



**ROPELESS CONSORTIUM**  
Annual Meeting

21-22 October 2024  
Renaissance Providence Downtown Hotel

With Special Attendee (Onsite & Remote) Programming on 22 October 2024

**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 underlined presentations should be viewed **in advance of the meeting** as they will not be shared live. Those presentations that are not underlined will be shared **live** during the meeting. The six-digit number preceding the presentation title corresponds to the video number on the meeting site. Please note that presentations that are to be viewed live will be uploaded to the meeting site **post meeting**, and therefore have six-digit codes as well.

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 links 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.**

\*A login is required to access the Meeting page via the NARWC website ([www.narwc.org](http://www.narwc.org))

\*Time listed are EDT

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## **Meeting Site Information**

The onsite meeting will take place at the **Renaissance Providence Downtown Hotel**. We will be using three levels of the venue during our meeting. Additionally, registration check-in will take place in the hotel lobby.

Access to each of the floors below is available by both stairs and elevators.

### **The Symphony Ballroom Floor**

#### **Symphony Ballroom Theater**

- 10/21-10/22 Main Meeting Room
- 10/22 Workshops
- 10/22 Screening of film *Right Whale Stories*

#### **Symphony Ballroom Floor Lobby**

- 10/21-10/22 Breakfast/Break buffet set up
- 10/21 Reception bar and passed hors d'oeuvres

#### **Coat Check Room**

- Late check in for meeting material pick up

### **Mezzanine Level**

#### **Beethoven and Mozart Rooms**

- 10/21 Exhibitor Tables
- 10/22 Workshops

#### **Mezzanine Level Lobby**

- 10/21 Reception passed hors d'oeuvres

### **Temple Level**

#### **Haydn, Handel, 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Room**

- 10/21-10/22 Dining and Breakout Session seating

#### **Public Kitchen and Bar**

- 10/21-10/22 Lunch buffet (10/21 only) and dining seating

#### **Temple Level Lobby**

- 10/21 Lunch buffet
- 10/21 Reception bar and passed hors d'oeuvres

#### **Temple Board Room**

- By reservation only

### **Hotel Lobby**

- 10/21 and 10/22 Check In

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## ROPELESS AND NARWC 2024 ANNUAL MEETINGS SPECIAL PROGRAMMING Tuesday, October 22, 2024

### Workshops

There are several workshops being held on the afternoon of October 22, 2024. These are independently organized - please see Workshop page at [narwc.org](http://narwc.org) for more information and registration information.

1:00-2:30PM: New England Gear Innovation Fund Grantee Workshop (Symphony Ballroom Theater)

1:00-2:00PM: Underwater Acoustics for On-Demand Fishing (Mozart Room)

*On water demo to follow workshop at TBD location*

1:00-2:00PM: Technological Advancements and Real-World Fishery Trials of Sub Sea Sonics Acoustic Releases and Guardian Ropeless Pop-Up Sleds Workshop (Beethoven Room)

2:00-3:00: Nutahshay8ôk Peetôp: My Family Whale (Beethoven Room)

2:00-4:00PM: New advancements in the EdgeTech On Demand Fishing System and Trap Tracker (Mozart Room)

2:30-4:00PM: NMEA Standards for Gear Integration Workshop (Symphony Ballroom Theater)

### Special Attendee Evening Programming

*Symphony Ballroom Theater, Renaissance Providence Downtown Hotel*

*Open to in-person and remote attendees*

*Zoom link for remote attendance posted on meeting page*

#### **4:30-6:00PM Film Premiere: The Right Whale**

*Moderators: Cheryl and Nick Dean, Spindrift Images*

*Panelists: Regina Asmutis-Silvia, Whale and Dolphin Conservation  
Tonya Wimmer, Marine Animal Response Society  
Alex Zerbini, NOAA Fisheries*

Southern right whales are one of the greatest conservation success stories of our time. In contrast, Northern right whales are facing extinction. *The Right Whale* reveals the mysterious lives and behavior of individual right whales around the world. We follow scientists using cutting edge technologies as they strive to solve the puzzle of why some whales are thriving and others struggling, posing solutions to help ensure the whales can coexist with us. These are contrasting environmental stories that explore our relationship with wildlife and our commitment to sustainability and biodiversity preservation in the increasingly industrialized ocean.

