



Ropeless Consortium
Annual Meeting
23 October 2023
Halifax Convention Center

MEETING FORMAT AND AGENDA

Pre-Meeting:

Prior to the meeting, all registered participants will receive a unique meeting site login code that will allow them to view all pre-recorded presentations in advance of the meeting. All presentations should be viewed **in advance of the meeting** as they will not be shared live. The four-digit number preceding the presentation title corresponds to the video number on the meeting presentation video site.

Participants (both onsite and remote) may submit questions/comments for presenters in advance of the meeting using the question submission link on the meeting page.

Live Meeting:

Remote participants will be able to view the meeting, including live presentations and discussions, using the zoom access link on the [meeting site](#).

Following any live presentations within a session, a discussion panel will take place with all presenters within that session. Presenters who are onsite will gather at the front of the auditorium and presenters who are remote will be pinned to the top of the zoom meeting and visible to onsite participants. The panel will take questions/comments from both onsite and remote meeting participants. Remote participants will be able to come off mute to ask their questions and/or can submit via the zoom chat.

All meeting materials (both static and live) are intended for registered participants only and may not be shared in any capacity. All participants have agreed to the meeting Code of Conduct. There is no external recording (including but not limited to video, audio, screenshots, or photography) or sharing (including social media) of any material (including but not limited to presentations, presentation content, discussions) without explicit consent of the presenter, speaker, moderator, etc. The meeting will be recorded to facilitate the synthesis of meeting notes to be distributed to participants only. The Ropeless meeting is CLOSED to the press.

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23 October 2023

815-845AM Check in

900AM Keynote/Opening

915AM **Session 1: Developers**
Sean Brilliant, Moderator

- 01.01 **LiftLabs: Developing and testing fast on-demand ropeless systems in New England**
 - *Cormac Hondros-McCarthy, LiftLabs, Inc*
- 01.02 **Commercial evaluation of a rope on command fishing system for the Newfoundland and Labrador lobster & crab fisheries**
 - *Keith Hutchings, Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation*
- 01.03 **JASCO/SMELTS “Whale-Raft” development**
 - *John Moloney, JASCO Applied Sciences Ltd*
- 01.04 **EdgeTech ropeless on demand fishing system interoperability and improvements to Trap Tracker and hardware**
 - *Robert Morris, EdgeTech*
- 01.05 **SMELTS advancements on seafloor and shipboard technology to eliminate entanglement risks to the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale**
 - *Richard Riels, SMELTS*
- 01.06 **Introduction to new whale safe fishing gear**
 - *Joel Sullivan, Nova Robotics*
- 01.07 **Progress toward an adaptable, low-cost, on-demand fishing system**
 - *Bart Chadwick, Sub Sea Sonics*
- 01.08 **Why smart buoys are part of the EFP: Insights from data generated by smart buoys used with on-demand gear in New England**
 - *Kortney Opshaug, Blue Ocean Gear*

1000AM **Session 2: On-Demand Trials and Fishing**
Michael Moore, Moderator

- 02.01 **Overview of on-demand fishing progress in US Northwest Atlantic: A collaboration**
 - *Eric Matzen, Northeast Fisheries Science Center*
- 02.02 **Advancing coexistence between North Atlantic right whales and snow crab harvesters: Gear on demand solutions and implementation**
 - *Philippe Cormier, CORBO Engineering*
- 02.03 **An update on CanFISH: Lending on-demand gear to allow fishing in closures in Atlantic Canada**
 - *Elizabeth Vézina, Canadian Wildlife Federation*
- 02.04 **Exploring coexistence through innovation: Testing diverse ropeless gear technologies for sustainable fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence**
 - *Lyne G. Morissette, M - Expertise Marine*
- 02.05 **Past, present, and future of on-demand gear in the U.S. South Atlantic black sea bass pot fishery**
 - *Kara Shervanick, Southeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service*
- 02.06 **Recent progress on developing ropeless gillnets and new efforts to develop and test ropeless gear with integrated scientific fisheries data collection packages (the “SmartRaft”)**
 - *Roger Fleming, Blue Planet Strategies*

1100AM **BREAK**

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1130AM **Session 3: New Technology**

Sean Brilliant, Moderator

- 03.01 **A multi-standard deck box for fishery inspectors means choice for fishers**
- *Marco Flagg, Desert Star Systems LLC*
- 03.02 **Preliminary design work towards an ultra-low-power acoustic wakeup for on-demand fishing gear**
- *Jim Partan, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*
- 03.03 **The vision for an Integrated Fishing and Marine Mammal Monitoring and Protection System (IFMAPS)**
- *Peter Stein, Scientific Solutions, Inc.*
- 03.04 **Development of a system for mobile fishers to view on-demand gear location data to reduce gear conflict**
- *Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

1230PM **Session 4: Economic Analyses**

Mark Baumgartner, Moderator

- 04.01 **Estimating the costs of using on-demand gear in Massachusetts lobster fisheries**
- *Noah Oppenheim, Homarus Strategies LLC*
 - *Erin Burke, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries*
 - *Robert Griffin, School for Marine Science & Technology, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth*
- 04.02 **Financial impact of transitioning two sectors of the northeast lobster fishery to on-demand (ropeless) fishing**
- *Kevin Breunig, Conservation Law Foundation*
 - *Erica Fuller, Conservation Law Foundation*

115PM **LUNCH**

215PM **Session 5: Gear Location Marking**

Mark Baumgartner, Moderator

- 05.01 **Integrating mobile and ropeless offshore fisheries using 50 KHz depth sounders**
- *Marco Flagg, Desert Star Systems, LLC*
- 05.02 **Contrasting functional differences between acoustic and traditional gear location marking methods**
- *Kevin Staples, Maine Department of Marine Resources*
- 05.03 **Real-time acoustic gear location solves gear conflict for all**
- *Harold Vincent, Ropeless Systems, Inc.*
- 05.04 **Lessons learned in on-demand gear marking using ultra-short baseline acoustics**
- *Rob Pinelli, Teledyne Benthos*

315PM **Session 6: Moving On-Demand Fishing Forward**

Michael Moore, Moderator

Introduction

- *Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*
- *Sean Brilliant, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

- 06.01 **Ropeless Roadmap: A strategy to develop on-demand fishing**
- *Mike Asaro, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

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- 06.02 **Developing Canada's Whalesafe Gear Strategy**
- *Cathy Merriman, Fisheries and Oceans Canada*
- 06.03 **A comprehensive system for gear location marking, gear retrieval, lost gear recovery and enforcement enabled by acoustic communication standards**
- *Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

445PM **Open Discussion**

515PM **Wrap Up**

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