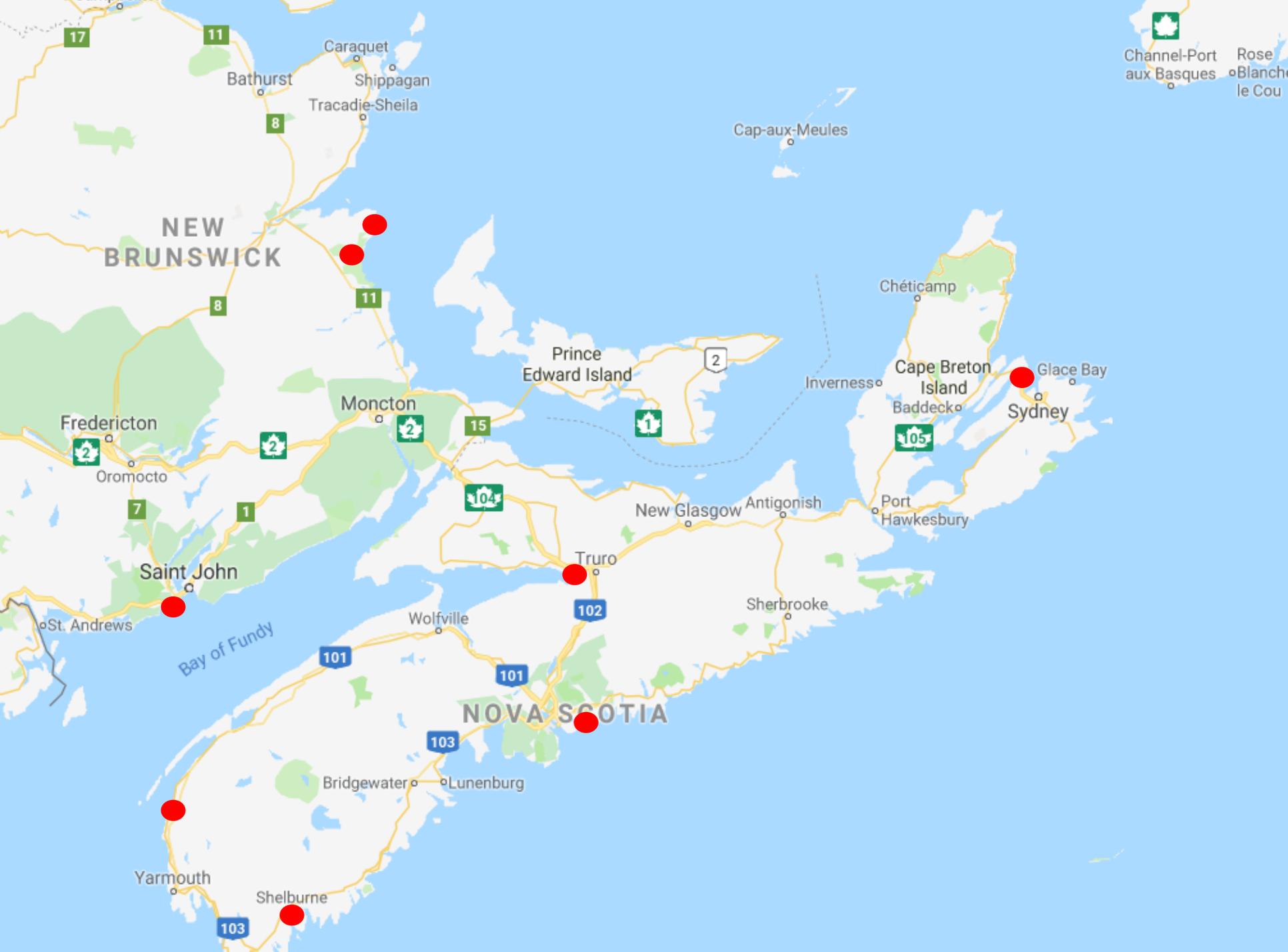
- Engagement of fishers in entanglement mitigation
- Decrease the risk of entanglement
- Allow whale-safe fishing in closed areas

A fisherman in a blue jacket and cap is leaning over the side of a boat, looking out at the dark blue water. In the foreground, a yellow net with three orange buoys is floating on the water. The background shows a steep, forested hillside under a clear sky.

# Important questions

- Ropeless doesn't work? **Why?**
- Ropeless does work? **Under what conditions?**
- What does “testing ropeless gear” mean?





NEW BRUNSWICK

NOVA SCOTIA

Bay of Fundy

Caraquet  
Bathurst  
Shippagan  
Tracadie-Sheila

Cap-aux-Meules

Prince Edward Island

Chéticamp

Cape Breton Island  
Baddeck

Glace Bay  
Sydney

Fredericton  
Oromocto

Moncton

New Glasgow  
Antigonish

Port  
Hawkesbury

Saint John

Truro

Sherbrooke

St. Andrews

Wolfville

Bridgewater  
Lunenburg

Yarmouth

Shelburne

Channel-Port  
aux Basques  
Rose  
Blanche  
le Cou



Exchange  
information

Collaborate

Spark new  
ideas

# Common remarks

- “Ropeless will never work”
- “I’ve never seen a whale in my area so it’s not my concern”
- “Ropeless is far too expensive”
- “What proof do we have that Canadian gear kills whales?”
- “Why can’t we just tag all the whales to track them?”
- “Let’s just make all of our lines red or use pingers to deter whales from our lines”

# What do we need ropeless to do?



We need it to catch fish



We need to be able to locate it



We need it to be quick!

