



ROPELESS CONSORTIUM

2026 Annual Meeting

DRAFT Agenda

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

1230-100PM Check-In

100PM Opening Remarks

130PM Panel 1: On-Demand Fishing in California

Moderated by: Sean Brilliant, Canadian Wildlife Federation

Panelists:

- **Ryan Bartling, California Department of Fish and Wildlife**
- **Bart Chadwick, SubSea Sonics**
- **Rick Hauschel, Dungeness Crab Fisher**
- **Brand Little, Dungeness Crab Fisher**
- **Geoff Shester, Oceana**
- **Greg Wells, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation**
- **Tiffany Wolvek, California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

300PM BREAK

330PM Panel 2: On-Demand Fishing in Canada

Moderated by: Elizabeth Vézina, Canadian Wildlife Federation

Panelists: TBD

445PM Session 1: On-Demand Fishing on the East Coast US

Moderated by: Erin Wilkinson, Maine Department of Marine Resources

01.01.01 Lessons from Authorizing On-Demand Gear in the South Atlantic (Speed)

- *Katline Barrows, NMFS SERO*

01.01.02 **Comparing Four Years of Experimental Fishery Data** (Speed)

- *Neal McIntosh, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

01.01.03 **Fishermen Perspectives on Testing Alternative Fishing Gear Technologies in Maine's Lobster Fishery: Maine Innovative Gear Library** (Full)

- *Kate Behrens, Sunrise County Economic Council*

545-7:15PM Reception

Light appetizers and cash bar

Attendees on own for dinner

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Day 2

Thursday, November 19, 2026

800AM **Check-In**

830AM **Business Meeting**

- **Board Elections Discussion**

900AM **Session 1: Ropeless Fishing**

Moderated by: Elizabeth Vézina, Canadian Wildlife Federation

02.01.01 **An Update on CanFISH: An On-demand Gear Lending Program to Support Fish Harvesters Impacted By Closures in Atlantic Canada (Speed)**

- *Sahra Skripsky, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

02.01.02 **Co-development of On-demand Fishing gear as a tool for BC fisheries to eliminate entanglement threats to at-risk whales (Speed)**

- *Ali Gladwell, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

02.01.03 **Collaborative Evaluation of Alternative Gear Retrieval Systems in the Maine Lobster Fishery: Maine Innovative Gear Library Results Through June 2026 (Full)**

- *Briony Donahue, Maine Department of Marine Resources*

02.01.04 **From Demonstration to Expansion: Scaling California's Deep-Water On-Demand Trap Fishery (Full)**

- *Kim Sawicki, Sustainable Seas Technology, Inc.*

1000AM **BREAK**

1030AM **Session 2: Manufacturers**

Moderated by: Amy Knowlton, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life, New England Aquarium

02.02.01 **Fishing the Gear Ourselves: A Workflow-Driven, Multi-Configuration Approach to On-Demand Lobster Gear (Speed)**

- *Cormac Hondros-McCarthy, LiftLabs*

02.02.02 **Interoperable Chart Plotter and Deckbox for On-Demand Gear Marking Complete (Speed)**

- *Bob Melvin, Teledyne Benthos*

02.02.03 **Development and Adoption of Economically Viable On-Demand Fishing Systems for Vertical Line Closures (Speed)**

- *Ryan Halonen, Sub Sea Sonics*

02.02.04 **Latest Technical Features Implemented in the Ropeless RISER™ Product Line to Address Fisherman, Regulator, and Researcher Feedback** (Speed)

- *Harold Vincent, Ropeless Systems, Inc.*

02.02.05 **From the Deck to the Deep: The Journey of a Ropeless Buoy** (Speed)

- *Cyrille Genet, Sercel*

02.02.06 **SMELTS On-Demand Fishing Technology Strategy and Progress** (Speed)

- *Richard Riels, SMELTS*

02.02.07 **EdgeTech Ropeless 5112 On Demand Fishing System, Trap Tracker updates for 2026** (Speed)

- *Rob Morris, EdgeTech*

1130PM Session 3: Marketing Interests

Moderated by: TBD

02.03.01 **Market Roundtable Session: Whales Are In Our Nature** (Full)

- *Leah Baumwell, The Pew Charitable Trusts*

02.03.02 **Building a Supply Chain for Seafood Caught with On-demand Gear** (Full)

- *Michelle Cho, Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life, New England Aquarium*
- *Anne DiMonti, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership*

Additional Panelists:

- **Josh Austin, Senior Manager, Sustainability at High Liner Foods**
- **Daisy Berg, Program & Category Manager for Seafood at New Seasons Market**
- **Ben Coniff, Program Manager at Luke's Lobster**
- **Geoff Irvine, Executive Director of the Lobster Council of Canada**
- **Michael Panasuk, Executive Chef at the Marriott Copley**

1245PM Lunch

Manufacturers Exhibits

215PM Session 4: Technology Innovation and Evaluation

Moderated by: Mark Baumgartner, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

02.04.01 **Understanding Gear Localization and Marking in the Northeast US** (Full)

- *Brian Galvez, NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

02.04.02 **A Dual Underwater/Surface Marking System for On Demand Gear** (Speed)

- *Kortney Opshaug, Blue Ocean Gear*

02.04.03 **Evaluating Interoperability Architectures for On-Demand Fishing Gear in the Northeast U.S.** (Full)

- *Justin Tufariello, MITRE*
- 02.04.04 **Evaluating the Time Investment and Accuracy of Different Gear Positioning Methods (Full)**
 - *Emily Patrick, Maine Department of Marine Resources*
- 02.04.05 **Interoperability, Governance, and Implementation of the “rmwHUB™”, the Aggregating and Sharing Cloud of the Ropeless Manufacturers Workgroup (Speed)**
 - *David Capotosto, Ropeless Manufacturers Workgroup*
- 02.04.06 **Quantifying Environmental Impacts on On-Demand Gear Performance to Inform Management (Speed)**
 - *Abigail Costigan, Stony Brook University*
- 02.04.07 **The Multi-Standard Deck Box Project: Early Results and Performance for Fishery Enforcement (Speed)**
 - *Marco Flagg, Desert Star Systems, LLC*
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- 345PM BREAK**
- 415PM Open Discussion**
- 500PM Meeting Wrap-Up and Close**