

# Evaluating ropeless gear from a fisheries perspective

---

Elizabeth Baker, Fisheries Engagement Specialist  
Sean Brilliant, Senior Conservation Biologist  
Canadian Wildlife Federation



# Main objectives

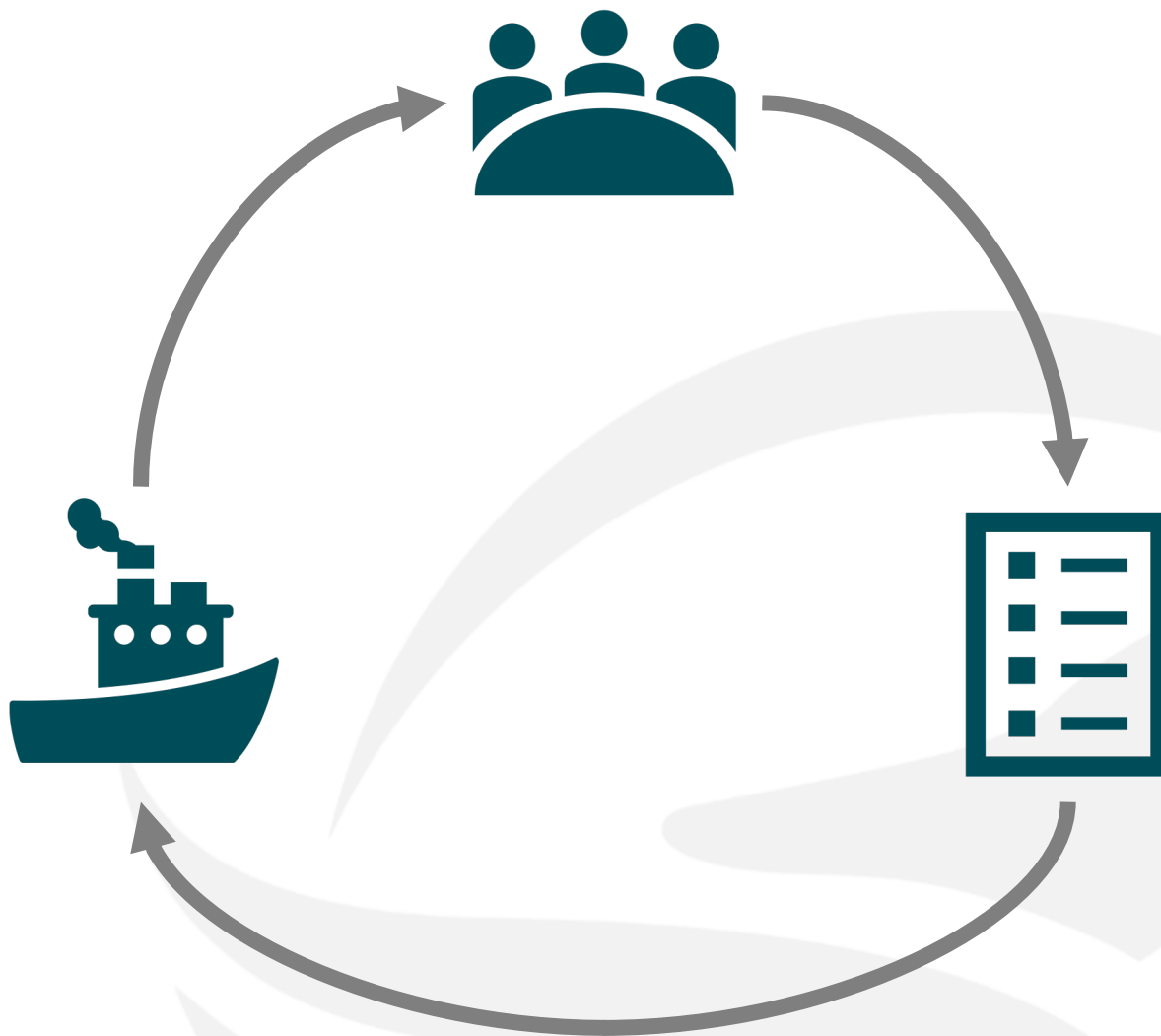
- Engagement of fishers in entanglement mitigation
- Decrease the risk of entanglement
- Allow whale-safe fishing in closed areas