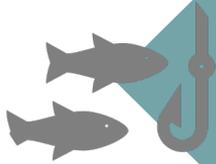
# Preliminary criteria

	Criteria			
Common	Retrieval Time	<2mins	2-5mins	5mins+
	Reset Time	<2mins	2-5mins	5mins+
	Success Rate	0-50%	50-80%	80%+
	Drift	<0.25NM	0.25-0.5NM	0.5NM+
Area dependent	Current	<2kn	2-4kn	4kn+
	Depth	<20ftm	20-60ftm	60ftm+
	Gear Configuration	Singles	Small trawl (2-5)	Long trawl (5+)
	Winds	Light (<15kn)	Medium (15-25kn)	Strong (25kn+)
	Bottom Type	Rocky/Hard	Mud	Mossy





Involvement of fishers



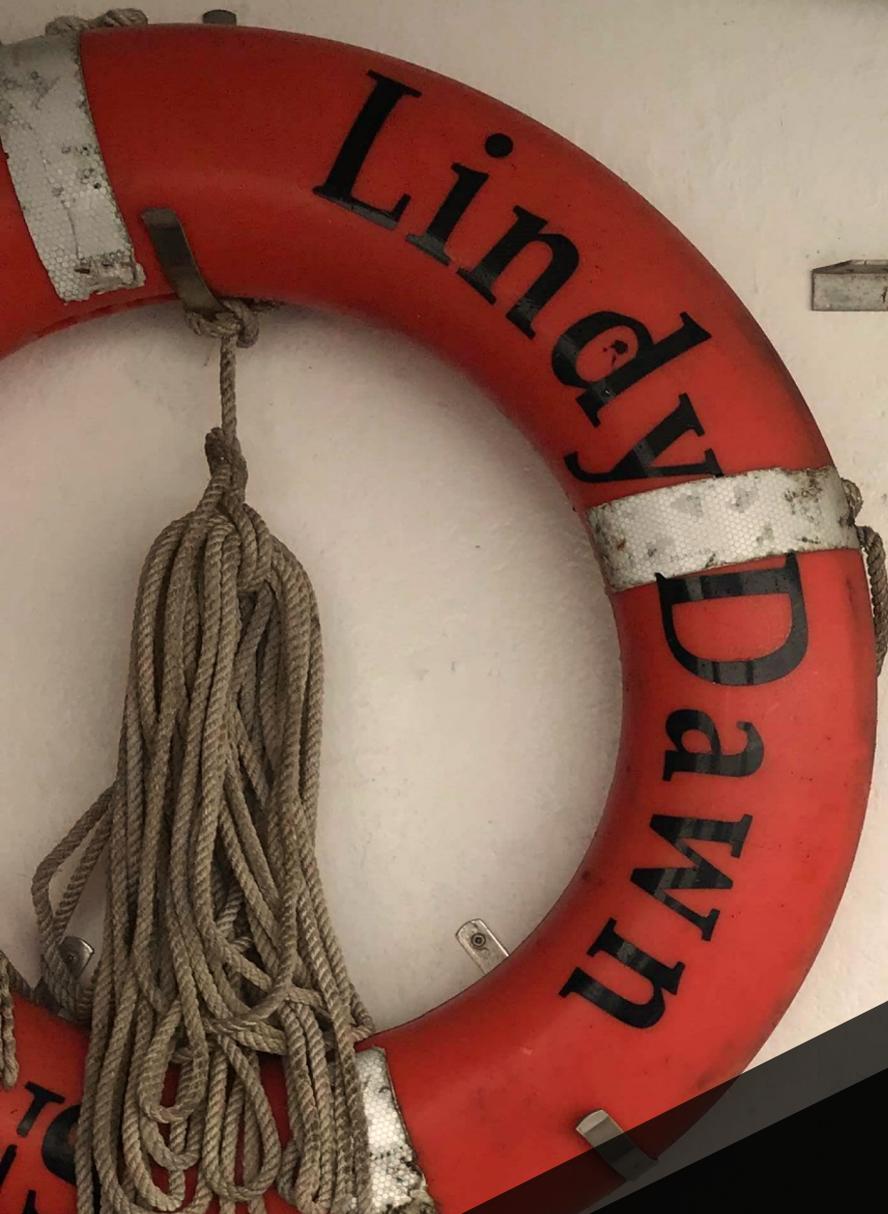
Identify suitable ropeless gear for commercial fishing



Support fisheries closures for conservation of NARW



Mitigate adverse effects to commercial fishers



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE  
CRAZY TO WORK HERE...  
WE'LL TRAIN YOU



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