Join us for a special screening of the film and a panel discussion with some of the film's featured scientists.

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# ROPELESS CONSORTIUM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, October 21, 2024

## 730-830AM Check in – Hotel Lobby

Continental Breakfast (Symphony Ballroom Level)

*Late arrivals please check in at the coat check room during a break.*

## 830AM Opening

*Regina Asmutis-Silvia, Whale and Dolphin Conservation*

## 900AM Session 1: Trials

*Moderated by: Regina Asmutis-Silvia, Whale and Dolphin Conservation*

### 01.01.01 Results from six years of trialing on-demand gear to support use, development and management in Canadian fisheries

- *Elizabeth Vezina, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

### 01.01.02 Innovative strategies for reducing North Atlantic right whale entanglements in snow crab fishing gear: A collaborative approach in the Gulf of St. Lawrence

- *Philippe Cormier, CORBO Engineering*

### 01.01.03 Alternatives to reduce the risk and severity of entanglements of North Atlantic right whales with snow crab fishing gear in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence

- *Lyne G. Morissette, M - Expertise Marine*

### 01.01.04 Innovative solutions for whale entanglement in California: Advances in Dungeness Crab pop-up gear testing and the launch of a gear lending library

- *Greg Wells, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation*

#### Additional Panelists:

- Erin Burke, MA Department of Marine Fisheries
- Mike Lane, US lobster fisherman and trial participant
- Eric Matzen, Northeast Fisheries Science Center
- Kevin Staples, ME Department of Marine Resources

## 1000AM Session 2: Ropeless Fishing

*Moderated by: Michael Moore, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

### 01.02.01 Update on on-demand fishing in the US Northwest Atlantic: Experimental fisheries, and gear conflict mitigation

- *Megan Amico, Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

### 01.02.02 Introduction to the Maine Innovative Gear Library

- *Briony Donahue, Maine Department of Marine Resources*

### 01.02.03 On-demand gear research update from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

- *Erin Burke, MA Division of Marine Fisheries*

### 01.02.04 An update on CanFISH: An evaluation-based on-demand gear lending program to support fish harvesters affected by closures in Atlantic Canada

- *Hanna Vatcher, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

### 01.02.05 On-demand gear innovations lead to operational viability in a large-scale fishery - California Spring Dungeness Crab

- *Ryan Halonen, Sub Sea Sonics*

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**1115AM**      **Break** (Symphony Ballroom Level)

**1145PM**      **Session 3: Harvester Panel**  
*Moderated by: Elizabeth Vézina, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

**Panelists:**

- **Michael Cowdrey, South Atlantic Sea Bass**
- **Steve Melz, California Dungeness Crab**
- **John Moore, fixed gear fisherman, Northeast US**
- **Martin Noel, Canadian Snow Crab, Gulf of St. Lawrence**
- **Dick Ogg, California Dungeness Crab**

**1245PM**      **Lunch**

**200PM**      **Session 4: Gear Location Marking**  
*Moderated by: Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

01.04.01 **An interoperable chart plotter and deckbox for on-demand gear marking**

- *Bob Melvin, Teledyne Benthos*

01.04.02 **Proposed chart plotter interface standard for ropeless fishing equipment employing NMEA messaging standards**

- *Harold Vincent, Ropeless Systems, Inc.*

01.04.03 **A proposed experimental assessment of gear-location marking strategies for high-density fisheries**

- *Hannah Drake, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

01.04.04 **Plotter link to display gear positions for ropeless gear interoperability**

- *Kortney Opshaug, Blue Ocean Gear*

01.04.05 **Development of a cloud based integrated web and mobile platform for tracking on-demand fishing gear**

- *Doug Poirier, EarthRanger*

**330PM**      **Session 5: Interoperability**  
*Moderated by: Sean Brilliant, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

01.05.01 **Towards practical virtual gear marking for harvesters and fishery inspectors**