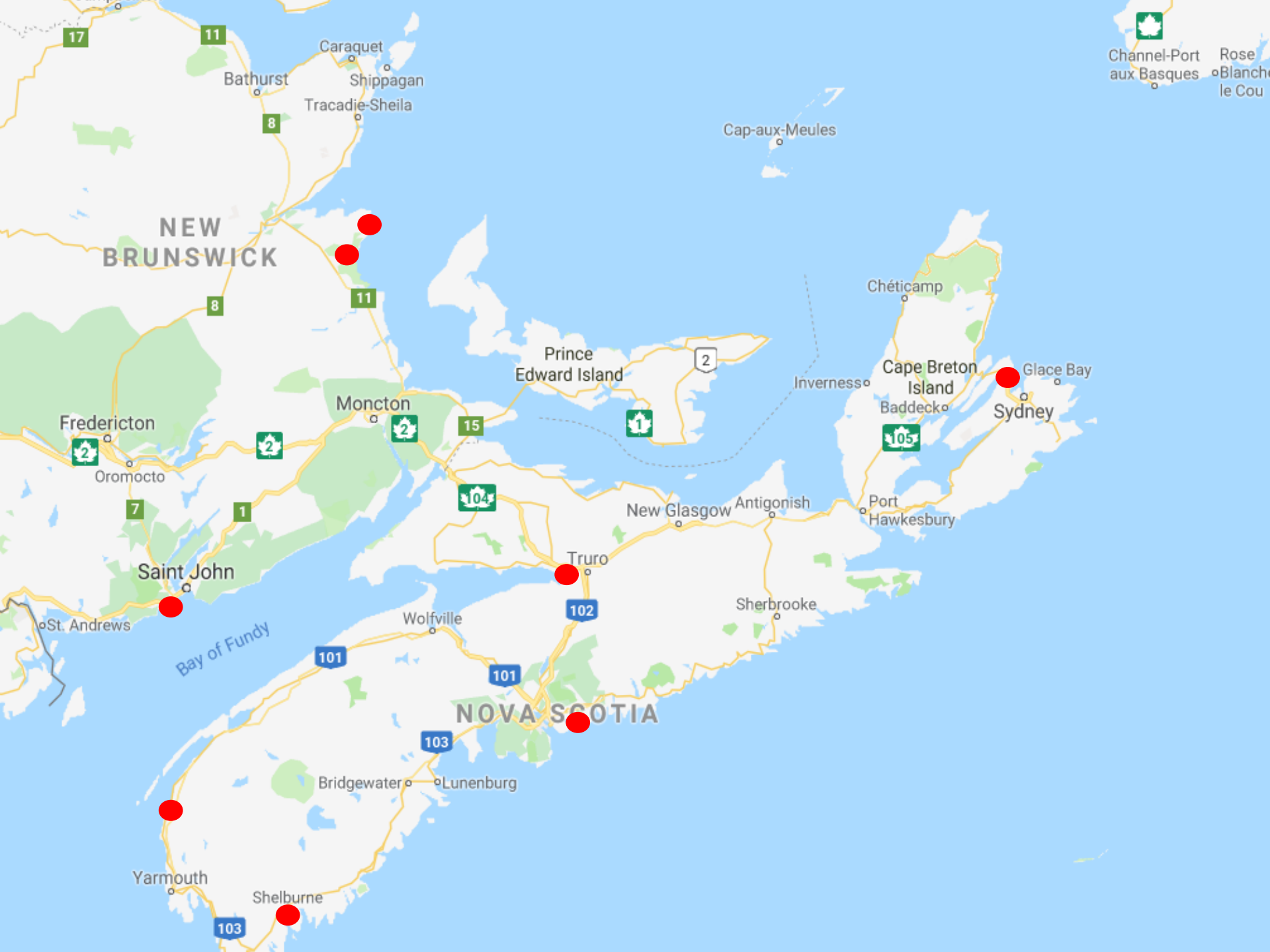




# Important questions

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









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!



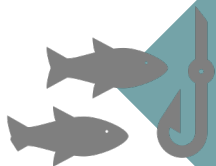
# Preliminary criteria

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

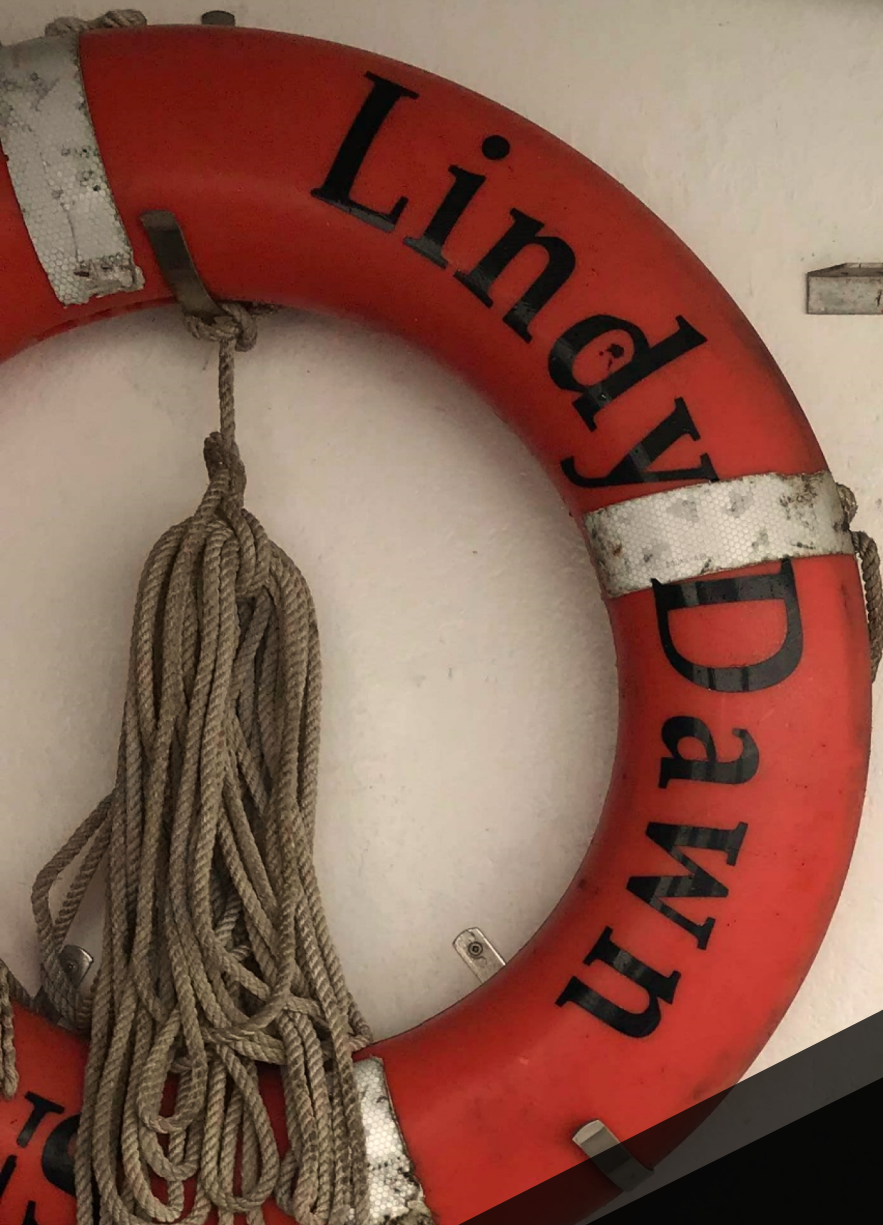


Mitigate adverse effects to commercial fishers



CANADIAN WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION





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

PFDs Must Be  
Worn

[elizabethb@cwfcf.org](mailto:elizabethb@cwfcf.org)