- *Marco Flagg, Desert Star Systems LLC*

01.05.02 **Continued development of Fontus for gear location marking, gear retrieval, lost gear recovery and enforcement**

- *Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

01.05.03 **Considerations for on-demand fishing gear interoperability standards**

- *Justin Tufariello, The MITRE Corporation*

01.05.04 **Developing interoperability standards to support an operational on-demand fishing program**

- *Brett Alger, NOAA Fisheries*

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## 500PM Day 1 Wrap

### 530-700PM Onsite Reception

- Bars located on Symphony Ballroom and Temple Levels
- Passed hors d'oeuvres on Symphony Ballroom, Mezzanine, and Temple Levels

### Exhibitor Session

- Beethoven and Mozart Rooms (Mezzanine Level)  
*The talks underlined below are pre-recorded and should be viewed in advance of the meeting. The presenters will be available during the exhibitor session for questions about their technology and work in the Ropeless/On-Demand space.*

### Mozart Room

Exh. 1 EdgeTech Ropeless 5112 On Demand Fishing System, Trap Tracker CAPRI testing and hardware updates for 2024

- Robert Morris, EdgeTech

Exh 2 DiveNET: FTW (For The Whales)

- Pierre Gene, DiveNET Subsea Wireless
- Badin Bivol, DiveNET Subsea Wireless

Exh 3 SMELTS sustainable marine environmental line technology solutions for fixed gear fisheries

- Richard Riels, SMELTS.org

Exh 4 LiftLabs: Lessons learned while developing and testing offshore ropeless gear with fishermen in New England and Australia

- Cormac Hondros-McCarthy, LiftLabs

Exh 5 Summary of real-time acoustic gear location and recovery testing and commercial fishing operations

- Harold Vincent, Ropeless Systems, Inc.

### Beethoven Room

*Additional exhibitors include the following groups:*

#### **Blue Ocean Gear**

- Kortney Opshaug

#### **Teledyne Marine Benthos**

- Carl Mancuso

#### **AMIK**

- Amanda Quiros

#### **Acbotics Research, LLC**

- Erin Fischell

#### **Guardian Ropeless Systems & Sub Sea Sonics**

- Russ Mullins
- Ryan Halonen

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# ROPELESS CONSORTIUM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

## 730-830 AM Check in – Hotel Lobby

**Continental Breakfast** (Symphony Ballroom Level)

*If you arrive after the start of the meeting, please check in at the coat check room during a break.*

## 830AM Session 1: Enforcement

*Moderated by: Erica Fuller, Conservation Law Foundation*

### Panelists:

- **Jason Berthiaume, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement**
- **Caleb Gilbert, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement**
- **Colin MacDonald, Maine Department of Marine Resources JEA**
- **Grant Moore, Commercial Fisherman**
- **Corey Webster, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada**

## 930AM Session 2: Moving Ropeless Forward/Management

*Moderated by: Amy Knowlton, New England Aquarium*

### 02.02.01 Engagement on the development of Canada’s Whalesafe Gear Strategy

- *Cathy Merriman, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)*

### 02.02.02 Evaluation of the economic impacts for the on-demand fishing gear on American lobster fisheries in the northeast United States

- *Kaleigh Hill, Integrated Statistics/Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office*

### 02.02.03 Successes in pop-up fishing in California fisheries will help the state advance towards commercial authorization of pop-up technology

- *Francine Kershaw, Natural Resources Defense Council*

### 02.02.04 Progress update of on-demand gear in the U.S. South Atlantic black sea bass pot fishery

- *Kara Shervanick, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office*

### Additional Panelists:

- **Colleen Coogan, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Region**
- **Brett Gilchrist, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada**
- **Erin Summers, ME Department of Marine Resources**
- **Chao Zou, Azura Consulting LLC. /NMFS, Greater Atlantic Region**

## 1030AM Break

## 1100AM Open Forum

*Moderated by: Erica Fuller, Conservation Law Foundation*

## 1200PM Meeting Wrap and Close

*Please note – lunch is not provided on this day. Participants attending workshops should plan to grab a bite to eat before heading to those.*

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